

Shropshire Shieldbug Atlas information pack

The Invertebrate Challenge, a 3 year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, is putting together a distribution atlas of Shieldbugs and their allies to be published during 2013. The atlas will be based upon the historical data within the Shropshire Environmental Data Network (SEDN) database, targeted field work, plus volunteer contributions. It will be aimed at amateur naturalists and members of the public with an interest in insects (such as wildlife gardeners etc), and all records will be added to the SEDN database and on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway. Maps will be displayed at a 2km x 2km detail (tetrad) for all species and where possible a photograph of each species as an adult will be displayed alongside the distribution map and observations.



Sloe Bugs *Dolycoris baccarum* : Pete Boardman

The **minimum** amount of information needed is;

Species name – either English name or a taxonomic name, i.e. Green Shieldbug or *Palomena prasina*.

Site name - such as Preston Montford Field Centre, with grid reference. Ideally six figure – eg. SJ432144 or four figure eg. SJ4314 is acceptable. If the record is from a private garden a **post code** is acceptable and I can later convert it into a grid reference.

Recorder Name – ie the person who recorded the species eg. Pete Boardman

Determiner Name – where the person who identified the species isn't the person who found it – eg. Where a photo is sent for identification etc

Date on which you made the sighting - in the following format if sending in excel – 24/10/11 or 24/10/2011.

Optional information;

How many? The default setting assumes a single sighting.

Habitat information on any of the uncommon species listed in the table.

If possible please note any plant associations (particularly if egg-laying or eggs are found). Please note any other associations – such as food of predatory species, or behavior noted.

If you wish to send photos of shieldbugs for identification or submit records, please send to **pete@field-studies-council.org** - All recorders will be credited in the finished publication. Please see the map of all current shieldbug locations on the back page.

Taxonomic list of Shropshire species and potential Shropshire species in the recording atlas project (names as per MapMate recording software)

Pentatomoidea - shieldbugs

Acanthosomatidae

Acanthasoma haemorrhoidale (Linnaeus, 1758) Hawthorn Shieldbug

Cyphostethus tristriatus (Fabricius, 1787) Juniper Shieldbug

Elasmotethus interstinctus (Linnaeus, 1758) Birch Shieldbug

Elasmucha grisea (Linnaeus, 1758) Parent Bug

Scutelleridae

Eurygaster testudinaria (Geoffrey, 1785) Tortoise Bug

Cydnidae

Legnotus limbosus (Geoffrey, 1785) Bordered Shieldbug

Sehirus bicolor (Linnaeus, 1758) Pied Shieldbug

Sehirus biguttatus (Linnaeus, 1758) Cow-wheat Shieldbug

Sehirus luctuosus Mulsant & Rey, 1886 Forget-Me-Not Shieldbug

Pentatomidae

Graphosoma lineatum (Linnaeus, 1758) Striped Shieldbug **VAGRANT**

Aelia acuminata (Linnaeus, 1758) Bishop's Mitre Shieldbug

Neottiglossa pusilla (Gmelin, 1789) Small Grass Shieldbug

Eysarcoris fabricii (Kirkaldy, 1904) Woundwort Shieldbug

Palomena prasina (Linnaeus, 1761) Green Shieldbug

Dolycoris baccarum (Linnaeus, 1758) Sloe Bug

Piezodorus lituratus (Fabricius, 1789) Gorse Shieldbug

Pentatoma rufipes (Linnaeus, 1758) Forest Bug

Eurydema oleracea (Linnaeus, 1758) Brassica Bug

Picromerus bidens (Linnaeus, 1758) Spiked Shieldbug

Troilus luridus (Fabricius, 1775) Bronze Shieldbug

Rhacognathus punctatus (Linnaeus, 1758) Heather Shieldbug

Zicrona caerulea (Linnaeus, 1758) Blue Bug

Coreoidea – squashbugs, scentless plant bugs, spurge bugs

Coreidae

Coreus marginatus (Linnaeus, 1758) Dock Bug

Arenocoris falleni (Schilling, 1829) Fallen's Leatherbug

Ceraleptus lividus Stein, 1858 Slender-horned Leatherbug

Coriomermis denticulatus (Scopoli, 1763) Denticulate Leatherbug

Leptoglossum occidentale (Heidemann, 1910) Western Conifer Seedbug

VAGRANT

Rhopalidae

Corizus hyoscyamii (Linnaeus, 1758)

