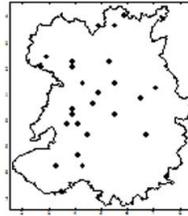


# Shropshire Entomology



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

April 2013 (Vol. 7)

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## ~ Welcome ~

Welcome to the 7th 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. Many thanks once more to everyone who has contributed to this edition and thanks to Steve McWilliam for proof-reading it. The deadline for submission of content for Vol. 8 is **September 20th 2013**. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to anyone you feel might be interested in it.

Perhaps the most wonderful thing about this volume is the list of new County Recorders who will now be helping to compile, manage, and verify records. Please do have a look at the new list and send your records to them for those groups listed. I think this is a real landmark showing how far we have come recently in Shropshire and a big thank you goes to those people involved.

Note – past newsletters are now available for download as PDF's from [www.invertebrate-challenge.org.uk/newsletters-and-resources.aspx](http://www.invertebrate-challenge.org.uk/newsletters-and-resources.aspx)

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**NOTE: Format change** – the **autumn** newsletter will be the usual mix of articles reflecting recording, exciting discoveries, entomological equipment, and all things entomological but the **spring** newsletter, alongside the usual mixture of stuff, will contain a review of the previous year by each of the County Recorders in the style of the old Record of Bare Facts that the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club used to produce. The aim of this is bring together in one place a review of each order or group of taxa so that information is readily found in one place.

## New County Recorder of Orthopteroid Insects

I have been recording Orthopteroids for the last two decades. For most of that time, being an entomologist in Shropshire seemed to be a solitary kind of existence. In recent times though, things have changed dramatically, as evidenced by the fantastic attendance at this year's Entomology Day. The increasingly vibrant community of entomologists in this county is largely due to the magnificent efforts of Pete Boardman. Continuing his 'recruitment drive', Pete has asked me to be the County Recorder for Orthopteroid insects and I am happy to oblige.



Female dark bush cricket (Severn Valley Country Park) Photo: David Williams

The Orthopteroids comprise the Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets), plus Phasmida (stick insects), Dictyoptera (cockroaches, mantids) and Dermaptera (earwigs).

The Shropshire fauna currently stands at a modest fourteen species:

- common green grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus* (Linnaeus, 1758),
- field grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus* (Thunberg, 1815),

- meadow grasshopper, *C. parallelus* (Zetterstedt, 1821),
- mottled grasshopper, *Myrmeleotettix maculatus* (Thunberg, 1815),
- common groundhopper, *Tetrix undulata* (Sowerby, 1806),
- slender groundhopper, *T. subulata* (Linnaeus, 1758),
- house cricket, *Acheta domesticus* (Linnaeus, 1758),
- oak bush cricket, *Meconema thalassinum* (De Geer, 1773),
- dark bush cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoaptera* (De Geer, 1773),
- bog bush cricket, *Metrioptera brachyptera* Linnaeus, 1761),
- speckled bush cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima* (Bosc, 1792),
- lesser earwig, *Labia minor* (Linnaeus, 1758),
- common earwig, *Forficula auricularia* (Linnaeus, 1758) and
- Lesne's earwig, *F. lesnei* (Finot, 1887).

However, four further species are present in Staffs and/or Worcestershire and heading our way at varying rates. In increasing order of proximity to Shropshire these are:

- lesser marsh grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus* (De Geer, 1773),
- short-winged conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis* (Latrielle, 1804),
- long-winged conehead, *C. fuscus* (formerly *C. discolor*, Thunberg, 1815) (Fabricius, 1793) and
- Roesel's bush cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii* (Hagenbach, 1822).

In fact there are already unconfirmed Shropshire records for the last two of these species.



Stridulating male Roesel's bush cricket (photographed in Hants) – Photo: David Williams

The great thing about the orthopteroids is that they are relatively large insects which can be identified in the field (and from decent quality photographs). In addition, most can (like birds) be recognised from their songs without even seeing them. Why can't all insects be this entomologist-friendly? There is therefore no excuse for not submitting lots of records!

[Ed. details of where to send records to David are in the County Recorder list later in this newsletter]

*David Williams*

## **A new entomology library at Preston Montford Field Centre**

One of the long term projects that we were keen to deliver was the provision of a dedicated entomology library for Invertebrate Challenge volunteers and other local entomologists as part of the HLF-funded Invertebrate Challenge project at Preston Montford. Now, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers the entomology library is very nearly sorted out and available to use.

In the autumn of 2012 Invertebrate Challenge funded the construction of shelving and glass fronted cabinets by a local tradesman, and over the winter volunteers catalogued the books compiled over a number of years by successive FSC Projects.



Invertebrate Challenge volunteers (left to right) Allan Dawes, Nigel Cane-Honeysett, Jim Cresswell & Colin Slater (aided by Keith Fowler and Lorcan Adrain (not pictured) during a heavy day's cataloguing (Photo: Pete Boardman)

These include identification guides and keys, journals, site reports, entomological CD-ROMs etc.



The new entomology library at Preston Montford (Photo: Pete Boardman)

Shortly a catalogue of books in an Excel file will appear on the Invertebrate Challenge website [www.invertebrate-challenge.org.uk/resources](http://www.invertebrate-challenge.org.uk/resources) (hopefully before the end of April) and requests

will be welcome to use any of the books or journals within the library. The file can be searched by order, author, subject, etc and a simple plan of the library shelves with a lay-out is contained on the 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet of the Excel file.

Please note – the library can be accessed when the Invertebrate Challenge project officer is working (email or call 01743 852041 before hand), or at other times by prior arrangement.

As you can see from the photo of the library shelving, there is space for more acquisitions and we would welcome donations of suitable entomological material that would be useful to other entomologists.

For more details please contact me.

*Pete Boardman*

## Juniper joy

My original outing for the afternoon on 6<sup>th</sup> October was cancelled and as it was a beautiful, sunny day I decided to go in search of shieldbugs instead. I had walked past a tall conifer hedge on the outskirts of Gobowen a few weeks ago on a cold, grey morning and had a quick look but to no avail so I thought I would try again.

I parked my car in Preeshenlle Lane, Rhewl and noticed a Lawson's cypress tree just across from where I had parked. I had a look and straight away found my very first juniper shieldbugs – 4 adults and 3 instars. I started to take photos then 3 little girls who were out for a walk came to see me and said "Warra ya doin?".

I replied I was photographing a shieldbug and pointed one out to them.

"Ugh, does it bite?" was their response.

"No', I replied, and isn't it beautiful".

They did not seem convinced and carried on with their walk.

I crossed over the St Martins' road and headed to the tall conifer hedge at the top of Rhewl Lane which I had seen previously. It consisted of a golden-leaved cultivar of Lawson's cypress. I soon found a juniper shieldbug, then another, and another and on and on – a total of 13 adults and 34 instars.



