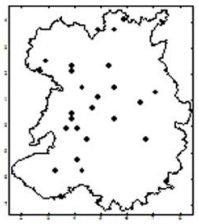

A bi-annual newsletter focussing upon the study of insects and other invertebrates in the county of Shropshire (V.C. 40)

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~ Welcome ~

Welcome to the 8th edition of the Shropshire Entomology newsletter. As ever I hope you enjoy it and it inspires you to submit your own articles relating to any aspect of entomology relevant to Shropshire or Shropshire entomologists. It is sometime since we published the last edition but hopefully there will be the same appetite for entomological news as ever. In the last newsletter we detailed a number of new County Recorders and within this edition are some of the fruits of their labours from 2013, which I feel are particularly valuable. Edition 9 will be due at the beginning of October with the cut off date for contributions being Friday 19th September. Hopefully the summer will bring plenty of entomological experiences that can be shared amongst Shropshire's entomologists whether they are accounts of new species or just interesting sightings, all are welcomed.

If anyone would like to catalogue all of the articles in this and the previous 7 newsletters as a volunteer activity I'd be pleased to hear from you.

Note – past newsletters are available for download as PDF's from www.invertebrate-challenge.org.uk/newsletters-and-resources.aspx

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Invertebrate Survey of the Rea Brook Valley, Shrewsbury

To mark the final year of what has turned into a four year project, we are inviting anyone who has taken part in the HLF-funded Invertebrate Challenge to help us carry out an invertebrate survey of the Rea Brook Valley in Shrewsbury. The site is very much at the heart of Shrewsbury and is a river corridor with access at various parts of the town. Habitats include meadow, floodplain grassland, woodland, scrub and of course the River Rea itself. We wanted to target a site that hadn't been surveyed before, that offers open access to people, and with some potential invertebrate interest that covered all the groups we have targeted during the Invertebrate Challenge (flies, bees, wasps, and ants, beetles, spiders, and bugs). There will be some organised visits across all taxa and general recording visits (see dates for your diary), but we are hoping people will take the opportunity to visit whenever suits them to continue recording.

It is unlikely anyone else has done a similar survey based upon volunteer support of such a specialised field before so we think it will be a really interesting way to end Invertebrate Challenge and show people what the project has delivered. A final report detailing our finds will be delivered to the site managers at the end of 2014 to coincide with the end of the project, with a summary here in 2015.

If you would like to take part then please do get in touch.

Pete Boardman

The Shropshire Invertebrate Exchange Scheme

Do you often wonder what to do with the by-catch from that trap / vacuum sample / or field trip samples from the back of beyond? We'd like to set up a scheme where people can leave specimens for other entomologists to be identified - so I've volunteered the Invertebrate Challenge Control Centre (otherwise known as my office) as a safe place people can leave specimens of, say... spiders for Nigel Cane-Honeysett, plant bugs for Keith Fowler, Ephemeroptera for Ian Thompson, or whatever – and I'll endeavor to make sure they get to the appropriate person. You can deliver them to me in person at Preston Montford Field Centre or leave them in reception at the field centre or head office.

The Invertebrate Challenge Control Centre – door to some unearthly but mostly 'earthy' delights (Photo: Pete Boardman)

Two landscapes Darwin held dear

[Avid Darwin fan Ewa Prokop used part of the SEDN coleoptera database in the research for her new book. Below is the press release which should give an indication of the subject area and I would encourage you to pursue a copy if you are interested in the great man Charles Darwin and his time in Shropshire. It is available from all good booksellers or it can be collected from the AONB office at Craven Arms for £10.00 Ed.]

"On the anniversary of scientist, Charles Darwin's birth (12th February 1809), Shropshire's residents are being encouraged to see the county through Darwin's eyes through the publication of 'Two Landscapes Darwin Held Dear'. The author, Ewa Prokop, is one of many Darwin

enthusiasts, but has been in the unusual position of having been employed as an officer in the field of nature conservation in both Downe and Shropshire - two landscapes Darwin held dear!

Ewa was involved in the bid to try and inscribe 'Darwin's Landscape Laboratory' in Downe as a World Heritage Site back in 2007 and 2010, so, as a newcomer to Shropshire she was curious of the environment in which Darwin spent his youth. Darwin's love for the county can be gleaned from a letter he wrote home when on his travels on the Beagle: '*I feel inclined to write about nothing else, but to tell you over & over again, how I long to be quietly seated amongst you. How beautiful Shropshire will look, if we can but cross the wide Atlantic, before the end of October. You cannot imagine how curious I am to behold some of the old views, & to compare former with new impressions. I am determined & feel sure, that the scenery of England is ten times more beautiful than any we have seen'*. It is 145 years since Darwin made his last visit to The Mount, his childhood home in Shrewsbury.

Ewa said 'Darwin has been an inspiration to me for many years. One of the first things I did when I came to work in Shropshire was to attend a 'Darwin Tour of Shrewsbury'. This spurred me on to find out more about him in his native county. The book aims to present how the Midland landscape Darwin grew up in contrasts with that at Downe. I wrote the book purely for my own entertainment, but there came a point when I thought it might be of interest to others and so I approached various publishers.'

Ewa has created an impression of Darwin's Shropshire by piecing-together historic records of biodiversity in his day together with selected modern records. In places she compares her findings to the biodiversity around his home at Downe, where he lived for forty years and where she worked for eighteen. She has combined this with extracts from Darwin's and other authors' works to give the reader a sense of Darwin as a person too. Delving into some of Darwin's works as part of the book, gives a 'newcomer to Darwin' a chance to experience some of his findings

Ewa and her book (Photo supplied by Ewa Prokop)

The lacewing *Nothochrysa capitata* (Fabricius, 1793 new to Shropshire

In Volume 125, part 4 of the Entomologist's Record (July/August 2013), Colin Plant made a request for Lacewing specimens from light traps (or any other sources), as he is planning to update the 1994 Provisional Atlas. On the morning of 11th August 2013, I opened my 125W MV light trap, here at 77 Ludlow Road, Church Stretton (SO446930) and found a lacewing. This appeared much larger and darker than the "usual" green lacewings I have seen, so I potted it and took some photos.

Although he asks for specimens, I considered the photographs sufficiently clear that identification could be made and duly sent them. He replied that it was *Nothochrysa capitata*, making no comments about its status. I decided to send the photos to Pete Boardman in case anyone in Shropshire would like the record. This species is apparently new to the SEDN database, so is judged new to Shropshire.

Photo: *Nothochrysa capitata* (Graham Wenman)

Graham Wenman

Craneflies as by catch from a Rothampsted trap in Shropshire

During part of 2012 and the majority of 2013 David Poynton collected the cranefly by-catch from his Rothampsted moth trap at Pennerley in Shropshire (SO355987), and passed them over to me for identification on a regular basis, so that I could contribute the records to the 2nd edition of the Shropshire cranefly atlas (Boardman *in prep*). The trap is located in Pennerley, at approximately 360m elevation and a kilometre or so to the west of the ridge of the Stiperstones NNR. It is close to areas of rough pasture, meadow, wet grassland, and plantation woodland.

A total of 50 species were recorded made up of 44 species of craneflies (Tipulidae, Limoniidae, and Pediciidae) and 6 species of winter gnats (Trichoceridae). Of particular note was the hairy-eyed cranefly (Pediciidae) *Dicranota exclusa* (Walker, 1848) at only its second Shropshire site, the first being near Oswestry by Cyril Pugh in 1928 (Boardman, 2007). This is quite a scarce species restricted mostly to upland habitats in Wales, northern England and Scotland where it has been recorded up to 1000m (Stubbs *in prep*). Specimens were found in catches on the 19th June 2013, and on the 8th and 19th October 2013, representing two generations. Stubbs lists May-June and August as the flight period for this insect so the Pennerley sightings perhaps extend current knowledge on the phenology of this species.

Other highlights were *Tipula holoptera* (new to Shropshire in 2012) and *Tipula subcunctans*, a species that flies late in the year and often overlooked). It was also interesting to find the winter gnat *Trichocera major* at its third Shropshire location.

Incredible numbers of *Tipula paludosa* were taken at the trap with some samples consisting of several thousand of these insects per night. The plastic pots I had supplied to vouchsafe the samples soon became inadequate and David resorted to filling plastic carrier bags with the flies. I did count one of the largest samples from one evening (1743 individual craneflies), the season must have seen over 10,000 plus *T. paludosa* pass through the Rothampsted trap, illustrating the biomass of these creatures and their potential role in feeding birds and other creatures.

The total catch of species demonstrates the value of identifying such as by-catch but also the many missed opportunities at other Rothampsted traps around the country where such by-catch goes is not identified, which is a tragedy.

Species list; (craneflies) *Cheilotrichia cinerascens, Crypteria limnophiloides, Dicranomyia modesta, Dicranophragma nemoralis, Dicranota claripennis, D. exclusa, Epiphragma ocellare, Erioconopa diuturna, E. trivialis, Erioptera lutea, Euphylidorea lineola, E. meigenii, Ilisia maculata, Limonia nubeculosa, L. phragmitidis, Molophilus griseus, M. obscurus, Neolimonia dumetorum, Nephrotoma appendiculata, N. cornicina, N. flavescens, N. quadrifaria, Pedicia rivosa, Phylidorea fulvonervosa, Rhipidia maculata, Symplecta stictica, Tipula confusa, T. fulvipennis, T. holoptera, T. lateralis, T. luteipennis, T. maxima, T. oleracea, T. pagana, T. paludosa, T. rufina, T. scripta, T. staegeri, T. subcunctans, T. varipennis, T. vernalis, T. vittata, Tricyphona immaculata, Trimicra pilipes*. (winter gnats) *Trichocera annulata, T. hiemalis, T. major, T. parva, T. regelationis, T. saltator.*

I would like to thank David Poynton most graciously for collecting, separating, and delivering the regular catches for this small project.

References

Boardman, P.J. (2007). A provisional atlas and account of the craneflies of Shropshire. Oswestry.
Boardman, P.J. (*in prep*). Shropshire craneflies. FSC Publications, Telford.
Stubbs, A.E (*in prep*). British Craneflies. BENHS, Reading

Pete Boardman

"Shropshire time" – FSC, Invertebrate Challenge, and the Biodiversity Fellowship

My visits to Shropshire, that Welsh county, started in 2009 as I began attending The Field Studies Council at Preston Montford. Every subsequent visit to Shropshire taught me one heck of a lot; not least Shropshire is in England!

Before visiting Shropshire, ornithology had been a large part of my outdoor life, then a visit to Portland Bird Observatory and opening a moth light trap one morning made me feel like a child at Christmas. So many moths, so many names and each one obviously very different morphologically as well as in their choice of habitat and food plant associations, I was hooked!

