

EUROPEAN INVERTEBRATE SURVEY

PROVISIONAL ATLAS  
OF THE  
INSECTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

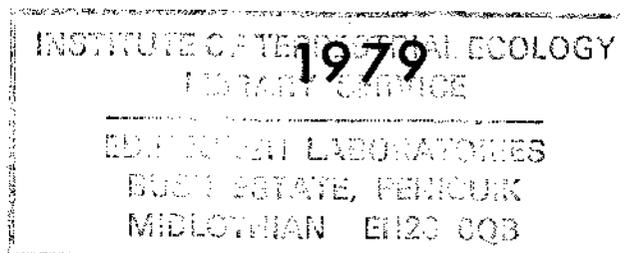
Part 6

ORTHOPTERA

Grasshoppers and Crickets

Edited by E.C.M. HAES

SECOND EDITION



BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology,  
Monks Wood Experimental Station,  
Huntingdon

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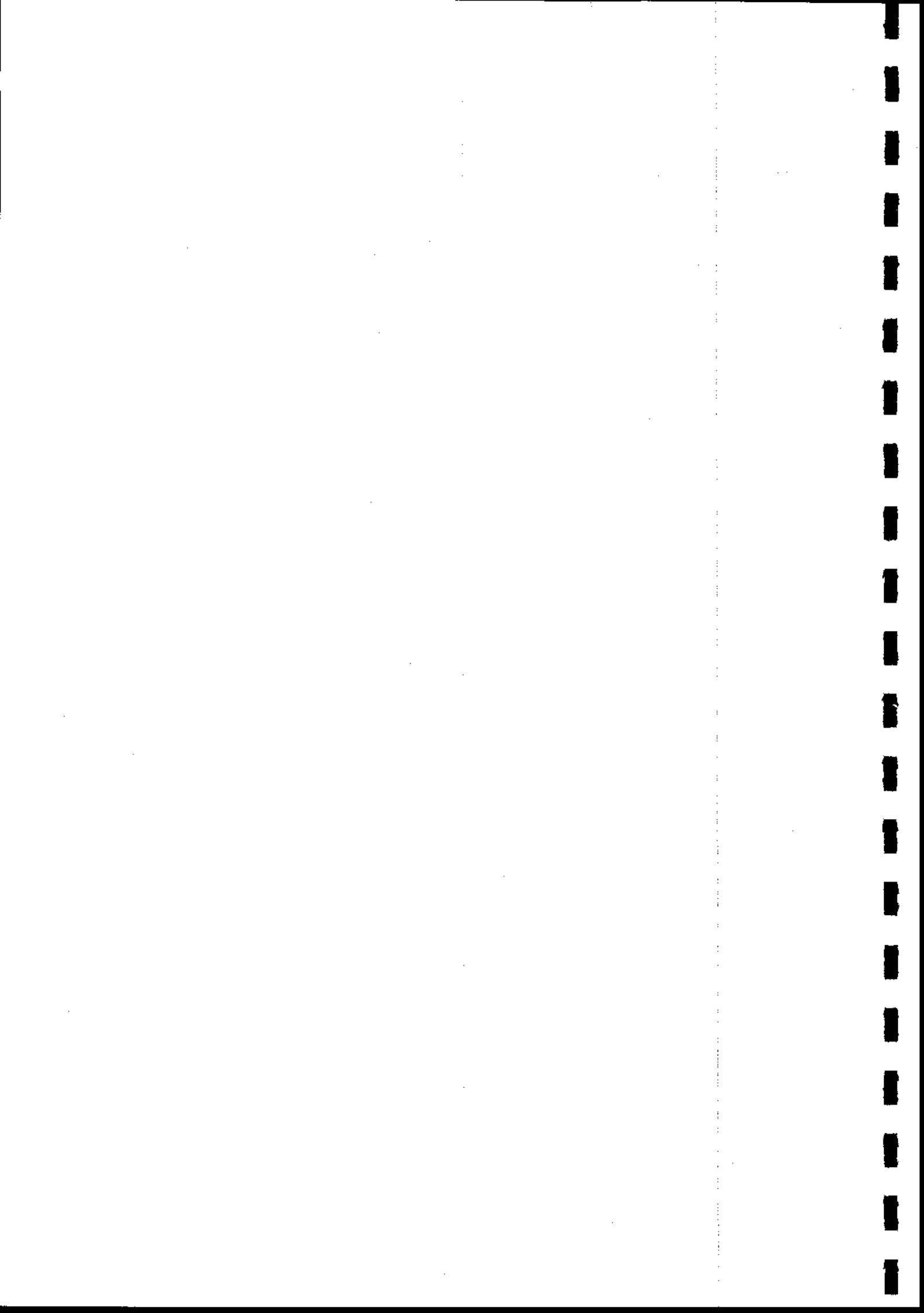
## FOREWORD

