

Entomological Records of Note from Wyre Forest, 2007

KEVIN MCGEE

LEPIDOPTERA; BUTTERFLIES

Grizzled Skipper

Pyrgus malvae (Hesperiidae, local)

One rather faded specimen was active on open ground on the Shropshire side on 26.5.2007. This is my only record from Wyre Forest for this species to date.



Grizzled Skipper

K.McGee

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Clossonia selene (Nymphalidae, local)

I found three this year, all on the Shropshire side. One on 26.5.2007 and two alongside Dowles on 5.6.2007.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

K.McGee

Green Hairstreak

Callophrys rubi (Lycaenidae, local)

Three were active in the sunshine on the Shropshire side of Dowles Brook on 21.4.2007. I gave up trying to photograph one of them! My only previous Wyre record is of one in May 1999.

Silver-washed Fritillary

Argynnis paphia (Nymphalidae, local)

Six were seen alongside Dowles on 24.7.2007. Although this is a familiar species to local entomologists we should not become complacent about the importance of Wyre for this magnificent butterfly.



Silver-washed Fritillary (male)

K.McGee

LEPIDOPTERA; MACRO MOTHS

Red-necked Footman

Atolmis rubicollis (Arctiidae, local)

I was lucky enough to encounter one at rest on low vegetation along a fairly shaded ride of predominately conifers on the Shropshire side on 26.5.2007. This is my first record of this locally uncommon moth, the larvae of which feed on lichens growing on many tree species.



Red-necked Footman

K.McGee

LEPIDOPTERA; MICRO MOTHS

Glyphipterix thrasionella

(Glyphipterigidae, local)

At least 20 were amongst *Juncus* alongside Dowles on the

Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Clossonia euphrosyne (Nymphalidae, notable B)

I saw just one on 21.4.2007.

Shropshire side on 5.6.2007. This is my first record of this pretty little moth, the larvae of which develop in the stems of *Juncus*.



Glyphipterix thrasonella

K.McGee

Prochoreutis sehestediana

(*Choreutidae, notable B*)

At least six of this scarce species were on the foliage and flowers of Hemp Agrimony alongside Dowles on 24.7.2007. The larval foodplants are both the species of Skullcap found in Wyre.



Prochoreutis sehestediana

K.McGee

Ancylis myrtillana

(*Tortricidae, local*)

I disturbed one from Bilberry alongside Dowles on the Shropshire side on 21.4.2007. This is my first record of one, the resulting photograph is a little disappointing but now I know where to look for this Wyre speciality.



Ancylis myrtillana

K.McGee

Pammene germmana

(*Tortricidae, notable B*)

I found a pair in-cop on Oak foliage on 26.5.2007. A scarce and little known species associated with ancient woodlands and their remnants.



Pammene germmana

K.McGee

HETEROPTERA

Corizus hyoscyami

(*Rhopalidae, local*)

A number of heteropteran bugs are proving to be very good indicators of climate change, some species are expanding their range northwards within the British Isles. This particular species was until recently confined to southern coastal localities but there have been recent records from Worcestershire. It's a pity I was unable to photograph this one which was found by John Partridge in the garden of the 'Newalls' on the edge of Wyre Forest after a study group field trip on 21.4.2007. The specimen took flight as I was about to press the shutter! It's an unmistakable scarlet and black 'shieldbug' typically associated with heathland habitat.

Rhacognathus punctatus

(*Pentatomidae, local*)

The 'Heather' Shieldbug. This is one of the more uncommon shieldbugs in our area as it requires extensive heathland habitat with a plentiful supply of the Heather Leaf Beetle *Lochmaea suturalis* (Col., Chrysomelidae) on whose larvae it feeds. I found one amongst Heather on 21.4.2007.

Dicranocephalus medius

(Stenocephalidae, notable B)

The 'Spurge' Bug. Several of this scarce and striking species were on Spurge flowers at the edge of an open sunny ride on the Shropshire side on 26.5.2007. These constitute my first record of one.



Dicranocephalus medius

K.McGee

Plateumaris discolor

(Chrysomelidae, local)

One of the metallic 'Reed' Beetles. I photographed and collected one from Carex near Dowles Brook on 5.6.2007. This species which is part of group sometimes difficult to identify occurs in a variety of colours, my only previous record is also from Wyre, (in 2001), and that one was purple.



Plateumaris discolor

K.McGee

COLEOPTERA

Hylecoetus dermestoides

(Lymexylidae, notable B)

One female caught in-flight near Dowles Brook during warm sunny weather on 21.4.2007. This is a scarce beetle, the larva develops in the very hard dead wood of various deciduous trees and the adults are short-lived. The scattered records are mainly from ancient woodland environments. My first record.



Hylecoetus dermestoides (female)

K.McGee

DIPTERA

Hybomitra distinguenda

(Tabanidae, local)

One male collected from the Shropshire side alongside Dowles Brook on 5.6.2007. This was one of those occasions when the textbook accounts matched my own experience exactly. I netted what I first assumed to be an unfamiliar syrphid hovering in a stationary fashion about five feet above a muddy path in hot morning sunshine, it was 10.00am. I recall at least one more of the same species nearby behaving in a similar manner. It was not until the fly was secured in a tube that I realised I had caught a male Horsefly species. It keyed out readily as *H.distinguenda*, perhaps the most widespread within this genus in the southern half of England. 'British Soldierflies and their allies' (Stubbs & Drake, 2001) gives identical descriptions of males hovering in early morning sunshine.



