

CiSFBR

CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY FEDERATION OF BIOLOGICAL RECORDERS

Interesting Find - 1



On 16th May this attractive 8cm Fire Salamander *Salamandra atra* turned up at Delabole. It was inside a trailer being used to transport a sit-upon mower and attachments from a garden near Plougras in Brittany. The amphibian was easily captured and placed in a temporary home, to be repatriated a few days later. There are many with second homes in Brittany, and this species could easily turn up here again. The late Victor Heath tried to establish the Fire Salamander at his Riviera Gardens in St Mawes some 50 years ago, but without any success. He had more luck in establishing the New Zealand Prickly Stick-insect *Acanthosyza geisovii*, which has now spread throughout St Mawes and has been distributed with plant material to several neighbouring villages.

Malcolm Lee

AGM Report Camelford (Cleese) Hall: 8th March 2008

The AGM of the Society followed the Spring Meeting and was chaired by Colin French (chairman of CISFBR), commencing at approximately 1:45pm. There were 20 members of CISFBR present. After apologies from members who could not attend, the minutes of the AGM from 2007 were distributed. Unfortunately some of the notes made had been mislaid, so Ian Bennallick (secretary) apologised for any information that was missing. There were no matters arising and the minutes were accepted. The chairman gave his report of the year 2007 to 2008, which is included below. Matt Stribley (treasurer and membership secretary) gave his treasurer's report, and reported that after an almost successful change of bank account, the 07/08 account closed at £1326.11 some £252.06 above the previous years closing balance. A full treasurer's report is available on request from the treasurer if needed. Matt

also reported that the membership in 2007/08 stood at 64 (Honorary 4, Paid members 60). This is 2 less than the membership level in 2006/07. Since January 2008 4 new members had joined CISFBR.

The election of officers and committee were then undertaken with some roles changed and a summary of officers for 2008/2009 follows -

Chairman Colin French **Vice-Chairman** Rosemary Parslow **Committee Meeting Minutes Secretary** Ian Bennallick was prepared to stand again but in the previously named post of Secretary **Treasurer and Membership Secretary** Matt Stribley was prepared to stand again. **Newsletter Editor** It was confirmed that Malcolm Lee will continue as editor. **Committee Election of Committee** was en bloc. Joan Opie and David Holyoak stood down, and Sue Scott was elected onto the committee.

In any other business Adrian Spalding reported that the second edition of the Red Data Book had been successful in obtaining a grant of £3500 for publication costs from Cornwall County Council's Biodiversity Improvement Grant. Most accounts had been done, and it would be a little late but is on track for publishing in November 2008. Pamela Tompsett wanted to thank Colin French for all the hard work he has put into ERICA for Windows, making it an amazing database resource for recorders, and for Cornwall. The meeting closed at approximately 2:00pm.

Chairman's Report: 2007 was CISFBR'S 10th anniversary and I would like to thank the 19 council members, including the corresponding members, for their continued support and attendance of meetings. In particular I would like to thank four people: Malcolm Lee for the production of two excellent newsletters for the year; Chris Haes for 10 years of acting as treasurer; David Holyoak for his expertise and support on the committee, including chairing the publications sub-committee; and Joan Opie for her work on the committee. Both David and Joan will be standing down from the committee this year and I thank them both for their service.

CISFBR continued in its tradition of organising meetings, including the summer meeting on Newlyn Downs, a field day and 10th anniversary celebratory barbecue, where 15 people did some recording and enjoyed a few burgers!

Also in the tradition of CISFBR the federation has been active in publications including the production of Keith Alexander's Hemiptera Checklist of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, published this week and for sale here today, and the second edition of the Red Data Book for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, published 10 years ago and currently being updated by mostly CISFBR members. Hopefully this will be available at the end of

2008. Two other publications are almost ready - the Fern and fern allies of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by Rosaline Murphy, Chris Page and Rosemary Parslow, and the Fumitory handbook, which Rosaline Murphy is currently working on for the Botanical Society of the British Isles. Both will receive support from CISFBR where appropriate.

On matters concerning the council, the events at the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly ERCCIS, took up a lot of meeting time. After the low points of the loss of two posts early in 2007, and the continuing non-appointment of a manager since 2005, which effectively made the Records Centre rudderless, I am pleased to say that since Gary Lewis has been appointed manager in June 2007, the Records Centre has undergone a remarkable transformation. There has been the creation of the post of a Data Officer, and CISFBR also has a strengthened role on the ERCCIS advisory board, with more input and guidance on hand for the Records Centre. This has made a tremendous difference, and now with a shift in attitude to recorders and being less imperialistic, the more symbiotic relationship between ERCCIS and recorders makes for a better relationship with recorders than before. Also improving this relationship is the adoption at ERCCIS of ERICA for Windows as the largest source of data for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly which will be used for conservation, planning and for recorders.

