

**THE THIRD MODERN BRITISH RECORD OF *BRACHYMERIA TIBIALIS* (HYMENOPTERA: CHALCIDIDAE), REARED FROM *ZYGAENA FILIPENDULAE* (LEPIDOPTERA: ZYGAENIDAE)**

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We wish to place on record the rearing of a single female specimen of *Brachymeria tibialis* (Walker) on 13 July 2009 from a cocoon of *Zygaena filipendulae* (L.) collected on 5 June 2009 by one of us (RC) at Denbies Landbarn, Surrey, TQ 135499, a National Trust chalk downland site. This is the third recent specimen of this large and conspicuous chalcidoid noted in southern England (Jones, 2008; Beavis, 2009), and the first British rearing record. The specimen was determined by MRS and is deposited in the National Museums of Scotland.

Askew & Shaw (2001) give morphological grounds for suspecting that two sibling species might be confused under the name *B. tibialis* in the Western Palaearctic, one associated with *Zygaena* species and the other more generalised. The presence of an evidently well-distributed British population provides entomologists living in southern England with a good opportunity to investigate this possibility through experimental rearings, by exposing a suitable selection of Lepidoptera prepupae and pupae to adult females reared from *Zygaena* species.

We are indebted to the National Trust for permission to collect these insects at Denbies Landbarn and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Environmental Change Integrating Fund for support.

#### REFERENCES

- Askew, R. R. & Shaw, M. R. 2001. *Brachymeria tibialis* (Walker, 1834) (Hymenoptera: Chalcididae), a parasitoid of *Zygaena* Fabricius, 1777, and other Lepidoptera. *Entomologist's Gazette* **52**: 263–268.
- Beavis, I. C. 2009. A second confirmed British record of *Brachymeria tibialis* (Hymenoptera: Chalcididae). *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **22**: 55.
- Jones, R. A. 2008. *Brachymeria tibialis* (Walker) (Hymenoptera: Chalcididae), confirmed as a British species. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **21**: 149–151.

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#### SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Podagrica fuscicornis* (L.) (Col.: Chrysomelidae) in North Hampshire** – On 8.viii.2010, I found a single adult female of *P. fuscicornis* on the flowerhead of a field scabious *Knautia arvensis* growing on a verge amongst arable land, on chalk at Abra Barrow, south of Overton (SU5047). This appears to be the first record for VC12, and may provide further evidence of a westward expansion, and somewhat overdue, given the spate of recent records from Surrey – JONTY DENTON, 25 Glebe Meadow, Overton, Hants RG25 3ER.