The first edition of the Provisional Atlas of the Orthoptera of the British Isles was compiled when the organisation of the recording scheme passed from the Biological Records Centre to Mr E C M Haes. We are grateful to Mr Haes for providing and editing the additional data included in this, the second edition of the Provisional Atlas.

The maps included in this Atlas were prepared under contract to the Nature Conservancy Council as part of its programme of research into nature conservation.

Monks Wood  
October, 1979

Paul T Harding  
John Heath  
General Editors



## INTRODUCTION

Much additional information has been obtained since the preparation of the first edition of the 6th part (Orthoptera) of the Provisional Atlas of the Insects of the British Isles in May 1977 (Skelton, 1978). With the need to reprint this part, the opportunity has been taken to prepare a completely revised second edition which includes all records received up to the end of June 1979.

*Euchorthippus elegantulus* Zeuner (endemic to Jersey) and *Oedopoda coerulescens* (L.) occur in the Channel Islands but have not been recorded resident elsewhere in the British Isles. Neither species is included in these provisional maps.

### Future recording

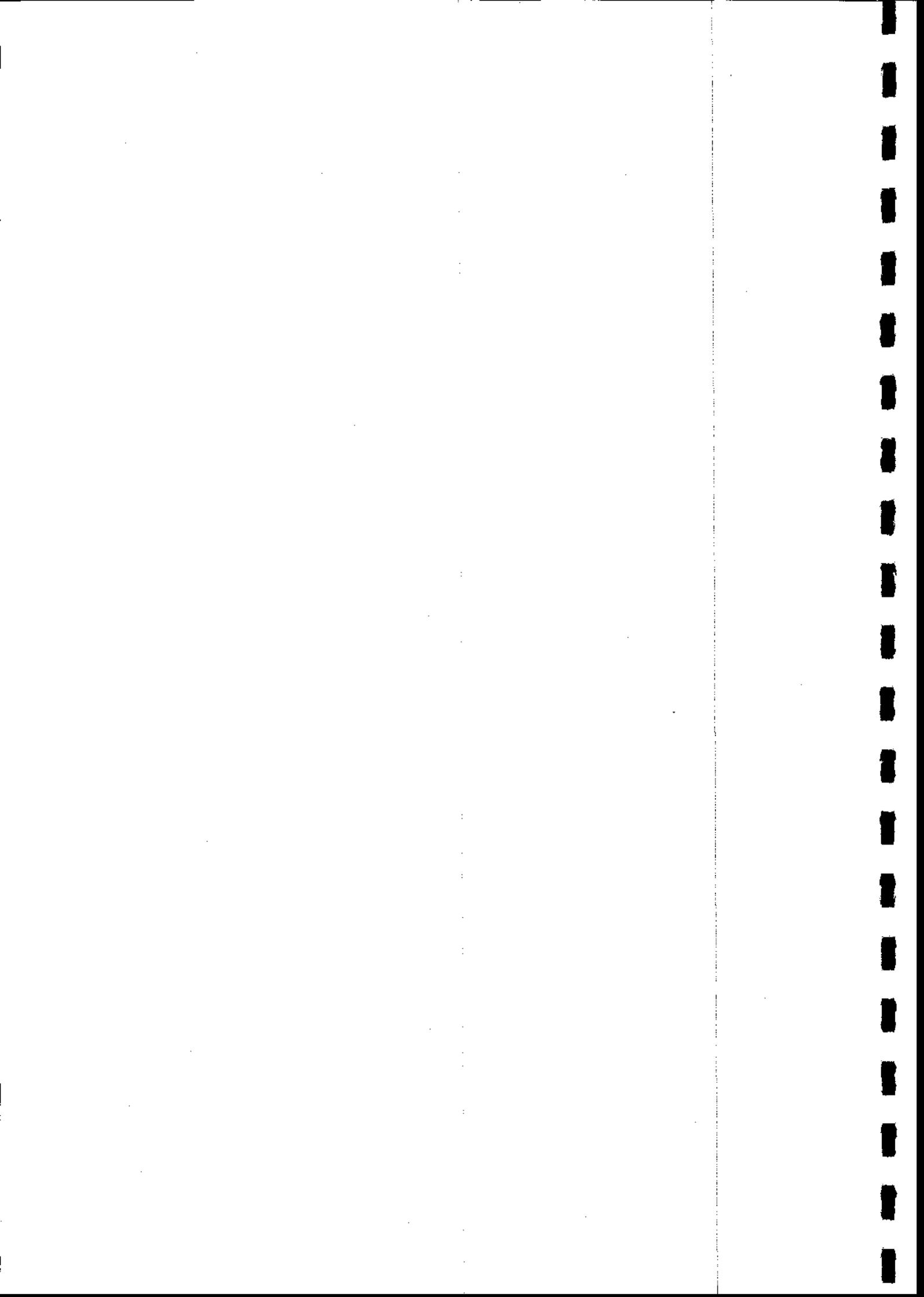
There is clearly an ever-growing interest in Orthoptera in Britain, but considerable work remains to be done to complete coverage of Britain, particularly in the upland areas, and in Ireland. It is anticipated that, in these areas, only a few species will be found to be widespread. However, four areas of southern England (see Map 1), which should be rich in Orthoptera, urgently require examination: (1) North Devon, (2) North Hampshire, North Wiltshire and western Berkshire, (3) the south Midlands, particularly Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire, and (4) south-west Essex. It is hoped that these revised maps will encourage recorders to visit these poorly-surveyed areas and also to try to resolve apparent anomalies in the distributions of some of the more localised species. For example, *Metrioptera raeselli* may occur by estuaries in south-west England and Wales and in southern Ireland, and *Myrmeleotettix maculatus* should be looked for in the Channel Islands.