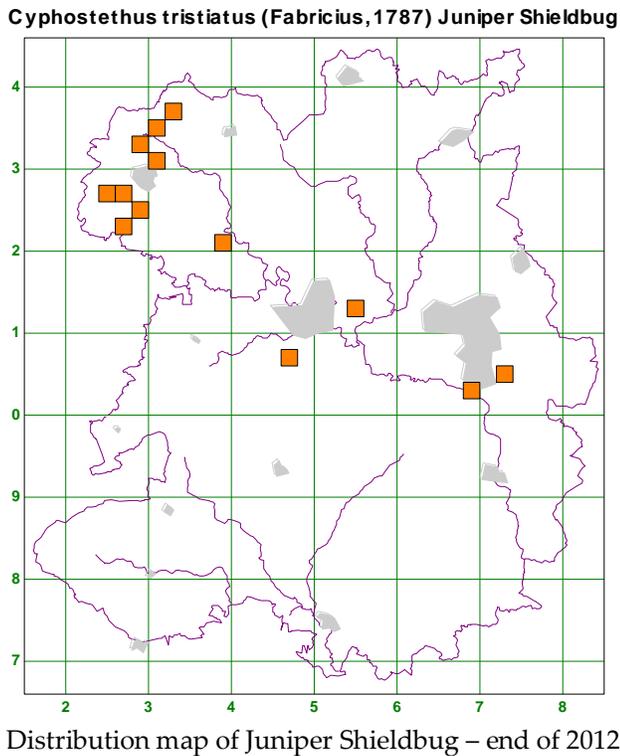
Juniper Shieldbugs at Rhewl. (Photo: Sue Swindells).

Some were in mixed clusters of adults and instars around the cones and others were individuals on the foliage. I could not believe my luck. I was so pleased to find my first juniper – but finding 54 – WOW!

*Sue Swindells*

[Ed. following Keith Fowler's first sighting of Juniper Shieldbug detailed in Shropshire Entomology Vol. 5 sightings have come thick and fast – but only in the north of the county. Is this a true reflection of the distribution of the insect in Shropshire? I can't really believe that is the case – so please do have a look at any Lawson's Cypress trees in your garden, or local churchyards, parks etc and pass on any records

of the species to me for inclusion in the shieldbug atlas. The current distribution map for Juniper Shieldbug is thus;



**The Shropshire Spider Group – update**

Having formed in February 2012 (see *Shropshire Entomology* Vol. 5 April 2012), the Shropshire Spider Group (SSG) continued its activities during 2012 with 4 Field Meetings at Brown Moss near Whitchurch and Hawkstone Park in March, Loamhole Dingle, Coalbrookdale in April, Wall Farm, Kynnersley in June and Postenplain in the Wyre Forest in July. Thanks to the Invertebrate Challenge project, expert help was available from Paul Lee at Preston Montford for general guidance and, more specifically, help with ID of difficult species in February, May, August, September and December.

Individual members also made their own forays to various sites round the County to collect and identify specimens.

As a result of all this activity we have submitted 555 spider records to the British Arachnological Society’s Spider Recording Scheme for 2012 – quite an increase over previous years, before the SSG took off, with only 1 record being reported from Shropshire in 2010 and 22 in 2011 most of which were from a single visit to Dothill by the Wrekin Forest Volunteers, the local Telford Shropshire Wildlife Trust group.

The 555 records covered 114 species including 6 not recorded before in Shropshire (table 1) of which 3 were JNCC Notable B species.

Species	Site	Status
<i>Diaea dorsata</i>	Billingsley Woodland	
<i>Porrhomma oblitum</i>	Stoney Hill Wildlife Site	Nationally Scarce
<i>Entelecara congenera</i>	Llanymynech Heritage Site	Nationally Scarce
<i>Evarcha arcuata</i>	The Crostan, Madeley Wood	Nationally Scarce
<i>Enoplognatha latimana</i>	Kemberton - Greenacres Farm	
<i>Steatoda grossa</i>	Troya, Ironbridge	

Table 1 – New species of spider recorded in Shropshire during 2012.

Altogether 73 different sites were visited across the county.

Perhaps the most spectacular species found were the cave spider (*Meta menardi*) at Hawkstone and the wasp spider (*Argiope bruennichi*) at Venus Pools.



Wasp spider (*Argiope bruennichi*) – (photo: Nigel Cane-Honeysett)

At the time of writing there are more records to be collected for specimens not yet identified or reported so the final total for 2012 could well exceed 600 with who knows how many more Shropshire “firsts” and/or scarce species.

Three meetings for 2013 have already been arranged – two lab sessions with Paul Lee in May and September and a visit to Liverpool Museum to view their Arachnid collection was held in March. A programme of field meetings for 2013 is currently being put together for the other months from April to October and will include sites located in Tetrads where very few or no spiders have so far been recorded.

Anyone interested in attending a field meeting (if only to come and point at things with lots of legs) or joining the Group (it’s free !) should contact Nigel Cane-Honeysett on [nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com](mailto:nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com) and a copy of the programme will be e-mailed to you when it is finalised, hopefully by the end of February.

*Nigel Cane-Honeysett*

[Ed – please see the ‘Dates for your diary’ section for more details of the SSG programme – but please contact Nigel for confirmation of dates)

## The 10th Coleopterists' Day: Oxford University Museum of Natural History



The Oxford University Museum of Natural History (Photo - Michael Reeve)

On February the 2nd 2013, the 10th Coleopterists' Day was hosted by Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Having never attended the event, there were no expectations as to what the day would bring however, attendance is definitely recommended for future events.

Attendees were given a warm welcome, which consisted of refreshments and access to the Museum's entomological collections. In the United Kingdom, the Hope Collections are only second in size and importance to the National Insect Collection at the Natural History Museum in London (OUNHM website).

The day continued with a gathering in the lecture theatre, where attendees were treated to a series of Coleoptera based presentations. There were five presentations in total, all delivered by different speakers:

1. Using traits to evaluate ladybird distributions – Richard Comont, CEH
2. *Prionus coriarius* in Richmond Park – John Lock

3. Suckers & sexual conflict in diving beetles – David Bilton, Plymouth University
4. Studying the ecology of British Oil Beetles – John Walters
5. New initiatives to support beetle recording in Britain – Helen Roy, BRC

All five speakers were informative and interesting however, the highlight was John Walter's presentation on the British Oil Beetles (Meloidae). The content delivered gave an interesting insight into a Coleopteran family with a fascinating life cycle; the larvae are cleptoparasitic on solitary mining bees. For further information, please refer to John's website.

The day concluded with a tour of the entomology department. The tour was a humbling experience; standing in a room, next door to where the Great Debate was held in 1860 and being shown specimens collected by Darwin himself.

The Entomology Curator, Darren Mann, extended an invitation for individuals to go and utilise the collections. The entomology department can be contacted directly in order to arrange an appointment to access the collections. Please refer to the website for further details and contacts.

It is an outstanding Museum with noteworthy entomological collections. Those who decide to visit the Museum, or attend future Coleopterists' Days, will not be disappointed.

### References

John Walters website -

<http://johnwalters.co.uk/research/oil-beetles.php>

The Great Debate -

<http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/learning/pdfs/debate.pdf>

Oxford University Natural History Museum Website (OUNHM) (Entomology Department) -

<http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/collect/entom.htm>

Michael Reeve (2004)

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fc/Oxf-uni-mus-nh.jpg>

*Michelle Furber*

## Welcome to the 100 club!

Punk rock was marginally just before my time though I've always looked on with envy at those who were at the London venue, The 100 Club, Oxford Street on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September 1976 to witness the '1<sup>st</sup> international punk festival' where the Sex Pistols, Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Clash, The Buzzcocks, The Stranglers and The Damned all played.



The Sex Pistols playing the 100 club  
(Photo:www.spoonfed.co.uk)

Though the capacity is only about 350 there are thousands of people who these days claim to have seen the Sex Pistols play there in 1976. Of course, no, we are not talking about punk rock's glory days, nor are we talking about Stephen Gerrard's recent milestone of 100 caps for the England football team. We are of course talking about the number of craneflies that are now known to occur at three sites in Shropshire (VC40). The sites are the Loamhole Dingle and Lydebrook Dingle complex at Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge; the Shropshire parts of Whixall &

Bettisfield Mosses (part of Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR) in north Shropshire; and the Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest, for all have now joined the previously memberless 100 club, i.e. sites that have had at least 100 species of craneflies recorded from them. (Note craneflies in this instance are defined as the true craneflies (Tipuloidea), fold-winged craneflies (Ptychopteridae) and the winter gnats (Trichoceridae)).

