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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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# What Journal?

S P Garland

In response to an enquiry from Kelvin Boot regarding entomological journals we have decided to initiate a new section providing information about journals. Few museums, if any, can afford to subscribe to all relevant journals so one must choose a few from the numbers on offer. In addition, curators are often asked for advice about journals by local naturalists which is difficult to give unless you have personal experience of them.

We start this series off with entomology. I have tried to be objective and unbiased (yes, I am a lepidopterist). Unfortunately, there is no journal to which you can subscribe that is concise for your field whether you are a dipterist, hymenopterist or coleopterist, but some are better than others. In my amateur naturalist capacity I personally subscribe to some of these and swap them periodically (ouch!) with other people who take other journals. That way you all get to see everything eventually!

## ENTOMOLOGY

Entomologist's Record & Journal of Variation - Predominantly Lepidoptera, but also includes a number of useful papers on other orders. Distribution and ecology are important themes, but many descriptions of species new to Britain and identification keys are published. The content is predominantly British, with occasional papers concerning the European fauna and rarely further afield. A large number of short "Notes and Observations" are included. Papers are mostly shortish and range from popular to scientific styles of writing. Subscription (1983) £10.00. Write to: Honorary Treasurer, P. J. Johnson, 10 Crossfield Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4NS. It is issued bi-monthly and totals about 350 pages per year.

Entomologist's Monthly Magazine - Lepidoptera maintain a low profile in this journal, but do creep in on rare occasions. Distribution, ecology and taxonomy are all included and numerous important identification keys are published. Papers are shortish and numerous notes and observations are included. The British Isles predominates, especially in the short notes, but the world fauna is always well represented and has on occasion been rather too well represented for a home-bound British entomologist. However, this is still the major journal for anyone interested in the British non-lepidopterous insects. Subscription (1983) £16.50. Write to: The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine, Brightwood, Wallingford, Oxon., OX10 0QD. No longer monthly; now 3 per year. About 250-300 pages per year.

Entomologist's Gazette - More lepidoptera than anything else, especially in the short notes sections, but not as much so as in the Ent. Record. It covers the Palearctic region so you don't have to read about Papuan Collembola. However non-British papers are fairly common. Apart from the notes it specialises in longer papers that the other journals wouldn't print or would serialize. Ecology, distribution and taxonomy are covered and the long papers admitted include many valuable studies of insects and regularly include important identification keys. Subscription (1983) £12.50. Write to: E. W. Classey Ltd., P.O. Box 93, Faringdon, Oxon., SN7 7DR. Four parts per year. About 250-300 pages per year.

Antenna - The newsletter of the Royal Entomological Society. Definitely a newsletter rather than a journal. Chatty articles on all insect related subjects. Its main value to any entomologist is the "British Insect Fauna" section which is an abstracting section updating all nomenclature changes and newly discovered species and giving a full bibliography of

important papers concerning the identification or ecology of British insects. The Royal Entomological Society personal subscription is £17.50 (1983). A bit steep for just 'Antenna' you might say, but a serious entomologist could reduce this by claiming tax back from the Inland Revenue on the subs; also 30% off all R.E.S. Handbooks can be worth having. Finally you might like to see F.R.E.S. after your name. The R.E.S. also publishes 3 journals; Ecological, Physiological and Systematic Entomology. These are rather high-level (much cheaper to Fellows than non-Fellows or institutions). In fact to most of us they are a bit 'over-the-top', but there are a few useful articles in Ecological Entomology. Systematic Entomology is not full of useful keys to British insects! Write to Royal Entomological Society of London, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HU. They hold numerous meetings in London each year and usually one in the wild north each year. The exhibits are usually very interesting and include regional museums, local societies and amateurs as exhibitors. Not as high level as you might imagine!

Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologists' Society. Largely lepidopterists again! This contains much chatty information and is full of useful tips and hints. It is aimed at the amateur and caters for a wide readership, including breeders and rearers of insects. The Journal of the Amateur Entomologists' Society is published occasionally and includes the excellent Coleopterist's, Dipterist's, Hymenopterist's and Lepidopterist's Handbooks. Also published are pamphlets on numerous subjects such as how to collect 'micros' and how to do genitalia preparations. (All highly recommended whether or not you join). Their Annual Exhibition is a big affair in London, unfortunately dominated by dealers. Membership fees unknown to me, but not high. A quarterly Bulletin, with about 150-200 pages per year. Write to the Amateur Entomologists' Society, 355 Hounslow Road, Hanworth, Feltham, London. Send an SAE for details.

Proceedings and Transactions of The British Entomological and Natural History Society. Mostly lepidopterists again. However, many useful notes, keys etc. concerning other groups are published. A rather large number of pages are given over to meetings reports, although the field meeting lists are interesting. Nearly all indoor and outdoor meetings are around London so they have a special cheap membership rate for Country Members of £5.50. Tough luck Londoners, £9.50, but you get to the meetings! Proceedings etc..etc... two per year with about 130 pages total. Write to The British Entomological and Natural History Society, Alpine Club, 74 South Audley Street, London W1Y 5FF. Their annual exhibition in London is worth visiting. No dealers, but very "leppy".

In addition many regional entomological societies exist and many publish journals. Our local one is the Derbyshire Entomological Society which produces a quarterly journal. Cheap to join and keeps you in touch with local entomologists. Mostly lepidoptera again, are there really so many of them or do they just write faster?

I hope that this summary is of use. If you send an S.A.E. most Journals will happily send out a free sample copy. However don't be put off if it's not too good. After all they are probably sending an old copy of a volume which doesn't sell too well as a back number!

Finally I must mention the proliferation of newsletters, often packed with valuable notes, keys etc. The Dipterists' and Coleopterists' Newsletters and the Balfour Brown Club Newsletter (water beetles) are examples. In addition many national recording schemes produce occasional newsletters on woodlice, ants, bees, butterflies etc. These are cheap to subscribe to and the recording scheme ones are usually free to contributors of records.

Editor. For future issues please. A similar treatment for vertebrates, molluscs, spiders, freshwater life, marine life, botany and any other useful journals, e.g. Field Studies. Give us a ring before you put pen to paper so that we don't get duplication.