Editor's Note: This previously unpublished article was produced over 10 years ago, and I am sure members will enjoy this fascinating insight into the life of one of Cornwall's earliest recorders. W. E. Baily produced the first detailed review of the Cornish lepidoptera in 1894 and published several other articles on our fauna.

William Edward Baily 1858-1903, "Brewer and Science student"

Whilst collecting material for his *History of Mousehole* Mr Harvey brought together a wealth of information on William Baily, largely as a result of looking for Cornish artifacts he believed were in Baily's Museum. In his search, he even visited Mansfield Museum in 1994, co-incidentally staging a special exhibition at that time. His research revealed the way in which the Baily family entered into the local life and politics, the names of their domestic staff, the wedding of his sister-in-law, the history of the Mansfield brewery business and much more. JR and ST have extracted only the material more immediately relevant to his scientific work and the Museum.

W E Baily inherited his father's wealth, mainly his interest in the Mansfield Brewery, at the early age of 17. He never took an active part in the business and according to the Brewery records, the Board looked on William's eccentricity and extravagance in a poor light as no part of his profits were put back in the business. Soon after his father died he moved into a fine house in the centre of Mansfield, employing a number of 'layabouts' who wore some sort of uniform and were known as 'Baily's Horse'.

The last 20 of Baily's 46 years were spent in Cornwall and in the Census Return for 1891 he was described as "A Brewer and Science student". It was this mix of wealth from the brewing industry and a passion for the sciences

that shaped Baily's life and brought about the unusual story of the Porth Enys Museum.

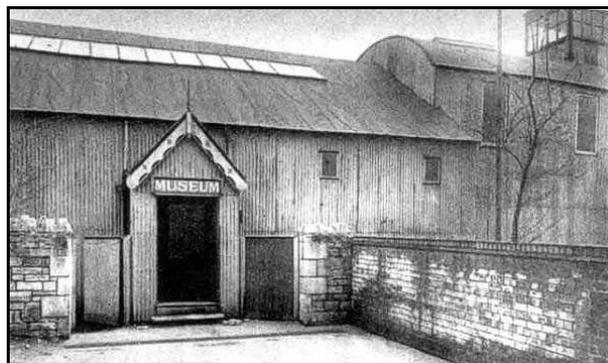
He had started collecting specimens when as young as seven years old, having acquired an interest and the basis of a collection from his mother. His father had died when William was 17, and he was the sole benefactor of the estate which included partnership in the Mansfield Brewery. The son's main interest in the Brewery seems to have been as a premises where he could house his scientific collections.

Mr and Mrs Bailey had spent their honeymoon in Cornwall in 1883 and, like so many others, had decided that this is where they wished to live. By the end of that year, they had rented 'Lynwood', a large house in Mousehole, having first considered Trereife. Whilst the house was being prepared, he stored his existing collections in a house in Chapel Street.

Membership of local societies started in 1883 when he joined the revived Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society: he was then one of 94 members and was very active, submitting short papers to the *Transactions* and donating to the Society a "complete collection of butterflies" as well as a collection of Cornish birds - probably housed in the Museum of the Royal Geological Society as the PNHAS then had no Museum of its own. Between 1893 and 1900 he served as President.

In 1886 he gave a talk to the Society entitled "Museums, public and private", and in 1887 members visited his home at Mousehole to view his newly-installed collections. In the Jubilee year of the Society in 1889 he displayed cases of birds and marine life as well as medallions and microscopes. To illustrate lectures at this event he prepared slides for display with his oxyhydrogen microscope.

His growing collections needed more space and he took the unusual step of installing a building in his own garden. His choice was a corrugated iron construction which had been used as a temporary Roman Catholic Church in Battersea, complete with a tower. It was dismantled and brought to Cornwall by rail or sea in 1892. Local carpenters and smiths were employed and in order to keep the contents in good condition, he had a form of under-floor heating installed. He called it the Porth Enys Museum using the earlier name for Mousehole.



Baily's museum, with its observation tower on the right,

In the eleven years that the Museum existed at Mousehole, fourteen artisans were employed to maintain the structure, build the displays and assist with the preparation of specimens and exhibitions. The workers were housed in the row of houses above 'Lynwood'; other families living there were involved in domestic and garden work for the Baily household. Gertrude Baily with whom he had discovered Cornwall on their honeymoon in 1883, entertained visitors

to the Museum, but there is no evidence that she took a personal interest in his scientific pursuits.

After holidaying in the Barbados where they met one Walter Abbot and later when staying at Worthing, where he had a business, Gertrude wrote how enchanted she found life compared with the dreary existence at Mousehole; two years after William died she married Walter Abbot.

The Museum included exhibits of scientific instruments associated with photography, optics and wireless telegraphy. When Rontgen discovered X-rays in 1895 Baily became interested and by 1900 he had a room made available for this expensive equipment - the first to find its way into Cornwall. He would demonstrate the value of X-rays and even dealt with broken bones in his Museum. His botanical specimens included a demonstration of paper-making from grass. He had a vast collection of 30,000 British and foreign Lepidoptera as well as the larvae, many of which he reared and released into the surrounding countryside. Painted plaster casts of local and exotic fish were exhibited together with notes on their migratory habits. Local fishermen were encouraged to bring any interesting fish for his casting and in turn Baily would discuss with them the scientific approach to their long-held fishing tradition. This led to him being on the Fishery Subcommittee of Cornwall County Council; he represented the interests of the fishing community and advised on any technical advances as he was also a member of the Technical Institution Committee.