Loamhole and Lydebrook Dingles (SJ60) are two narrowly connected valleys in Coalbrookdale near Ironbridge that have long been known as entomological gems. They comprise deciduous dingle woodland with wet and dry constituents, hazel coppice, woodland rides and woodland edge, swamp, tufaceous deposits, an open pool, and offer good quantities of Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) in the dingle bottoms.



Dingle bottom at Loamhole Dingle (Photo: Pete Boardman)

Next to them are good quality conservation grassland at Wilderness, Ropewalk and Jigger's Bank meadows and they network in well with the wider Ironbridge woodlands. They sit at the north-eastern end of Wenlock edge and are close

to the River Severn. The sites are managed by the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust and Lydebrook Dingle is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Loamhole Dingle is approximately 6ha in size whilst Lydebrook is about 3 times that and in total the SGCT landholding is 32ha. (SGCT website).

Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR is one of nature conservation's best success stories after (the then) English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) bought (and leased part of) the site in 1991 to stop the destruction of one of our most important regional peat bodies. Since then the site has been managed by Natural England and CCW, and is gradually returning to functioning lowland raised mire, with areas of wet and dry heath, plus typical floodplain grassland surrounding the bog. For the sake of this article we are only interested in the approximately 200ha within Shropshire VC40 (Whixall and part of Bettisfield Moss) which has thankfully been surveyed well enough to use in this comparison.



Entomologists working Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR in 2012 (Nigel Jones foreground) (Photo: Pete Boardman)

The Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest (north-western part of SO77) is part of the ancient forest that at one time covered an area up to Highley and Bridgnorth. As well as the obvious woodland habitats that are deciduous and coniferous, there are areas of open grassland, wet heathland, carr, seepages, and streams.



Wet woodland within the Shropshire Wyre Forest near Button Oak (Photo: Pete Boardman)

There a variety of soils including calcareous clays. There are also several areas of conservation importance just over the border in Worcestershire, including the best known area for the rare crane fly *Ellipteroides alboscuteellatus*, which occurs only a couple of hundred metres from the Shropshire border. The areas of public access on the site are managed by the Forestry Commission though some of the forest is private land.

In terms of crane flies, Loamhole and Lydebrook were put on the map by the discovery of *Lipsothrix nobilis* (previously known as *L. nigristigma*) which became known as the 'Telford Crane fly' for a time before its true distribution status became clear. This followed survey work by Andy Godfrey a dozen or so years ago who carried out detailed searches of the dingle woodlands of the Marches to establish their importance for this and other crane flies of CWD

(Godfrey 2000, 2001 & 2002). *L. nobilis* had only previously been recorded historically from the South Lancashire dingles near Preston but is now known to be more widespread nationally, and within Shropshire following subsequent work in preparation for the Shropshire crane fly atlases (Boardman, 2007 & Boardman in prep).



*Lipsothrix nobilis* (Photo: Pete Boardman)

Godfrey's list of crane flies at the sites was added to by records from Dipterists Forum field meetings and the 2007 Shropshire crane fly atlas (Boardman, 2007) but during 2012, after the rediscovery of the uncommon woodland crane fly *Scleroprocta pentagonalis* by the author and Kat Woods in Loamhole Dingle, and an Invertebrate Challenge field trip their late in the summer the question occurred – how many species have been recorded here, and how might we gauge the quality of the site?

Cyril Henry Wallace Pugh (1890-1973) was the first Shropshire dipterist to work what is now Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR and he was followed roughly every twenty years by other well known fly workers who either added to Pugh's finds, or rediscovered some of them for a new generation. The site was studied in depth by Liverpool Museum in the early 1990's (Judd, 1993) following the declaration of the site as an NNR, and the author spent time studying the crane-fly fauna as part of a MSc dissertation (Boardman, 2005).

Pugh's most well known find was *Phylidorea heterogyna* in 1938, which was new to Britain at the time. The fly remained stubbornly un-rediscovered until an Invertebrate Challenge party comprising of the author, Keith Fowler and Jim Cresswell were the first to see it at the site in 75 years and with Pugh, remain the only dipterists ever to see the fly in Shropshire. (see Shropshire Entomology Vol. 6 for more details)



*Phylidorea heterogyna* habitat at Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR (Photo: Pete Boardman).

The author has studied the site since 2006 intermittently but new species have been found regularly, or species re-found that other workers first highlighted. How many more species might be found with more work?

The Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest has not had the same level of specialist attention as the previous two sites in terms of crane-fly recording over time; however the Wyre Forest Study Group has surveyed parts of the Shropshire forest regularly. Also in 2006 the WFSG survey of the Roxel facility and Baveney Brook Malaise trap samples were passed to the author who was able to add significantly to the species list. The majority of records outside of this survey have been put together by Worcestershire dipterist Mick Blythe, with useful contributions from Rosemary Winnall and John & Denise Bingham. With more work might other species turn up?

Had the question "which site in Shropshire has the most crane-fly species recorded?" been asked I would have without hesitation answered "Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR" and been confident with that assertion. However some doubt crept in my mind following the visits to Loamhole mentioned earlier in this article, and not much thought had been given to the Shropshire Wyre as a contender. Also I had based much of my assessment of crane-fly richness of Shropshire on species per tetrad rather than species per site, so further doubts were present. The three sites in question cover multi-tetrads and so consulting my databases and merging a variety of tetrads across the sites brought the following totals; Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR (tetrads SJ43X, SJ43Y & SJ53D) equals 106 species, the Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest (tetrads SO77C/D/E/I/J/N/P & T) equals 102 species, whilst the Loamhole and Lydebrook SSSI complex (tetrads SJ60N, SJ60S & SJ60T) equals exactly 100 species (see table 1).

Table 1 shows the species recorded at the three sites to make up the species quoted above.

Taxon	Loamhole / Lydebrook	Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses (VC40)	Wyre Forest (VC40)
<i>Antocha vitripennis</i>		1	1
<i>Atypophthalmus inustus</i>	1		
<i>Austrolimnophila ochracea</i>	2	2	2
<i>Cheilotrichia cinerascens</i>	3	3	3
<i>Crypteria limnophiloides</i>		4	
<i>Cylindrotoma distinctissima</i>	4		
<i>Dactylolabis transversa</i>	5		4
<i>Dicranomyia affinis</i>		5	
<i>Dicranomyia aquosa</i>	6		
<i>Dicranomyia autumnalis</i>	7	6	
<i>Dicranomyia chorea</i>	8	7	5
<i>Dicranomyia didyma</i>	9		
<i>Dicranomyia fusca</i>	10		6
<i>Dicranomyia lutea</i>	11		
<i>Dicranomyia mitis</i>	12	8	7
<i>Dicranomyia modesta</i>	13	9	8
<i>Dicranomyia morio</i>			9
<i>Dicranomyia ventralis</i>		10	
<i>Dicranophragma adjunctum</i>	14	11	
<i>Dicranophragma nemorale</i>	15	12	10
<i>Dicranota bimaculata</i>	16	13	
<i>Dicranota claripennis</i>			11
<i>Dicranota pavidata</i>	17		
<i>Dictenidia bimaculata</i>		14	
<i>Diogma glabrata</i>			12
<i>Dolichoheza albipes</i>	18	15	13
<i>Ellipteroides lateralis</i>			14
<i>Eloeophila apicata</i>			15
<i>Eloeophila maculata</i>	19		16
<i>Eloeophila submarmorata</i>	20		17
<i>Eloeophila verralli</i>			18
<i>Epiphragma ocellare</i>			19
<i>Erioconopa diuturna</i>	21		
<i>Erioconopa trivialis</i>	22	16	
<i>Erioptera divisa</i>		17	
<i>Erioptera flavata</i>		18	20
<i>Erioptera griseipennis</i>	23		
<i>Erioptera lutea</i>	24	19	21

