

be assumed that *fuliginosus* is losing ground in the S.E. and that the Wicklow and Wexford stations are inhabited by relict colonies. A line drawn from Glenmalur to Menlough, on Lough Corrib, in North Galway marks the known northern limit of this species in Ireland.

14 Clareville Road, Dublin. July, 1940.

A. W. STELFOX.

NOTES ON THE ANT FAUNA OF HOWTH, COUNTY DUBLIN.

I have spent several summers at Howth, County Dublin, where I have carefully studied the ants. During the first two years my main object was collecting and about 150 hours so occupied resulted in the following being taken:—

Myrmica laevinodis Nyl.—Not very common, only taken around the coast, especially near the Bally lighthouse.

Myrmica laevinodis var. *ruginodo-laevinodis* (Forel, (?))—I have taken a dealated queen on the cliffs north of the Bally in which the spines are those of typical *ruginodis* but the thorax between the spines is absolutely smooth and shining, while the post-petiole is not so rugose as in typical *ruginodis*. Whether the specimen should be named as above or not I cannot say but it is a very interesting specimen. Mr. P. Heelan sent me specimens of somewhat the same type from Recess, West Galway, and while in County Sligo I got some of this interesting variety.

Myrmica ruginodis Nyl.—Very common—especially in the damper situations where the specimens are very dark, sometimes indeed being nearly black.

Myrmica scabrinodis Nyl.—Not quite so common as previous species but fine typical specimens occur at the back of the dunes.

Myrmica scabrinodis Nyl. var. *sabuleti* Melner.—Found only once near the coast on the clay banks of the Cliff Walk. Mr. A. W. Stelfox records it from the south cliffs in his *List of the Irish Aculeata* (1927).

Formica fusca Latr.—This is probably the most common species in Howth. On Ben Eder no other species seems to live. I only once saw another, this being a female *Myrmica scabrinodis* Nyl., which was in a small *fusca* nest. It would be very interesting to know the reason why *fusca* is the sole occupant of this hill.

Lasius flavus De Geer.—A very common species in Howth and on Ireland's Eye. It shares with *Formica fusca* (in Howth, at any rate) a preference for the drier situations; in other places I have found both species in quite damp places.

Lasius alienus Först.—Recorded by Mr. Stelfox in his *List*. Still common enough on south cliffs.

I have not been able to find *Leptothorax acervorum* F., which Halbert recorded from Howth in 1908. Possibly the replacement of the wooden posts by metal has something to do with its rarity.

I would like to thank Mr. A. W. Stelfox, of the National Museum, Dublin, for his kind help in very many ways.

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45 St. Kevin's Park, Dartry, Dublin. 29-12-39.

MIGRANT INSECTS AT BLACKROCK LIGHTHOUSE, CO. MAYO.

On 9th August last Lightkeeper F. J. Ryan forwarded to me two insects captured on Blackrock, which lies 14 miles off the mainland. One was a specimen of the common large dragonfly (*Aeshna juncea*) and the other a female Great Pine Sawfly (*Strez gigax*). Regarding the latter, and in reply to my inquiries, Mr. Ryan states that no timber had been landed on the island during the past few years and that it was "captured alive at noon, wind east, force about four miles per hour." It is clear, therefore, that it found its own way to the island.

National Museum, Dublin. 6-9-40.

A. W. STELFOX.