Rhopalus subrufus (Gmelin, 1788)

Chorosoma schillingii (Schummel, 1829)

Myrmus miriformis (Fallén, 1807)

Stictopleurus abutilon (Rossi, 1790)

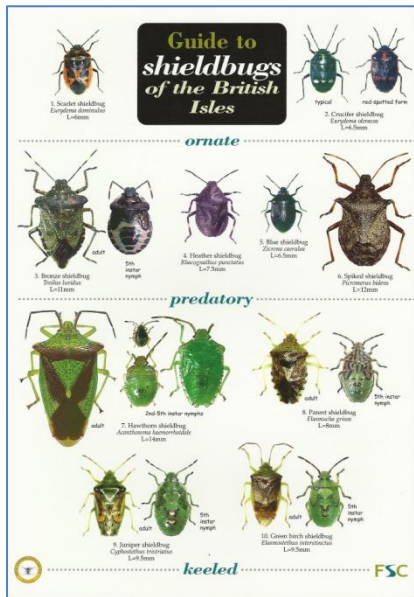
Stictopleurus punctatonevrosus (Goeze 1778)

Stenocephalidae

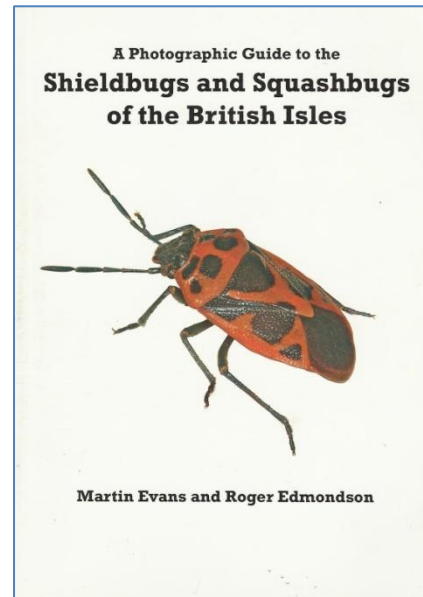
Dicranocephalus medius (Mulsant & Rey, 1870)

Identification Resources

There are a number of good resources to help you identify and learn more about Shieldbugs and their allies. We highly recommend these;



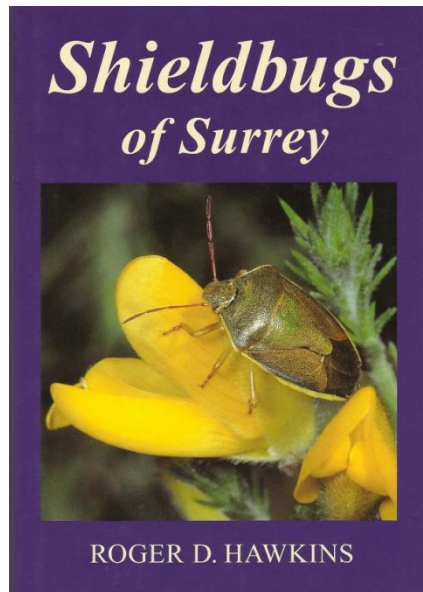
FSC Guide to shieldbugs of the British Isles – included in this information pack



A Photographic Guide to the Shieldbugs and Squashbugs of the British Isles by Martin Evans and Roger Edmondson.

Approximately £15.00

Excellent guide to all Shropshire shieldbug and squashbugs with excellent large photographs and full of useful information on life histories.



The Shieldbugs of Surrey by Roger D. Hawkins.

