

Some Interesting Sightings of 2012

JOHN BINGHAM



Metatropis rufescens

John Bingham

***Metatropis rufescens* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1835) (Hemiptera: Berytidae). A Stiltbug**

Brett Westwood had this as a target species on a visit to Hunthouse Wood near Clows Top in 2012. Brett was correct and found the bug on one of the rides. We had no records for the Wyre Forest study area, so the hunt was on.

Metatropis rufescens is a woodland species found feeding on the leaves of Enchanter's Nightshade, *Circaea lutetiana*. It is a large (9-11mm) orange-brown stiltbug, rather like a crane fly at first sight due to the long legs. It is found throughout much of southern Britain, but is rare in the Midlands. Adults overwinter, mating in the early summer and the new generation is complete by August. (British Bugs).

The first record from the Wyre Forest study area was on 18th August 2012 at Areley Wood on a WFSG meeting when I found several on the southern edge of the woodland. Nymphs were present too (see photo on page 35). More were found further into the wood, all on *Circaea lutetiana*. Jane Scott then found it in Cleobury Coppice on 5th September 2012.

On the WFSG meeting on 13th October 2012 Denise Bingham found a site in Hawkbath, but this time it was on bramble, *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Later in the day Brett found more, but this time along a very shady

ride with *Circaea lutetiana*. This was the first site we had seen the bug under deep shade. Possibly the bug has become more common over recent years or did we just miss it in Wyre before?



Phytocoris tiliae

John Bingham

***Phytocoris tiliae* (Fabricius, 1777) (Hemiptera: Miridae). A Plant Bug**

This well camouflaged greenish mirid bug was found on a beech trunk at Earnwood Copse on 27th October 2012. It is 6mm long with a distinctive long hind femora and long antennal segment making identification fairly easy. It is adult from June to October, but not often reported. There are only a few records locally.

It is widespread but scattered across Britain occurring on various deciduous tree species. It is said to feed on small insects such as mirco moths, ladybird larvae and mites. (Southwood and Leston / British Bugs).

***Chilacis typhae* (Perris, 1857)(Hemiptera: Lygaeidae). Bulrush Bug**

This small bug, some 4 mm long, was discovered by Denise Bingham deep inside a seed head of reedmace, *Typha angustifolia* at Birchen Park, Kinlet on 26th March 2012. Although found across much of England, this was the first record from Shropshire. Adults may be found pairing (often on bulrush heads) any time between spring and autumn. They overwinter inside the seed heads which can make them hard to see and record.



Two Small Bugs - *Ditropis pteridis* (Spinola, 1839) and *Conomelus anceps* (Germar 1821) Hemiptera:Delphacidae



Both these small bugs 3-4mm long, are very common on vegetation. They appear to be generally under-recorded, but probably abundant in Wyre Forest. It is worth taking a close look at suitable vegetation in summer. *Ditropis pteridis* is abundant on Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* throughout Wyre. It occurs from May until August, and the male is smaller than the female.

Conomelus anceps has wings with dark spots on the pale brown veins, with hints of grey-blue. It is a common species feeding on rush, *Juncus* spp., and is found along woodland rides and a range of other damp habitats. Adult: June to November.

REFERENCES

T, Southwood & D, Leston. 1959. Land and Water Bugs of the British Isles. Warne

British Bugs Web Page: <http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/index.html>

