



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

The Biology Curator

Title: E.C.Riggall - Lost Beetle Collection and Data

Author(s): Key, R.

Source: Key, R. (1998). E.C.Riggall - Lost Beetle Collection and Data. *The Biology Curator, Issue 12*, 11.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/445>

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

compiled for the local floras of the time. Perhaps a comprehensive collection of *Rubus* specimens was never actually compiled? If this is the case modern day batologists can only suggest possible identities for the bramble records of the mid 19th century.

In view of Buxton's emphasis on his superior knowledge of the genus *Rubus* it was thought that Buxton may have collected a series of specimens during his seven years of investigation of the genus. Kent & Allen (1984) indicate that Buxtonian specimens are housed at Oxford (OXF), however D. E. Allen informs the author in correspondence that he can not recall having ever encountered any *Rubus* specimens collected by Buxton. Serena K. Marner, the manager of the Druce-Fielding herbarium at Oxford informs me that although there are specimens collected by Buxton of *Carex* species and bryophytes at OXF no details of any *Rubus* specimens are listed. Perhaps if any specimens were ever collected they may have been passed onto an associate or were purchased by a collector after Buxton's death? Another possibility is that although Buxton may have known the Manchester bramble species very well indeed, his social situation was such that he could only manage to collect a few sedges and bryophytes, Buxton being a poor man who resided as a lodger with his sister in Gun St. Ancoats, Manchester.

Several species of bramble which occur in the Manchester area will soon be described by the author of this Article. Could Buxton have collected specimens of any of these undescribed brambles? He would certainly have seen such plants whilst carrying out his research of the genus and may have been able to distinguish such plants from related taxa. Also many Cheshire/Lancashire species remained undescribed until Alan Newton tackled the genus in 1970s and again Buxton would have almost certainly have encountered such plants on his forays.

If any museum curators or readers can locate or know of the existence of any Buxtonian bramble specimens I would very much appreciate the forwarding of details, which will be included in the *Rubus* accounts for the Flora of Salford, the forthcoming Lancashire Flora and the descriptive papers.

Dave Earl, 4 Meadow Way, Brooklyn Park, Gravel Lane, Banks, Nr. Southport PR9 8BU.

E.C.Riggall - Lost Beetle Collection and Data

Does anybody know the whereabouts of the collections of E.C. (Carey) Riggall? I am beetle recorder for the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union and I am preparing a county fauna of Lincolnshire beetles.

Carey Riggall lived at Louth and then Collingham near Newark and collected in both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire in the 1940s to 1970s. He was recorder for

Lincolnshire for the LNU for that period and local naturalists supplied records and specimens to him over the whole of that period. His collections and possibly his notebooks, were sold when he died in 1974. Fifty store boxes were delivered to Watkins and Doncaster in Kent but unfortunately there is no record of what became of them. He kept 'the records', i.e. those of the LNU, which presumably dated back to the earlier recorders of Arthur Thornley and William Wallace. These records have not been found either but were used to compile the county fauna, produced between 1907 and 1914 (Thornley and Wallace 1907-1914).

Lincolnshire is a fairly poorly recorded county, entomologically. This represents a huge gap in the date coverage for both counties and it would be useful to follow up some of his published records. Can anyone help with further information?

Roger Key, 67 Peterborough Road, Crowland, Lincs., PE6 0BB. 01733 210541

Reference

Thornley, A. & Wallace, W. 1914. Lincolnshire Coleoptera, 1st - 7th papers. Transactions of the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union, 1-3.

Book Review

Natural History in Wales

National Museums and Galleries in Wales

Editor: D.M.Spillards

ISBN: 0 72000 0440 S First Published 1997

This is a well presented book, full of attractive photographs which, as a teacher, I find appealing since I like 'picture books'. Whilst I like the book and find the text well written, easy to understand and accurate, I do have some problems - just who is the book aimed at ?

Tourists may find the book an attractive souvenir and certainly many photographs evoke for me, memories of happy holidays spent in Wales, exploring its beaches, woods and mountains. However, this appeal may be limited due to the vast task that the authors have set themselves, since there is little coverage about specific areas.

I am sure that the text will work well in the museum alongside the displays for it does give a real feeling for the variety and 'specialness' of Wales. Many visitors may be inspired to explore some of these habitats and will seek out more specific information about the region they are visiting and I can also see this text being very useful as a starting point for the study of a variety of natural history topics.

Trish Harper

Schools Liaison Officer, Bolton Museum