

FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

Alan Rowland and Jennifer George

Introduction

This year has seen a reduction in the number of surveys, but some new surveyors. In addition to the regular surveys of Alan Rowland (AR), there was a visit by the National Aquatic Heteroptera recorder, Kevin Rowley (KR), who surveyed many waters and identified species new to Lundy, for which we are extremely grateful. A full report of his visit is included in this publication (pp36-41). Of note is also the re-discovery of Water Spider, not seen for 30 years.

Platyhelminthes (Flat Worms)

The **Black Flatworm** *Polycelis nigra* was recorded by AR and KR at Quarters and Ackland's Moor Pond and in Pondsby in March and April.

Oligochaeta (Segmented Worms)

A **Black Worm** *Lumbriculus variegatus*, was recorded at Millcombe pond in March (AR).

Hirunidea (Leeches)

A single **Horse Leech** *Haemopsis sanguisuga* was seen in one of the pools near Quarterwall Gate by George Burbridge in April.

Mollusca (Snails, Limpets, Mussels etc)

Spire Snails *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* were plentiful in the Millcombe Pond survey where 18 were recorded in March (AR)

Crustacea (Shrimps, crabs, crayfish, water fleas, copepods, ostracods)

Freshwater Shrimps were found in the survey of Quarters Pond in March when **Daphnia** and **Ostracod** species were seen (AR). The **One-spotted Water Louse** *Proasellus meridianus* was ubiquitous, with Kevin Rowley recording its presence in Kistvaen, Pondsby and Quarterwall Ponds in April.

Arachnidea (Spiders)

Kevin Rowley was determined to find the **Water Spider** *Argyronecta aquatica*, and recovered one in Pondsby in April. Mark West was similarly determined and later in April was also successful (see Arachnida report in this issue).

Insecta (Insects)

Diptera (Fly and Midge Larvae)

Alan Rowland recorded **Non-biting Midge** *Chironomidae* and **Mosquito** *Culicidae* in small numbers in his survey of Pondsby, **Meniscus Midge** *Dixidae* and **Cranefly** *Limoniidae* in his survey of Quarters Pond, and **Black Fly** *Simuliidae* in Millcombe Pond, all in March.



▲ Horse Leech (photo: George Burbridge)



▲ Emperor Dragonfly nymph (photo: Mark West)



▲ Common Darter nymph (photo: Mark West)

Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

The only May Fly to be found on Lundy, the **Pond Olive** *Cloeon Dipterum* was recorded by AR in March at Quarters Pond and in April by KR at Quarry Pond.

Odonata (Dragon and Damselflies nymphs)

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* nymphs were recorded at Quarry Pond in April (KR) Mark West, in his search for the water spider, on the 29 April recovered two Odonata nymphs from Pondsburry – an **Emperor Dragonfly** nymph and a **Common Darter** nymph.



▲ *Corixa punctata* (photo: Alan Rowland)



▲ *Hesperocorixa sahlbergi*
(photo: Alan Rowland)

Hemiptera (Water Bugs)

As would be expected, with the national recorder's presence on Lundy, there were many records of water bugs. Several species of **Water Boatmen** were found: *Callicorixa praeusta* (recorded by KR at Ackland's Moor, Kistvaen and Quarterwall Ponds in April); *Corixa punctata* (recorded by AR in March at Quarters Pond and by KR in April at Ackland's Moor and Barton Field Ponds); *Hesperocorixa linnaei*, first seen in 2024, and *Hesperocorixa sahlbergi*, not seen since 1958 (both recorded in Pondsburry by KR); and finally *Sigara distincta* (at Ackland's Moor, Pondsburry and Quarterwall Ponds) and *S. lateralis* at Barton's Field, Pondsburry and Quarterwall Ponds (seen in April by KR).

In addition to these, a **Sphagnum Bug** *Hebrus ruficeps*, new to Lundy, was recovered at Pondsburry, and a **Backswimmer** *Notonecta viridis* was recorded at Pondsburry and Quarterwall Ponds, both during Kevin's April visit.

Another major new find was of the **Water Measurer** *Hydrometra stagnorum*. At 13 mm in length it is difficult to believe it has remained undiscovered throughout the 80 year history of the LFS. The Water Measurer is similar to the Water Stick Insect, but lacking the long breathing tube at its rear end, makes up its size with a very elongated head. It is a slow moving predator that takes water fleas from below the surface film with its sharp beak-like rostrum or lies in wait immobile on the water surface until an unsuspecting prey betrays its presence. Like the Saucer Bug *Ilyocoris cimicoides* (LFS

Annual Report Vol 74) and Water Stick Insect *Ranatra linearis* (LFS Annual Report Vol 71) it must be a recent colonist to the island, and with the exception of the Water Scorpion *Nepa cinerea* completes the large water bug assemblage.

Trichoptera (Caddis Flies)

The only species recorded was *Diplectrona felix* from Millcombe Pond by AR in March.

Coleoptera (Water Beetles)

Although Kevin is the national Hemiptera recorder he also has great expertise with Coleoptera, as demonstrated by his findings of species new to Lundy.

AR recorded **Diving beetle** larvae *Dysticidae* in Quarters Pond and Pondsburry and adults of *Haliphus ruficollis* in Quarters Pond and *Noterus clavicornis* in Pondsburry and the Quarry and Quarterwall ponds in March.

KR recorded *Agabus montanus* – a new record for Lundy – and *A. nebulosus* in Kistvaen and again in Barton's Field Pond in April. The latter was last recorded in 1999.

KR made four new records at Pondsburry: *Cercyon ustulatus*; *Chaetarthria seminulum/simillima*; *Paracymus scutellaris*; and *Copelatus haemorrhoidalis*. Another new record was made at Kistvaen Pond of *Hydroporus memnonius*, which was also found in a temporary pond near Pondsburry. *Hydroporus pubescens* was found at Kistvaen, Ackland's Moor Ponds and the temporary ponds at the North End as well as at Pondsburry. Other records were of the **Screech Beetle** *Hygrobia hermanni* at Quarterwall Pond, and *Laccobius bipunctatus* at Barton's Field Pond.

Conclusions

There is no doubt that having a national species expert is of great value. Kevin Rowley made nine new records in just three days by searching for species in the habitats where he knew they might be found. He also found species that had not been seen for a couple of decades. His identification skills made this possible, but there was also the discovery of yet another macro-invertebrate, the Water Measurer, which is too large to have been missed by diligent surveyors over the years. The presence of this species along with the Saucer Bug and Water Stick Insect show that Lundy is being colonised by common species making their way from the mainland.

We are very grateful to Kevin Rowley for sharing his survey data and for determination of some other species.



▲ *Haliphus ruficollis* (photo: Alan Rowland)



▲ *Noterus clavicornis* (photo: Alan Rowland)