<i>Erioptera nielsenii</i>		20	
<i>Erioptera squalida</i>			22
<i>Erioptera verralli</i>	25		
<i>Euphyllidorea dispar</i>	26		23
<i>Euphyllidorea lineola</i>	27	21	24
<i>Euphyllidorea meigeni</i>		22	
<i>Euphyllidorea phaeostigma</i>		23	
<i>Gnophomyia viridipennis</i>			25
<i>Gonempeda flava</i>	28		26
<i>Gonomyia conoviensis</i>			27
<i>Gonomyia recta</i>	29		
<i>Helius flavus</i>	30		28
<i>Helius longirostris</i>		24	
<i>Helius pallirostris</i>		25	
<i>Idioptera linnei</i>		26	
<i>Idioptera pulchella</i>		27	
<i>Ilisia occoecata</i>	31		29
<i>Limnophila schranki</i>	32	28	30
<i>Limonia flavipes</i>	33	29	31
<i>Limonia macrostigma</i>	34	30	32
<i>Limonia nigropunctata</i>	35		33
<i>Limonia nubeculosa</i>	36	31	34
<i>Limonia phragmitidis</i>	37	32	35
<i>Limonia trivittata</i>	38		36
<i>Lipsothrix errans</i>	39		
<i>Lipsothrix nervosa</i>	40		37
<i>Lipsothrix nobilis</i>	41		
<i>Lipsothrix remota</i>	42		38
<i>Metalimnobia bifasciata</i>		33	
<i>Metalimnobia quadrinotata</i>		34	
<i>Molophilus appendiculatus</i>	43	35	39
<i>Molophilus bifidus</i>	44		
<i>Molophilus cinereifrons</i>	45		
<i>Molophilus crassipygus</i>			40
<i>Molophilus curvatus</i>	46		
<i>Molophilus griseus</i>		36	
<i>Molophilus lackschewitzianus</i>			41
<i>Molophilus medius</i>	47	37	42
<i>Molophilus obscurus</i>		38	43
<i>Molophilus occultus</i>		39	
<i>Molophilus ochraceus</i>		40	
<i>Molophilus serpentiger</i>	48		44

<i>Molophilus undulatus</i>	49		
<i>Neolimnomyia batava</i>	50		45
<i>Neolimnomyia filata</i>	51		46
<i>Neolimnophila carteri</i>			47
<i>Neolimonia dumetorum</i>	52	41	48
<i>Nephrotoma analis</i>	53		
<i>Nephrotoma appendiculata</i>	54	42	49
<i>Nephrotoma crocata</i>		43	
<i>Nephrotoma flavescens</i>			50
<i>Nephrotoma guestfalica</i>			51
<i>Nephrotoma quadrifaria</i>	55	44	52
<i>Nephrotoma scurra</i>		45	
<i>Ormosia albitibia</i>			53
<i>Ormosia hederæ</i>		46	54
<i>Ormosia lineata</i>	56	47	55
<i>Ormosia nodulosa</i>	57	48	56
<i>Ormosia pseudosimilis</i>		49	
<i>Paradelphomyia fuscula</i>	58	50	57
<i>Paradelphomyia nielsenii</i>		51	
<i>Paradelphomyia senilis</i>	59	52	58
<i>Pedicia littoralis</i>	60		59
<i>Pedicia occulta</i>	61		60
<i>Pedicia rivosa</i>		53	61
<i>Pedicia straminea</i>	62		
<i>Phalacroceræ replicata</i>		54	
<i>Phylidorea ferruginea</i>		55	
<i>Phylidorea fulvonevosa</i>		56	62
<i>Phylidorea heterogyna</i>		57	
<i>Phylidorea squalens</i>		58	
<i>Pilaria discicollis</i>	63		
<i>Pilaria fuscipennis</i>			63
<i>Pilaria meridiana</i>		59	
<i>Pilaria scutellata</i>		60	
<i>Prionocera pubescens</i>		61	
<i>Prionocera subserricornis</i>		62	
<i>Prionocera turcica</i>		63	
<i>Pseudolimnophila lucorum</i>	64	64	
<i>Pseudolimnophila sepium</i>	65	65	64
<i>Ptychoptera albimana</i>	66	66	65
<i>Ptychoptera contaminata</i>	67		
<i>Ptychoptera lacustris</i>	68		66
<i>Ptychoptera longicauda</i>			67

<i>Ptychoptera minuta</i>		67	
<i>Ptychoptera paludosa</i>	69	68	68
<i>Rhipidia maculata</i>	70	69	69
<i>Rhypholophus bifurcatus</i>			70
<i>Rhypholophus varius</i>		70	
<i>Scleroprocta pentagonalis</i>	71		
<i>Symplecta hybrida</i>		71	
<i>Symplecta stictica</i>	72	72	
<i>Tanyptera atrata</i>		73	71
<i>Tasiocera fuscescens</i>	73		72
<i>Tasiocera murina</i>	74		73
<i>Tasiocera robusta</i>	75		
<i>Thaumastoptera calceata</i>	76		74
<i>Tipula alpium</i>		74	
<i>Tipula cava</i>		75	75
<i>Tipula confusa</i>		76	76
<i>Tipula fascipennis</i>		77	77
<i>Tipula flavolineata</i>	77	78	78
<i>Tipula fulvipennis</i>	78	79	
<i>Tipula hortorum</i>			79
<i>Tipula lateralis</i>	79	80	80
<i>Tipula luna</i>	80	81	81
<i>Tipula lunata</i>	81	82	82
<i>Tipula luteipennis</i>		83	
<i>Tipula maxima</i>		84	83
<i>Tipula melanoceros</i>		85	
<i>Tipula oleracea</i>	82	86	84
<i>Tipula pabulina</i>			85
<i>Tipula pagana</i>	83	87	
<i>Tipula paludosa</i>	84	88	86
<i>Tipula pierrei</i>		89	
<i>Tipula pseudovariipennis</i>	85		
<i>Tipula rufina</i>		90	
<i>Tipula scripta</i>	86	91	87
<i>Tipula selene</i>			88
<i>Tipula staegeri</i>	87	92	
<i>Tipula submarmorata</i>	88	93	89
<i>Tipula unca</i>		94	90
<i>Tipula variicornis</i>	89	95	91
<i>Tipula varipennis</i>	90	96	92
<i>Tipula vernalis</i>	91	97	93
<i>Tipula vittata</i>	92	98	94

<i>Trichocera annulata</i>	93	99	95
<i>Trichocera hiemalis</i>	94	100	96
<i>Trichocera parva</i>		101	97
<i>Trichocera regelationis</i>	95	102	98
<i>Trichocera rufescens</i>			99
<i>Trichocera saltator</i>	96		100
<i>Tricyphona immaculata</i>	97	103	101
<i>Tricyphona schummeli</i>		104	
<i>Trimicra pilipes</i>		105	
<i>Ulla mixta</i>	98		
<i>Ulla mollissima</i>	99		
<i>Ulla sylvatica</i>	100	106	102

Table 1 – craneflies recorded at the Loamhole / Lydebrook complex, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses (VC40) & the Shropshire Wyre Forest (VC40).