Despite a lifelong interest in ornithology I was finding all the driving to find 'interesting' species becoming more questionable, not least the pollution of driving, but because it taught me naught of my local area and its wealth of species. It was how I was able to answer the need that Shropshire, FSC and two invaluable projects originating from them that I reflect upon here. The two projects were Invertebrate Challenge (IC) and then later The Biodiversity Fellowship (biofells).

I cannot exactly remember when I became aware of IC, but it must have been early 2011. A couple of my study colleagues had signed up and were regaling me with tales of learning about new orders of inverts through attending workshops as well as field trips. Not being as studious as them I took the decision not to become involved despite yearning to explore other taxa until after my studies had ceased. I was now only too aware that moths were not the only absorbing inverts out there.

Towards the end of study period at Preston Montford I asked if I could 'join in' with IC and the Project Officer Pete Boardman allowed me to. Many of my moths to date had been identifiable by picture matching in the whole and if that wasn't possible then the moths stopped being whole in that they were dissected, the subsequent portions being boiled up in Potassium Hydroxide then the remaining portions picture matched again. What followed next just re-ignited the desire to learn more, picture matching just could not sustain many of the taxa the 'Challenge' was to offer me!

Now I was aware of 'keying out', my studies with The University of Birmingham held at Preston Montford were under the tyranny of botanists (Ed. "I hear you brother!"), and one in particular; Sarah Whild. I soon became to understand that many commonly named plants were more often aggregations of many species which we 'invert boys' just referred to using a common name. That picture matching might hold for some taxa, botany demanded greater skills of discernment, the bible according to Stace!

However I well remember struggling through a botanical couplet reading "number of parts X two, four or more", showing even here whilst being far more descriptive of characteristic features and therein accurate, there was still the

need to have 'handled many specimens' to enable one to be confident in ones final identification.

One of my first Invertebrate Challenge courses was Dipteran with the tutor being Nigel Jones. Nigel brings his knowledge which is immeasurable and offers it in a relaxed and inviting manner. This warmth and giving style is typical of the courses Pete Boardman oversees be it IC or the latter biofells and is why so much learning is achieved and readily reflect by those attending.

With Nigel I have increased my knowledge of hover, 'Dolichopodid' and 'Tephritid' flies. Keys were made available or a copy provided and we often ventured forth into the grounds to 'net' a few specimens after which we got down to recording the catches. This format continued over many other workshop days and other field trips, yielding many records and much learning. The tutor being the vital link between what we saw, read about and observed and then very often needed 'judgment call' to decide how to interpret what characteristics matched with the texts.

As alluded to above there comes a time where couplets reading 'mainly covered by microtrichia' or 'usually brownish' are just not useful because one does not have experience of the non usual part. Here a feature of how IC itself developed became invaluable, the tutor aided by its own reference collection. The now burgeoning collection of specimens across many orders allows the individual to examine other specimens against which you can compare the one in your hand in order to decide whether it is compliant with the couplet in question or not.

The supportive atmosphere of IC (and more recently biofells) saw me adding new families and even orders. These included within Diptera –the Tipulidae (craneflies), Scathophagidae (dung flies) as well as another order – the Hymenoptera. Each time we met, be it on a field trip to a site based upon a habitat type or associated species or after whilst in one of the labs undertaking the specimen identification, the tutors checked levels of previous experience and exposure to the various taxa. This offered reassurance and facilitated a 'have a go yourself, but please call if you need help' ethos valuable in building ones confidence.

From this exploration of prior experience resources were provided to match one competence, we often were offered Beta versions of keys. We were able then to aid the development of these by highlighting where to our inexperienced eyes these were not as user friendly as they potentially could be, the tutors gratefully took this onboard and using our input re-wrote them. This swift turnaround of writing, issuing, testing then re-editing prior to re-issue, proved vital to both parties.

For me latterly biofells really saw an expansion of taxa offered and here not just invertebrate too, plant galls at Juniper Hall were yet another eye opener! It also widened the field trip and workshop locations. With Surrey and London visited - The Natural History Museum and its Angela Marmont Centre being used. This also exposed those attending to a wider group of like minded people. This saw offers of invite to collections and habitats that some may not of hitherto thought of.

My learning has taken many forms recently; much of it testing my academic ability and in doing so was inspiring. I feel more at home 'hands on with nature' often facilitating those who crunch the data through my collecting it. My "Shropshire time" provisioned me with the confidence to volunteer within The Natural History Museum's Diptera department sorting Malaise trap samples into their orders and boy are there many! I don't think I'd have developed the confidence to have thrown my hat in the ring there without the experience I'd gained in Shropshire and had so much fun staring down a microscope for hours on end.

One thing I am keen to do is repay my debt to the county. Pete has organised four days of general surveying at Rea Brook Valley as part of this year's Invertebrate Challenge calendar. I look forward to participating in this work and revisiting this site for the other groups for their specific recording days: craneflies, beetles, hoverflies and bees, wasps and ants.

Having set out to understand my local patch better has meant getting to know Shropshire, The FSC and Pete and his project work a lot better. Whilst not being my county, it hosts so much from which to learn and appreciate my county of Wiltshire by. I'll not be there as often sadly, my studies have finished and employment gained, but already I am calculating my annual leave accrual rate and plotting them against the Rea Brook Valley sessions such is my debt to pay back and willingly so as, I feel this to be the only fitting way to say thank you all involved.

Marc Taylor

Telford's "Invertebrately-Challenged" Tetrads

In 2012, as many of you would have learnt from Paul Watt's presentation at Shropshire Entomology Day in February last year, I had arranged a number of day trips within the Telford area with the aim of gathering records for many of the impoverished areas (in terms of invertebrate records) of Telford. With the encouragement of others I repeated the exercise in 2013!

Our aim was to help provide records for the various proposed Shropshire atlases. And we were less parochial, venturing into the depths of Shropshire, away from our cherished Telford.

We attempted and succeeded in maintaining a weekly programme of short walks on public paths and access land and were also able to visit a couple private woods courtesy of their owners.

Throughout the period from the end of March to the end of September we only lost two trips to rain. That does not mean to say that we were blessed with perfect weather. It ranged from bitingly cold at the start, when frostbite was a danger, to extremely hot in the summer, when we were concerned about heat stroke forcing us to seek shelter and refreshment in the local hostelry.

Those of you who remember Paul's talk will recall the demonstration of how the size of the group varied from a few to one – well this year I was amazed at and gratified by the support these trips received week in and week out. Normally we were more than half a dozen.

So, what did we do? We visited over 20 sites; about 35 tetrads; walked about 80 miles; gazed upon some splendid views; endured chest-height nettles; came across a couple of landowners or their representatives; attracted the interest of half a dozen passers-by; did not get lost (occasionally misplaced, never lost); partook of 40 tea breaks and 20 or so picnic lunches and enjoyed each other's company for five or so hours each week – what more could one ask for? Oh, yes, we made nearly 1700 biological records across over 650 species!

After a very slow start we recorded a variety of shieldbugs, especially on the trip that I could not make as I was in Austria (where I also found shieldbugs); found a reasonable number of micro-moths and stumbled across a few long-horned beetles. As well as these target groups we recorded those orders that were of interest to each of us.

A couple of my favourite finds were *Zicrona caerulea* - Blue Shieldbug which we found as a nymph at Shawbury Heath and as an adult at Bridges, and a Slowworm which greeted us in the car park at Lodge Hill, plus a freshly emerged, beautifully marked and very docile *Pedicia rivosa* found in a rather weed-strewn field in Bridgnorth.

Slowworm *Anguis fragilis*. (Photograph: David Williams)

Pedicia rivosa. (Photograph: Stephen Mitchell)

And what was the species found in the most tetrads we visited? Drum roll maestro please ..... We have a tie for second place with *Anthocoris nemorum* – common flower bug and *Stenodema laevigata* being recorded in 21 tetrads. But the clear winner and Gold medallist is *Coccinella septempunctata* – 7-spot ladybird found in 23 tetrads.

Will we do it again next year? I hope so. (See the next article which I've tacked on to this one. Ed.) We have no "target" groups other than the elusive long-horn beetles to look out for but we can continue to be a group of friends meeting to do something that interests us. Plans are at an early stage but we hope to visit some of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust reserves, a couple of areas in Telford where we have been asked to go, as well as any other areas that the group thinks will be of interest.

If you are interested please get in touch with me and I will keep you informed of planned outings. I would like to thank all who attended for their support and I am sure the records we managed to make were appreciated by all the various recorders who received them.

Enjoying lunch at Grindleforge – but still on the look out. (Photo: Keith Fowler)

Keith Fowler

Our walks usually take place on a Wednesday between April and September, for anyone who is interested, to come along and contribute to the biological records for Shropshire. The emphasis of these walks is invertebrates of those groups for which we have some collective knowledge, but we have been known to branch out into birds, fungi, mammals and flora. The walks last about 5 hours and we usually cover about 3 miles but the distance covered is very dependent upon what we find of interest.

We take a picnic lunch and occasionally end up in a local hostelry after a 'hard' day. We meet as a group of friends out for the day together doing something we are all interested in hence

everyone comes at their own risk and is expected to take a sensible attitude to Health and Safety issues. No identification skills are needed to join us (but any you have will be welcomed), just a willingness to try to spot things of interest and enjoy the camaraderie of the group.
If anyone is interested they can let me know and I will inform you of the details of each walk about five days in advance".

For contact details see the County Recorder list under 'Hemiptera' and a list of dates and locations of future walks are in the 'dates for your diary' section.

Keith Fowler

COUNTY RECORDER REPORTS

In the last edition of SEN I suggested the spring edition should be a home for reports from Shropshire County Recorders to highlight discoveries and news from the previous recording year. It wonderful therefore to see the following reports received and witness so much going on in VC40!

Water beetle recording in Shropshire 2013

2013 was a good year for water beetles after a very slow start due to the cold weather. My personal spreadsheet shows 74 species taken from 22 sites. Three species were classified Nationally Scarce and a further six have come off the list but have conservation value as indicators of good quality sites (Foster, 2010).

