

A new Longhorn Beetle for Wyre Forest

Poecilium alni (L.1767) (White-banded Longhorn) Nationally Scarce 2

JOHN BINGHAM

In the last issue of the 'Review' in 2009 I provided a summary of the longhorn beetles (Cerambycidae) for the Wyre Forest that I had recorded to date. It was inevitable that as soon as the article appeared another species would be found. This now brings the total number of longhorn beetles I have recorded in Wyre to 25, and no doubt some more are yet to be discovered.

On the 30th May 2010 I recorded *Poecilium alni* on the edge of a species-rich meadow near Bell Coppice in Shropshire. The beetle is widespread in the south-east of England but is not present in Scotland or the west of Wales. It is small, about 3-5mm long, but quite attractively marked. The larvae are polyphagous but feed mainly on oaks for two years. Larvae develop under the bark of dead branches, mostly 1-2cm wide.

Another longhorn, the musk beetle *Aromia moschata*, previously known from only one site in Wyre Forest at the Roxel Kinlet Site, was recorded in 2010 by Rosemary Winnall along the River Severn just below Upper Arely. It appears to be associated with the large pollarded willows by the river and further searching may provide more records, perhaps towards the direction of Stourport.

Finally look out for the extremely rare *Acmaeops collaris* (Linnaeus). This is a RDB species. (Alexander 2002). The adults are similar to soldier beetles with a blue/black abdomen and head, but with a contrasting reddish thorax. They feed on flowers, more so around the woodland edge perhaps. The larvae feed on oak and live in empty galleries of other wood-borers feeding on the underside

of the loose bark. It has been recorded from Wyre Forest but not for some years and this would be a major find if rediscovered. (Ehnstrom 2007).

Reading

Ehnstrom, B., Holmer, M. (2007) Coleoptera: Cerambycidae. The Encyclopedia of the Swedish Flora and Fauna. Artdatabanken

Duff, A. (2007) Identification Longhorn Beetles: Part 1, Vol;18: pp406-414 British Wildlife Publishing

Duff, A. (2007) Identification Longhorn Beetles: Part 2, Vol;19: pp35-43 British Wildlife Publishing

Alexander, K.N.A., (2002) The invertebrates of living & decaying timber in Britain and Ireland - a provisional annotated checklist. English Nature Research Reports 467



Aromia moschata

Rosemary Winnall



Poecilium alni

John Bingham