

NEW SPECIES FOR THE MEDINA VALLEY

A new insect for the island has been recorded in the Medina Valley. The small red-eyed damselfly, *Erythromma viridulum*, has been recorded at Dickson's Copse pond. The species was present last year at three sites in Essex and was expected to turn up in southern England during 2000. It seems to be successful at colonising new sites and has been noticeably extending its range in Europe. It has now been seen at a number of sites on the Island. Copulation and ovipositing have been recorded, and counts have been as high as 80 individuals.

Another new insect for the Island found in the Medina Valley area is *Pantilius tunicatus* – a mirid bug found on the leaves of various trees such as hazel, birch and alder. It was found in the grounds of Medina Valley Centre and, although it has previously been recorded in Hampshire, there are no records for the Isle of Wight.

Also a gall which is new to the Island has been identified on hemlock water dropwort at Dickson's Copse pond. This is *Uromyces lineolatus* which is reported to be a very rare rust fungus. It has only been recorded recently in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cornwall and Scotland.

Other new species for the Valley include *Aculus tetanothrix* – a gall found on *Salix alba* (white willow); *Chromatomyia horticola* – a leaf miner whose mine and pupa was found at Dodnor pond on sow thistle and *Elasmotethus interstinctus* – the birch shield bug. This species is specific to birch and numerous specimens were present on the birch trees to the west of the entrance to Medina Valley Centre.



Elasmotethus interstinctus

With thanks to Dr. David Biggs and Mr. Dave Dana for their records.