

under logs on the beach, I have once found the lesser stag beetle *Dorcus parallelepipedus* clambering up a dune. Under a piece of driftwood I found the small Carabid *Nostiophilus rufipes*. All these three species are woodland insects, but here they were on a beach.

As Mr Copestake points out many rare and local species occur here, some quite commonly (confirmed, as for instance, the time I lifted an old board and about twenty *Chlaenius nigricornis* and *C. vestitus* ran from it), and it is certainly a place to be conserved and not to be turned into a golf course. May that day never come!

### A CASE OF PARTHENOGENESIS IN A MANTID

by Phil Bragg (8737)

Last year (1986) I bought a young praying mantid (I think it was a *Miomantis* species) and it duly developed into an adult female which laid seven oothacae. At Christmas three young hatched from one of the ootheca but died within a week due to my then ignorance in keeping them too dry. I have not been able to find any record of parthenogenesis in mantids.

### A THIRD STICK INSECT ESTABLISHED IN BRITAIN

So important and popular have stick insects become that they recently had an International Symposium all to themselves and this took place in Siena, Italy, held in and sponsored by the University of Siena. Our member Paul Brock, author of *The Phasmid Rearer's Handbook* attended and gave a talk, later published in the Symposium proceedings, entitled *A third New Zealand stick insect (Phasmatodea) established in the British Isles, with notes on the other species, including a correction.*

This paper deals with the origin of these New Zealand species established here; places emphasis on their distribution; gives tables and figures to distinguish them.

The newly-recorded breeding species is *Acanthoxyla inernis* Salmon, found first in June 1981 at Falmouth.

As a result of careful research and comparison with the type specimens, Paul has gone on to elucidate how he discovered that the stick insect, formerly identified as *Acanthoxyla prasina* (Westwood) is not in fact that species (which it very closely resembles) but *Acanthoxyla geisovii* (Kaup).

tortoiseshells and Peacocks have been more notable by their absence, only the occasional specimen having been seen. Elsewhere, however, both these and Red admirals (especially the larvae) were really abundant.

During August an actinic light-trap was run and night after night some 40 - 70 Large yellow underwings, quite 80% of the total catch, put in an appearance. Other regular visitors were Copper underwings, Mouse moths, numerous Codling moths and a selection of the genus *Crambus*.

### **PARTHENOGENETIC MANTID NAMED**

by *Phil Bragg (8737)*

The parthenogenetic mantid I referred to in a previous note (*Bulletin* 46: 160) has since been identified by Judith Marshall of the British Museum (Natural History) as *Sphodromantis viridis*.

### **HELL COPPICE/BERNWOOD FOREST MOTH RECORDS WANTED**

This area of Buckinghamshire, which includes Hell Coppice, Shabington wood and the Bernwood meadows is, like so many other important wild-life habitats, in danger from road schemes and other forms of development. A provisional annotated list of the macro-moths of the area has been compiled by Paul Waring of the Nature Conservancy Council, about whom we had a notice in the July *Bulletin*. Paul is now anxious to convert his provisional list into a definitive one, and anybody who has collected macro-moths in this area, or in Waterperry wood, Oxfordshire, either in the distant past or lately, is asked to get in touch with Paul at the Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

### **SOME MOTH NOTES FROM TRALEE, CO. KERRY, EIRE**

by *D. Norris (9175)*

On the evening of 5th July 1989 I recorded in my moth trap at Tralee a number of moths which, since records from my part of the world are few, I feel are worth recording. In addition to those at the trap, one Drinker (*Philudoria potatoaria*) was taken from the house and an Old lady (*Mormo maura*) was taken at sugar.

In the trap:-

- 1 Lilac beauty; 1 Small emerald; 3 Large yellow underwings;
- 1 Broad-bordered yellow underwing.

In the month of July I obtained 8 Magpie moths, 1 Peach-blossom, 6 White ermines, 2 Buff-tips, 1 Poplar Hawk, 1 Flame shoulder, 1 Heart and Dart, 3 Lobster moths, 1 Lackey moth, 1 Autumn green carpet.