

***Afrephialtes cicatricosa* (Ratzeburg) (Hymenoptera:
Ichneumonidae, Pimplinae), an unexpected addition to the
Irish fauna**

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The Red-tipped Clearwing moth *Synanthedon formicaeformis* (Esper) inhabits fens, marshes and other damp localities where the larvae feed inside the stems of various species of *Salix*, especially osier (*S. viminalis*). The species is to be found locally throughout much of England, southern Scotland and south Wales (Baker, 1985; Skinner, 1984). In Ireland, the moth is rare and there have been very few records over the last 100 years. Kane (1893) did not include it in his catalogue but Donovan (1936) subsequently gave records from Cos Cork and Kerry in south-west Ireland. Baynes (1964) added Cos Louth and Sligo. In 1985, it was discovered at Brackagh Bog in Co. Armagh, which remains the only known locality in Northern Ireland (Thompson & Nelson, 2003).

Glengarriff, Co. Cork, appears to be a stronghold for the species. It was first recorded from this locality in 1901 when J. W. Yerbury captured two males there (Carpenter, 1902). H. C. Huggins then obtained larval workings in sallow in the Coomakane Valley near Glengarriff. In the 1950s, Baynes discovered that the species was not uncommon in the area. He found larval workings and bred the moths from near the town of Glengarriff in April 1953, from the Coomhola Valley in April 1954, and from Gougan Barra, about 12 miles from Glengarriff, in June 1953 (Baynes, 1964).

Baynes also bred parasitoids from the larval workings. In 1985, JPOC brought back duplicates from the Stelfox collection (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.) to the National Museum of Ireland (Beirne, 1985). While incorporating this material, he noted two specimens (δ ♀) reared by Baynes and named by A. W. Stelfox as *Mesocentrus roborator* (now *Exeristes roborator* (Fabricius)). The details are as follows: δ , Glengarriff, West Cork, ex larva of *Sesia formicaeformis* in *Salix* twigs, collected April 1953, emerged 23.vi.1953 (E. S. A. Baynes); ♀, Glengarriff district, emerged 9.vi.1954 ex *formicaeformis* (ESAB). From the published records of the host cited above, the latter specimen probably originated in the Coomhola Valley. *Exeristes roborator* is a supposed parasitoid of *S. formicaeformis* and the ichneumonid has not been recorded in Ireland. The previous British records of this species are considered to be erroneous (many large pimpline ichneumonids having been erroneously determined as that species) and it is not included in Fitton (1978) or Fitton, Shaw & Gauld (1988). The Irish specimens could therefore be an important find and, as a result, the female was shown to MRS. However, he identified it as *Afrephialtes cicatricosa* (Ratzeburg), a species new to Ireland.

The discovery of *A. cicatricosa* in Ireland is interesting as this ichneumonid is