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Entomology Fieldwork 1984?!

Could the tightening of the present conservation laws result in a strict licencing system for collecting insects? Every field-entomologist will carry a licence card bearing a photograph, name, registration number note of the categories of equipment which the person is licenced to use. For example, no-one under the age of 18 will be allowed to use a pooter over 50 cc volume.

A space will be provided on the licence for endorsements! Some of the more serious crimes are:-

pooting without due care and attention after dark in a built-up area;

failing to report a new county record;

failing to provide a statement to the police after exceeding the speed limit with a sweep net (a "sweeping statement");

having more than the permitted maximum of naphthalene in your store boxes;

refusing to show an interesting insect to a police officer (failure to give a specimen).

Prosecutions could result in prison terms where one would be subjected to hard labour - usually setting microlepidoptera. Minor offences are punishable by confiscation of nets and pooters or reducing the magnification of the offender's microscope. This may, in extreme cases, result in people turning to botany or even ornithology - shame!

