ABSTRACT. Nearly 700 species of insects are listed as having been recorded from Norfolk Island and a bibliography of more than 200 papers is provided from which the records have been obtained. This paper is intended to be a working document which, it is hoped, will make it largely unnecessary for subsequent workers to repeat time-consuming literature searches.


Some thirty years ago residents of Norfolk Island expressed concern for the future of the fauna and flora of the island. As a result of this the Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources asked the Australian Conservation Foundation to make an urgent investigation into the situation. In response to this Professor John Turner, Dr Ruurd Hoogland and I visited the island in late 1967. The report which resulted was published as the Australian Conservation Foundation Special Publication Number 1 (Turner, Smithers & Hoogland, 1968). This report made strong recommendations on the preservation and conservation of the natural, historical and scenic values of Norfolk and nearby Nepean and Philip islands at a time when environmental concerns were not generally as great as they are now. Much has been achieved since that early report, with establishment of the then recommended Norfolk Island National Park and Botanical Garden being central factors in the protection of the natural environment and maintenance of the natural biodiversity on the island (Anon., 1984). Since the Australian Museum’s initial involvement many members of the museum staff have visited the island, some several times, with the result that the association established in 1967 continued. In recent years a number of other institutions and individuals have also become more interested in the fauna of Norfolk Island.

An appendix to the initial report (Turner et al., 1968) included an incomplete list of the island's insects, which was virtually a list of those species thought at the time to be endemic to Norfolk. As a result of subsequent work by many authors it is now possible to provide a more authoritative and comprehensive species list and bibliography of the relevant literature. It is hoped that these will largely overcome the need for others to repeat the timeconsuming task of seeking out the scattered literature. As this document is intended to be a working tool the following comments on its compilation are provided to help users understand its coverage and its limitations.

It began as a literature search, made in preparation for the visit to Norfolk Island in late 1967, which used as a starting point a paper by Hawkins (1943). This dealt with a collection made by Mrs Ida McComish which had been obtained by the British Museum and with material already in that museum. Hawkins also included previously
published records with the result that the paper was effectively a preliminary list of species known from Norfolk Island. As pointed out by Hawkins, the material could not be dealt with fully owing to wartime conditions in Britain. Many species were identified to genus only, sometimes with uncertainty, and listed as such. The paper, produced under very difficult circumstances, indicated that fewer than 250 species had been recorded from the island. Continued personal interest in the island’s natural history prompted me to maintain and expand the species list and bibliography as time and opportunity arose. The result is this present list of nearly 700 species supported by a bibliography of more than 200 publications.

The systematic arrangement of orders and families used here is largely that in CSIRO (ed., 1991). Below subfamily level or, where subfamilies are not indicated, below family level, the genera and species are arranged alphabetically.

The entry for each species is headed by what appears to be the currently valid name in bold type. Following this are references to its occurrence on Norfolk Island. Records have been checked in the original publications wherever possible. In many instances the original name and reference to the species do not appear. This is because the species was originally described from somewhere other than Norfolk and subsequently recorded from there, as indicated by the references. The list should not, therefore, be taken as a guide to nomenclatural changes in general because references to name changes not associated with mention of Norfolk Island may not be included. These can, however, usually be traced through the references which are listed. In the species list I have used the convention of inserting an exclamation mark (!) to indicate a misidentification as distinct from a synonym.

Authors who have studied Norfolk material after Hawkins (1943) have not always indicated whether the species or material to which they refer is the same as or includes that tentatively identified by him. In cases where there is uncertainty about this I have included Hawkins’ record as a separate entry.

Records in Common & Waterhouse (1982), the “field version” of the standard text on Australian butterflies, are not listed individually under the species but the work is listed in the bibliography.

Dr Jeremy Holloway provided notes on species of butterflies and moths which were later to appear on an issue of Norfolk Island postage stamps. The insects included some undescribed forms. His notes were used as publicity material in the Norfolk Island Philatelic Bulletin (Holloway, 1976a,b, 1977b) some of which apparently predate later, more formal, publications. It appears that the timing and manner in which the descriptive material, illustrations and names were presented constitute acceptable availability of some of the names under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. I have attempted to list the species involved in appropriately formal manner where the names seem to be valid. For those interested in the identification of more recently collected material there are more detailed descriptions of the same forms in other publications (e.g., Holloway, 1977a) which can be used for that purpose.

Some of the records of Phthiraptera from Norfolk Island given by Palma & Barker (1996) are not currently supported by specimens. They were listed for Norfolk because known, wide ranging, vertebrate hosts have been recorded from there and hence it can be assumed that their parasites also occur there (Palma & Barker, 1996, p. 84).

Several works refer to distribution of insect species in general terms such as “widespread in the Pacific”. It cannot be assumed from such statements that the species actually occurs on Norfolk Island and such references are not included in the list unless they have a definite statement of occurrence on Norfolk.

