Ampedus balteatus

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Ampedus balteatus (L., 1758), Elateridae, Coleoptera. Click Beetle.

This distinctive Click Beetle has apparently not been recorded from Wyre Forest for over 100 years according to the new Click Beetle Atlas (Mendel, 2024) but I found one adult beetle in a large clearing at Wimperhill Wood, Shropshire on 8th May 2024. Thinking this might be the first record for 100 years proved to be wrong. Kevin McGee had a previous record on the NBN Database made on 27th May 2000 at Longdon Wood that is not in the new Atlas (NBN, 2024). This just shows how difficult or inaccurate it can be to check records. Perhaps these records indicate a slow recent colonisation of the forest after a period of absence?

Just why such a relatively common insect has remained so elusive with just two recent records in an ancient woodland like Wyre is somewhat a mystery. The species is found scattered across most of the country and generally fairly common in locations where it occurs, albeit strongly associated with ancient woodland or parkland.

The typical habitats are coniferous and mixed woodland. Adults are active from May until July or August, they are diurnal and may be seen on warm days at rest on foliage or standing or fallen timber. Females oviposit in bark on soft decaying wood, usually in conifers, especially pine but also in birch and oak (UK Beetles, 2024).

References

Mendel, H. (2024). *Click-beetles of Great Britain and Ireland. An Atlas and Natural History*. Field Studies Council.

NBN *Ampedus balteatus* (2024). https://species.nbnatlas.org/species/NBNSYS0000010910 Accessed 22nd November 2024.

UK Beetles (2024). https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/ampedus-balteatus Accessed 22nd November 2024.



Ampedus balteatus. John Bingham