His extravagance continued to cause problems to the Brewery, added to which he was often difficult to contact in Cornwall and important business could be held up because his signature was lacking. The firm's records note that when he "was not driving in a one-horse carriage from his house at 'Lynwood' to Penzance and back at a cost of 10/- or to Marazion and back for 15/- plus 3/6d for the driver or engaging a carriage and pair to Land's End and back at a cost of 30/- plus 5/- for the driver, he was buying for his new Museum...".



The great and the good turn out for the 1904 re-opening of Baily's museum in Mansfield

In 1901 more space was needed, and he had the building increased to encompass six more galleries, making a total of eleven. About this time he started to employ a full-time curator, William Daws, who produced four short papers (on butterflies, dragonflies and moths) in *The Entomologist*.

Baily's accomplishments were the more remarkable because he struggled against ill health for much of his life. One suspects tuberculosis, for in 1897 he went, with his wife and daughter, on a sea voyage to Barbados; but this only brought a temporary improvement.

He died six years later, in May 1903. He had already decided to part with the Museum and to move to Worthing. When death intervened his plans were well advanced, and his gift of the Museum to Mansfield went ahead, with William Daws in charge, the edifice was again dismantled and when re-erected, it became the municipal Museum and Art Gallery of that town, with Daws, and later his son, also William, as curator.

In 1938 it was finally demolished and replaced by the present stone building. It is known that William Curnow's collection of mosses was in the museum but this collection and indeed virtually none of the original contents of the museum can now be traced. In August 1994 Baily was remembered in Mansfield Museum with an exhibition of items which included a few photographs, a model of the original museum and a few fish and shells; some of these were credited to William Daws.

*Compiled by Jan Ruhmund and Stella Turk
from research material collected by Percy Harvey*

Editor's Footnote: Baily had one child, a daughter Gertrude. In 1916 she had a son, Frank Baily Thomas, who turned out to be mentally handicapped. His mother died when he was only 7, and her legacy, principally half of Baily's Brewery dividends, was put in trust for him. When his grandmother died in 1937 the other half went into the trust. In 1970 it was valued at almost £1½ million. This was put in a separate charitable trust fund to research into causes of mental handicap and to promote the care of the mentally handicapped. Frank was 80 when he died in 1997. In 1999, when the Mansfield Brewery was taken over, the trust was valued at some £73 million. It still survives, and is called the Baily Thomas Charitable Trust.

CISFBR Spring Meeting 'Recording Wildlife in the Landscape'

The CISFBR Spring meeting was on the subject of 'Recording Wildlife in the Landscape', and as it was held in Camelford, it was pleasing to see some new faces at the meeting.

The meeting kicked off with **Adrian Spalding** explaining the Atlantic Coast and Valleys Project (ACVP), a joint project involving conservation and local government bodies with the aim of restoring the wildlife to the north Cornish coast, including the Large Blue butterfly. Adrian explained that by targeting scrub clearance and active grazing management of several small steep east to west coastal valleys on the north Cornwall and Devon Coast from Pentire Point to Hartland Point, many species that require open slopes that heat up quickly in the sun had benefited from the work undertaken. The Large Blue butterfly had been a key species in driving the funding for the project, and this part of the British Isles had seen some of the last known colonies in the wild before being declared extinct in the 1970s. Re-introduction efforts at several UK sites had been successful. Work monitoring population sizes showed a correlation with active management undertaken. Adrian also showed how much of the flat areas between the headlands are now intensively farmed, usually as grass leys, devoid of anything of interest. In 1997 a trial site of natural regeneration of one of these sites adjacent species-rich coastal turf had been undertaken by the National Trust, where the top fertile layer had been scraped away with

the spoil making up hedgebanks. The trial had been a resounding success with numbers of species of vascular plants and invertebrates colonising in 10 years far outnumbering those found in an intensively farmed site or an area under countryside stewardship. Further sites of scraping and regeneration were being trialled. It is hoped that by joining up these areas between the valleys that the species once abundant will be able to spread.

