

Entomological Records of Note from Wyre Forest, 2005 & 2006

Kevin McGee

LEPIDOPTERA; MACRO MOTHS

Small Yellow Underwing

Panemeria tenebrata (Geometridae, local)

Two were actively flying and occasionally nectaring at flowers of Mouse-ear species along an open ride during hot sunshine on 2.6.2006. Although not officially a rarity this small species is easily overlooked even though it flies during the day. The larva feeds on the seed capsules of Common Mouse-ear and Field Mouse-ear. This is my only Wyre record of this species to date.



Small Yellow Underwing

K.McGee

Nemophora minimella

(Incurvariidae, local)

One adult on the flowers of Ragwort near the disused railway line on 2.8.2005. This is only my second Wyre record of this scarce species following one I found on Devil's-bit Scabious flowers during August 2001. There are few records from Worcestershire where I believe it is known from only three sites. One such site is Mill Meadow, Drakes Broughton, in the south of the county, my 'local patch'. Here the moth can be found on the flowers of Angelica and Fleabane during late summer.



Nemophora minimella

K.McGee

LEPIDOPTERA; MICRO MOTHS

Micropterix aureatella

(Micropterigidae, local)

One found at rest on Bramble foliage alongside a conifer plantation on 2.6.2006.



Micropterix aureatella

K.McGee

Adela croesella

(Incurvariidae, local)

One adult female was found at rest on low vegetation along an open ride on 2.6.2006. I have been finding this rather localised species with increasing frequency during recent years, particularly on Cow Parsley flowers in sunny situations alongside hedgerows with a wealth of Damsons and Blackthorns. Care is needed as it could be confused with the common woodland species, *Nemophora degeerella*



Adela croesella (female)

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COLEOPTERA

Platydacus stercorarius

(Staphylinidae, local)

One of these handsome 'Rove Beetle' species was collected from low vegetation along an open ride on 2.6.2006.

Pyrochroa coccinea

(Pyrochroidae, notable B)

One of the 'Cardinal Beetles'. I found this on Bramble foliage at the edge of an open ride on 2.6.2006. Note that this one has a black head; this is the one least likely to be encountered. An inhabitant of broad-leaved woodland, the larva develops in dead and decaying wood of Oak, Birch and Walnut amongst others. The most familiar cardinal beetle is the very common *Pyrochroa serraticornis*, which has a red head.



Pyrochroa coccinea

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Rhynchites cavifrons

(Attelabidae, notable B)

One found on Bramble foliage at the edge of an open ride on 20.5.2006. An Oak was immediately overhead, the most commonly used host-plant of this localised Weevil associated with ancient broad-leaved woodland.



Rhynchites cavifrons

K.McGee

DIPTERA

Ctenophora pectinicornis

(Tipulidae, notable B)

One adult alighted briefly on Hazel foliage in a sunny spot at the edge of an open ride on 2.6.2006. This is a scarce species associated with woodlands with plenty of dead wood inside which the larvae can develop.



Ctenophora pectinicornis

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Sargus iridatus

(Stratiomyidae, local).

One adult female was collected from Hazel foliage along an open ride on 2.6.2006.



Sargus iridatus (female)

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Eriozona erratica

(Syrphidae, scarce)

One adult alighted briefly on Brambles at the edge of an open ride on 2.6.2006. Unfortunately the specimen eluded both photography and capture, but I am certain of the identity of this scarce Hoverfly. It is recorded mainly from conifer plantations in the north and west of Britain and could easily be overlooked as it resembles a large *Syrphus*, but in my opinion the posture of the insect is very different.

Brachypalpoidea lentus

(Syrphidae, local).

One male was found at rest on a Birch trunk during heavy rain at the edge of an open ride on 20.5.2006. Another was seen briefly near the same spot during warm sunny weather on 2.6.2006.

These are striking Hoverflies with a deep crimson red abdomen and totally unmistakable once seen. This is a local and uncommon species of southern forests where the larvae develop in decaying Beech trees, and probably also in Oak.