During a talk at the 2012 Shropshire Entomology Day I surmised that every tetrad in Shropshire should hold at least 30 species of craneflies including even the most unpromising habitats. It is assumed that everywhere within a Shropshire tetrad is a hedgerow, a patch of (ideally damp) grass (be it a road verge, field, lawn or whatever), a stream, brook, pond, drainage ditch or muddy puddle, a group of trees that may constitute a woodland, copse, spinney or even grouped trees in parks or gardens, and somewhere bryophytes can grow out of full sunlight. Collectively these illustrate most cranefly habitats. To use some rather shocking football metaphors, if 30 species per tetrad is the score needed to save relegation to the Championship, then mid-table obscurity must be about 50 species per tetrad and qualification for the Champions League must be approximately 80-110 species. With concerted work it would not be outside the bounds of possibility to find 100 species individually in tetrads SJ60N, SJ60S or SJ60T, and at Whixall certainly SJ43X is rich enough in terms of habitats to have all the 106 species found across the Whixall collective tetrads. Unfortunately I don't know the Wyre Forest well enough to judge whether all 102

species could be found in a single tetrad but it wouldn't surprise me if that was the case.

So this leaves the question – which site is next to join the 100 club and assured 'top four' status to push the football metaphor for one last time. My bet would be the jewel in the upland crown of Shropshire, The Long Mynd which covers most of the western half of SO49.



Good cranefly habitat at The Long Mynd (Photo: Pete Boardman)

The site list currently stands at 79 species for SO49A/B/C/D/E/F/G/H/I/L/M and N. Several obvious gaps exist such as no *Nephrotoma* species recorded, and several woodland species that should turn up in the more sheltered areas of Cardingmill Valley or in other patches of sheltered woodland around the Mynd. So the challenge for 2013 is to push the Long Mynd up to join the other three big-crane-fly-hitters in Shropshire, as well as to increase the number of tetrads across the county with a par score. It should be another interesting year!

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**websites**

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust  
[www.severngorge.org.uk](http://www.severngorge.org.uk)

*Pete Boardman*

**New county recorder – terrestrial  
Coleoptera**

Beetles are amazing – they can be found almost anywhere whatever the weather! There are over

4000 species in Britain and thanks to Invertebrate Challenge I have been able to spend time over the past few years learning much more about them. I've offered to help Pete collate many of the county beetle records for SEDN and for the national recording schemes.

I'll be looking at the terrestrial beetles with the exception of the ladybirds - which will continue to be recorded by Ian Thompson, and long-horned beetles which will be recorded by Pete Boardman until the production of the atlas – so please bear that in mind when sending in records. Frances Riding will be recording the aquatic species of beetle so please send records to her (email address is in the County Recorder section)

Happy beetling!!

Please send records to me at;  
[caroline.uff@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:caroline.uff@nationaltrust.org.uk)

*Caroline Uff*

**Websites I have loved**

**SOCC (species of conservation concern)  
SEARCHER**

You know that feeling when you find some insect and you think it might be rare or scarce. You just have to know if it is "officially" regarded as such! Well fairly instantaneous help is at hand. I stumbled across this website which allows you to simply type a species name into a nice big search box and then it returns with a designation, or not, for your chosen species.

Here is the address:  
<http://www.cucaera.co.uk/socc/>

The site draws on the huge spreadsheet of designated species created by the JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee). This includes protected species, BAP species, Red Data Book species and Nationally Scarce species.

*Nigel Jones*

Definitely worth a visit is Richard Comont's fantastic assemblage of Web ID resources – found at <http://insectrambles.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12/web-id-resources.html?m=1>

### Insect rambles

Wandering around, photographing insects...

FRIDAY, 28 DECEMBER 2012

#### Web ID resources

The internet has revolutionised natural history. More literature - keys, photo galleries, discussion threads - is more widely available now than at any previous point, and more and more experts are easily contactable to check what you've found. However, these resources are scattered far and wide across the web, buried in distant databases even Google barely knows, and often the hardest thing can be finding a reliable starting place.

I'm a biologist by trade, a naturalist by inclination, and since I first found the internet I've been collecting links on how to identify British wildlife. Chatting to a few friends has finally persuaded me to put the links somewhere useful! The links are grouped by family, sorted alphabetically by Class and then by Order, and are just sites I've found useful, mainly keys and galleries. I'm sure they're not comprehensive, but they're a start! **If you know of more, please do email me on richardcomont at gmail.com & I'll add them.**

The most important thing you can do with your sighting is to record it, and turn your sighting into a biological record. These records build into data, which can be used in myriad different ways - scientifically, to indicate the general health of the countryside, to determine the effects of an invasive species on native populations, or just to prove that this particular field is a wildlife haven that shouldn't be built on. None of it is possible unless you write down your findings!

*Pete Boardman*

## New Shropshire Collembola recorder

Hello Shropshire Entomologists, I met a few of you at the meeting in February, but I just wanted to introduce myself properly. I recently started a PhD at Harper Adams University studying Collembola (springtails) in Agroecosystems and I am now Collembola recorder for Shropshire. As such I welcome any requests for help with identification and I look forward to enthusing you all about Collembola. If you are not already convinced of their beauty then do look up *Dicyrtomina saundersi* now!

*Francisca Sconce*

[Ed – here you go!]



*Dicyrtomina saundersi* (Photo: J.J. Kent)

## Let's hear it for bugs!

.....Well for hemiptera actually. Ah! I really mean terrestrial hemiptera excluding shieldbugs and their allies. But - "Let's hear it for terrestrial hemiptera excluding shieldbugs and their allies" does not make for a very eye-catching or interesting title. And I would like you to be interested.

These beasts pop up all over the place yet not many records of sightings have been submitted. Are they too small compared to their bigger cousins, the shieldbugs? Are they not showy enough? Are they too hard to identify? Do you try but they escape from your net or trap before you have a chance to pot them? Do you regard them as disposable by-catch when in pursuit of your target species?

Yes, a lot of the group are small but there are plenty of larger species. Yes, a lot are little brown or little green jobs but many are beautifully or distinctively marked. Yes, a lot are hard to identify but many can be done easily by sight or with the aid of a hand lens. Yes, they do have the habit of hopping away from a receptacle just as you are about to capture them but approaching

from behind with the sun (when it deigns to shine) in front usually makes it easier. And I can only try to influence how single-minded you are when in pursuit of your chosen species.

To help me to get you interested I am going to describe a few species that should be easy to identify when you come across them. Please keep a look out for these species and, of course, submit records of your sightings.

**Family: Cercopidae**

**Cercopis vulnerata Rossi 1807** The “red and black” froghopper. It is colourful – a red and black check pattern, it is large – about 1cm. in length and it can be identified by sight – so no need to capture! It occurs in a variety of wooded and open habitats. Adults can be found between April and August.



*Cercopis vulnerata* Photo © Maria Justamond

**Family: Cicadelliae**

**Cicadella viridis (Linnaeus 1758)** A largish species (length 6 – 8 mm.) that can be found in damp and marshy grassland areas. The head is yellowish with a few dark spots. The pronotum is yellowish at the front and green at the rear (which is distinctive). The forewings of the sexes are differently marked - the male has dark blue-

purple forewings whereas the female has bright turquoise green. Adults can be found between July and October



*Cicadella viridis* Photo – © Tristan Bantock

**Evacanthus interruptus (Linnaeus 1758)** Another largish species (length 5.5 – 6.5 mm.) found in grasslands and scrub. It has a striking black and yellow broad striped pattern, although this can be variable; however it is a very distinctive hopper. Adults are about from June to October.