Peter Herring from English Heritage (formerly of Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Service) introduced the idea of Historic Landscape Characterisation HLC – and referred to the historic landscape of the north Cornish coast, and the habitats and species present, and how it became a key part of understanding the unique areas covered by the ACVP. Historic Landscape Characterisation combines the historic and the semi-natural; a unifying approach to the sustainability of biodiversity, which throughout Britain is partially cultural. It follows the European Landscape Convention ELC which states that 'Landscape is at the heart of people's senses of place and identity. ELC calls for accessible and integrated approaches to understanding, shaping and managing future landscape change. ELC is to be embedded in legal and policy frameworks at every level'. Landscape exists everywhere: natural, rural, urban and peri-urban; land, inland water and marine areas; and all areas are outstanding, everyday or degraded. The guiding principles of HLC follow the ELC, and Peter explained that the present-day landscape is HLC's main object of study, the inherited landscape we inhabit and manage. HLC recognises that the European landscape's defining characteristic is time-depth and that evidence for change and earlier landscapes exists in the present landscape. For example, we can abstract an HLC image of medieval Cornwall from that of modern Cornwall. Peter also explained that all aspects of the landscape, no matter how modern or degraded, are characterised, and that no parts of an HLC map are left white or uncharacterised and that no part of Britain lacks this sort of variety: HLC helps understand and appropriately manage all parts including the least regarded. HLC-based research and understanding is concerned with areas and patterns, not point data (for which there are separate records) but HLC texts, however, will usually identify key distinctive components including semi-natural habitats. One of HLC's uses is to contextualise individual sites, features and habitats. Peter showed that landscape is and always has been dynamic; the application of HLC reflects this and as we celebrate the result of past changes, we accept further change, but try to guide the type and scale of future change through better understanding. Understanding time-depth in the landscape and assess an area's sensitivity, vulnerability and capacity for change in the context of specific proposals. There are two stages of HLC: identify, map, describe and interpret; apply judgements about value or practical priorities in relation to issues and so feed into strategies and actions.

Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Service (HES) put the ACVP into the contexts of: Historic environment; Natural environment; Landscape character. The aim was to ensure the ACVP maximised benefits to all sectors. HLC is based on the premise that

all semi-natural environments in Britain have been created and maintained by land uses established by people. To sustainably manage valued habitats, such as those along the north Cornish coast, we therefore need to understand their development and traditional land use. A HLC for the ACVP area was prepared using three time slices – Present day (based on the OS MasterMap and other systematic maps and aerial photos), 1880 (Based on the 1st edition 1880 OS maps) and 1840 (based on 1840 Tithe Maps, whose apportionments have detailed information on land use). For the Natural Environment the ACVP contextual mapping covered two elements: Habitats and Indicator Species, using complex LIFE Habitat map and simplified Broad Habitat map. This included 19 indicator species (including amongst others Large Blue butterfly, Adder and Corn Bunting), selected by Adrian Spalding, which had historical records collated by Cornwall and Devon Wildlife Trusts for the AVCP area. The ACVP was then sub-divided and each holding has its own particular history, and its own historical components. A key element of the second stage of the ACVP programme was preparation of brief Historic Environment statements for each applicant covering: more detailed HLC informing a summary land use history; an inventory of archaeological components; and management recommendations. Each parcel or field was described, its history outlined, its archaeological components listed, issues discussed, and management recommended. All archaeological features were recorded and described and management recommendations were made. Peter concluded the talk by showing photos of more trial sites of 'scrapes' in species-poor fields, the reasons for creation outlined by Adrian the previous speaker.

The final speaker was **Paul St. Pierre** of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Paul explained that the ACVP is part designated as SSSI on the coast for cliff and slope and heath habitats. Backed by various farmland systems along its length it supports several birds of conservation concern which are associated with cliff and slope and farmland. The aim was to secure populations of oystercatcher, kestrel, peregrine, stock dove, skylark, meadow pipit, dunnock, song thrush, stonechat, wheatear, Dartford warbler, grasshopper warbler, bullfinch, yellowhammer and linnet, and establish breeding populations of chough. Part of the work involved a RSPB 2006 Atlantic Coast and Valleys Bird Survey. The first survey of the area was designed to set up a baseline and provide information on appropriate management, and two people carried out the survey, one was a local volunteer. The survey coverage and methodology included surveying between 1 April and 15 July, with all breeding birds targeted except sea birds and night birds. 25 1km squares covered by two early morning visits, and in each square only the unenclosed land was visited. 39 species were recorded in total. 240 territories of 15 species of conservation concern were recorded (a density of four species per 1km square). This included six red-listed, eight amber-listed and one green-listed species. Most abundant and widespread species were linnet, whitethroat, wren, dunnock and chaffinch. Paul highlighted some density comparisons, showing that for

some species the ACVP had lower densities than in some other habitats. The aims from the survey results were to secure populations of Birds of Conservation Concern. Part of achieving this aim was managing the ACVP area's rough land, to create variation in age, structure and species. Paul mentioned in detail how gorse, heather and grass management could help the habitats reach optimum condition. With recreating habitats several aspects needed considering: the coastal strip is fairly narrow especially where there is high flat ground; the management behind is pastoral farming; levels of fertility, and loss of micro topography and drainage issues need consideration; re-profiling of fields and nutrient balancing the only real option; potential habitats are heather and dwarf scrub habitats; aim for flower-rich grasslands. Most of the 15 species would benefit if habitat was restored. However there are three things that would help enormously. These were: establish 1 ha of wild bird mix or 10 ha of extensive arable (winter stubbles, stubble turnips, etc), per 100 ha of arable and temporary grassland; establish 5 ha of rough grassland on clean land per 100 ha improved permanent and temporary grassland; manage all semi-natural habitats extensively. Paul also asked for our help by enter all casual bird data onto BirdTrack and get involved in Breeding Bird Surveys. This means that data works hard for conservation because: it goes to the RSPB, BTO, local bird watching groups (most have agreements with local record centres so they get them as well) and the NBN; it helps direct £27 million of grants to land managers through the bird conservation targeting project; it is used for the BTO National Atlas, local projects and planning cases.

