

Records of Note from Wyre Forest, 2017

KEVIN MCGEE

Lepidoptera

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene* (Lep; Nymphalidae). Four were present alongside Dowles Brook towards the centre of the forest on the Shropshire side on 03.06.2017. It is always very satisfying to successfully capture a good image of a freshly emerged specimen. One individual was observed visiting flowers of Ragged Robin *Silene flos-cuculi*.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wyre 3/6/17 Kevin McGee

Coleoptera

Deleaster dichrous (Col; Staphylinidae). Notable B. One was found under stones on a shingle bank at Dowles Brook on 26.04.2017. This is my first record for this species at Wyre Forest although I have also recorded it from similar habitat alongside a brook at Wissetts Wood, Shakenhurst during 2016. Apparently, this rove beetle can fly well and has been recorded from MV light traps during nocturnal dispersal flights (Lott, 2009).



Deleaster dichrous, Wyre 26/4/17 Kevin McGee

Magdalis carbonaria (Col; Curculionidae). Notable B. One of six adults was collected from a log-pile close to Dowles Brook downstream from Rudds Bridge on 03.06.2017. This is my first record for this species. The larvae of *M. carbonaria* develop in dead twigs and branches of birch (Hyman & Parsons, 1992), the log-pile where this species was found consists of small birch, alder and spruce logs resulting from recent

management work by the Forestry Commission to increase the extent of coppicing and ride-widening. Further efforts to encourage re-growth and age-structure throughout Wyre Forest should be undertaken to provide a continuation of habitat for scarce invertebrates associated with dead and diseased wood (Hyman & Parson, 1992).



Magdalis carbonaria on birch log, Wyre 3/6/17 Kevin McGee

Diptera

Tabanus maculicornis (Dip; Tabanidae). One male was present on the same log-pile described above on 03.06.2017. This is my first record for this species. This localised horse-fly is known from sheltered stream valleys within woodlands, and is also known to emerge as an adult earlier than other tabanid horse-flies (Stubbs & Drake, 2001).



Tabanus maculicornis (male), Wyre logpile 3/6/17 K. McGee

Hymenoptera: Aculeata

Aulacus striatus (Hym; Aulacidae). One female was photographed on 03.06.2017 searching for somewhere to oviposit on a birch log at the same log-pile described above. This is my first record for this species. The national conservation status of this parasitic wasp is unknown; possibly because of a lack of information, although the species is quite distinctive and unlikely to be unnoticed by entomologists. There is just a single record on the NBN Atlas (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, 2001). However, there is a record on the WBRC database from 1969 when Norman Hickin recorded it from Wyre Forest (G. Trevis, pers. comm.). *A. striatus* parasitizes the

developing larvae of sawflies in the family Xiphydriidae (Broad & Livermore, 2014).



Ibalia leucospoides (Hym; Ibalidae). One adult was photographed on the same log-pile described above on 13.08.2017. Despite searching through all my literature, and searching online, I could not find anything that resembled my photograph. The image was forwarded to Mike Bloxham via Rosemary Winnall; Mike suggested the insect was almost certainly *Ibalia leucospoides*, but it was best to ask the opinion of Dr Gavin Broad at the London Natural History Museum. Dr Broad kindly confirmed that the photo is *I. leucospoides*. This is the first record of this species in Wyre Forest. As above, the national conservation status of this parasitic wasp is also unknown. There are just three records on the NBN Atlas; South Wales, 2013. Rothamsted light trap, 21.9.93., and Norfolk, 1.10.76. *I. leucospoides* parasitizes the developing larvae of sawflies in the family Siricidae, this family includes the impressive Greater Horntail Wasp *Urocerus gigas*, a species I have never seen in Wyre Forest. The larvae of siricid sawflies develop inside the wood of conifers including pine, spruce and fir (Dr. G. Broad, Pers. Comm.).



Priocnemis susterai (Hym; Pompilidae). One female was collected from an area of open stony ground close to Dowles Brook downstream from Rudds Bridge on

17.06.2017. I have just four records dating back to 2003 of this impressive and scarce spider-hunting wasp, and all are from the Wyre Forest area. Apparently, there is still little understood about *P. susterai*, but it is most frequently recorded from dry soils within woodlands (BWARS, 2017).

Hymenoptera: Symphyta

Xiphydria camelus (Hym; Xiphydriidae). This distinctive sawfly is also known as the Alder Wood Wasp, the larvae develop inside the logs of alder and birch. One female was photographed on 03.06.2017 ovipositing in a birch log at the same log-pile where its parasite *Aulacus striatus* was also photographed during the same day.



Araneae

Neriene radiata (Araneae; Linyphiidae). Two were present towards the centre of the forest close to Dowles Brook on 17.06.2017. This is my first record for this species and grateful thanks are due to Rosemary Winnall for identifying this rare spider from the photo and making me aware of its presence in the forest.



Reference

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