Nationally Scarce

Acilius canaliculatus (Dytiscidae) used to be found only at Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR but is now at 7 sites. I found it at Hodnet Heath this year and an MSc student took it near Newport. *Contacyphon pubescens* (Scirtidae), (previously called *Cyphon*) was found at Bomere Pool. There are no previous published records for this beetle in Shropshire. *Donacia versicolorea* (Chrysomelidae) was found in Pool 9 of the Long Mynd on *Potamogetan polygonifolius.* This beetle is probably to be found in several Long Mynd pools.
The Long Mynd produced several species of conservation interest, though only one specimen each of *Enochrus ochropterus, Hydroporus longulus, Laccobius ytenensis* and *Rhantus suturellis.* Others of conservation interest are *Ilybius fenestratus* taken at Bomere Pool and *Rhantus grapii* from the Old River Bed, Shrewsbury.
The most common beetles encountered were *Agabus bipustulatus, Helophorus brevipalpis, Hydrobius fuscipes Hydroporus palustris* and *Helophorus aequalis* as they are most years being found in a variety of sites.
Other species such as *Haliplus sibiricus* (Marton Pool), *Elmis aena* (Long Mynd), *Graptodytes pictus* (Marton Pool) and *Limnebius truncatellus* (Long Mynd) have only one record for the year and only a few records from the past.
The two most notable sites for the most species of beetles this year where Marton Pool, Chirbury with 22 species and a pond on the edge of Hodnet Heath with 21 species. I will not name the worst site only to say it was a *so called* conservation site.

Reference

Foster, G.N. 2010. A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain Part (3): Water beetles of Great Britain. *Species Status* 1. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

Frances Riding

Bees, Wasps and Ants: Shropshire Atlas Progress and 2013 report.

The species accounts have now nearly all been drafted and we have rough drafts for most of the accompanying chapters. Many thanks must go to all the people that have sent us records in response to our rather hasty requirements. We have also sourced many top quality images of aculeates taken in Shropshire, and hopefully can include a good number of these in the final publication - finances will dictate what can be achieved on this front. But, whether or not they are used, thanks must be given to those who have generously agreed to let us use their photographs.

The Aculeate checklist for Shropshire now stands at a very respectable, if not most impressive 314 species. Over the winter we have "discovered" several new species lurking in boxes of collected specimens. Not least amongst these was the tiny aphid predating wasp *Stigmus pendulus* Panzer, 1804, which Nigel Jones picked up in a malaise trap in 2006, and then left languishing, awaiting determination in his "to do" boxes. *S. pendulus* was noted as new to Britain in 1987.

New Shropshire Aculeates for 2013

Devil's Dingle

A goodly site and a goodly number of county firsts made last season a real treat. Devil's Dingle was one of those rare treats where focused recording added greatly to our knowledge of a particular site. Also known as Buildwas ash waste site (mainly in monads SJ6305 & SJ6405) it is an extensive 32 ha area where power station ash has been tipped. The site is now restored and contains grasslands, lagoons, woodland, scrub, open mosaic habitats and standing dead wood. Areas of open mosaic habitat, where the ash is exposed and mirrors conditions in fine sand, are particularly valuable for ground nesting bees and wasps, as too are small landslips in clay soils at the edges of the site.

Buildwas / Devil's Dingle site and a land slip feature so important for nesting aculeates (Photos: Nigel Jones)

A number of nationally important species were found including *Eucera longicornis, Stelis phaeoptera* and *Osmia bicolor* as well as four species new to the county; ***Chrysis mediata***, ***Tiphia femorata***. ***Priocnemis hyalinata*** and ***Lasioglossum malachurum***

Eucera longicornis at Devil's Dingle (Photo: Nick Button)

Chrysis mediata. This is more of a southern species with very few records from the Midlands. It is described as being a parasite of *Odynerus spinipes* (also *Ancistrocerus trifasciatus.* Baldock) a species found nesting in sand or clay pits in open habitats.

Tiphia femorata. A parasitoid of scarabaeid beetle larvae (the host is fed on and finally killed). It is once again a southern species with just a few records from the Midlands area. It can be found in open habitats on a variety of soils and is closely associated with umbellifers.

***Priocnemis hyalinata*.** The 13 species that make up this genus are notoriously difficult to identify especially when you are looking at females. This is a spider-hunting wasp found in open habitat, especially on sand. Nests are dug in the soil and each cell is provisioned with a single spider. At Devil's Dingle it was found in good numbers hunting the banks of a narrow water-filled ditch. Most records are found in the south east with a small number from the Midlands

Tiphia femorata at Devil's Dingle (Photo: Nigel Jones)

Lasioglossum malachurum. This is a species of primitively social bee that has been spreading north and west from its stronghold in southern England. In this species an over-wintered queen rears workers who help raise one or two further broods. In the last brood both male and females are produced. Only newly mated queens survive to the following spring. It can be found mainly on clay or sandy soils in a variety of habitats including open woodland.

Elsewhere in Shropshire

Colletes hederae was first recorded in England during 2000 or 2001(depending on who you read) and, following a north and westward expansion, finally arrived in Shropshire 13 years later. This is an autumn species on the wing in September and October where it can be found foraging from ivy (and less commonly on Asteraceae). It was recorded along the River Severn in Shrewsbury amongst ivy on bankside trees.

Colletes hederae in Shrewsbury (Photo: Nigel Jones)

Both species below were stored away in boxes along with other troublesome specimens. The work for the atlas encouraged us to open them and as you can see it was worth it.

The final two species are both small black wasps collecting aphids as prey and nesting in dead wood or broken pithy stems such as bramble. ***Stigmus pendulus*** was found at Venus Pool in 2006. It is another species known to be expanding its range away from south-east England. It is rarely recorded in the Midlands. ***Passaloecus monilicornis*** is our last entry here. A 'northern' species with only a handful of records south of Yorkshire mainly running through central England to the far south. This specimen was taken from the Hollies near the Stiperstones in 2009. Both species are found in open habitat with suitable dead wood nesting sites. Old hedgerows and woodland edge are good places to look.

As the last two species show it pays to look at all your specimens especially those you have put aside for another day!

Ian Cheeseborough and Nigel Jones

Shropshire Diptera News - 2013

I must start with an apology that this is a very rushed item for the Shropshire Entomology Newsletter. Work on the forthcoming Shropshire Aculeates Atlas, with pressing deadlines, is occupying much of my spare time. Accordingly this is a rather random set of notes regarding Diptera finds and the Shropshire Diptera List. I'll do better for the next edition.

The Shropshire Diptera List – A Project I participated in a survey of Lloyd's Coppice, Ironbridge during 2013 and found two flat-footed flies (Platypezidae) possibly not recorded in Shropshire before: *Platypeza consobrinum* Zetterstedt, 1843 and *Agathomyia unicolor* Oldenberg, 1928. However I cannot say with any confidence that they are new species for the county, and in fact numerous species I have previously claimed as new to Shropshire, must be re-appraised. The reason for this is that during the year I became aware that very many species have in fact previously been recorded by Shropshire Dipterist C. H. Wallace Pugh, but around 1,200 of these species, recorded in The Caradoc & Severn Valley Field Club's *Record of Bare Facts* between 1924–1941, have not been transcribed into the Shropshire Ecological Data Network's database or anywhere else. So claims for new county species must first be checked against the extensive Pugh list. Unfortunately, this is by no means a straight forward task. Firstly, not only are Pugh's Shropshire records of circa 1,500 Diptera species scattered across 18 issues of the *Record of Bare Facts*, but there is also a predecessor Shropshire Diptera list: Herbert Bury's *Diptera in South Shropshire 1913-1920* which contains an additional 250 species (Bury, 1920). Secondly, since 1941 nomenclatural changes have wreaked havoc with Pugh's and Bury's names, meaning that a good deal of detective work must be undertaken for much of

the historic catalogue, before species can be correlated with the modern checklist.

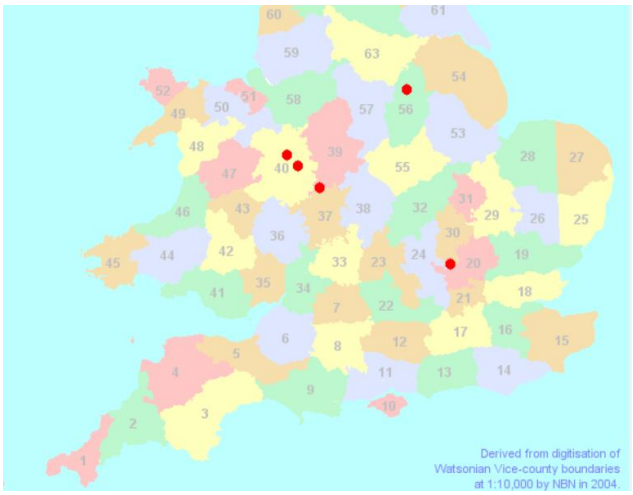
Pugh's Collection of Diptera is held at Manchester University Museum, which means that where we cannot define species names in Pugh's lists, we should be able investigate the relevant specimens and re-determine them; at least where our skills are up to it – Pugh was a first class taxonomist who tackled many fly families, including a good many I run screaming in terror from!

I have made a start on transcribing and "translating" Bury's and Pugh's historic lists, but this work is on hold now until next winter. I intend to produce a Shropshire Diptera checklist on the back of this work, which will of course involve trawling though more recent data. I'd certainly appreciate assistance, so if anyone out there fancies spending a lot of time hammering away on a keyboard, making spreadsheets, examining old records and doing some detective work to run down obsolete species names, which sometimes cannot even be found in the online British Diptera checklist, then do speak to me/email me. I hope to get stuck into the project around November/December 2014.

Interesting Flies - 2013

To start at the end, on 31 October, Maria Justamond rounded off the season very nicely, by emailing me a photo of an orange haired hoverfly taken on 26 June at Shawbury Heath, asking what it might be. Even though the photo, taken from distance, is a little blurred, it is clearly the hoverfly *Callicera rufa* Schummel, 1842. This made our third county site for this scarce hoverfly, only known in Britain, before 2011, from Scottish pinewoods. Brett Westwood also found *C. rufa* just over the border in Staffordshire, at Enville Common, so we have a real hotspot for this hoverfly in our part of the West Midlands – see the map below.

Callicera rufa at Shawbury Heath – Photo © Maria Justamond



Records of *Callicera rufa* in England – screengrab from Hoverfly Recording Scheme website

A dark, rather non-descript hoverfly I collected back in 2009 from Attingham Park had proved difficult to determine. I thought it might be the Nationally Scarce species *Cheilosia carbonaria* Egger, 1860, but in the absence of comparative material I could not be certain. So I took it along to one of the Dipterist Forum's sessions and thrust it at Roger Morris, who was able to confirm it as *C. carbonaria*; almost certainly a new Shropshire species, as Pugh did not pay much attention to Syrphidae. If not new to Shropshire, it at least was a new species for me.