The possibility that additional species may be recorded in Britain and Ireland should not be ignored. The increasing amount of cross-Channel traffic makes it worth being particularly cautious with identifications of specimens taken near ferry terminals, etc. in southern England. Perhaps *Stenobothrus stigmaticus* and *Mogoplistes squamiger*, and probably *Nemobius sylvestris*, may have become established in the wild in Britain as a result of accidental introductions, the last on the roots of imported forest trees in the last century.

### Endangered and vulnerable species

Both *Gryllus campestris* and *Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa* may be approaching extinction in England. The field cricket appears now to be confined to two colonies on private land in West Sussex. An attempt is being made, with the approval of the Nature Conservancy Council, to establish the native strain of *G. campestris* in one or two potentially suitable new localities. The true status of the Mole Cricket is uncertain. Only two colonies, in Hampshire and Wiltshire, are known at present, but isolated individuals have also been seen recently in Cheshire and East Sussex.

*Stethophyma grossum* is vulnerable to loss of habitat because it occurs in easily drained wetlands in warm localities, but, like *Decticus verrucivorus*, it is probably not threatened with extinction at present, as some of its best localities are within nature reserves. Also it has been successfully introduced to Thursley National Nature Reserve in Surrey, and is still widespread in western Ireland.



### Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to the one hundred and six recorders whose efforts in the field have provided the data for the maps; to Mr D G Rands for his help in preparing a draft set of maps for this revised Atlas, and to Mr P T Harding and the staff of the Biological Records Centre.

