

*Records of Ticks (Ixodoidea) from
Lancashire and Cheshire*

by
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The ticks (Ixodoidea), are highly specialised Acari, ectoparasitic on terrestrial vertebrates. All stages, except the males of some species, feed on blood and tissue fluids. They are the most important arthropod vectors of diseases.

In the course of compiling a bibliography, host list and distribution maps of the British species it has become evident how little is known of the life-history, hosts, distribution and disease transmitting role of our native ticks.

Twenty-five species are known from the British Isles but only five species have been recorded from Lancashire and Cheshire. The late Harry Britten, with whom I was privileged to spend time on a few occasions, recorded all five species. Much, therefore, remains to be done to add to the faunal list and it is to be hoped these notes, summarising the published records and adding a few new ones, will stimulate interest. Anyone who handles birds or mammals could collect specimens into methyl alcohol (70 per cent) and send them to me for identification.

The commonest British tick is *Ixodes ricinus* L.—the sheep tick—which is the vector of the causal organisms responsible for louping-ill, tick-borne fever and piroplasmiasis or redwater—diseases of sheep and cattle.

IXODOIDEA — IXODIDAE

1. THE SHEEP TICK

Ixodes ricinus L.

Hull (1930) recorded this species in the Check List (p. 98) as *I. reduvius* L. from Lancashire but as Britten (1934) pointed out, this was an error, the specimen actually came from Wales, Dolgelly (*T. A. Coward*), and corrected the name to *I. ricinus* (see Hull, 1918). Britten's record (1933), "many males swept from coarse grass and rushes on hillside at bottom of Coniston Lake, 14.IX.1933", was, therefore, the first record. Britten (1934) quoted the same record. Not until Watson (1964 a, b, & c) studied the distribution of *I. ricinus* in N.E. Lancs., etc., in relation to diseases of lambs, etc., were any new records added. I am extremely grateful to Mr. W. A. Watson, Veterinary Investigation Officer, now at Penrith, for his help in obtaining the localities which were reported during his period at Leeds. To Mr. J. N. Holliday, Entomology Department, M.A.F.F., Leeds, I am thankful for the details of the records. Subsequently, Mr. Watson generously gave me many

additional records from Lancashire. Beesley (1966) referred to Watson's papers.

The new localities are as follows: Thrushgill Fell; Tatham Fell; Caton Moor; Bottom Head Fell; Stake House Fell; Calder Fell; Oakenclough Fell; Harrisend Fell; Nicky Nook Fell; Hazelhurst Fell; Holme House Fell; Carnforth, Burton, Farleton Holme, Newton Whittington; Grange-over-Sands, Cartmel; Kirkby-in-Furness; Broughton-in-Furness, Seathwaite, Woodland and Ulpha.

I have 2 Ns, from *Capreolus capreolus* (L.) (Roe buck), L, Witherslack, 6.IV.1971 (R. H. Bradley).

2. THE HEDGEHOG TICK

Ixodes hexagonus Leach

Hull (1918) first recorded this species from Lancashire, "from a ferret, (H. Potts)". Pillers (1924) recorded it from a dog, Cheshire. Hull (1930) repeated his earlier record and referred to records of Mr. H. W. Robinson from "Otter, Polecat", without further details. Arthur (1947) recorded the following collected by H. Britten: ♀, on dog, L, Salford, 13.VII.1926 [R. Ward]; 2 Ns, *Mustela erminea* L. (Stoat), C, High Lane, 5.XII. 1930 [J. T. Wadsworth]; ♀, ferret, L. Warrington, 1916. Arthur (1953, 1963) referred to four records from Lancashire and one from Cheshire and these are probably those listed above.

