

<http://www.collembola.org/publicat/farrell.pdf> - Last updated on 2008.01.22 by Frans Janssens

Checklist of the Collembola: Contribution to the knowledge of the Collembola from Cheshire and Derbyshire, UK

Shane Farrell, Butterfly Conservation Cheshire & Peak District Branch, Cheshire, VC58, UK

Frans Janssens, Department of Biology, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, B-2020, Belgium

Abstract

Nine species of springtails (Collembola) were found in Cheshire and Derbyshire, UK, during a preliminary survey. At least one of these springtails is new to the Cheshire springtail fauna.

Keywords: Collembola, springtails, Cheshire, Derbyshire, UK

Introduction

Due to personal circumstances, the senior author's normal main interest of moth recording was extremely curtailed in 2007. In January 2008 he was more or less ready to start recording but as there were not too many perfect insects around that time, he has mainly used the short time available to search for spiders, insects and other arthropods, which could be readily found in his garden at night.

The main arthropods found in this way have been springtails (Collembola). These fascinating arthropods are both abundant and easily found - a good combination when time is limited. As a bonus from a photography perspective, they are also extremely attractive in many cases. There are of course the 'little brown (or in this case, mainly grey) jobbies' familiar to the birdwatchers but on the whole there is something to please the eye. Being so small - the ones found so far have been between 0.5-5 mm long - they are also a real challenge when it comes to getting a satisfactory image. This is quite a small group of animals with around 250 species in the UK.

Methods

Specimens were located simply by shaking out a paper bag from the bottom of the garden, or banging a rotting tree stump onto a board and then seeing what runs/jumps; almost like beating a shrub to find lepidopteran larvae. Recently, in addition, a small pile of leaves was found in the corner of the senior author's Father-in-law's garden in New Mills, Derbyshire. When inspected, several species were found within the time frame of a few minutes.

Results

In all, using the above methods, nine species of springtails were located and digitally photographed and subsequently emailed to and identified by the second author. It is understood that at least one of these springtails, *Orchesella villosa*, is new to the Cheshire springtail fauna.

Cheshire site

Tomocerus minor

Vertagopus arboreus

Entomobrya intermedia

Entomobrya albocincta

Orchesella villosa

Orchesella cincta

Lepidocyrtus cyaneus

Dicyrtomina saundersi

Derbyshire site

Isotomurus palustris

Orchesella villosa

Entomobrya intermedia

Dicyrtomina saundersi



Tomocerus minor



Lepidocyrtus cyaneus



Orchesella villosa



Orchesella cincta



Entomobrya albocincta



Entomobrya intermedia



Vertagopus arboreus



Isotomurus palustris



Dicyrtomina saundersi

Conclusion

The apparent rarity of these Collembola species appears not to be an accurate portrayal of the true status; rather, it reflects the lack of recorders. Given the recently published key to the Collembola of Britain and Ireland by Steve P. Hopkin, and if anyone is at a loose end and can not find anything in their normal interest, it is recommended to turn over a log or a few stones and to see what jumps out - quite literally! Hopefully this recent publication will help to increase interest.

References

Hopkin, S.P. 2007. A key to the Collembola (Springtails) of Britain and Ireland., AIDGAP, Field Studies Council, p.1-246.