Approximately £17.50

Based upon 25 years of the author's experience, a fabulous guide to the shieldbugs, squashbugs, and allies (note – allies are not included in the previous two titles). All Shropshire species are included.



British Bugs

www.britishbugs.org.uk

Brilliant online resource for British shieldbugs, squashbugs, plant bugs, water bugs and leafhoppers.

Downloadable charts of nymphal stages of shieldbugs and squashbugs plus some taxonomic keys for difficult groups

Information on Shropshire shieldbugs, squashbugs and allies (plus see notes on p7)

No. on FSC chart	Common Name	Taxonomic name (MapMate)	current Shropshire status	habitat
2	Crucifer shieldbug / Brassica shieldbug	<i>Eurydema oleracea</i>	rare (one site) Wyre	on crucifers ¹
3	Bronze shieldbug	<i>Troilus luridus</i>	frequent	trees, woodland and hedgerows
4	Heather shieldbug	<i>Rhacognathus punctatus</i>	rare (three sites) Wyre, Whixall & Stiperstones ²	heathland / moor / bog / heathy wood
5	Blue shieldbug	<i>Zicrona caerulea</i>	widespread	damp grassland / heathland / woods
6	Spiked shieldbug	<i>Picromerus bidens</i>	frequent	meadows / heathland / wood edge
7	Hawthorn shieldbug	<i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>	common	on hawthorn
8	Parent shieldbug	<i>Elasmucha grisea</i>	common	on birch and alder
9	Juniper shieldbug	<i>Cyphostethus tristriatus</i>	not yet recorded but should be found	Lawson's cypress and related species
10	Birch shieldbug	<i>Elasmotherus interstinctus</i>	common	on birch trees
13	Tortoise shieldbug	<i>Eurygaster testudinaria</i>	recent to Wyre but old specimen in FP collection	damp and dry grassland
16	Cow-wheat shieldbug	<i>Sehirus biguttatus</i>	rare (two sites with Wyre)	cow-wheat - often in litter under plant ³
17	Pied shieldbug	<i>Sehirus bicolor</i>	widespread	on white deadnettle ⁴
18	Forget-me-not shieldbug	<i>Sehirus luctuosus</i>	rare (four sites) Grinshill, Kenley, Snailbeach, Cound	on forget-me-not on sandy or chalk soil
22	Bordered shieldbug	<i>Legnotus limbatus</i>	Frances Pitt collection no data - Bridgnorth area?	bedstraws on dry soils
30	Bishop's mitre shieldbug	<i>Aelia acuminata</i>	widespread but under recorded	dry grasslands
31	Small grass shieldbug	<i>Neottiglossa pusilla</i>	uncommon	grasslands (Poa sp.)
32	Woundwort shieldbug	<i>Eysarcoris fabricii</i>	frequent	on woundwort / nettle / deadnettle ⁵
33	Sloe shieldbug / Hairy shieldbug	<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>	common	on thistles etc
34	Forest shieldbug / Red-legged shieldbug	<i>Pentatoma rufipes</i>	common	on deciduous trees in woods / parks
35	Green shieldbug	<i>Palomena prasina</i>	common	gardens / parks / hedges / nettles etc
36	Gorse shieldbug	<i>Piezodorus lituratus</i>	common	on gorse / broom
39	Dock bug	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	frequent - most records south Shropshire	on docks
42	Fallen's leatherbug	<i>Arenocoris falleni</i>	not yet recorded - but in Worcs	under storksbill rosettes on sands
45	Denticulate leatherbug	<i>Coriomeris denticulatus</i>	rare (one site) Llanymynech	medicks / trefoils on dry soils
Illustrated below	Western conifer seedbug	<i>Leptoglossus occidentalis</i>	vagrant (one site) Shrewsbury	anywhere - attracted to moth trap light
44	Slender-horned leatherbug	<i>Ceraleptus lividus</i>	not yet recorded – but in Worcs (Stourport)	dry soils where legumes
Illustrated below	a scentless plant bug	<i>Corizus hyoscyamii</i>	uncommon - probably spreading north	sandy areas mostly but not always
Illustrated below	a scentless plant bug	<i>Rhopalus subrufus</i>	uncommon - under-recorded	limestone / chalk / scrub / clearings
Illustrated below	a scentless plant bug	<i>Myrmus miriformis</i>	uncommon - under-recorded	dry and damp grasslands
Illustrated below	a scentless plant bug	<i>Stictopleurus abutilon</i>	rare (one record)	dry grassland
Illustrated below	a scentless plant bug	<i>S. punctatonervosus</i>	not yet recorded – but in Worcs (Stourport)	dry grassland
Illustrated below	a scentless plant bug	<i>Chorosoma schillingi</i>	Frances Pitt collection no data - Bridgnorth area?	dry grassland on sand
Illustrated below	a spurge bug	<i>Dicranocephalus medius</i>	rare (one site) Wyre	on wood spurge
not illustrated	Striped shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma lineatum</i>	Vagrant from imported plants – one site record (garden in Shrewsbury) – colony died out	



