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in colour from the normal greenish-brown to black. The very fine long-horn *Purpuricenus budensis* Goeze was taken on the wing and also by sweeping — this beetle was just emerging. One specimen of *Spondylis buprestoides* Linn. was taken and *Cerambyx scopoli* Fuessl. also appeared. On the Spanish Broom I took two fine specimens of *Mol-orchus major* Linn. This is a fine insect like a giant specimen of our *M. umbellatarum* Schreb. and can easily be mistaken for a large hunting-wasp at first sight. A few of the *Cryptocephalus* spp. were swept off flowers, including *C. bipustulatus* Fab. (= *biguttatus* Herbst). A specimen of *Pterostichus bicolor* Arago was found under a stone.

At La Grave, Hautes Alpes, where we ended our trip, I found most of the species taken in 1959, with the exception of *Emus hirtus* Linn., which was apparently 'over'. The very beautiful *Chrysochloa gloriosa* Fab. was quite common and I found *Cetonia aurata* and *Potosia cuprea*, mostly on the tall yellow Gentian (*Gentiana lutea* Linn.). On our previous visit here I took a single specimen of the Spanish Fly (*Lytta vesicatoria* Linn.), which settled on the top of the car parked outside the hotel beneath Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior* Linn.). I hoped to find it again but it was not until our last day of collecting that my son, Peter, found it flying round the tops of the small Ash trees in some numbers, on the mountain slopes above the river. With the aid of a long Ash plant to which we secured the butterfly-net, we were able to net a dozen specimens of this handsome beetle.

A very enjoyable fortnight came to an end all too soon and we arrived home with a lot of setting to be done, a considerable sun-tan and a little more knowledge of the entomological fauna of southern France. 1.10.63. H. J. Cribb (2044).

A MONTH'S JOURNEY BY BICYCLE ACROSS NORTH FRANCE

I crossed from Folkestone to Calais after the long ride from London to the Coast, and in intermittent rain made my way from one Youth Hostel to the next as quickly as possible between the downpours. I landed at Calais on 17th August, and after riding through Arras and St Quentin I came to Laon, where a break in the weather permitted some collecting. Laon lies to the south of Arras and to the north of Rheims and is a most picturesque town. The area to the north consists of wooded hills. I only stayed here for a short while and cannot comment on the area as a whole, but my brief glimpse of the roadside areas revealed meadows with a luxuriant growth of flowers, mainly Lucerne (*Medicago sativa* Linn.) and Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense* Linn.). It was here that I saw the first butterflies of my journey. Large and Small Whites (*Pieris brassicae* Linn. and *P. rapae* Linn.) were abundant, and I also saw the Peacock (*Nymphalis io* Linn.) and the Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae* Linn.). The Wall (*Pararge* (= *Dira*) *megea* Linn.) and the Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus* Rott.) were also fairly common and so were males and females of the Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus* Fourcr.). I captured a battered specimen of the Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon* Linn. ssp. *gorganus* Fruhst.). The whole of this area and the region south of it to St Dizier is gently undulating country with abundant clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and Lucerne. It is an area which would bear closer investigation by someone with better weather and more time than I had. I took a Queen of Spain Fritillary (*Argynnis lathonia* Linn.) near Chalons. I entered the Ardennes near Ligny

en Barrois on the River Meuse. This town lies in a hollow between high forested hills. It rained almost continuously as I rode, and it was not possible to do any collecting, although much of the countryside looked promising. The countryside is fairly well cultivated, with fruit trees and vines. I crossed into the Saar (Germany) at a spot east of Nancy and stopped at St Ingbert, where I found good weather at last. It was sunny for three days, and I went collecting in the valleys near the Mannheim Autobahn. In addition to the species already mentioned, I took the Pale Clouded Yellow (*Colias hyale* Linn.), the 'copper' *Chrysophanus dorilis* Hufn. and the Large Wall (*Pararge* (= *Dira*) *maera* Linn.). I also took some very large specimens of the Common Blue. On some poplars (*Populus* sp.) I found Coleoptera of the family Chrysomelidae, and nearby some beetles of a species of *Cicindela*, which turned out to be *Cicindela maritima* Latr. et Dej., were running on the sandy footpaths and not near any water. In the forest I saw specimens of the High Brown Fritillary (*Argynnis cydippe* Linn. (= *adippe* Rott.) and some deer. The meadow Saffron (*Colchicum autumnale* Linn.) was also in flower in this area.

After my stay in the Saar, I rode on towards Luxembourg. The countryside is wonderful but very hilly, gradients of 13% [about 1 in 8] for up to three kilometres being quite common. The views of the Moselle valley are wonderful, and the hills on the German side are very wild with no roads. This is another area which would be worth exploring. The River Moselle is as wide here as the River Thames at London and full of fish. South of Champlon I saw the most beautiful country of my trip: valleys with small streams, meadows of Lucerne and Meadow Saffron, butterflies all along the roadside and trout (*Salmo* sp.) in

the streams; in short, something everywhere of interest to the naturalist. I took specimens of the Silver-spotted Skipper (*Hesperia comma* Linn.) and a small dark form of the Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus* Linn.).

After the beauty of Luxembourg and the Ardennes, the road into Brussels and on to Gent and Dunkerque seemed to have little of interest. The country is flat and cultivated, offering none of the scope for the entomologist that can be found in eastern France, in the Saar and in Luxembourg. The only hindrance to a fine collecting holiday was the continuing unreliability of the weather.

1.11.63.

Philip J. Cribb.

A VISIT TO SPAIN, 1963

On 4th April last year I and a party of pupils from my school left for the Costa Brava, Spain.

We reached our destination on 6th April, and found that our hotel was only about two hundred yards from the beach.

Soon after lunch on the first day I and a friend of mine who was also interested in Lepidoptera went for a short walk behind the hotel. We did not expect to see anything much except perhaps an occasional Large White Butterfly (*Pieris brassicae* Linn.). We returned to the hotel empty-handed but for a few examples of Spanish Coleoptera, a group which I had only just started to collect. Unfortunately beetle-hunting was not pursued vigorously because I soon forgot about it after seeing the large number of Lepidoptera in the area.

The next morning the two of us