### Future records

All correspondence, enquiries and records should be submitted to:

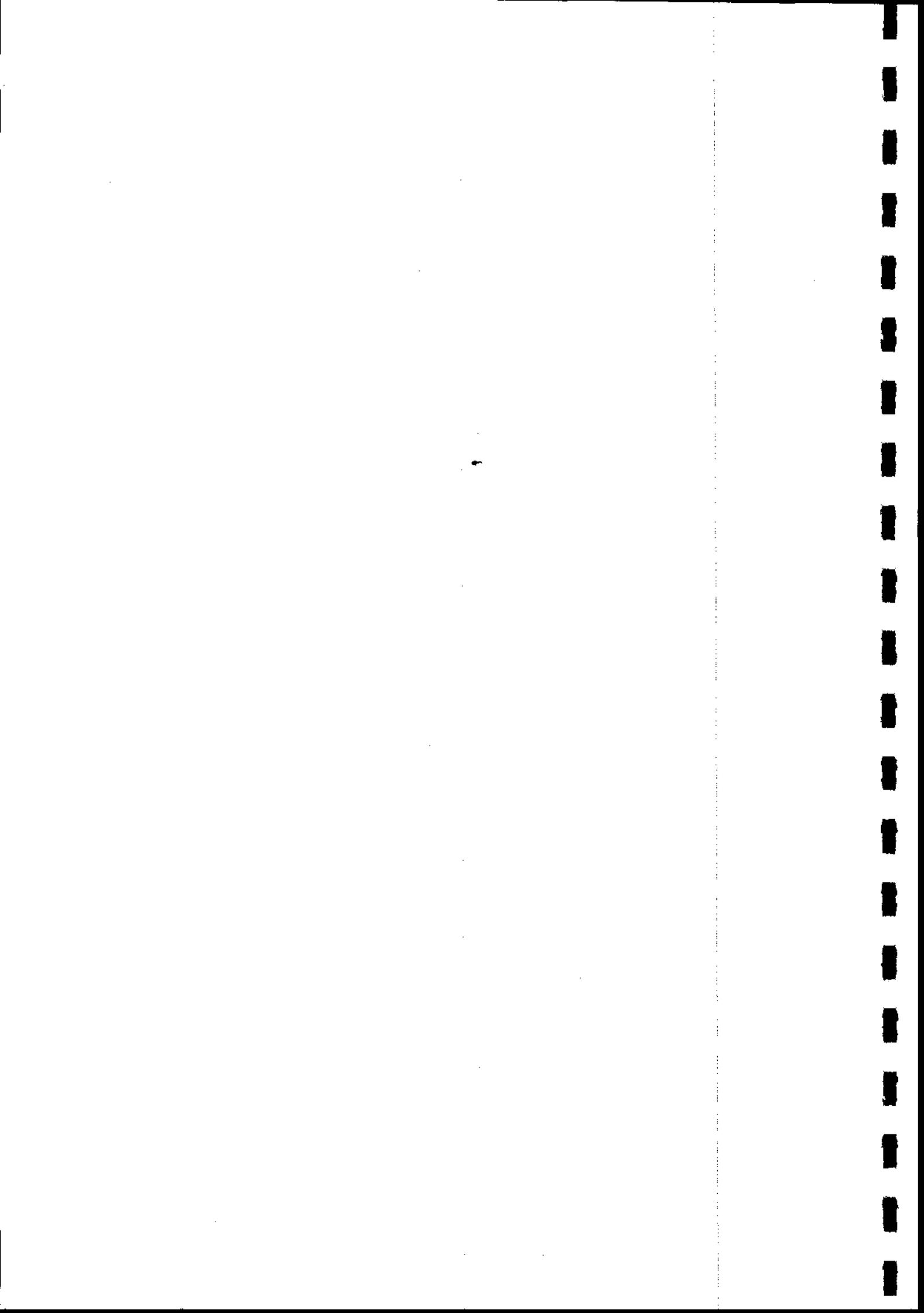
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### Reference

Skelton, M J (editor) 1978). **Provisional Atlas of the Insects of British Isles Part 6, Orthoptera.** Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Huntingdon.

October 1979

E C M Haes



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