Western Conifer Seed bug



Corizus hyoscyamii



Chorosoma schillingii



Rhopalus subrufus



Myrmus miriformis



Stictopleurus punctatonervosus (see note)



Dicranocephalus medius



Stictopleurus abutilon (see note)

Note on *Stictopleurus* species – these are very similar and are best separated by the structure of the pronotum. The British Bugs website has illustrations of both species showing the differences, therefore a specimen is needed or at least a good quality image focussed on the pronotum (thorax).

Notes from table

1 – Crucifer shieldbug was recorded on crucifers along woodland edge in the Wyre Forest (John Bingham pers. comm.)

2 – The Wyre Forest record was from 2010 but Whixall Moss & The Stiperstones records were from 1998 & 2002 respectively so need re-finding on these sites. The Long Mynd may also harbour this species. Apparently sheltered heather with scrub but also damper areas of heather with Sphagnum moss are used.

3 – Sometimes found in leaf litter up to a metre from cow-wheat plants. It could occur in Shropshire parts of the Mortimer Forest where sufficient cow-wheat is found.

4 – Can be frustrating to find on white deadnettle – probably choice of soil is important – well drained sandy soils seem best and a warm micro-climate is probably important

5 – Often found on nettle near woundwort.

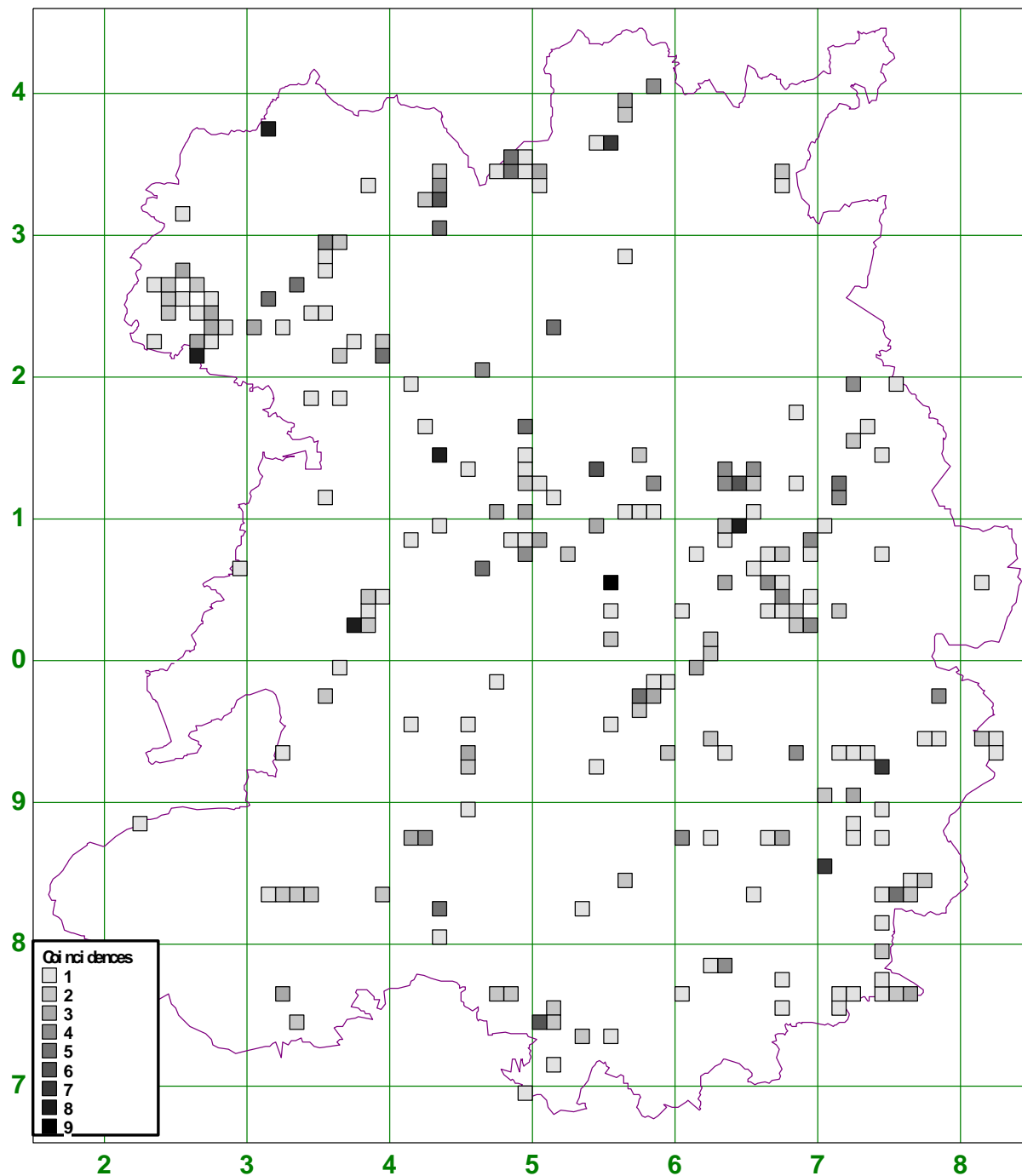
Please note;

The taxonomic species list we are using is as that on MapMate recording software (MapMate Ltd) and differs from the taxonomic list used elsewhere, most notably on the British Bugs website, for a couple of species.

