

A Most Recent Record of *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* (Linnaeus, 1758) RDB2

A surprising sighting, several miles from Wyre

ROGER PLANT



Welsh Oak Longhorn

Roger Plant

On the 16th February 2019 a single Welsh Oak Longhorn beetle emerged from our hearth and took flight within our sitting room here in Hallow, Worcestershire. My wife Catherine captured it, with due care. I proceeded to contain it within a temporary terrarium lined with rotting oak wood and rotting bark then continued to provide regular droplets of Malvern spring water, adding rotting oak leaves a while later. I know that several people from the Wyre Forest Study Group have previously found and photographed *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* in Wyre. However, such good fortune is mine to have one almost literally land in my lap.

It came to us, undoubtedly, from Wyre, unintentionally translocated to our home within an oak log-pile. A few more appeared during the following week. The domestic fuel logs of oak trunks and some branches on which they came, as eggs or during the larval stage, were harvested in Wyre by the late David Llewellyn, probably during the winter of 2015/16. He had stored the pile ride-side, sun-exposed near his yard in the grounds

of the Frank Chapman Centre in Rock Coppice, Wyre. The log-pile comprising several tons of mainly oak logs were transported to the side of our drive during the late summer of 2018.

Upon reflection, the oak and Welsh link between a well-respected, unique woodman of Wyre and a rare beetle from Wyre will remain connected in my memory.

I'm grateful to Giles King-Salter's friend Rauol Gerend, a coleopterist from Luxembourg, for identifying the beetle and to Giles for emailing me a PDF file of a paper from the Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research. 'Forest fuel piles as ecological traps for saproxylic beetles in oak' Hedin 2008.

In conclusion I share, almost verbatim from this paper, the following advice. . . The negative effects of trapping uncommon and red-listed saproxylic beetles in forest fuel piles can be mitigated by removing the piles before the insects colonise them. If that is not possible the top layer should be retained.



Welsh Oak Longhorn larva, Bowcastle Farm, 1 May 2008
Rosemary Winnall



Welsh Oak Longhorn pupa, Unclys Farm 20 May 2008
aRosemary Winnall