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DAVID DOUGLAS, CASTLE STREET

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destructive insect? Its ravages have of late years been worse than usual in France and other parts of the Continent, and in Southern England it has also done damage. Specimens of the Cockchafer (*Melolontha vulgaris*) were sent to me in September, November, and in December—most unusual dates for it, as the ordinary time of flight is May and June. And early last month a Kirkbean farmer brought me a two-year-old example of the larva or grub, wishing to know what the creature was. In his case a “ley” field was literally overrun with these grubs. I have also heard of it from various other quarters, but not to such a serious extent as in the Kirkbean case. Like so many other noxious insects, the Cockchafer has what may be characterised as maximum and minimum periods at which its numbers increase or diminish. The causes for these periods of destructive increase, or the reverse, are no doubt climatic, depending upon the particular cycles of weather that may suit particular species, but very few precise observations have ever been applied towards their elucidation.—R. SERVICE, Maxwelltown.

**Libellula quadrimaculata, L., in Ross-shire.**—On the 25th May last a fine specimen of this somewhat local Dragon-fly was sent to the Museum for identification by Mr. J. M'Lennan of Melvaig Schoolhouse, Gairloch, who stated that it had been captured there the day before. The occurrence of this species so far north may be of some interest to students of Neuroptera. The specimen has been kindly presented by Mr. M'Lennan to the Museum collections.—PERCY H. GRIMSHAW, Museum of Science and Art, Edinburgh.

**Erichthonius Hunteri (Spence Bate) in the Cromarty Firth.**—This Amphipod was obtained in a miscellaneous gathering of invertebrates which I recently examined, and which was collected in the Cromarty Firth on 13th August 1895. Though *Erichthonius Hunteri* was described as far back as 1862 (see “British Museum Catalogue of Amphipoda” of that date), yet the first distinct British record of the species that I know of is that contained in part iii. of the “Fourteenth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland,” published last year. The specimens referred to in that Report were obtained in the Firth of Forth; its occurrence in the Cromarty Firth is therefore of interest—this being a new station for the species on the east coast of Scotland.—T. SCOTT, Leith.

**Scottomyzon gibberum (T. and A. Scott) in the Cromarty Firth.**—*Scottomyzon gibberum* was described and figured by my son and I in the “Annals and Magazine of Natural History” for February 1894, from one or two specimens obtained in the Firth of Forth. Though at that time the species appeared to be rare, I have found since that it is really not uncommon in the Firth of Forth when one knows where to look for it. Some time after the discovery of the species in the Firth of Forth, my son obtained it in the Liverpool

Bay district, and I myself observed it in the estuary of the Clyde; but though it thus appears to be widely distributed it is only now that I am able to report its occurrence in the Cromarty Firth. Several specimens of this Copepod were obtained in the same gathering with the *Erichthonius* also now reported for that estuary. When describing this species in the "Annals and Magazine of Natural History," my son and I referred it to the genus *Dermatomyzon*, Claus, but at the same time pointed out certain structural differences between it and that genus. Dr. W. Giesbrecht of Naples, in his revision of the *Ascomyzontidæ* (published a few months ago), found it necessary to remove our Copepod to a new genus, and for it adopted the name given above, which is a modified form of the older name.—T. SCOTT, Leith.

**Sabelliphillus Sarsi, Claparede, in the Clyde.**—This Copepod, which is remarkable for its curious habit of living on the beautiful feathery plumes that adorn the head of a species of *Sabella*,—one of the marine Annelids,—has not yet, so far as I know, been recorded from the Scottish seas, and I have now the privilege of adding this interesting species to the Copepod fauna of Scotland. The specimens I have to record were observed on the plumes of two examples of *Sabella* captured in Kilbrennan, and on one taken about six to seven miles east of Sanda Island, near the mouth of the Clyde estuary. *Sabelliphillus* has been known for several years as a member of the marine fauna of Liverpool Bay, and is recorded for that district by Mr. I. C. Thompson, F.L.S. These Copepods are not easily noticed on the plumes of the *Sabella*, as the two are nearly of the same colour; they also adhere so firmly to the plumes as not to be readily shaken off even though the plumes are washed in strong spirit, and it is perhaps owing to this that *Sabelliphillus* has not been more frequently obtained.—T. SCOTT, Leith.

**Cytherella serrulata, Brady and Norman, from the mouth of the Clyde.**—Quite recently I obtained two specimens of this Ostracod in some muddy sand brought up from a depth of about sixty fathoms a few miles south of the island of Sanda at the mouth of the Clyde. Professor G. S. Brady, F.R.S., who kindly examined the specimens, thinks that they certainly belong to the species to which they are ascribed. So far as I know, *Cytherella serrulata* has not previously been recorded from the British seas; its occurrence at the mouth of the Clyde estuary is therefore of interest, as, besides being a new record, the distribution of the species is thereby considerably extended.—T. SCOTT, Leith.