Hybomitra distinguenda (male)

K.McGee

Chrysops caecutiens

(Tabanidae, common)

This is a fairly common Horsefly in my limited experience, but virtually all of my records (mainly from the opposite end of the county from Wyre) are of females. It is of course only the females that are able to feed by sucking blood from mammals, with humans on the menu! This is how most records are obtained. Therefore, it was nice to find this male on Ragwort flowers near Dowles on 24.7.2007.



Xanthandrus comtus

(Syrphidae, scarce)

Two, a male & a female were collected from low vegetation alongside Dowles Brook on 24.7.2007. This was apparently a great rarity until recently when it has begun to be recorded with a little more frequency, mainly from meadows and woodland edges in southern England. It may also be migratory under certain favourable conditions.



Portevinia maculata

(Syrphidae, local)

One of the specialities of Wyre, this Hoverfly is associated with Ramsons, adults are best seen when the plants are in flower. I found two on 21.4.2007.



Cheilosia grossa

(Syrphidae, local)

One female collected from low vegetation near Dowles on 27.3.2007. This is one of the first 'Bee-mimic' Hoverflies to emerge in early spring but I have always found it to be very elusive. All five of my records are from the last week of March or the first week of April.

Volucella inanis

(Syrphidae, notable B)

One was seen briefly on Creeping Thistle flowers near Dowles on 24.7.2007. This is the only one I've recorded in Wyre, I couldn't get close enough to see if it was male or female as it took to flight as I approached.

Xylota florum

(Syrphidae, scarce)

One male collected from Buttercup flowers alongside Dowles Brook on 5.6.2007. This is my first record for this uncommon species associated with rotting wood near water.



Chalcosyrphus eunotus

(Syrphidae, RDB2)

It is now well documented about the importance of Wyre Forest for this red data book Hoverfly. It has a similar biology to the previous species, being found alongside shady streams with semi-submerged logs in ancient woodland habitats. I captured a male from waterside vegetation alongside Dowles Brook on 5.6.2007. Now that I know this species my challenge for 2008 is to photograph one in the wild.



Chalcosyrphus eunotus (male)

K.McGee

Conops strigatus

(Conopidae, notable)

A male collected from Ragwort flowers alongside Dowles Brook on 24.7.2007 is my second record of one from Wyre and only my third in total.

Myopa buccata

(Conopidae, local)

I photographed and collected a female from Spurge flowers along the edge of a ride on 26.5.2007. I have found *M. buccata* to be uncommon in our area from the genus *Myopa*. Note the dark spots on the jowls (sides of face).



Myopa buccata (female)

K.McGee

Tachina ursina

(Tachinidae, local)

I was lucky to photograph and collect a male from fencing near Dowles Brook on 27.3.2007. This was one of the first really warm sunny spells of the year and I first thought I had encountered an unfamiliar species of a Bee or a 'Bee-mimic' Hoverfly, so unusual was the insect. After realising it was neither, and watching its behaviour for a while, I decided it was worth the risk of photographing it before capturing it in a net, as it constantly returned to the same part of the wooden fencing to sun itself. This is quite a large fly, about the size of the bee-mimic syrphid; *Volucella bombylans*. The female parasitises the larvae of large moths, typically those of the Lasiocampidae, such as the Fox Moth or the Oak Eggar. Matt Smith, a national expert on the Tachinidae, has confirmed the identity of my photo via e-mail. Rosemary Winnall has also previously photographed this impressive fly in Wyre Forest.



Tachina ursina (male)

K.McGee

HYMENOPTERA; SYMPHYTA

Rhadinoceraea micans

(Tenthredinidae, local)

About six adults were sitting on foliage of Flag Iris, (the larval food plant), in marshy ground alongside Dowles Brook on 21.4.2007.



Rhadinoceraea micans

K.McGee

Macrophya blanda

(Tenthredinidae, local)

One was seen on 26.5.2007. Most Sawflies within the genus *Macrophya* are amongst our commonest and more easily recognised species once familiarised, however, *M. blanda* is much more localised and virtually nothing is known of its biology.

Xiphydria camelus

(Xiphydriidae, local)

One female on a pile of Alder logs near Dowles Brook on 5.6.2007. This uncommon Sawfly can also sometimes be found on Birch logs, into which the females will oviposit, the larvae then develop inside the timber.

HYMENOPTERA; ACULEATA

Chrysis viridula

(Chrysididae, scarce)

Two were seen visiting Bramble flowers near Dowles Brook on 24.7.2007. I collected one female to be absolutely certain of its identification as some of these 'Ruby-tailed' Wasps can be difficult to separate.



Chrysis viridula (female)

K.McGee

Priocnemis coriacea

(Pompilidae, rare)

One female collected from Spurge flowers on 26.5.2007 by Harry Green was given to me for identification.



Priocnemis coriacea (female)

K.McGee

Auplopus carbonarius

(Pompilidae, scarce)

I collected one female from the base of a dead Birch near Dowles Brook on 24.7.2007. I had never found one of these rare Spider-hunting Wasps until this year when I caught this one in Wyre on the Shropshire side and two more in Mill Meadow, Drakes Broughton in the south of Worcestershire.



Auplopus carbonarius (female)

K.McGee

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