*Evacanthus interruptus* Photo – © Tristan Bantock

**Ulopa reticulata (Fabricius 1794)** An attractive small bug (length 3mm.) exclusively found on heather. It is usually found at the base of the plant but will turn up in your net if you sweep heather. As can be seen from the photograph it has quite a distinctive shape. Its forewings are heavily and coarsely punctured and normally

there are two pale bands across them. Adults are around all year.



*Ulopa reticulata* Photo – © Tristan Bantock

***Graphocephala fennahi* Young 1977** Known as the rhododendron leafhopper as its food plant is Rhododendron. It is a large bug (length 8 – 10 mm.) and, being a North American native, a rather gaudy but unmistakable mix of green, red and yellow with a black stripe between the eyes for good measure. Adults can be found from July through to November.



*Graphocephala fennahi* Photo – © Tristan Bantock

***Ledra aurita* (Linnaeus 1758)** This is a very large grey bug (length 13 – 18 mm.) with a very distinctive and rather bizarre shape having an elongated flattened head and large projections arising from its pronotum. It can be found on lichen covered trees, particularly oaks. But you

will need a keen eye as it is very well camouflaged.



*Ledra aurita* Photo – © Tristan Bantock

This creature has been adopted as the web-site name and newsletter title for the Auchenorrhyncha Recording Scheme for Britain & Ireland – website – [www.ledra.co.uk](http://www.ledra.co.uk)

**Family: Delphacidae**

***Conomelus anceps* (Germar 1821)** This is a small species (length 4 mm.) It is usually brachypterous (short-winged) and the wings are pale with dark spots on the pale veins and have darker bands at their base and hind margin. (There may be indistinct paler areas along the otherwise darker hind margin – if these are distinct semi-circular patches then you may have come across the rarer *Euconomelus lepidus* (Boheman 1847).) It is a common species feeding on rushes in damp habitats. Adults can be found from June through to November.



*Conomelus anceps* Photo – © Tristan Bantock

**Family: Miridae**

**Pantilius tunicatus (Fabricius 1781)** This is a large (length 8-10mm.) bug which can be found on the lower branches of hazel, alder and birch. It is wonderfully marked although its colouring can be variable. I particularly like the antennae with the hoops of pale colour on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> segments. Adults can be found from September to October and may overwinter. (see Shropshire Entomology Vol. 3 for an earlier Shropshire account).



*Pantilius tunicatus* Photo © Maria Justamond

**Heterotoma planicornis (Germar 1821)** This is another distinctive species. Its antennae have a second segment that is broad and flattened and

look too heavy for the rest of the bug. Its ground colour is dark but its legs are green. It is about 5mm. in length. It is abundant and found on various plants and trees especially nettles. Adults can be found from July through to October.



*Heterotoma planicornis* Photo © Maria Justamond

**Family: Anthocoridae**

**Anthocoris nemorum (Linnaeus 1761)** As my last species to keep a look out for I am including an extremely common bug which needs a bit of care to separate it from a couple of similar species. It is known as the common flower bug and can be found on almost any plant, preferring the lower vegetation to trees. The wings are entirely reflective so you may need to manoeuvre the bug to check this (the similar species have matt areas) and the dark patch on the membrane of the wing resembles an hourglass (the similar species have a more significant darker area at the tip of the membrane). Overall its wings are paler than the similar species. Its length is about 4mm. Adults can be found all year



*Anthocoris nemorum* Photo © Maria Justamond

So while you are looking for flies, bees, wasps, beetles, dragonflies, spiders or whatever your particular fancy please keep an eye out for these bugs.

**Acknowledgements**

Tristan Bantock and Joe Botting authors of the British Bugs website [www.britishbugs.org.uk](http://www.britishbugs.org.uk) for information about each species and permission to use their photographs.

Maria Justamond for permission to use her photographs

(Ed. You can find Keith’s contact details as County Recorder for Terrestrial Hemiptera below in the County Recorder section).

**Distribution atlas updates – your help needed!**

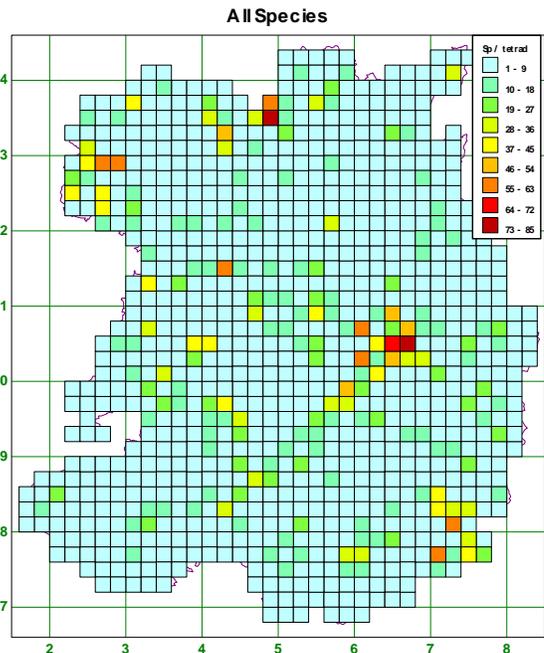
In recent Shropshire Entomology newsletters I’ve published notices concerning news on the forthcoming distribution atlases of a variety of taxa in Shropshire. You may recall that through Invertebrate Challenge, the FSC will be publishing atlases for the craneflies and allies, micro-lepidoptera, aculeate hymenoptera, shieldbugs and allies, and the long-horned

beetles. With the exception of craneflies (which is a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) all the other atlases will be new pieces of work for VC40.

Originally we had hoped to be publishing them over the winter of 2012/2013 but because of a change of circumstances at work I have an extended time now to oversee them and therefore they will now be published over the period of early to mid 2014. The advantage of this is it enables more recording time and so we’d welcome records or help in recording from anyone who’d like to become involved during this final year of recording for each of the atlases.

**Update – cranefly atlas**

The cranefly atlas has progressed the most and during 2012 a small team of recorders made sure that we had at least one cranefly record for every tetrad in Shropshire. It was no mean undertaking and I clocked up over 7000 miles during the year – the equivalent of driving from Shropshire to Indonesia! There still remains much to be done though as can be seen from the map below which illustrates the current distribution of tetrad recording.



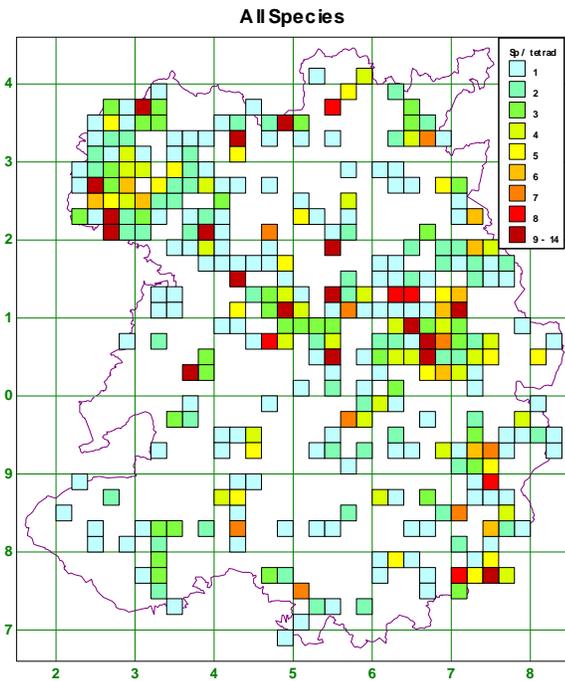
Distribution of Shropshire craneflies to the end of 2012.

