

THE PROTECTION OF BRITISH INSECTS

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For over a quarter of a century the Royal Entomological Society of London has been greatly concerned to ensure the existence of rare indigenous insects, whose continuance in this country appeared to be threatened. Originally, the Protection Committee set up by the Society was concerned mainly with the activities of certain unscrupulous collectors, which were actually threatening the very existence of beautiful and interesting species. This danger has now been very largely overcome, but in its place has sprung up a new threat, arising from modern agricultural practices, the heavy programmes of forestry, the development of housing estates, and in certain cases the activities of local authorities.

The Committee has taken an active part in endeavouring to minimize the risks that have arisen from such causes, and has endeavoured to co-ordinate its work with other organizations interested in the preservation of the fauna and flora of this country.

The Committee is linked to the International Union for the Protection of nature, and with the setting up of the department of Nature Conservancy, with which the Committee has established close relations, it may prove possible to do more than in the past to preserve those natural conditions which are essential to the existence of particular insects.

In the opinion of the Committee the most important feature of its work consists in its endeavours to maintain these ecological conditions, even if of limited extent, in threatened areas and it welcomes liaison and consultation with any bodies or societies which have the same objects at heart.

In particular it desires the earliest possible information on any threat to a rare or local species or its habitat which may be observed.