On 3 June 2013, at the Field Studies Centre - Preston Montford, I espied a poplar, oozing sap. Always on the lookout for flies that associate with sap, I quickly went over to the tree and pooted (from mid air!) a hoverfly that was flying about the sap *Brachyopa insensilis* Collin, 1939. Although considered one of the most frequent *Brachyopa* in Britain, it is surprisingly scarce in Shropshire. A number of very small dark flies, I thought they might be Drosophilidae, also showed interest in the weeping sap. I duly collected a couple. They turned out to represent a whole family of flies, being the only member of the Aulacigastridae in Britain, *Aulacigaster leucopeza* Macquart, 1835. Despite its tiny size it is rather a smart little fly, with eye stripes, orange and bright white head stripes and yellow tarsi. This is another fly that *might* be new to Shropshire, but was certainly new to me and the first time I have "ticked off" a whole British fly family in one go.

Aulacigaster leucopeza from sap on poplar at Preston Montford. Photo © Nigel Jones

Head of *Aulacigaster leucopeza* Photo © Walter Pfliegler

Tachytrechus consobrinus (Haliday in Walker, 1851) is a rather flashy, Nationally Scarce Dolichopodidae, and *Tachytrechus insignis* Stannius, 1931 is scarce inland, so it was nice to find these two flies at Bayston Hill quarry, along with their more frequent congener *T. notatus* (Stannius, 1831). All three species were swept from the edges of shallow pools. Elsewhere on the site, wet flushes, that had formed in the recently made quarry screening bund, hosted some nice soldier-flies (Stratiomyidae): *Oxycera morrisii* Curtis, 1833, *O. rara* (Scopoli, 1763) and *O. trilineata* (Linnaeus, 1767).

I investigated an area of old willow carr and wet silt beside the River Severn, just west of Shrewsbury on 28 July 2013. It was not a particularly outstanding looking place, but I'd spotted it on a winter walk in February and thought when I had a spare hour, it would be nice to pop out to from home. I swept about beneath the willows and over the silty mud, then took the catch home. When I got back I was amazed to find: the rare Dolichopidid *Argyra grata* Loew, 1857, its Nationally Scarce cousin *Rhaphium micans* (Meigen, 1824), another "Doli" the tiny and infrequently recorded *Teuchophora*

calcaratus (Collin, 1926), a white banded Empid fly *Hilara albiventris* von Roser, 1840 (Nationally Scarce), and my first ever Piophilid fly, *Parapiophila vulgaris* (Fallén, 1820). I've probably overlooked the latter tiny fly many times over the years, but in retirement I have more time to tackle the inconspicuous Acalypterate flies that litter one's sweep net. Anyway the foregoing demonstrates that one should never underestimate even small bits of natural habitat, you really never know what may lurk within.

Reference

Bury, H. E., 1920. *Diptera in South Shropshire 1913-1920* Entomologist's Monthly Magazine. Vol LVI pp. 249-256

Nigel Jones

[To add to Nigel's haul from the old willow by the River Severn was a cranefly that he passed to me for identification which turned out to be *Rhipidia uniseriata* Schiner, 1864 – also new to Shropshire so a pretty amazing few sweeps of the net!]

Ladybirds *(Coccinellidae)* - an update

2013 showed a very large increase in the number of records received of coccinellid species. A comparison with the previous three years is as follows:

Year	No. of records
2010	110
2011	282
2012	211
2013	544

Table 1 – Records received during the period 2010-2013

The interest shown in ladybirds and their allies has been steadily increasing with many more people submitting records. The slight dip in 2012 was almost certainly due to the very poor summer when less fieldwork would have been undertaken. A noticeable feature of the 2013 records is the number of specimens being found by sweep netting or beating and I have put this down as a by-product of the work being done on the various local invertebrate atlases. This is also reflected in the number of species of the small non-ladybird coccinellids reported – 1 in 2010 and 2011, 2 in 2012 and 4 in 2013 including one *Scymnus frontalis* new to VC40 found at two sites by Caroline Uff and Nigel Jones, and another *Scymnus suturalis* found by Nigel Jones, the first record since 1992 (and before that J. Hignett in 1936).

Two records of the 18-Spot ladybird *Myrrha octodecimguttata*, only the second and third for VC40, were found by Keith Fowler.

The four commonest species recorded are shown below:-

Records per year	2010	2011	2012	2013
7-Spot	41	109	100	179
Harlequin	15	33	21*	31
14-Spot	12	45	68	147
2-Spot	10	22	39	27*

Table 2 – Increase in records of 4 common species of ladybird over the period 2010-2013

These numbers refer to records not to numbers of individuals recorded, an analysis of which has not been attempted.

Notes:

- * 10-Spot was an equal 4th place in these two years.
- The 22-Spot was common in 2013, twenty two records being received and one case twelve individuals were caught in one sweep of the net through hogweed seed heads.
- Harlequin numbers appear to have stabilised from their rapid increase after their arrival in the UK. One of the reasons for this could be the two previous severely cold winters for which this Asian species may not be so well adapted.

My thanks to all those who submitted records this year and in particular to Keith Fowler who collated the records for several recording days incorporating the sightings of several people, the grand total of which was 53% of all records received.

Ian Thompson

Spider News - 2013

[I've unashamedly cobbled this together from a variety of Nigel Cane-Honeysett's emails over the past few weeks to highlight the amazing work Nigel and the spider group have been doing since its inception. Ed]

Five new species of spider were identified in Shropshire during 2013 / early 2014 (Table 1). Four of them are of conservation importance including the UK BAP species *Atypus affinis*, the story of which is to follow later in this compilation of spider news.

Category/ vernacular	Taxon	Status	Location
A money spider	*Trematocephalus cristatus*	Notable A	Telford Town Park
Triangle spider	*Hyptiotes paradoxus*	RDB3	Wyre Forest
A wolf spider	*Pardosa agricola*		Prees Heath
An orb web spider	*Araneus alsine*	Notable B	Wyre Forest
Purse web spider	*Atypus affinis*	UK BAP	Earl's Hill

Table 1 – New species to VC40 in 2013/2014

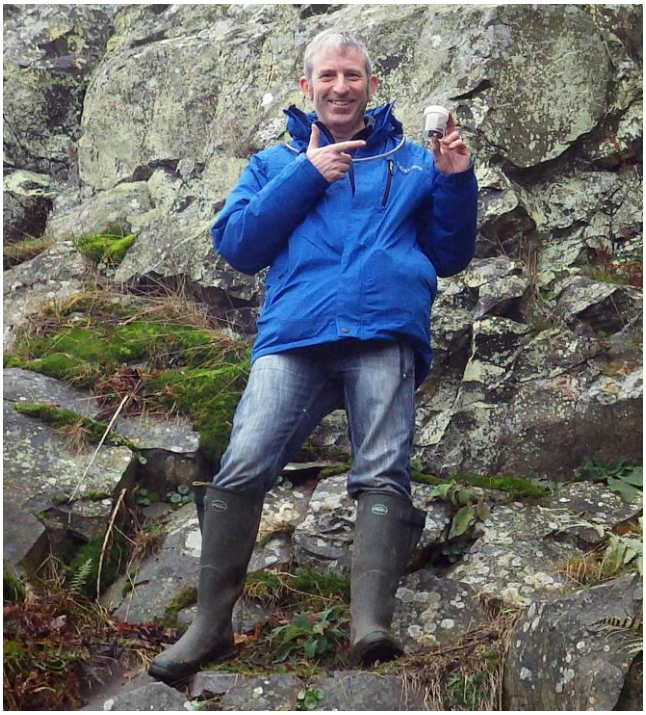
This enables us to update the spider axiozoan list for Shropshire (Table 2) which includes all species of Nationally Scarce distribution and above, and includes UKBAP or Section 41 of the NERC Act (to be more precise).

FAMILY	*TAXON*	Status	BAP
Araneidae	*Araneus alsine*	Nb	
Araneidae	*Araniella inconspicua*	Nb	
Araneidae	*Argiope bruennichi*	Na	
Atypidae	*Atypus affinis*		UK BAP
Linyphiidae	*Carorita limnaea*	RDB1	
Linyphiidae	*Ceratinopsis romana*	Nb	
Clubionidae	*Clubiona caerulescens*	Nb	
Dictynidae	*Dictyna pusilla*		UK BAP
Linyphiidae	*Entelecara congenera*	Nb	
Linyphiidae	*Entelecara errata*	Nb	
Theridiidae	*Episinus truncatus*	Nb	
Salticidae	*Evarcha arcuata*	Nb	
Linyphiidae	*Glyphesis cottonae*	Na	UK BAP
Gnaphosidae	*Haplodrassus silvestris*	Nb	
Uloboridae	*Hyptiotes paradoxus*	RDB3	
Linyphiidae	*Lepthyphantes insignis*	Nb	

Linyphiidae	*Monocephalus castaneipes*		UK BAP
Linyphiidae	*Neriene radiata*	Nb	
Lycosidae	*Pardosa agrestis*	Nb	
Philodromidae	*Philodromus emarginatus*	Nb	
Philodromidae	*Philodromus praedatus*	Nb	
Linyphiidae	*Porrhomma oblitum*	Nb	
Theridiidae	*Rugathodes bellicosus*	Nb	
Linyphiidae	*Saaristoa firma*		UK BAP
Linyphiidae	*Satilatlas britteni*	Nb	
Araneidae	*Singa hamata*	Nb	
Salticidae	*Sitticus floricola*	RDB3	
Tetragnathidae	*Tetragnatha pinicola*	Nb	
Tetragnathidae	*Tetragnatha striata*	Nb	
Linyphiidae	*Trematocephalus cristatus*	Na	
Linyphiidae	*Walckenaeria incisa*	Nb	
Thomisidae	*Xysticus luctuosus*	Nb	
Araneidae	*Zilla diodia*	Nb	

Table 2 – Shropshire spider axiozoan list

Nigel was approached by the British Arachnological Society with news of a potential sighting of the purse web spider *Atypus affinis* Eichwald, 1830, made by a climber at Pontesbury. Nigel takes up the story; "A small band of, us (Rich Burkmar, Jim Cresswell and Keith Fowler), scaled the heights of Pontesbury Crags (by the relatively easy route) in search of *Atypus affinis*. Having done the macho thing by sampling the raw wind blowing at the top we came back down again to thaw out and visit the spot at the foot of the crag where we thought the spider may actually have been found (yes I know but where's the challenge ?). Whilst the rest of us poked about at ground level Rich scrambled up part of the rock face and, within 20-30 minutes, was rewarded by the discovery of four purse webs, two of which contained immature specimens of *Atypus affinis*.

