

1993 *Entomologists' Gazette* 44 (2): 135-136) from Swainstown, Co Meath. Subsequently, it was discovered in Cos Dublin and Laois (O'Connor, J. P. 2003 *Irish Naturalists' Journal* 27: 335-343).

While beating the lower branches of oaks *Quercus* at Belvoir Forest (J346694) in Belfast, Co Down, on 31 May 2004, a number of twigs were collected on which withered male flowers were covered in a cottonwool-like mass of fibres. These were identified as the galls produced by this wasp using Eady & Quinlan (1963 *op. cit.*). Galls were present on only one mature oak *Quercus* cf. *robur* in parkland at the entrance to the Forest. Several other mature oaks and a large number of naturally seeded saplings nearby were examined but showed no sign of this species.

A small pubescent ladybird identified as *Scymnus auritus* Thunberg was beaten off the lower branches of the same cynipid-infested oak and, again, could not be found elsewhere in the vicinity. This species was added to the Irish List only a year previous (May 2003) by Dr Colin Welch, who swept two specimens under mature oak in Charleville Wood, Tullamore, Co Offaly (Regan, E. & Anderson, R. 2004 *Bulletin Irish Biogeographical Society* 28: 85-132). It is described as widespread but local on oak in Britain (Pope, R. D. 1973 *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 109: 3-39). Four specimens (2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀) were retained as vouchers.

Oaks at the entrance to Belvoir have been examined several times in recent years without the above species being noticed. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that they are recent arrivals and that global warming is the probable driver of change. Coincidentally, the knopper gall wasp *Andricus quercuscalicis* (Burgdorf), another oak species, has spread into this area very recently. It is now abundant on parkland oaks at the forest entrance and in the adjacent Belvoir Golf Club. Cynipid wasps are regarded as relatively benign to the trees they inhabit although they can appear in huge numbers. However, they can affect other animals. The acorn crop in the Belvoir area suffered a near 100 per cent infestation with knopper galls in 2003, stopping oak germination and destroying the food supply of local jays. Jays from Belvoir were seen scavenging extensively for food outside the forest last winter and may suffer breeding setbacks this year as a result.

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### Records of reared chalcidoid and braconid (Hymenoptera) parasitoids from Ireland

Recently KGMB had a small collection of parasitic wasps identified by MRS. The material had been reared from various lepidopteran hosts. Those from the *Phyllonorycter* mines are regular parasitoids of this genus and are almost certainly widespread in Ireland. They are most easily found by rearing. However since they are presently so poorly known in Ireland, the records are of interest. The data on previous Irish records are from O'Connor, Nash and van Achterberg (1999 *A catalogue of the Irish Braconidae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonoidea)*, Occasional Publication of the Irish Biogeographical Society No 4) and O'Connor, Nash and Bouček (2000 *A catalogue of the Irish Chalcidoidea (Hymenoptera)*, Occasional Publication of the Irish Biogeographical Society No 6).

#### CHALCIDOIDEA

##### Eulophidae: Entedontinae

*Chrysocharis nephereus* (Walker)

WEXFORD: Curraclloe (T102260), ♀ emerged 8 August 1984 from an underside *Phyllonorycter* leaf-mine collected 26 July 1984 from an alder *Alnus glutinosa*. The widespread *Phyllonorycter rajella* (L.) is the most likely host here, as the other known Irish *Phyllonorycter* species on *A. glutinosa* (*P. kleemannella* (Fabricius) and *P. froelichiella* (Zeller)) are extremely local.

In Ireland, *C. nephereus* is only known from Glencar, Co Kerry and an unknown site in Co Tyrone. The latter record is based on a male and female reared from the weevil *Rhynchaenus fagi* (L.) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) (Hansson, C., 1985 *Entomologica Scandinavica Supplement* No. 26).

**Eulophidae: Eulophinae**

*Pnigalio longulus* (Zetterstedt)

TYRONE: Doogary (H478685), emerged 28 August 1984 from an underside *Phyllonorycter* leaf-mine collected 10 August 1984 on a birch *Betula*. Of the underside leaf-miners, the only *Phyllonorycter* species on birch that has been recorded from Ireland is *P. ulmifoliella* (Hübner) (Bond, K. G. M. 1995 *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* 18: 176-262).

In Ireland, *P. longulus* is only known from Hollywood, Co Down and Lough Nahanigan, Co Wicklow.

*Sympiesis sericeicornis* (Nees)

KILDARE: Rathconnellwood (N708014), ♀ emerged 31 August 1984 from a ?*Phyllonorycter* leaf-mine collected 17 August 1984 on an apple *Malus*.

In Ireland, *S. sericeicornis* is only known from near Belfast, Co Down, Clontarf, Co Dublin and Baltyboys, Co Wicklow. A. H. Haliday reported the species to be parasitic on a subcutaneous larva of beech *Fagus* leaves (Walker, F. 1839 *Monographia chalciditum* 1. Ballière, London).

**ICHNEUMONOIDEA**

**Braconidae: Microgastrinae**

*Cotesia bignellii* (Marshall)

CLARE: Rosroe Lough (R441693), ♂♀ emerged 3 April 2003 from cocoons attached to the remains of a larval web of the marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* (Rottemburg) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) collected on 31 March 2003. One marsh fritillary larva was observed later in April 2003, but subsequent visits to the site failed to confirm the survival of the colony which was first observed in 2001.

In Ireland, the species is only known from Limerick, an unknown site in Co Kerry and near Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow. The previous Irish records were also reared from *E. aurinia* (Wilkinson, D. S. 1935 *Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society* 10A: 62; 1945 *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society* 95: 35-226; Morley, C. 1936 *Entomologist* 69: 90-94). As far as is known, *C. bignellii* is an absolutely monophagous parasitoid of *E. aurinia* and is therefore unlikely to be found away from this butterfly.

*Pholetesor circumscriptus* (Nees)

WICKLOW: Glenree (O158165), ♀ emerged 8 August 1984 from a *Phyllonorycter* leaf-mine on oak *Quercus*. Several oak-mining *Phyllonorycter* species are known from Co Wicklow.

Although reported from Ireland (without a locality) by Shenefelt (R. D. 1972 *Braconidae* 4. In van der Vecht, J. & Shenefelt, R. D. (eds) *Hymenopterorum Catalogus (nova editio)*), it has not been possible to trace the source of this record (O'Connor *et al.* 2000 *op. cit.*). However, *P. circumscriptus* is likely to be widespread on the island as a parasitoid of *Phyllonorycter* (including those on lower plants) and a few other leaf-mining Lepidoptera.

The specimens have been presented to the National Museum of Ireland.

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