The pale blue colouring shows tetrads where 1-9 species have been recorded. In my opinion there should be a minimum of 30 species in every tetrad in Shropshire which means very many tetrads could benefit from recording even the most commonly found species.

Pete Boardman: [pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto:pete@field-studies-council.org)

Update – shieldbugs and allies

The shieldbug atlas is moving along nicely and a group of recorders recently met at Preston Montford to examine the most up to date distribution maps ahead of the field season. We also looked at potential new species that may be found using the maps on the NBN Gateway as a guide to national distribution. Shieldbug recording dates were fixed (see ‘Dates for your diary’) and some people have volunteered to target other under-recorded areas.



All Shropshire shieldbug records to date

We will be meeting up on June 30<sup>th</sup> for a mid-season assessment of how recording has gone and setting targets for the last half of the year.

Currently the map of all shieldbug sightings shows a biased distribution to where the recorders live, or the known best sites and this will hopefully change due to targeted recording this year. Individually, maps of the common species show a reasonable distribution, and the distribution of some of the specialist or more uncommon species have improved following targeted recording in 2012.

Ahead of the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, please send all 2013 spring and early summer records to me for June 24<sup>th</sup> (Midsummer’s day)

Pete Boardman: [pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto:pete@field-studies-council.org)

Update – micro-lepidoptera

Godfrey Blunt writes “There are now 11,163 records on the database, representing nearly 800 species of micro moths. We have records for about 370 of the 900 tetrads in Shropshire. 2012 saw significant advances in recording at key areas which were previously under-recorded or from which we had few modern records: Llanymynech / Llyncllys Common, Whixall Moss and Prees Heath. Many additional records for Stiperstones have now been added as a result of cataloguing David Poynton's collection (still ongoing), and Wyre Forest has had continual recording for over a decade, so only the Long Mynd remains as a key Shropshire site still clearly under-recorded for micro-moths. 2012 also saw the addition of 19 species to the county's list.

We have three fieldwork goals for 2013: (i) to cover as many as possible of the 530 tetrads still without records, (ii) detailed coverage of the Long Mynd, and (iii) targeted searches for a handful of species such as the Mistletoe Leaf Miner (*Celypha woodiana*) which may well be present in the county but are not yet recorded.

The aim is to have all data entered by the end of the year, and a provisional write-up of species accounts will also be done by the end of the year, leaving

the early part of 2014 for updating of accounts before submission for printing. Let's hope it all goes to plan!"

Godfrey Blunt; [blunt.sig195@btinternet.com](mailto:blunt.sig195@btinternet.com)

Update – aculeate hymenoptera

The atlas is progressing nicely with Nigel and myself working on the accounts for all of the recorded species which to date, number 295. A total of 7 new to Shropshire were added last season and it is to be hoped that we can smash through the 300 barrier over the spring and summer.

It is fantastic to be adding new records and new species from the efforts of other recorders including David Williams, Keith Fowler and John Bingham. A big thank you to them. Roll in spring now!

Aculeate hymenoptera: Ian Cheeseborough [ian.cheeseborough@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ian.cheeseborough@yahoo.co.uk) or Nigel Jones [nigelj@insectpix.net](mailto:nigelj@insectpix.net)

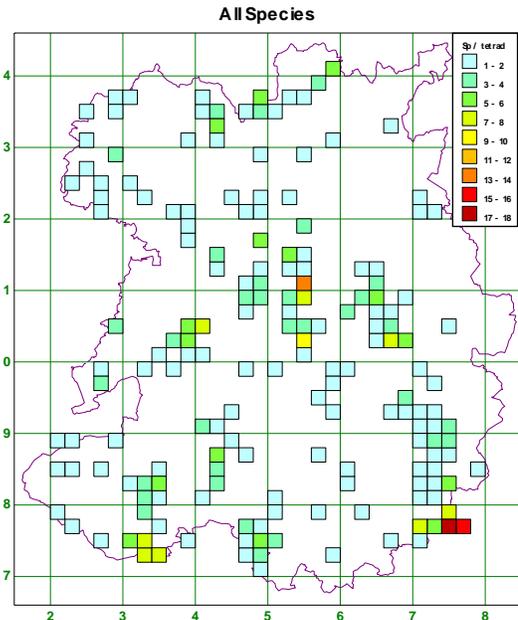
Update – long-horned beetles

Work on the long-horned beetle atlas (Cerambycidae) is also moving onwards and the long-horned beetle recorders group are due to meet at Preston Montford in the coming weeks to look at a strategy for recording and to receive and update on the species maps.

This group of insects more than any of the previous atlas groups offer the most scope for new discovery as traditionally these insects have been less well recorded in Shropshire and several species to date are represented by only single or a handful of records.

It was decided to combine field days with shieldbug recording days (see dates for your diary) and the Invertebrate Challenge beetle group also have a number of days set aside to look also, so hopefully we can improve the

species and overall distribution maps significantly during the year.



Shropshire long-horned beetle records to date (not including BRC database).

It remains to be seen what the national database will add to the Shropshire database, and what sort of year we have for long-horned beetles.

Pete Boardman: [pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto:pete@field-studies-council.org)

*Pete Boardman / Godfrey Blunt / Ian Cheeseborough & Nigel Jones*

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIGHT?  
(Microscope illumination on a budget)**

So you're on a tight budget and have just begged, borrowed or otherwise obtained a microscope. You've just found out that that it doesn't have a decent built-in light source, if at all, and a separate light source is going to cost a couple of limbs and, unlike spiders and craneflies, you can't afford to lose any (applies to

some of us more than others). Or your trusty Flexispot, that you've only had for twenty years or more so it should be still OK, has just packed up. Or your Heath Robinson MkIV has just given you your 19<sup>th</sup> electric shock and you're tired of putting the fillings back in your teeth. Or your partner, irrationally, refuses to hold your bicycle torch perfectly still for more than a couple of hours at a time. Where do you look?

Well a group of us went down to a certain Microscope manufacturer in Wiltshire to spend our pocket money for the rest of the year (and most of next) on some microscopic (I think that's the word I want but they weren't really that small) goodies and happened to see an interesting desk lamp that did a reasonable impression of a dedicated light source. It transpired that it came from a well known Scandinavian purveyor of all things domestic with bizarre names. So, on the way back from a visit to Reading, I girded up my loins (as you do - but it's not a pretty sight) and braved the crowds in a branch of the dreaded aforementioned establishment just off Junction 9 of the M6. After putting on some more clothes they finally stopped throwing me out and let me in.

Dodging around Brokkors, Nargars and Bollos (the last one is real!) I found the lamp and discovered that it is called Jansjo. It has a long flexible neck (just over 46cm or around 18" in old money) on the end of which is a 3W single LED. I popped two in my trolley (along with some Grukkas and a couple of Bemjis) and brought them home to "evaluate".

Well it's not as good as my £150 twin necked LED light as it isn't as bright, has a "warmer" light and isn't dimmable but it has got a longer neck, did well enough on all the spider specimens I tried it on and only costs a tenner! Having decided that it was well worth a recommendation I then received my copy of the latest British Arachnological Society's newsletter and, blow me down if there wasn't an article in

there from a well respected member who's Flexispot had indeed packed up and he had replaced it with a "Tived", at £25, from the same source as my Jansjo.



The Tived and Jansjo lights from the Ikea website

Getting up from the floor I read the rest of the article. As far as I can see the "Tived" has a longer neck than the Jansjo but has the same 3W LED arrangement on the end. The article's author found it "as good as the Flexispot" (the bees knees some while ago) and has used it for identifying both spiders (under alcohol) and hoverflies. Both lamps are available on a solid base or have a clamp arrangement for fixing to a desk.