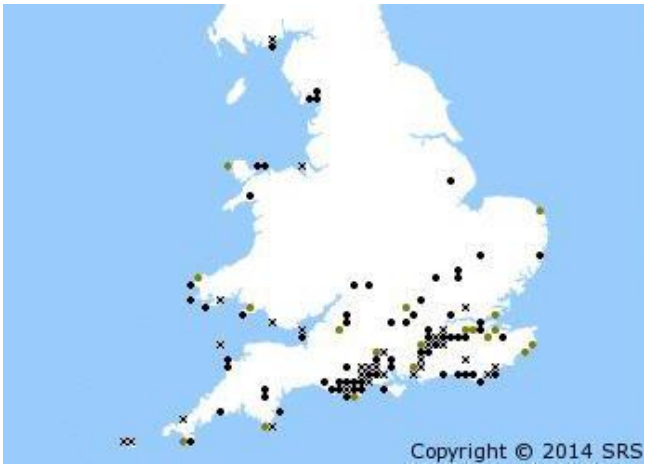


Rich Burkmar with the prize. (Photo: courtesy of Nigel Cane-Honeysett.

The prize – an immature *Atypus affinis* nursery web spider (Photo: courtesy of Nigel Cane-Honeysett.

The species is unique within the spider fauna of the UK being the only example in an entire sub-order (Mygalomorphae) and this discovery is the most northerly inland record for the species. In addition it is believed that this species is in steady decline due to habitat disturbance and it was for this very reason that we went in search

of it in advance of the planned SSG visit in September as the Shropshire Wildlife Trust is planning to carry out some "habitat restoration" work at the site and it is a certainty that the needs of the spider would not have been taken into account as its presence had not been established."



Distribution map of *Atypus affinis* **before** the Shropshire Spider Group confirmed the species from Pontesbury! Courtesy of the British Arachnological Society.

Just under a 1000 news spider and harvestman records have been added to the database by the SSG this year.

Nigel Cane-Honeysett

Shropshire Orthopteroids in 2013

In Volume 7 of *Shropshire Entomology* I listed four species of Orthopteroids for which there were no confirmed Shropshire records, but which may appear in the county in the near future. Remarkably, in a three-week period in high summer three of these species were found, one of them at two locations. First, on 25th July, Nigel Jones & Ian Cheeseborough found Roesel's bush cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii* (Hagenbach, 1822) in good numbers at Devil's Dingle (Buildwas).

Male Roesel's bush cricket (Devil's Dingle) (Photo: David Williams)

Then on 9th August at the same site, they found long-winged conehead, *Conocephalus fuscus* (Fabricius, 1793).

Female long-winged conehead (Devil's Dingle): (Photo: David Williams)

Finally, on 16th August, I identified lesser marsh grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus* (De Geer, 1773) during (of all things) a moth trapping night. This was at Coalmoor, only a mile or so from Devil's Dingle. A return visit (in daylight!) two days later showed it to be present in substantial numbers.

Female lesser marsh grasshopper (Coalmoor) (Photo: David Williams)

Meanwhile, Mark McCormack & I had also found Roesel's bush cricket at Dudmaston Estate on 27th July.

From my 'hit list', this only leaves short-winged conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis* (Latrielle, 1804) still to find. However, I should probably add southern oak bush cricket, *Meconema meridionale* (Costa, 1860), as it seems to be spreading rapidly and has now been recorded in Staffordshire. Very similar to the 'common' oak bush cricket, *Meconema thallasinum* (De Geer, 1773), this species is identified by being flightless and almost completely wingless, though care is needed not to confuse it with nymphs of *M. thallasinum*.

Also of note was the mating pair of speckled bush crickets, *Leptophyes punctatissima* (Bosc, 1792) found and photographed by Sue Swindells in October 2013. These were in Rhoswiel (SJ23) in the far north of the county. The next most northerly Shropshire record is at Upton Magna. In fact this record might now be the most northerly inland record for *L. punctatissima* in the western half of Britain.

I must also mention Keith Fowler's personal quest to record common earwig, *Forficula auricularia* (Linnaeus, 1758) in every locality he visits. This mission produced c.70 records for this ubiquitous insect in 2013. Keep up the good work, Keith!

A few months ago, the sum total of all orthopteroid records held by the SEDN stood at a mere 373. A marvellous 251 new records were received during 2013. I have also mined a further 276 records from the national Orthopteroid Recording Scheme, bringing the current total to exactly 900. Still small numbers, but a pleasing and substantial improvement.

David Williams

[Go on – record an earwig in 2014 and send the record to David! Let's get every tetrad covered!!! David will also be leading a day on the identification of Orthopteroids for Invertebrate Challenge]

Terrestrial Bugs (except shieldbugs), Auchenorrhyncha and Psylloidea (Hemiptera) – background and 2013 report

Brief Introduction;

The **Hemiptera** are split into two sub-orders:

1) **Homoptera** – wings uniform in texture;

Tachycixius pilosus – showing the uniform texture wing. (Photograph by Maria Justamond)

2) **Heteroptera** – forewings divided into two sections. The basal section is hardened and the apical section membranous.

Orsillus depressus – the different textures of the wing are evident – the hardened section is behind the pronotum and the membranous area tucked into the cone towards the rear after what seems to be a diagonal ridge in the wing about two-thirds along its length. (Photograph by Maria Justamond)

In turn the Homoptera is split into two:

1) **Sternorrhyncha** – with long thread-like antennae and 1-2 tarsal segments;
2) **Auchenorrhyncha** – with short antennae with terminal bristle and 3-segmented tarsi

Psylloidea (Adult)

The Psylloidea, or psyllids, are part of the Sternorrhyncha, which includes aphids, scale insects and whiteflies. There are around 790 species of Sternorrhyncha of which about 80 are psyllids.

Adults are small insects, typically 2 – 3 mm, which feed mainly on trees and shrubs with a few on herbaceous plants. Many are associated with a single species of plant or restricted to a small number of related plants. So, knowledge of the host is a great aid to identification. In winter many migrate to evergreen pants for shelter.

They are quite docile, so if beaten into a tray or swept in a net they will often hang around whilst all else disappear. Several can be identified from a good close-up photograph but it is usually necessary to examine some features including the genitalia, which are generally easy to see, to determine the species.

At the start of 2013 we had 25 records of psyllids for 8 species. So this is a group that is ripe for "First in the County" records! And so it has proved. Subject to verification by the National Recorder, we have increased the number of records to 124 and species to 22. The first records as adults were:

- *Arytaina genistae* (Latreille, 1804) – found on broom near Venus Pools in March. This proved to be quite common and a further 5 records were made.
- *Arytainilla spartiophila* (Förster, 1848) – taken in Granville Country Park in June, plus a couple of other records within a few days. Another species found on broom.
- *Bactericera albiventris* (Förster, 1848) – this was recorded in March at Leegomery, Telford. It is found on willows and overwinters on conifers.

- *Bactericera curvatinervis* (Förster, 1848) – taken from a conifer on Lilleshall Hill in January (11/1/2013).
- *Baopelma foersteri* (Flor, 1861) – it was found initially at Preston Montford at the SIG meeting in July. A further four records were made over the next month or so. It is found on alder.
- *Cacopsylla ambigua* (Förster, 1848) – it was captured at Stirchley and Madbrook WS in Telford in May. It is found on willows.
- *Cacopsylla melanoneura* (Förster, 1848) – this was found in Wellington on 6th January 2013 and proved to be extremely common on hawthorn. It requires careful separation from the much scarcer *C. affinis* which is also found on hawthorn.
- *Cacopsylla peregrina* (Förster, 1848) – taken at Lloyd's Coppice in June. Another species found on hawthorn. A further four records were made.
- *Cacopsylla pruni* (Scopoli, 1763) – found in Much Wenlock in April.
- *Cacopsylla visci* (Curtis, 1835) found on mistletoe at Mahorall Farm on a SIG visit in May
- *Chamaepsylla hartigii* (Flor, 1861) – taken at Venusbank in June and a further five records followed up to July. A species found on birch.
- *Psyllopsis fraxinicola* (Förster, 1848) – found first at Priorslee Lake WS, Telford in August. Three further records made shortly afterwards.
- *Rhinocola aceris* (Linnaeus, 1758) – was found in Saplins Wood WS during a site survey in May. Its host plant is *Acer campestris* (field maple) but it is found on other trees.
- *Spanioneura fonscolombii* Förster, 1848 taken from box in Apley Woods in March

If you are interested in recording psyllids the British Bugs website includes photographs and descriptions of many of them and there is a key is available for free download from the Royal Entomological Society website: Hodkinson, I. D. & White, I. M. 1979. Homoptera: Psylloidea. Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, vol. II, part 5 (a). Royal Entomological Society of London, London, 98 pp.

As with many keys it is a little out of date and some of the names have changed but I have yet to find a species that is not described in it.

The Invertebrate Library at Preston Montford has a copy of the more recent publication "Psylloidea (Homoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark" by F. Ossiannilsson. It is in English and covers the vast majority of the species on the British list.

Nymphs cause plant galls and can be identified by use of the AIDGAP guide "British Plant Galls" by Margaret Redfern and Peter Shirley. Any records of this stage should be sent to the County Plant Gall recorder (see details in County Recorder list).

Auchenorrhyncha

These are generally referred to as various types of "Hoppers", e.g. Leafhoppers, Planthoppers, Treehoppers. There are about 400 British species. All the hoppers are plant feeders. Their feeding strategy of the species ranges from host specific through to generalist and use different parts of the plant to tap into for food. They tend to be small 3- 6 mm, many are attractively marked and they frustratingly will not hang around for long if you capture them.

Errastunus ocellaris – nicely patterned and showing the characteristic shape of many of the hoppers. (Photograph Maria Justamond)

This year saw a few Shropshire entomologists attend the weekend Introduction to Planthopper Course presented by the National Recorder, Alan Stewart at Preston Montford and a couple of us attended the "Intermediates" course held at BENHS Dinton Pastures. The introduction course is scheduled again for 2014 – if you are interested the details available in the FSC Course Guide.

Centrotus cornutus – a rather more exotically shaped hopper. (Photograph Maria Justamond)

We have added just over 730 records this season. This includes a few historic records from surveys carried out by Liverpool University but the vast majority are new records from around 20 recorders. The county record list is now at 1670 records across 167 species, about 40% of the British list. There are records from all the major hectads in the county although the majority are concentrated around the Telford area.
Subject to verification by the National Recorder we have recorded 17 new species.

Cicadellidae

- *Allygidius commutatus* (Fieber, 1872) - Recorded in Lloyd's Coppice, Telford in July.
- *Edwardsiana frustrator* (Edwards, 1908) – An interesting name. Many of the *Edwardsiana* species are pale green without any obvious markings and require examination of the male genitalia to separate. I can just imagine Mr Edwards getting extremely fed up at having to name yet another similar species and deciding to name it after his frustration. The first record was taken at Preston Montford during the hopper course and was determined by Alan Stewart. A second was taken at Albrighton and Donington LNR in October.
- *Edwardsiana plurispinosa* (Wagner, 1935) – This is a species that is not on the British list! I took the specimen during the Preston Montford course in July, but, being a pale green *Edwardsiana*, did not attempt to identify until later. I was very surprised when my determination was a species not on the list! However, Alan Stewart confirmed that it had been found in Britain and referred me to Dr Michael Wilson of the National Museum of Wales to confirm. A trip to the Museum was arranged and the record was confirmed.

