

Molluscs and a Rare Fly from a Wyre Flush

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In association with the botanical survey carried out by Dr Ann Hill on the Shelf Held Coppice wet flush at SO 7531 7516 as reported in the previous article, Mick Blythe and Rosemary Winnall visited the site to record flies and molluscs respectively.



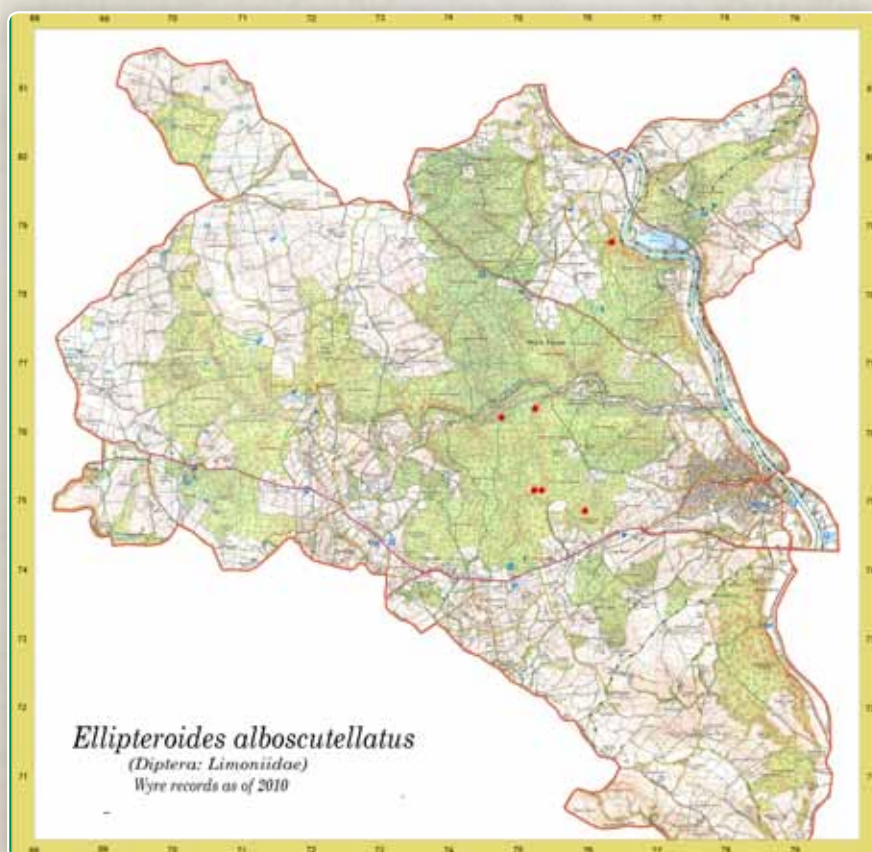
The crane fly *Ellipteroides alboscuteallatus* (von Roser) had previously been recorded on this flush in 2010 as well as a few other sites in Wyre as seen on the map, and we wanted to know if it was still present.

This is a rare crane fly which is usually associated with calcium-rich flushes or streams and with the calcicole moss *Palustriella*. In Wyre it is also found on patches of completely bare, wet, tufa-flecked mud on valley crests or slopes.

It was recorded on this flush on 17 July 2018 when several were seen flying at the top of the flush.

The molluscs were recorded after the botanical survey had been completed. Samples of leaf litter were col-

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lected to sieve and sort later. This was necessary as many of the snails in this habitat are very small and not easy to see in the field. Samples were collected on 16th November 2018 from each 2mx2m botanical quadrat on all 3 flushes - 15 in all. For consistency a stop watch was used to time 1 minute's collecting at each quadrat.

The snails identified can be seen in Figure 1 - no slugs were recorded. It was good to find the 2mm Plated Snail *Spermodea lamellata*, an ancient semi-natural woodland indicator, which had been found previously on this

flush and elsewhere in this valley a few years ago. This is the only Worcestershire location for this rare species.

The botanical transects followed small water seepages down the slope, and so some quadrats were very wet which will have influenced the mollusc species found. In fact, in quadrat A5 the 2 molluscs identified are fresh-water species - *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* and *Pisidium personatum*.

I would like to thank Rosemary Hill for checking my identification of these molluscs.

SAMPLE	NVC Community	Molluscs
QA1	W10c	5 <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , 1 <i>Aegopinella pura</i> , 3 <i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>
QA2	W10c	2 <i>Aegopinella pura</i>
QA3	W10c	
QA4	W7	1 <i>Aegopinella pura</i>
QA5	W7	2 <i>Pisidium personatum</i> , 1 <i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>
QB1	W10c	2 <i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> , 1 <i>Spermodea lamellata</i> , 1 <i>Euconulus alderi</i> , 1 <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , 1 <i>Vitrea crystallina</i> , 1 <i>Aegopinella pura</i>
QB2	M26a	1 <i>Aegopinella pura</i> , 1 <i>Euconulus alderi</i>
QB3	M26a	1 <i>Aegopinella pura</i>
QB4	M25c	1 <i>Aegopinella pura</i>
QB5	W7c	
QC1	M27c	1 <i>Euconulus fulvus</i> , 1 <i>Pisidium</i> sp. juv.
QC2	M27c	1 <i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>
QC3	M27c	
QC4	M27c	
QC5	M27c	

Fig. 1 Molluscs identified from sieved leaf litter collected from 15 quadrats