

Wildlife records - 2022

JOHN AND DENISE BINGHAM

Eurydema ornata (Linnaeus 1758). Pentatomidae, Hemiptera. Ornate Shieldbug

On a visit to Bell Coppice on 7th May 2022 John Bingham found a good colony of several dozen *Eurydema oleracea*, Brassica Shieldbugs feeding on Hedge Garlic or Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* plants. This species of Shieldbug is still quite scarce in Shropshire so it was good to find such a large population flourishing. As is typical, there were several colour morphs present ranging from black and white to black and red coloured specimens. One looked particularly attractive and was photographed but no more thought was given to the specimen at the time.

Only when reviewing the photos did I realise that this well-marked attractive specimen was not *Eurydema oleracea*, but in fact *Eurydema ornata*, a recent arrival in the UK now estab-

lished in southern coastal areas (British Bugs Web). This was the second record for Shropshire the other being a garden centre in Market Drayton. With the absence of any nearby garden centre, it appears this Wyre Forest record may be a more natural extension of its range. Adults also feed on various Brassicaceae and clearly, they can associate with *Eurydema oleracea*, so well worth checking any colonies of this species for interlopers but note *E. ornata* also has a pale whitish-yellow morph.

Thanks to Keith Fowler for information on the first Shropshire record.

Reference

British Bugs Web. www.britishbugs.org.uk/heteroptera/Pentatomidae/Eurydema_ornatum.html.



Eurydema ornata

John Bingham

***Villa cingulata* (Meigen, 1804), Bombyliidae, Diptera. Downland Villa or Bee-fly.**

On 6th July 2022 the Wyre Forest Study Group and the Joy of Wildlife group met up at Bell Coppice, Wyre Forest, by kind permission of the owners, for a joint visit. Overall, insect species were a bit thin on the ground as was the case generally in 2022. Around the scrub edge of the grasslands Denise Bingham spotted what appeared to be a Downland Villa Bee-fly, *Villa cingulata* briefly alight on a sweep net that had been placed on the ground.

After a few minutes searching, the fly was spotted again, this time resting on some leaves, and photographed, its identification confirmed. As far as we are aware, this is the first record for Shropshire and a further expansion of the Bee-fly's range northward. Later in the day several more were seen in another grassland area nearer the dis-used railway line confirming that this was not just a casual 'once only' record but more a coloni-

sation of new ground. Remarkably this is the second 'new' Bee-fly that has appeared in the forest in recent years with the Dotted Bee-fly, *Bombylius discolor* marking an appearance in 2017 at Rock Coppice.

***Coccidula scutellata* (Herbst, 1783) Coccinellidae, Coleoptera. Ladybird.**

This is an elusive species that has been searched for unsuccessfully around pool margins around the Kidderminster area by Denise Bingham. It finally turned up on 8th June 2022 whilst Denise was checking Bulrush stems in a small pond near Cleobury Mortimer, just outside the Wyre Forest woodlands. For some reason it seemingly prefers newly created ponds not well-established ones. This is only the sixth Shropshire record and a 'new' Ladybird to the Wyre Forest species lists. (NBN online)

Reference

NBN online. <https://species.nbnatlas.org/species/NBNSYS0000008291>



***Geastrum striatum* (DC) Geastraceae, Agaricomycetes. Striate Earthstar**

Earthstar fungi are regarded as somewhat special as they are not found very often and are quite unusual due to their rayed appearance. Wyre Forest is, perhaps, not the best place to find them as most appear to prefer more base-rich or calcareous soils. The Collared Earthstar, *Geastrum triplex* is the most likely species to find, often under old hedges or similar habitat.

This colony of Striate Earthstar, *Geastrum striatum* was discovered by John Bingham along an alleyway in Bewdley in an area of scrubby woodland. Perhaps Bewdley is a better area to search for earthstars than the forest itself as Carleton Rea, who recorded over 1400 species of fungi for the Wyre Forest, only record-

ed one earthstar, the Rosy Earthstar *Geastrum rufescens* (Rea 1924).

Reference

Rea, C. 1924. Fungi of the Wyre Forest. *Transactions of the Worcestershire Naturalist's Club* 1924. P. 16-40.



Striate Earthstar *Geastrum striatum*

John Bingham