Through the kindness of Mr. Edmund L. Syed, Keeper of Zoology, Manchester Museum, I am able to add the following records from Britten's collection: 2 ♀ ♀, hedgehog, C, Macclesfield, 13.X.1934 (R. E. Knowles); 1 ♀, stoat, C, Henbury Park, 19.X.1934 (R. E. Knowles); 1 ♀, otter, C. Runcorn: 2 Ns, weasel, C, Henbury-cum-Pexhall, 18.II.1935 (R. E. Knowles); ♂ ♀, hedgehog's nest, C, Alderley Edge, 19.VII.1933 (E. Cohen).

This tick is common on hedgehogs and in their nests. It is frequently picked up by dogs and cats. The male is usually found only in the nest.

3. THE SMALL MAMMAL TICK

Ixodes trianguliceps Birula

Britten's records (1934) under the name *I. tenuirostris*, a synonym, are the only ones known to me: ♂ ♀, *Microtus agrestis* (L.), C. Wilmslow, 19.III.1934 (E. Cohen); 3 ♀ ♀ 1 N, *M. agrestis*, C, Rainow, 23.VI.1924 (H. Neave); *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Schreber), C. Rainow, 18.IX.1920 (F. Neave).

The following new records from my collection can be added:
1 ♀, *Apodemus sylvaticus* (L.), C. Ernocroft Wood, 12.XI.1971;
1 ♀, *A. sylvaticus*, C. Wirral Peninsula, Thursaston, 18.VI.1969;

2 Ns, *C. glareolus*, L. Garstang, Grizedale Reservoir, 17.VIII.1966 (R. S. George).

This small tick has a wide distribution and is essentially a parasite of small mammals. The males are seldom found on the host and little is known of its life history.

4. THE TORTOISE TICK *Hyalomma (Hyalommasta) aegyptium* (L.)

Recorded by Britten (1934) from Tortoise: L, Didsbury, 17.V.1923 ; C, Chester, 12.VIII.1926 and Southport, 1932.

This tick has been introduced into Britain on imported tortoises for many years but it has not established itself.

5. THE ROUND BAT ARGAS *Argas (Carios) vespertilionis* (Latr.)

Britten's record (1934) from *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber), L, Southport, IX.1889 (G. W. Chaster) is the only one known to me.

This is a bat tick which occurs commonly on pipistrelles. The larvae and nymphs are most frequently found. The adults should be searched for in the Bats' roosts.

Note: Britten (1934) recorded *Ixodes canisuga* Johnston from Field Vole, C, Wilmslow, 19.III.1933 (E. Cohen)—but this needs verification.

Note: N—nymphs and L—larvae

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The Laccwing-Flies of Lancashire and Cheshire

by
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The Lacewings form the order Neuroptera, and the common name refers to the delicate mesh-like venation of the wings. Most species have four wings of nearly equal size and shape, and all are weak flyers. The most familiar is the large green lacewing, *Chrysopa flava*, which has long slender antennae and small but conspicuous golden eyes. Most are beneficial insects since their larvae feed on greenfly and similar insects, and the adults mainly occur on trees or shrubs, some on any kind of tree but others are confined to either conifers or deciduous trees. It is useful to include the related Scorpion-flies in the present account, although these form a separate order, the Mecoptera.

The Neuroptera and Mecoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire have not been adequately recorded and although additional species may be difficult to find, the distribution of the known species in the two counties is by no means well known. They are interesting insects and only 64 British species are known; their identification presents relatively little difficulty when using Fraser (1959), so that entomologists interested in other orders may well spare a little time to study them—in particular lepidopterists are well placed to collect Neuroptera when using a beating tray for caterpillars.

The present account gives the recorded distribution of these insects in the two counties. If three or less records exist for any vice-county, these are given; if more records exist a general statement of the distribution is given. The nomenclature follows Kloet and Hincks (1964); in the few cases where this differs from that used in the Check List of the Fauna of Lancashire and Cheshire (1930), the latter name is given in brackets. The months of occurrence in Lancashire and Cheshire are given using Roman numerals, and a short statement of the habitat is included. Out of the British total of 60 species, 44 species are now recorded. (Goyt Valley is still listed as V.C. 58 in view of the number of records).