Paul outlined the conclusions from the work undertaken in the ACVP area. These were that habitats could support many more birds; extensive mixed farming system benefits birds as a whole (need to manage both); appropriate grazing, with cutting, spraying and burning regimes need to work together on unenclosed land; 2 ha wild bird mix or 10 ha of spring cereal/winter stubble per 100 ha would support greater numbers of farmland birds; getting involved helps target management and resources.

Following the three talks there was a quick question and answer session where the problems of future funding of the project were highlighted and also a pertinent question of which flowers were providing nectar for the Large Blue. The three speakers were all thanked for a very interesting morning.

TIME TO WATCH OUT 'STRING JELLY'S ABOUT

In 2007 there has been a phenomenal incursion of 'String Jelly' between the Isles of Scilly and Plymouth. This Mediterranean species is more likely to make itself felt (literally) more often in the future. Yes, it's probably another 'southern' species extending its range northwards. It is arguably the largest known invertebrate and hitherto there have been no recorded instances in Cornish seas.

So what is this mysterious creature, the common names of which are 'String Jelly' or 'Stinging Hydroid'? Both

are descriptive, for it looks like a long piece of (unravelling) string, and it can sting, as many divers can testify. They are members of the genus *Apolemia*, and we have provisionally named them as *A. uvaria*, which was first described in 1815 by Lesuer. They are colonial animals (Siphonophores) related to the Portuguese Man-of-War (*Physalia physalia*) and the By-the-wind-sailor (*Velella velella*). In Norwegian seas one of the species is blue in colour and known as 'Blue Fire' and is known to have caused problems in a salmon farm. The Cornish examples were all pink, although the colour may not be of significance.



Apolemia 'String Jelly'

Attention was first drawn to the 'String Jelly' by Rory Goodall, when he saw the strange creatures between Penzance and the Scillies. He informed Joana Doyle, Marine Officer of Cornwall Wildlife Trust, and Ray Dennis, who maintains the marine sightings database for Cornwall. Ray subsequently arranged for Paul Gainey, a local expert, to see this phenomenon. He describes them as being present in tens of thousands, varying in length but mostly about 25cms long, and all releasing minute reproductive jellyfish (medusae). Each String Jelly can form chains two or three metres long. Each long chain is headed by one small bladder (the equivalent bladder in Portuguese Man-of-War is shaped like a Cornish pasty), but the long string is very fragile and is soon broken up into shorter lengths, all of which are reproductively viable.

These short lengths have been described as like ragworms, and I now realise that some stinging strands previously reported to me were probably this species, but never has it been seen in such numbers as in 2007.

Stella Turk

DIARY DATES

(BCG): *Botanical Cornwall Group*
 (CBC) *Cornwall Butterfly Conservation*
 (CIG) *Cornwall Invertebrate Group*
 (HMC) *Helford Marine Conservation*

JULY

Monday July 21st (CIG) Cabilla and Redrice Woods CWT Reserve SX 129 652 Meet at 10am. Cabilla woods are one of the largest ancient woodlands in Cornwall; there is an extensive area of mixed woodland with ancient oak and hazel coppice and well as river and wetland. Recent management by the trust includes coppicing and grazing

the pasture woodland. From the A38 3 miles east of Bodmin, take the turning left towards Cardinham by a lodge, cross over the river Fowey and the access is the first track on the right.

Tuesday 22nd July (BCG) - 10:00 am WARLEGGAN area (SX16), wooded valleys and lanes on edge of Bodmin Moor hoping to see *Platanthera chlorantha*, *Physospermum cornubiense* and moorland flora. Meet at Warleggan Down, SX157702.

Wednesday 23rd July (BCG) - 10:00 am PENDEEN WATCH (SW33), coastal cliffs on westernmost part of Cornwall. Meet near Lighthouse, SW 379358.

AUGUST

Saturday 2nd August (BCG) - 10:00 am CHURCHTOWN FARM, SALTASH (SX45), wildflower walk for Friends of Churchtown Farm. Varied habitats with extensive estuarine edge. Meet at 11am near School, SX420581.

Sunday 3rd August (BCG) - 10:00 am TREVISCOE and GOONAMARRIS (SW95), an under-recorded tetrad in the China clay area. Meet at lay-by, northeast of Stepside, SW947546.

