

The Australian landhopper, *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* (Hunt, 1925), Crustacea, Amphipoda, in Glasgow

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The landhopper *Arcitalitrus dorrieni*, was found in Glasgow amongst leaf litter and under wood and stones in bushes at the southern end of the public car park, Bunhouse Road, in April, 2009. Landhoppers are obvious when the surface of the leaf litter is disturbed or exposed (Figure 1). Their dark brown shiny bodies can be seen as they jump several centimetres in the air before burying rapidly back into the dead leaves. This behaviour is typical of the animal and immediately recognisable in the field. The population appears to be established as they have been seen on several occasions since then. Some specimens were collected and are preserved in the Hunterian Museum (Zoology). It was conjectured that the landhoppers might have been transported to the site during some recent landscaping at the car park. The City Council maintains a large depot at Bellahouston Park where shrubs and other plants are kept prior to use. If plants had been brought from there which already contained landhoppers in the soil around their roots this could explain their origin on a local scale. Searching under bushes around the entrance to the depot did reveal landhoppers, showing this was indeed the probable immediate source. These animals can be transported over long distances by such means. The original transfer from Australia to Europe was in plants, probably tree ferns, imported to Tresco Abbey Gardens in the Scillies, sometime prior to 1924.

Previous occurrences in Scotland are from the three Scottish Islands of Colonsay (Moore & Spicer, 1986), Gigha (Cowling, et al., 2004) and Arran (Brodick Castle Gardens on 13 September, 2010, unpublished record from a British Isopod and Myriapod Group field meeting), plus two mainland localities, Inverewe Garden, Wester Ross, 29 June 1998 and Loch Laich, Appin, Argyll, 21 June 2001, on both these occasions by G.B. Corbet (personal communication). A survey by questionnaire was conducted by Cowling and her colleagues using a wide distribution of posters and questionnaires over the whole of Britain. From this about 170 negative records were created for Scotland. Thus, the finding of landhoppers in Glasgow would seem to be a recent establishment of the species. Added to a few sites in London where the landhopper has become resident these seem to be the only known established urban populations in the British Isles.



Fig. 1. Australian land hoppers amongst debris, Bunhouse Road, Glasgow, 2009

REFERENCES

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