- *Evacanthus acuminatus* (Fabricius, 1794) – This was found at the SIG meeting at Preston Montford in July. A second record was made a few days later at Sheriffhales. It inhabits grassy places and wayside vegetation, often in woods.
- *Linnavuoriana decempunctata* (Fallén, 1806) – This was captured during a Shropshire Spider Group meeting at Quarry Wood, near Hinstock, in April. It is found mostly on birch in the summer, hibernating on conifers, ivy and gorse.
- *Macropsis infuscata* (Sahlberg, 1871) – Recorded at Shawbury Heath in July and then a couple of weeks later at Granville Country Park.
- *Macrosteles horvathi* (Wagner, 1935) – Taken at Sweeney Fen during the Planthopper course in July. It is found in marshy area and wet grasslands.
- *Macrosteles variatus* (Fallén, 1806) – Captured and identified by Tristan Bantock, freelancing, during the bio.fell Introduction to Terrestrial Hemiptera course in August. It is found on nettles and possibly other plants.
- *Metidiocerus rutilans* (Kirschbaum, 1868)- Recorded in Wellington in January (6/1/2013). It is found on sallows, but overwinters on pine.
- *Oncopsis carpini* (Sahlberg, 1871) – Taken at Little Wenlock on an extremely hot day in July. Its hosts are hornbeam and hazel.
- *Ossiannilssonola callosa* (Then, 1886) – Recorded at Colemore Green in September. It occurs on sycamore but is also found on lime and beech.
- *Typhlocyba quercus* (Fabricius, 1777) – This delightful hopper turned up in Priorslee Lake WS in August and was quickly followed by three other records; then it was not seen again. It is found on a variety of trees but mainly oaks, hornbeams, plum, sloe and birch.
- *Zyginella pulchra* Low, 1885 – Netted in Trench, Telford last year. Its identification was confirmed by Michael Wilson this year. This is a recent arrival being first recorded in Britain in 2001.

Cixiidae

- *Cixius distinguendus* Kirschbaum, 1868 – Recorded in Sutton Woods, Telford in August. A second was found near Colemore Green in August.

Delphacidae

- *Criomorphus albomarginatus* Curtis, 1833 – Located in Lightmoor, Telford in June with a second record from the Wyre Forest in August. It occurs in a variety of grasslands.
- *Eurysella brunnea* (Melichar 1896) – Found in rough vegetation at the side of a farm lane in Buildwas in July.
- *Stiroma affinis* Fieber, 1866 – This was recorded at Abbey Wood, Lilleshall in June.
- The year was capped off with the discovery of a *Ledra aurita* (Linnaeus, 1758) nymph at Preston Montford during the SIG meeting. It had been recorded a couple of time before but this is its first this century. The photograph shows how well it matches the lichen on the branch.

Ledra aurita – nymph. (Photograph David Williams.)

The **Auchenorrhyncha** are fairly well serviced by identification guides. The most accessible resource is once again the British Bugs website which contains photographs and brief descriptions of many but not all the species but be aware that many species cannot be identified from photographs.
There are four keys in the Royal Entomological Society of London's Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects which are now out of print but are available for download at no cost from their website:

Vol 2 Part 2a. Hemiptera - Cicadomorpha (excluding Deltocephalinae and Typhlocybinae). Walter J. Le Quesne (1965)
Vol 2 Part 2b. Hemiptera - Cicadomorpha - Deltocephalinae. Walter J. Le Quesne (1969)
Vol 2 Part 2c. Cicadellidae (Typhlocybinae) with a checklist of the British Auchenorhyncha (Hemiptera, Homoptera) W. J. Le Quesne and K. R. Payne (1981)
Vol 2 Part 3. Hemiptera - Fulgoromorpha. Walter J. Le Quesne (1960)

These are out of date but useable. Species that have arrived recently are missing and there have been the inevitable changes to species names.
The current main source for identification is "The Plant- and Leafhoppers of Germany" by Robert Biedermann and Rolf Niedringhaus. It is in English. The vast majority of the British species are included, certainly all the ones we are likely to find in Shropshire. (A supplement describing the additional British species is due soon.) This book is complimented by a picture book "Fotoatlas der Zikaden Deutschlands" by Gernot Kunz, Herbert Nickel and Rolf Niedringhaus which contains good quality photographs of all the species in the identification guide. Copies of both these books are in the Invertebrate Library.

Terrestrial Heteroptera (ex Shieldbugs and allies)
The Heteroptera, sometimes called "True bugs" comprise around 590 species covering three Recording Groups – the Aquatic and semi-aquatic Heteroptera (about 70 species); the Shieldbugs and allies (about 60 species) and the rest – the Terrestrial Heteroptera (ex Shieldbugs and allies).
This year has seen an increased interest in the heteroptera fuelled by bio.fell which provided two courses on the sub-order which had an encouraging number of Shropshire entomologists attending and the production of the county shieldbug atlas.

Metatropis rufescens – look for these on Enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana.* (Photograph Maria Justamond)

The first bio.fell course was a two day "Introduction" session held at Preston Montford tutored by Jim Flanagan (National Recorder for Terrestrial Heteroptera (Plantbugs & allies)) and Dr. Tristan Bantock (National Recorder for Terrestrial Heteroptera (Shieldbugs & allies)). The tutors took the attendees through the various families in the sub-order and provided expert guidance on identification. Unfortunately the weather curtailed collecting specimens but there were enough breaks to get out and about in the grounds of the field centre.

The second, with the same tutors, was an "Intermediate" day at Liverpool Museum very much focussed on identification using keys they provided and the reference material at the Museum. Jim and Tristan adjusted quickly when they discovered that several attendees were beginners and they were able to help all.
I thank bio.fell and Peter for arranging these excellent courses.

Possibly *Notostira elongata* – emerging. (Photograph Maria Justamond)

Over the year we have almost doubled the number of records on the county list by adding over 1500 records from over 20 recorders. Included in this number were around 150 historic records that we were able to mine from reports of surveys on various sites made by Liverpool Museum.
The county database now holds just over 3000 records across 180+ species representing about 40% of the species on the British list. All the main hectads in the County have records although the majority of the records, as with many other groups, are concentrated around a few areas.
The historic records provided a few new species but there were, subject to verification by the National Recorder, 9 new species:

Anthocoridae

- *Anthocoris butleri* Le Quesne, 1958 – Looks very similar to *A. nemoralis* but is found exclusively on box. Another find in Apley woods, this time in March.

Miridae

- *Cyrtorhinus caricis* (Fallén, 1807) – Taken in Cardingmill Valley in August. This is a species of damp habitats found on sedges and rushes.
- *Orthops basalis* (A. Costa, 1853) – There were many records for this species so it is rather surprising that it has not been recorded before. The first appears to be from Halesfield, Telford in May. It is very similar to *O. kalmii*, so care is needed when recording these species. It is found on umbellifers.
- *Orthotylus prasinus* (Fallén, 1826) – Recorded from the Wyre Forest in July. Unfortunately it is very similar to *O. ochrotrichus* so careful examination is required to separate the species. The host plant does not help to separate them as they both occur principally on elm.
- *Phytocoris dimidiatus* Kirschbaum, 1856 – Found on Little Hill, The Wrekin in September. It is found on a range of deciduous trees, particularly oak.
- *Platycranus bicolor* (Douglas & Scott, 1868) – Recorded from the Veolia coal washing and landfill site at Coalmoor, Telford during the SIG meeting in August. Its host is gorse.

- *Psallus albicinctus* (Kirschbaum, 1856) – Taken in The Hem, a woodland in Telford, in June. It is one of several *Psallus sp*. associated with oak.
- *Psallus montanus* Josifov, 1973 – This is one from the bio.fell course at Preston Montford in August, recorded by one of the tutors Tristan Bantock.
- *Pseudoloxops coccineus* (Meyer-Dür, 1843) – There have been several records of this bug, the first recorded is from Prees Green in July. A rather striking blotchy red and pale yellow mirid found on ash.

There is no single up to date identification guides or key to the British Heteroptera. The most accessible resource is the British Bugs website which contains photographs and brief descriptions of many but not all the species. The "classic" book is "Land and Water Bugs of the British Isles" by Southwood and Lesson. It can be obtained as a book or a cd. However it was originally printed in 1959 so is missing many species, taxonomic changes etc. but it is still useable. Dr. Bernard Nau has produced a key to the Miridae. I am sorry to say that keys to the other families are harder to obtain. However if your German or Finnish is up to scratch there are books that may interest you, some of which are available in the Invertebrate library.
Thank you to all who have provided records this year.

Keith Fowler

[Ed – following the recent publication of the Shropshire shieldbug atlas (see end page) Keith is now accepting all shieldbug records.
Further to Keith's article please see Edition 2 of Shropshire Entomology newsletter for more on the Enchanter's Nightshade Bug]

Some beetle highlights of 2013

2013 was a really good year for beetle recording in Shropshire, so a huge thanks to all those who have sent in records. There were over 800 records collected, most of which have now been checked and submitted to SEDN. Carabid and Cantharid records have also been submitted to the National recording schemes.
Incredibly 32 species (50 records) of Nationally Scarce or Red data list beetles (as listed on the NBN gateway) were recorded and there were also a good number of county firsts. Beetles associated with ancient woodland, wood pasture and parkland trees stood out in particular.
These include some longhorn beetles, and two are especially worthy of note. The huge *Prionus coriarius* was found on a garage wall in the Oswestry area by E. Walker.

Prionus coriarius Photo by E.Walker

This was only the third county record of this nationally scarce species. It is usually nocturnal, and, like some other longhorns, is known to stridulate when handled. Another nationally scarce longhorn beetle, *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* was recorded from 2 sites by D. Green and C. Uff. Both locations were in south Shropshire, a

known stronghold for this rare but distinctive blood red beetle.

Pyrrhidium sanguineum (Photo by C.Uff)

G. Wenman found several specimens of another local speciality – the nationally scarce soldier beetle *Cantharis obscura*. This uncommon beetle is mainly black but with orange edges to the pronotum. It is associated with old open woodlands on the upland fringe, in particular the Welsh borders and Lake District and the larva is believed to develop in leaf litter.

Cantharis obscura (Photo by Graham Wenman)

Cardinal Beetles appeared to have had a good year with both the red-headed *Pyrochroa serraticornis* (a widespread species) and the rarer black-headed *Pyrochroa coccinea* being recorded in good numbers. There were 10 records (9 sites) for the latter. Both species develop under bark of deciduous trees but the adults may be found away from wooded areas.