The current status list is based on the SEDN database as it stood in November 2011. This is subject to change.

Photographs used on this page are taken from www.britishbugs.org.uk and are for illustration purposes only. Please refer to the species accounts on the website for more detailed information and more photographs of each of the species.

Compiled by Pete Boardman



This coincidence map shows all species records of shieldbug and allies recorded in SEDN database (up to November 2011) at tetrad (2km x 2 km grid square) level. Wherever there is a white space within the Shropshire county boundary no shieldbugs or allies have been recorded. Currently the largest gaps are the areas to the north and east of Telford, and the area between Telford and Market Drayton, the Market Drayton area up to the extreme north east of the county at Woore, north of Shrewsbury towards Ellesmere, between Ellesmere and St. Martins, Whitchurch area (excluding Whixall Moss), north of Oswestry, between Shrewsbury and Church Stretton and the whole western part of the county south from Llanymynech to the Clun area / Newcastle etc.

Please help us fill the gaps!!!!

To help we are holding the following recording days where we will try and visit several sites in a day to record what we can find.

Shieldbug recording days (part of Invertebrate Challenge programme)

- Oswestry area 02/05/12
- Market Drayton area 09/05/12
- Ludlow area 15/8/12
- south west Shropshire 22/08/12
- Market Drayton area 12/09/12

To book on any of these contact Pete Boardman at pete@field-studies-council.org