Tuesday 5th August (CIG) Penhale MOD Camp SW 764 584 Meet 10am (Prior booking essential - contact Sue Scott 01872 240777 ext. 240) Penhale Camp is situated towards the northern end of Penhale Sands and the MOD owns approximately half of the SAC, which is used as an army training area. The MOD and Defence Estates have funded recent management work at Penhale, such as cutting back larger areas of invading scrub, scraping dune slacks and erecting fencing to allow grazing on the dunes. This is a fabulous site especially if there has been a wet period and the dune slacks are full. Malcolm Lee would like to find the Stripe-winged grasshopper *Stenobothrus lineatus*, but there is plenty more of interest there including the Musk beetle *Aromia moschata*. I will forward more detail on how we get on site to those who are interested nearer the time.

9th August (CBC) - 11:00am Kynance Cove, Nr. The Lizard. Be prepared for a beautiful walk at this famous locality for lepidoptera. We would certainly hope to see most of the following species: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including Helice), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in main Kynance Cove car park and meet near the toilet block at the Southern end of the car park. Leader - Phil Boggis. Meet at map ref. SW688132 in main Kynance Car Park. For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Wednesday 13th August (BCG) - 10:00 am BEENY CLIFF (SX19), coastal cliff north of Boscastle. Meet at Boscastle paying car park, SX100912.

Wed 20th Aug. (HMC) Explore the Shore Investigate the rocky crevices and strandline of the Durgan shore to find the hidden world of crabs, sea anemones and strange shellfish with marine expert Ruth Williams. Wear non-slip rock-scrambling shoes that you are prepared to get wet! Free. Time: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Meet: Park in the National Trust car park and meet on the shore at Durgan (OS Ref: SW 774 273). Contact: Paul 01326 341 030 or Prue 01326 281 230 (Photo competition opportunity!)

Wednesday 20th August (BCG) - 10:00 am PENJERRICK (SW73), sheltered garden with

magnificent tree-ferns. A fern orientated meeting hoping to see native and exotic ferns in the garden. Meet in parkland at entrance to garden SW780309. £2.50 ENTRANCE FEE

Saturday 23rd August (BCG) - 10:00 am DRAYNE'S WOOD (GOLITHA FALLS) (SX26), for *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*, and recording in an under-recorded tetrad (SX261) near HIGHER TRELASKE. Meet at car park SX227689.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 6th September (BCG) - 10:00 am HELIGAN Gardens (SW94/SX04). A fern orientated meeting hoping to see native and exotic ferns in the famous sheltered garden, co-led with Carolyn Webb, who works at the garden. Meet in car park SW996468. £7.50 ENTRANCE FEE

Wednesday 10th September (BCG) - 10:00 am north of KILKHAMPTON (SS21), under-recorded tetrad (SS21L). Meet in car-park KILKHAMPTON, SS252112.

Sun 14th Sept. (HMC) Snorkelling safari Visit the mysterious underwater world of the Helford River with David Ball and his divers from the Silver Dolphin Conservation Diving Marine Centre, Penzance. Use the National Trust car park and meet on the Durgan shore. Bring your own gear though some may be available for over 10 yr-olds. Numbers limited for safety reasons so booking essential. Participation is entirely at your own risk, you must be able to swim and children MUST be accompanied by an adult. (O.S.Grid Ref. SW 774 273). Cost: £3 Members free. Time: 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Contact: Martin 01326 561 952

Wednesday 17th September (BCG) - 10:00 am TREBARWITH STRAND and TRELIGGA CLIFF (SX08), coastal cliffs flora and inland lanes. Meet at paying car-park TREBARWITH STRAND, SX052864.

OCTOBER

Saturday 11th October (BCG) - 10:00 am Polypodium identification workshop, combining an indoor microscope session and field visit to see *Polypodium* hybrids. Venue TBC but it will be in SALTASH (SX45). BOOKING ESSENTIAL FERN INTEREST

Sat. 18th Oct. (HMC) Celebrating 20 years of the Helford VMCA What is so special about the marine life of the Helford River? Share the beautiful pictures and experiences of people involved with conserving its fascinating shores and colourful underwater world during the last 20 years. Relax and enjoy some refreshment with people who also appreciate the HVMCA. Entries to the Photographic Competition will be exhibited and the winners announced. Cost: Free. (the donation of a plate of finger-food would be welcomed). Time: 7.30 p.m. Venue: Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary OS Ref. SW 709 266. Contact: Margaret 01326 221 632

NOVEMBER Onwards

Sat 22nd Nov. (HMC) Marine Conservation at the Cornwall Wildlife Trust Dolphins, seals, pink sea fans, eelgrass and other marine life are all of interest to the marine section of the CWT. Using her beautiful photographs Ruth Williams will tell us more about the projects to record and conserve them through survey, public education and the formulation of protective legislation. Cost: £2. Members free. Time: 7.30 p.m. Venue: Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal

Sanctuary OS Ref. SW 709 266. *Contact:* Jenna 01326 572 995 or CWT 01872 240 777