Comparison of *P. coccinea* and *P. serraticornis* – rather crudely mashed up by the editor – (Photos *P. coccinea* (Pete Boardman) & *P. serraticornis* (C. Uff))

Platycis minutus also did well - another striking red species this time belonging to the Net-winged Beetles. It was recorded in 2 new Shropshire sites, Bridgnorth by M. Lloyd and Ironbridge by C. Uff as well as a couple of sites just over the border in Herefordshire. The short lived adults appear in late summer and are often found inside or near rotten logs. Sometimes during hot weather they may be found in swarms.

Platycis minitus – (Photo by M. Lloyd)

The Wyre Forest and Attingham Park turned up 14 new county or Nationally Scarce species between them– mostly recorded by J. Bingham and K. Alexander, and again most associated with dead wood. These included two Jewel Beetles in Attingham Park - *Agrilus biguttatus* (by Ian Cheeseborough) and *A. laticornis* (by Keith Alexander).

Agrilus laticornis (Photo Maria Justamond)

The latter was also recorded from a new Shropshire site Moreton Corbet by Maria Justamond. Both species appear to be expanding their range.

In contrast to the wooded habitats, some of Shropshire's Brownfield sites were also worthy of note. The sand quarry at Cound hosted two new county species that are more commonly associate with coastal areas - *Harpalus tardus* and *Notoxus monoceros*, as well as the nationally scarce flea beetle *Longitarsus dorsalis*. At the Eon ash waste site near Buildwas (Devil's Dingle), there was a second county record for the distinctive orange and dark blue rove beetle *Paederus littoralis*

Happy hunting in 2014 and please do keep a special eye out for Longhorn beetles as this is the last recording year for the forthcoming Longhorn atlas.

Caroline Uff

[Ed – As Caroline says the Longhorn beetle atlas is ongoing through 2014 and records should be sent to Caroline (her details are in the County Recorder section). The cut off date for records for the atlas is the end of September with a publication likely in early 2015.]

County Recorder and Micro-moth Atlas Update

Godfrey Blunt writes "I shall shortly reach 630 species accounts completed in first draft of the Shropshire Micro-lepidoptera Atlas. I'm off for a fortnight's holiday shortly and will resume later this month – another 170 species or so to go." Godfrey, ably assisted by Ian Thompson, David Poynton, and others managed to gain records of micro-moths for every Shropshire whole tetrad during their fieldwork. Having done this myself for the cranefly atlas I know what a monumental (and at times soul destroying) process this is. Due to work on the atlas there is no species update but all will be revealed once the atlas is published later in 2014.

Pete Boardman & Godfrey Blunt

Ephemeroptera
Report by VC40 County Recorder

In each of the years 2011 and 2012 there were five records of the same two species added to the VC40 database. The number of individuals contributing these records was five in 2011 and two in 2012.

By contrast 2013 has seen eight new records of six species added contributed by two individuals. This year's records however did include a species not recorded before in VC40 *Siphlonurus lacustris* the Summer Mayfly, an imago of which was taken on 4th July (in the

middle of the usual flight period) on the Mor Brook at Morville.

The low numbers of records received is disappointing. Ephemeroptera are, in the main, not easy to identify in the field either as adults or nymphs and although their flight appears slow and laboured they are not that easy to net either. The sub-imagos immediately after hatching are masters at concealment and the mating swarms of males (the best subjects for identification) often fly at quite a height above ground. Added to that the insects whether as nymphs or winged adults are fragile, specimens needing to be kept in alcohol and I believe this adds to the scarcity of records.

EPHEMEROPTERA – A CALL TO ACTION!
Ephemeroptera – the autumn newsletter will feature an atlas of the up distribution maps for all Shropshire species. YOU CAN HELP!
Please collect any ephemeroptera you come across and pass it on via the SHROPSHIRE INVERTEBRATE EXCHANGE SCHEME – see page 2. Pop your samples in a tube with some alcohol – cheap vodka will do if you don't have anything else.

Ian Thompson

Odonata Report 2013

A huge thank you to all who recorded Shropshire dragonflies during 2013. Well over 60 enthusiasts contributed to an amazing total of nearly 1500 records, 1154 of them made during 2013! This represents not only an increase in recorders, but nearly doubles the number of records made in 2012. Special mention must go to Paul Hope who spent most of 2013 on his bike cycling through Shropshire gathering 253 records- an incredible effort!

A total of 28 species were recorded in 2013 comprising 18 dragonfly and 10 damselfly species. Numerically this is 1 more species than 2012 though there are differences in those species represented. Top of the list is a new Shropshire record – a recently deceased **Vagrant Emperor** *Hemianax ephippiger* shown in the photograph below.

Vagrant Emperor – (Photo: Sue and Gwyn Hiatt

The specimen was found at Muxton Marsh by Gwyn Hiatt on 23rd November and is one of a number of UK records for this migrant this year and a really great find!

Hairy Dragonfly *Brachytron pratense* was recorded at Whixall Moss. This is a 'county third' with only 2 other Shropshire records made in south Shropshire in 2000. This north Shropshire record is therefore of much interest and a first for Whixall Moss. This site provided a number of interesting records this year with **Keeled Skimmer** *Orthetrum coerulescens* being recorded here for the first time since 2007. Late records also revealed **Variable Damselfly** *Coenagrion pulchellum* was recorded during 2012 at Whixall Moss for the first time since 1995. Elsewhere **Downy Emerald** *Cordulia aenea* was recorded at a new site Ebury Hill (SJ5416) by J. Curd on 7th June. It should be noted that though a path runs nearby, access to the site is apparently restricted to those using the campsite.

Species unrecorded in 2013 were **Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura pumilio* and **Red-**

veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii* . This was despite repeated visits made to Venus Pool where the latter was seen ovipositing in 2012.
Though directly influenced by recorder effort, the first recorded sightings of all damselfly species were later than in 2012. Such a uniform pattern was not seen with dragonfly species and indeed a number of the hawkers were on the wing earlier in the season. Interestingly **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* provided a number of late sightings most notably 2nd October at Preston Montford. This represents the 3rd latest sighting ever of this species in the county. **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* though always a late comer was recorded on 4th November –also the 3rd latest record of this species in Shropshire.

This report provides only a summary of the field season however a more detailed analysis of events along with more photographs and identification information relating to the Vagrant Emperor can all be found in Shropshire Dragonfly News 2014. If you would like an emailed copy or have any other dragonfly related queries please do get in touch: mclamb1@btinternet.com

And just a reminder- many of you contributed records to the **Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland** and it is due for publication in May 2014. Have a great summer (when it gets here!) and don't forget, 3 of us are writing a book on Shropshire Dragonflies so even though the national atlas is complete, all your records are as ever gratefully received.

Sue McLamb

Craneflies and allied Nematocera - 2013

Time was a little limited for cranefly recording last year due to a very busy work year but nevertheless through the efforts of myself, Keith Fowler, and a few other recorders we managed to add a further 1000 records to the Shropshire cranefly database, meaning it now stands at approximately 10,000 records. This work has all been done towards a second edition of a Shropshire atlas as most people will know by now. This will reflect changes in known distribution and cover 250 Shropshire species. It will include synoptic keys to all Shropshire craneflies. It will show wing photographs for all genera and many species, and images of key features in identification for as many species as can be fitted in. The text will be at a draft stage by the end of this month and it should be published later this year. With British Craneflies (Stubbs in prep) looking like it won't emerge from its clearly very comfortable pupa until at least 2016, this book will provide a stop gap nationally, as 70% of the national fauna are found in Shropshire.

Quite a rare species was found during August when the Parnassus Cranefly *Dicranomyia aperta* was found at The Long Mynd. This species is known from a hand full of sites in North Yorkshire and is associated with mostly wet calcareous sites where Grass of Parnassus or Black-bog Rush grows. Neither plant is found on The Long Mynd but mildly calcareous seepages along Cardingmill Valley presumably deliver similar conditions, as that is where the fly was found. It is known as the Parnassus Cranefly as several flies were found on Parnassus flowers at the Yorkshire sites in the past.

Shropshire cranefly enthusiasts at Cardingmill Valley (yes there is more than just me!) (Photo: Pete Boardman

The fly was found on The Long Mynd whilst I was looking for another rare calcareous seepage fly, *Dicranomyia nigristigma*, which also turned up, so a very good day in August! These finds elevate The Long Mynd in terms of its rare craneflies to one of the most important Shropshire sites and can be added to Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR, the Wyre Forest, and Ironbridge's dingle woodlands as Shropshire's best cranefly sites.

During the year I identified the cranefly by catch from David Poynton's Rothampsted moth trap. Please see the separate article in this newsletter that details the results.

One of the most unexpected and spectacular cranefly finds of 2013 came via Bex Cartwright who discovered *Nephrotoma crocata* whilst carrying out pollinator surveys in an arable field boundary at Bolas Heath. A few of the craneflies were seen around sandy field margins where there were rabbit scrapings. The cranefly has only ever been found in three other locations in the county, an old record from Whixall Moss associated with peaty soils by Cyril Pugh (specimen in Manchester Museum collection), a pair in-cop were collected in the 1970's on Prees Heath (Liverpool Museum collection), and Dan Wrench saw a fleeting view of the fly at Llynclys Quarry in 2012.

Nephrotoma crocata (Photo: Bex Cartwright)

Whilst working on the atlas I reviewed many of the species craneflies in the Preston Montford insect collection and spotted a mistake amongst the *Paradelphomyia* species. What I had assumed was *Paradelphomyia dalei* (based too quickly it turns out on the 4 thoracic stripes) was actually *Paradelphomyia nielseni*. This species has three stripes but the abdomen was slightly damaged so it looked like four. What I should have done at the time was to look at the anal angle of the wing which is very shallow in *P. nielseni*. Also this species is slightly smaller than the other members of the genus (which are all smaller than a gnat's chuff – as the saying goes). It was particularly good news at *P. nielseni* hadn't been recorded in Shropshire since 1927.

As well as publishing the cranefly atlas in 2014, targets for the year are the craneflies of the Rea

Brook Valley, and I'd like to pursue further calcareous seepages around The Long Mynd and elsewhere in the county to see what other interesting species are out there. There is a list of cranefly visits arranged for Invertebrate Challenge folk to come along on so please get in touch if you'd like to join us.

Pete Boardman

The County Recorder Network

This information is accurate at the time of press. All these people carry out their roles as volunteers and we are indebted to their hard work.

Please note new instructions and re-organisation of the list since Vol. 7 with shieldbugs and long-horned beetles.

Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)

Butterflies – Tony Jacques
Email: b-mcvc40@talktalk.net

Macro-moths – Tony Jacques
Email: b-mcvc40@talktalk.net

Micro-moths – Godfrey Blunt
Email: blunt.sig195@btinternet.com

Odonata (damselflies and dragonflies)

Dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata) Sue McLamb –
Email: mclamb1@btinternet.com

Hemiptera (true bugs)

Terrestrial Bugs (now including **shieldbugs**), the Auchenorrhyncha and Psylloidea (Hemiptera) – Keith Fowler (assisted by Sue Hiatt –
Email: keith.c.fowler@blueyonder.co.uk

Aquatic Bugs (Hemiptera) – Frances Riding
Email: franrid@hotmail.com

Coleoptera (beetles)

All families except Ladybirds and water beetles – Caroline Uff –
Email: caroline.uff@nationaltrust.org.uk

Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) – Ian Thompson –
Email: salopladybirds@f2s.com

Water beetles – Frances Riding –
Email: franrid@hotmail.com

Diptera (true flies)

Hoverflies (Syrphidae) – Nigel Jones –
Email: nigelj@insectpix.net

Larger Brachycera (robber flies, horse flies, soldier flies etc), tachinid flies, conopid flies and picture-winged flies – Nigel Jones
Email: nigelj@insectpix.net

Nematocera (craneflies, winter gnats, bibionids, mosquitoes, etc) – Pete Boardman –
Email: pete@field-studies-council.org

Leaf-mining flies (Agromyzidae) – Godfrey Blunt
Email: blunt.sig195@btinternet.com

Other fly groups – Nigel Jones –
Email: nigelj@insectpix.net

Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants etc)

Aculeates (bees, wasps and ants) and sawflies (symphyta) – Ian Cheeseborough –
Email: ian.cheeseborough@yahoo.co.uk

Aquatic insects

Mayflies (Ephemeroptera) - Ian Thompson – Email: salopladybirds@f2s.com

Trichocera (Caddisflies) and Plecoptera (Stoneflies) – Frances Riding – Email: franrid@hotmail.com

Orthopteroids

Orthopteroids (Grasshoppers, Crickets, Ground hoppers, Earwigs etc) – David Williams Email: dw1971@btinternet.com

Arachnids

Spiders Harvestman Pseudoscorpions – The Shropshire Spider Group – Email: nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com

Hexapods

Collembola (Springtails) – Francisca Sconce – Email: fsconce@harper-adams.ac.uk

Others

Plant Galls (of whichever taxonomic order including mites) – Godfrey Blunt Email: blunt.sig195@btinternet.com

Everything else not covered above: Pete Boardman – Email: pete@field-studies-council.org

Dates for your diary

Here is a selection of entomological goings on in Shropshire and elsewhere that I am aware of. Please note all are subject to change and you should contact the nominated person ahead of the event.

SIG is the Shropshire Invertebrates Group – further details of events and to let Godfrey know you wish to attend at blunt.sig195@btinternet.com

SSG is the Shropshire Spider Group – further details of events from Nigel Cane-Honeysett at nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com

Invertebrate Challenge / Rea Brook Valley days – pete@field-studies-council.org

30/03/14 – The Hollies, Haughmond. SIG event – more details from Godfrey Blunt.

09/04/14 – Ecological Survey at Lea Quarry, Wenlock Edge – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

10/04/14 – Rea Brook Valley insect survey – contact Pete Boardman for more details

20/04/14 – SSG fieldwork at Oswestry Old Hillfort – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details.

27/04/14 – Lee Hill, Lee Brockhurst. SIG event – more details from Godfrey Blunt.

07/05/14 – Ecological Survey at Lea Quarry, Wenlock Edge – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

18/05/14 – Dudmaston - SIG event – more details from Godfrey Blunt.

25/05/14 – SSG fieldwork at Haughmond Hill (TBC) – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

27/05/14 – Rea Brook Valley insect survey – contact Pete Boardman for more details

04/06/14 – SSG fieldwork and setting up traps at Wyre Forest – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

11/06/14 – Ecological Survey at Lea Quarry, Wenlock Edge – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

15/06/14 – Maltkiln Lane, Tilstock. SIG event – more details from Godfrey Blunt.

19/06/14 - Rea Brook Valley insect survey – contact Pete Boardman for more details

23/06/14 – Basic spider ID at Severn Gorge Countryside Trust - contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

28/06/14 – SSG fieldwork at the Wyre Forest – examining the traps - contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

06/07/14 – Lodge Fields and Devils Dingle. SIG event – more details from Godfrey Blunt.

09/07/14 – Ecological Survey at Lea Quarry, Wenlock Edge – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

17/07/14 - Rea Brook Valley insect survey – contact Pete Boardman for more details

20/07/14 – SSG fieldwork at Devil's Dingle, Buildwas - contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

03/08/14 – Black Hill at Fiddler's Elbow (yes this is a real place and not something out of Pirates of the Caribbean). SIG event – more details from Godfrey Blunt.

13/08/14 – Ecological Survey at Lea Quarry, Wenlock Edge – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

17/08/14 – SSG fieldwork at Pennerley Meadows, Stiperstones - contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

10/09/14 – Ecological Survey at Lea Quarry, Wenlock Edge – contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

14/09/14 - Flounder's Folly, Callow Hill, Hopedale. SIG event – more details from Godfrey Blunt.

20 & 21/09/14 – IC Spider weekend (TBC) - contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett for more details

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ADVANCE NOTICE – Shropshire Entomology Day to mark the end of the Invertebrate Challenge Project – Preston Montford Field Centre – Sunday December 14th 2014. Please feel free to book your place via email to pete@field-studies-council.org

Submission guidelines for future articles for inclusion in *Shropshire Entomology*

It would help me tremendously if authors thinking of submitting articles to future editions of *Shropshire Entomology* used the following formats;
Font – title: **Palatino Linotype size 14 in bold**

Font – body: Palatino Linotype size 11

Font – caption for photo or table: Palatino Linotype size 10

Please wherever possible state authors for species mentioned in the title eg;

Craneflies and parallel universes – the rediscovery of *Phylidorea (Phylidorea) heterogyna* (Bergroth, 1913) at Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR

or in the text eg. *Phaeostigma notata* (Fabricius, 1781) if it is a species central to the article.

Photographs should ideally be above 200kb in size and I am happy to crop large photos to make the best use of space. **Please send photos as attachments rather than include them in the text of your article or if they are included in the article please don't wrap them in text or accompany them with a text box.** Please state the photographer's name or the source of the photograph.

Please send text in a word file without any formatting such as columns. Only use capital letters for site or people's names. Lower case letters should be used for vernacular or common species names with the exception of those named after someone e.g.; Fallen's leatherbug.

Many thanks

Pete Boardman – Editor.

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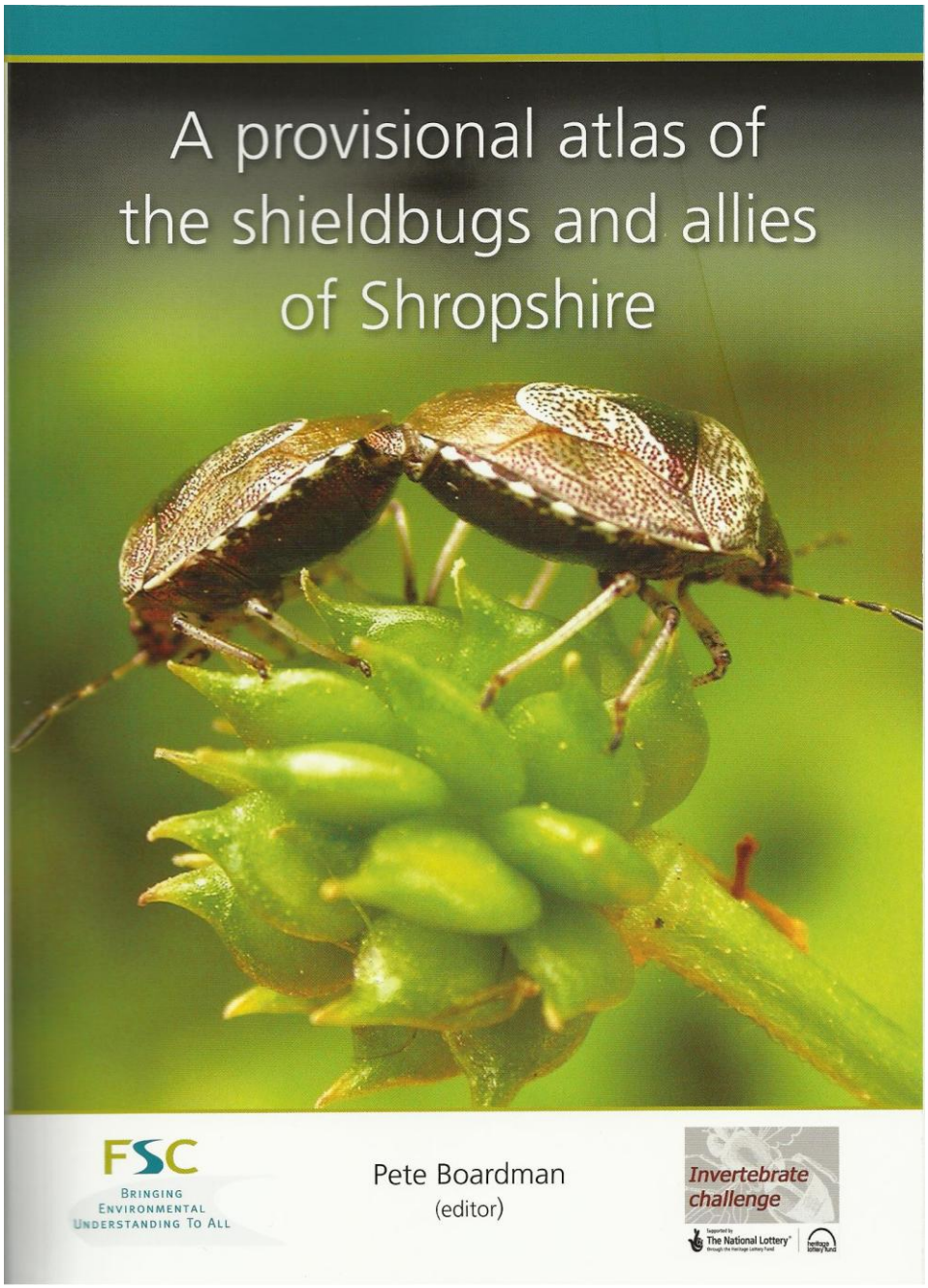

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All funds raised through the sale of this book will go towards publications of further Shropshire atlases.