Brachypalpoidea lentus (male)

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Xylota jakutorum

(Syrphidae, scarce)

Two adults, a male and female, were collected from low vegetation along an open ride on 2.6.2006. This is a scarce Hoverfly very closely associated with conifer plantations, especially in areas where some felling has recently occurred as the stumps provide ideal breeding habitat.



Xylota jakutorum (female)

K.McGee

Thecophora atra

(Conopidae, local)

One female collected from patches of bare, sandy ground at the edge of a path on 2.8.2005. This is much smaller than the Conopid flies usually encountered and may therefore go unnoticed. I have located them on vegetation very close to the ground just centimetres away from the nest sites of small ground nesting *Halictus* Bees, the probable hosts.

Conops strigatus

(Conopidae, notable)

One female collected from Ragwort flowers alongside Dowles Brook on 2.8.2005. This is

one of only two specimens I have so far found of this scarce fly, the other being from woods near Drakes Broughton in 2004.

SYMPHYTA

Pamphilius sylvaticus

(Pamphilidae, local)

One female collected from low Brambles along the edge of a ride on 2.6.2006. There are fourteen species of *Pamphilius* Sawflies in Britain; most are associated with conifers. All are apparently localised with some being extremely scarce.



Pamphilius sylvaticus (female)

K.McGee

POMPILIDAE

Priocnemis pusilla

(Pompilidae, widespread)

One female collected from sandy ground alongside a path on 2.8.2005. Although considered to be widespread throughout its range in Britain this is the only specimen I have found to date. There are a number of these Spider-hunting Wasps within the genus *Priocnemis*, all appear very much alike to the naked eye and can be tricky to identify even under the microscope! They are also difficult to capture!



Priocnemis pusilla (female)

K.McGee



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Trichoptera from the Roxel Malaise Trap

David J. Pryce

One Malaise trap was erected for a few weeks at the Roxel site in Postensplain, Wyre Forest, as part of the Study Group's recording during 2004, with permission from Roxel and from the Forestry Commission.

A total of 23 specimens of Trichoptera (Caddis Flies), referable to 9 species were recorded from the Malaise Trap between 12th August and 16th September 2005. A total of 16 specimens referable to 6 species were present in the first sample (12/08-01/09), 7 specimens referable to 5 species were present in the second sample (01/09-16/09). Only 2 species were present in both samples – *Limnephilus flavicornis* and *Odontocerum albicorne* (this was also the commonest species present). A table of the species encountered is given below. All species have been recorded previously in the Wyre Forest and all are both common and widespread

with the exception of *Tinodes pallidulus* which is nationally rare and accorded RDB1 status. Until recently the known national distribution of this species consisted of 2 sites in Surrey and a single site in Leicestershire, although it is known to be extinct at the 2 Surrey sites (Wallace, 1991). This species was first recorded in the Wyre Forest in 2004 when a total of 5 adults were caught in Malaise Traps on the Baveney Brook (SO710764) and the Newalls Brook (SO729759). The occurrence of this species at three sites within the Wyre Forest indicates that it probably occurs on most small- to medium-sized streams in the forest area, although it appears to occur consistently at relatively low density. The habitat preference of the larva is for stones covered with a water film at the margin of streams. Information on the other British site for this species, the Wood Brook in the Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire site is given in Greenwood et al 2001.

Table 1 Trichoptera recorded at the Roxel Malaise Trap

Species	Common name	12/08-01/09	01/09-16/09
Glossosomatidae			
<i>Agapetus fuscipes</i>	Tiny Grey Sedge	–	1 M, 1 F
Psychomyiidae			
<i>Tinodes pallidulus</i>	–	2 M, 1 F	–
Polycentropodidae			
<i>Plectrocnemia conspersa</i>	–	2 F	–
Limnephilidae			
<i>Drusus annulatus</i>	–	–	1 F
<i>Limnephilus centralis</i>	–	1 M	–
<i>Limnephilus flavicornis</i>	–	1 F	1 F
<i>Potamophylax latipennis</i>	Large Cinnamon Sedge	–	2F
Goeridae			
<i>Silo pallipes</i>	Black Sedge	1 F	–
Odontoceridae			
<i>Odontocerum albicorne</i>	Silver or Grey Sedge	4 M, 4 F	1 F

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