Sat 6th Dec. (HMC) Seahorses: The enigmatic fish

These captivating fish are not only found in tropical seas but are here along our own coast where eelgrass beds are a favoured habitat. Neil Garrick-Maidment, founder and director of the Seahorse Trust, co-designer of the National Marine Aquarium and author of many related books and articles will delight us with his fascinating stories and beautiful photographs. *Cost:* £2. Members and all children free. *Time:* 7.30 p.m. *Venue:* Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary OS Ref. SW 709 266. *Contact:* Pamela 01209 842316 or Jenna 01326 572995

Sat. 17th Jan. 2009 (HMC) Seacore Ltd - from Gweek quay to far-off seas This much respected local specialist offshore drilling company has expanded world-wide over the last 30 years and we welcome an update from John Gladowe, Design Director, following the recent move to Falmouth. *Cost:* £2. Members and all children free. *Time:* 7.30 p.m. *Venue:* Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary OS Ref. SW 709 266 *Cost:* £2. Members and all children free. *Time:* 7.30 p.m. *Venue:* Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary OS Ref. SW 709 266. *Contact:* David 01326 341181 or Paul 01326 341 030

The Land and Freshwater Bugs (Hemiptera) of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Federation of Biological Recorders (CISFBR) and the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) have just published 'The Land and Freshwater Bugs (Hemiptera) of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly' by Keith Alexander. The publication includes introductory sections on special features of the Cornish fauna, changing distributions, species totals, equipment for fieldwork, retention of voucher species, useful literature, national recording schemes, recording in Cornwall, and a catalogue of species with location details and notes. Copies are available for £8 (add £2 for postage and packaging) from Colin French 12 Seton Gardens, Weeth Road, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 7JS - 01209613942 or Gary Lewis, ERCCIS, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ - 01872240777. Cheques should be made payable to CISFBR.

**HELFORD DIARY
Rock Crevice Fauna**

During the past two or three years I have become very much more interested in the Coleoptera, the beetles, of Cornwall. My attention was drawn to several beetle species that actually live between high and low water marks, inhabiting rock crevices where, presumably, small pockets of trapped air enable them to survive when the tide is in.

During June to September 2006 several visits were made to the shores at Prisk Cove and The Bar, Helford Passage, to look for the two particular 2.5 mm long beetles *Aepus robinii* and *Aepus marinus* – no common names. My first visit to Prisk Cove involved moving “slabs” of loose rock to reveal the sand-filled rock crevices below. This specialised habitat revealed a whole variety of different species – centipedes, gastropds (snail-like molluscs) and mites to name but a few. After a short search one of the crevices yielded a

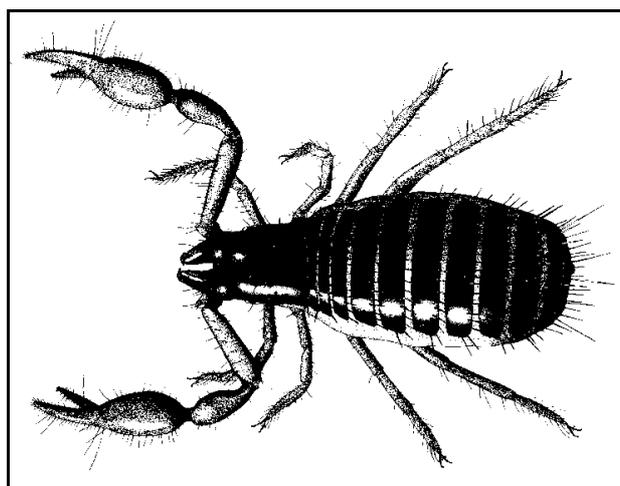
pale, yellow-brown 2-3mm beetle. This was *Aepus robinii* characterised by its eyes being just visible and protruding slightly from the side of its head. The elytra (wing cases) were smooth except for 3 or 4 very long setae (stiff hairs) on each, the apices of the elytra were also lobed so that they did not meet at their tips.



Aepus robinii

Also present in the crevice were large numbers of the familiar grey-blue collembola (springtails) *Anurida maritima*, on which the beetles probably feed. *Aepus robinii* is Nationally Scarce (B) species with a more southern European distribution extending from southern Britain along the Atlantic coast of France and Spain to the Mediterranean area.