So, to conclude, if you are looking for a budget primary light source for microscope work or a backup or supplementary lighting system I would certainly recommend the Jansjo or, if you feel you need the extra neck length or wish to clamp it to the desk, the Tived, as it also has a much more substantial clamping arrangement. Personally I'd go for the Jansjo but you may wish to have a look at both yourselves before deciding.

*Nigel "girded loins" Cane-Honeysett (Sorry Ed.)*

Whilst we are in equipment corner.....Don McNeil sent me details of the Newton microscope which has been developed especially for hospitals etc in the developing world and is now available. It will be an ideal travelling scope for entomologists, bryologists and mycologists

etc having high power, proper x/y stage etc and high quality optics. It also has an I-phone adapter. For more info visit these websites.

[http://www.gxoptical.com/html/newton\\_portable\\_microscope.html](http://www.gxoptical.com/html/newton_portable_microscope.html)  
<http://cambridgeoptronics.com/>

*Pete Boardman via Don McNeil*

**More Ladybird zombie killer action please!**

In Shropshire Entomology Vol.5 Keith Fowler wrote an article concerning the braconid wasp *Dinocampus coccinellae* (Schrank, 1802), known for its parasitic behaviour with ladybirds. At the time the checklist we use on the SEDN invertebrate database didn't recognise this species but it now does so could I ask people who may have been recording the ladybird zombie killer, or have seen it but haven't made a record of where, to please send me records so that we may update our distribution maps.

Many thanks

*Pete Boardman*

**SEDN update – Invertebrates excluding lepidoptera and odonata**

Many thanks to those who sent me invertebrate records during 2012 for inclusion onto the SEDN database. I was able to add just over 13,000 records of invertebrates (not including lepidoptera or odonata which are dealt with by Tony Jacques and Sue McLamb respectively). We know have a fraction under 4500 species

listed on the database and a total of 57000+ records.

The SEDN is shortly, I believe, to have its own website, and of course all records do end up on the NBN Gateway (with a little lag). If there are any particular species you wish to see the distribution of (obviously excluding lepidoptera or odonata) please let me know and I'll forward the distribution map to you.

Thanks again to everyone who submitted records for 2012, and a reminder - the best way to submit records is to contact the relevant county recorder as listed below.

*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. 6.**

**Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)**

Butterflies – Tony Jacques  
Email: [b-mcvc40@talktalk.net](mailto:b-mcvc40@talktalk.net)

Macro-moths – Tony Jacques  
Email: [b-mcvc40@talktalk.net](mailto:b-mcvc40@talktalk.net)

Micro-moths – Godfrey Blunt  
Email: [blunt.sig195@btinternet.com](mailto:blunt.sig195@btinternet.com)

**Odonata (damselflies and dragonflies)**

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

## Hemiptera (true bugs)

Terrestrial Bugs (except shieldbugs) and the Auchenorrhyncha (Hemiptera) – Keith Fowler (assisted by Sue Hiatt –  
Email: [keith.c.fowler@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:keith.c.fowler@blueyonder.co.uk)

Shieldbugs – Pete Boardman – Email:  
[pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto:pete@field-studies-council.org)

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

## Coleoptera (beetles)

All families except Cerambycidae, Ladybirds and water beetles – Caroline Uff –  
Email: [caroline.uff@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:caroline.uff@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Long-horned beetles (Cerambycidae) – Pete Boardman  
Email: [pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto:pete@field-studies-council.org)

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

Water beetles – Frances Riding –  
Email: [franrid@hotmail.com](mailto:franrid@hotmail.com)

## Diptera (true flies)

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

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

Leaf-mining flies (Agromyzidae) – Godfrey Blunt

Email: [blunt.sig195@btinternet.com](mailto:blunt.sig195@btinternet.com)

Other fly groups – Nigel Jones –  
Email: [nigelj@insectpix.net](mailto:nigelj@insectpix.net)

## Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants etc)

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

## Aquatic insects

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

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

## Orthopteroids

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

## Arachnids

Spiders – The Shropshire Spider Group –  
Email: [nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com](mailto:nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com)

## Hexapods

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

## Others

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

Everything else not covered above: Pete Boardman –

Email: [pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto: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](mailto:blunt.sig195@btinternet.com)

SSG is the Shropshire Spider Group – further details of events from Nigel Cane-Honeysett at [nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com](mailto:nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com)

Shieldbug / long-horned beetle days – [pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto:pete@field-studies-council.org)

**14/04/13 – SIG trip to Merrington Green (near Bomere Heath).**

21/04/13 – SSG trip to Quarry Wood near Hinstock.

**26/05/13 – SIG trip to Mahorall Farm orchards.**

**01/06/13 - shieldbug and long horned beetle atlas field day (Hope Dale to Clee Hill)**

**02/06/13 – SSG trip to Rob’s Acre (north of Ludlow)**

**09/06/13 – SIG trip to Melverley Farm (near Whitchurch)**

**16/06/13 - Moths of Fenns & Whixall Mosses, Shropshire / Denbighshire – £25. Further details**

from Dave Grundy - [dgcountryside@btinternet.com](mailto:dgcountryside@btinternet.com)

**18/06/13, Woodland Moths at Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre, Alveley, Shropshire – £25. Further details from Dave Grundy – [dgcountryside@btinternet.com](mailto:dgcountryside@btinternet.com).**

**30/06/13 – shieldbug recording group mid-season get together (venue to be confirmed)**

**07/07/13 – SIG trip to Preston Montford Field Centre (near Shrewsbury)**

**14/07/13 - shieldbug and long horned beetle atlas field day (Ludlow area)**

**23/07/13 - shieldbug and long horned beetle atlas field day (Long Mynd)**

**28/07/13 – SSG trip to Ifton Meadows near St. Martins**

**11/08/13 - shieldbug and long horned beetle atlas field day (Much Wenlock woodlands)**

**17/08/13 - shieldbug and long horned beetle atlas field day (S.E. Clun uplands)**

**18/08/13 – SIG trip to Coalmoor, Telford.**

**25/08/13 – SSG trip to Wenlock Edge**

**25/08/13 – Preston Montford Bio-blitz – to register email [enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org)**

**14/09/13 – SSG trip to the Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest (with WFSG)**

**15/09/13 – SIG trip to Offa’s Dyke at Llanfair Hill.**

**Wyre Forest Study Group events**  
(for more details contact Harry Green  
zen130501@zen.co.uk)

<b>April</b>	<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Lampreys and Mayflies</b>	
Leaders: Brett Westwood and Mike Averill Meet in Dry Mill Lane car park SO771762	
<b>May</b>	<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Riverside Plants and Dragonflies</b>	
Leaders: Rosemary Winnall and Mike Averill Meet in Blackstone Riverside car park SO790741	
<b>June</b>	<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Hanging Bogs and Heather Bugs</b>	
Leaders: John Bingham and Brett Westwood Meet in Visitor Centre car park SO750740	
<b>July</b>	<b>SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Plant Galls</b>	
Joint meeting with British Plant Gall Society	
Leader: Pete Shirley Meet at 10.30 Visitor Centre car park SO750740	
<b>August</b>	<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Forest Invertebrates</b>	
Leader: Rosemary Winnall Meet in Visitor Centre car park SO750740	
<b>September</b>	<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>The Wyre Spider Hunt!</b>	
Leader: Brett Westwood Meet in Visitor Centre car park SO750740	

**Submitting 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. *Phaestigma 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.