The present list indicates the state of published knowledge of the insects of Norfolk and which groups appear to be reasonably well worked and which probably require more collecting and investigation. It should be remembered that there are already collections of some groups awaiting study.

Users of the list will be able to make their own assessments of the state of knowledge for each group. There is, however, one group, the Lepidoptera, which deserves special mention. This group is now very well known because of the remarkably energetic, persistent and regular collecting efforts of Mrs Maurge Jowett and the study of her material by Dr Jeremy Holloway. Their work stands out as a fine example of what can be achieved by paying continuous and systematic attention to a circumscribed area.

It is inevitable that a compilation covering a wide range of groups, which this list and bibliography is, will contain errors and omissions but I hope these will be minimal and that they do not detract too much from the usefulness of the work. Omissions are most likely to occur where single species have been mentioned in publications not dealing specifically with Norfolk Island and such records are also the most likely to be absent from abstracting journals. I have attempted, and I hope achieved, reasonable coverage of references coming to my notice up to 30 September, 1996.

I would be grateful if authors could provide me with reprints of future papers which include mention of Norfolk Island species and I would be pleased to hear of omissions from and errors in this list so that the list can be kept up to date.
CORYLOPHIDAE

SERICODERINAE

Sericoderus sp.

TENEBRIONOIDEA

MORDELLIDAE

Mordella norfolcensis Lea
Mordella norfolcensis Lea, 1917. Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia 41: 235; pl. xv, figs. 103–105. (may be var. of M. hamatalis).

TENEBRIONIDAE

Araucariola ebenina Lea

Brachycilibe araucariae Lea

Gnathocerus cornutus (Fabricius)

Gonocephalum insulanum (Olliff)

Metisopus purpureipennis Bates


ANTHICIDAE

Anticus strictus Ericson

ADERIDAE

Euglendeles norfolcensis (Lea)

CHRYSDOMELOIDEA

CERAMBYCIDAE

PRIONINAE

Cacodacus hebridanus Thomson
Toxeutes rasalis Olliff, 1890. Records of the Australian Museum 1: 72; pl. 10, fig. 1.
Toxeutes macleayi (Pascoe)

PARANDRINAE

Parandra ?araucariae Gressitt

CERAMBYCINAE

Ceressium flavipes (Fabricius)

Diotimana undulata (Pascoe)


Dysthaeta naevia Olliff

Neobethelium megacephalum Blackburn
Zygocera norfolkensis McKeown

Enicodes fichteli (Schrebers)


Microlamia norfolkensis Breuning

Argopistes armipes (Lea)

Psylliodes brettinghami Baly

Chaetocnema (Chaetocnema) paspalae (Broun)

Pleuraltica tyche Samuelson

Colaspoides norfolcensis. E. brunnea

Colaspoides norfolcensis Lea

Eucolaspis brunnea (Fabricius)

Zygoceara norfolkensis McKeown

CHRYSOMELIDAE

HISPINAE

Brontispa norfolkensis Gressitt

Psylliodes lubricata norfolcensis. E. brunnea

Pleuraltica tyche Samuelson

Psylliodes brettinghamii Baly

Pleuraltica tyche Samuelson

Chaetocnema (Chaetocnema) paspalae (Broun)

Pleuraltica tyche Samuelson

Psylliodes brettinghamii Baly

Pleuraltica tyche Samuelson

Psylliodes brettinghamii Baly

Pleuraltica tyche Samuelson

Curyclonioidea

Note: The arrangement of the Curyclonioidea follows that of Zimmerman (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994a,b). Groups not dealt with in these publications are arranged alphabetically pending publication of the remaining volumes of Zimmerman's Australian Weevils.
Bibliography of Norfolk Island Insects

Ackery, P.R., & R.I. Vane-Wright, 1984. Milkweed Butterflies, their cladistics and biology. i–ix, 425 pp., 25 text figs., 73 black and white plates, coloured plates I–XII. British Museum (Natural History), London.


Mathew, G.F., 1888. Life histories of Rhopalocera from the Australian Region. Transactions of the entomological Society of London 1881 (1): 137–188, pl. VI.


Olliff, A.S., 1887. Notes and exhibits. Abstracts of Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, 29th June, 1887: vii. [See also under Olliff (1888b) below.]


Olliff, A.S., 1888b. Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales 2(2/2): 412. (This is the same as Olliff, 1887).


Olliff, A.S., 1890. Additions to the insect fauna of Lord Howe Island and descriptions of two new Australian Coleoptera. Records of the Australian Museum 1: 72–76, pl. x.


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**Addendum**

After this paper had reached proof stage a set of the journals of the Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society, *Norfolk Nature Notes*, was kindly provided by Mrs Angela Guymer. This provided several references which had been missed. These are listed here in chronological order. Apart from Evans (1989), which mentions a mantid found on the island, they do not provide confirmed additions to the species list.


Anonymous, 1986. Another correction. 2(8): 147. (Refers to an omission from an earlier note which refers to one by B. Evans. (*Danaus plexippus, Vanessa itea, Danaus chrysippus*).)


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