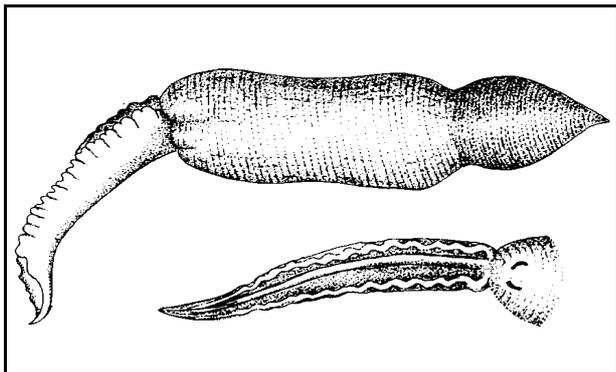
The second and somewhat rarer species of *Aepus* – *A. marinus* was not found at Prisk Cove on this occasion, however, two other interesting and rare species, the pseudoscorpion *Neobisium maritimum* and the bizarre and somewhat obscure Echiuran worm *Thalassema thalasseum* were found sharing the same habitat as *A. robinii*. The greatly enlarged and pincer-like second pair of appendages of *Neobisium maritimum* give it a superficial appearance of a tail-less scorpion, hence the name pseudo-scorpion. *N. maritimum* is about 3mm long and is a rich olive-brown in colour. This Nationally Scarce (A) species is perhaps nowhere more common in Britain than on the Cornish coastline.



Neobisium maritimum

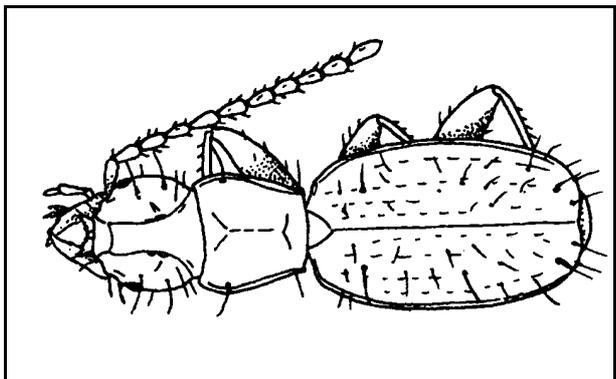
Thalassema thalasseum, an obscure, unsegmented ‘worm’ also prefers mud and sand filled crevices especially on the lower shore. The main body is 2-3 cm long with an extensible proboscis 1 – 20 cm long, tapering to a point, altogether a rather strange animal! A provisionally Nationally Scarce species it occurs

northwards from the Mediterranean to southern Britain where they are relatively common in Cornwall and Devon but very rare elsewhere.



Thalassema thalasseum

The second *Aepus* beetle, *A. marinus*, was later found on or about the high water mark between the Ferryboat Inn and The Bar. Whereas this does occur as part of the rock crevice fauna, its preferred habitat is under stones lying flat on fine sand or shingle. This Nationally Scarce (B) and Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species has a much more restricted distribution range extending from southern Norway along the English Channel to northern Brittany. About the same size and colour as *A. robinii* but with greatly reduced, non-protruding eyes, a fine elytral pubescence (downy) and truncate (square cut) apices to the elytra such that they almost meet at the suture (mid-line).



Aepus marinus

Since the original search for the above species they have been found in good numbers throughout the search area, yet a further piece of evidence of the importance of the Helford Estuary and near confines for rare and interesting species!

N.B. after removing the loose 'slabs' of rock and examining the rock crevices beneath each slab was replaced carefully in **exactly** the original position.

Dr Paul A Gainey

Newsletter by e-mail

If you would prefer to get this newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail to the newsletter editor at gullrock@ukonline.co.uk. Apart from receiving your newsletter immediately it has been prepared, it will also save CISFBR the costs of printing and postage.

Malcolm Lee

Articles For Future Newsletters

If you have news, articles or photos of interest to CISFBR members, please send them to the newsletter editor –

**Malcolm Lee
Gullrock
Port Gaverne
Port Isaac
Cornwall
PL29 3SQ.**

e-mail: gullrock@ukonline.co.uk

Sending articles by e-mail as a WORD document is easiest, but any other format, or a typed or hand written article will always be very acceptable.

CISFBR Officers for 2008/09

Chair: Dr Colin French, 12 Seton Gardens, Weeth Road, Camborne, TR14 7JS. Tel: 01209 613942

Vice Chair: Rosemary Parslow, 17 St Michael's Road, Ponsanooth, Truro, TR3 7ED. Tel: 01872 865013

Membership Secretary & Treasurer: Matt Stribley, 8 St Georges Road, Truro, TRI 3JE. Tel: 01872 272900

Secretary: Ian Benniallick, Lower Polmorla, St Wenn, Bodmin, PL30 5PE. Tel: 01726 890384

e-mail: ianbenniallick@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor: Malcolm Lee, Gullrock, Port Gaverne, Port Isaac, PL29 3SQ. Tel: 01208 880106

e-mail: gullrock@ukonline.co.uk

Committee: All the above plus Tony Atkinson, Jacqui Davey, Tim Dingle (*corresponding member*), Chris Haes, Bernard Hocking, Loveday Jenkin, Catriona Neil, Treve Opie, Dr Chris Page, Sue Scott, Adrian Spalding, and Dr Pamela Tompsett

Any amendments to membership details?

Could members please ensure that Matt Stribley is advised of any changes to their address details.

Interesting Find - 2



Pete Spong captured this fine picture of a Horntail, or Wood Wasp, *Urocerus gigas* ovipositing into a fence rail at his Egloshayle garden.