

Insect records from the North Worcestershire area 2016.

John and Denise Bingham
All pictures © John Bingham.

Not a good year for insects, perhaps one of the poorest years on record for us at least. The general consensus from local naturalists seems to confirm our views. However a few interesting species did come to our attention.

Podops inuncta (Fabricius, 1775). Hemiptera. (01).

Possibly not uncommon but this rarely recorded shieldbug was swept by Denise from ruderal ground near Ribbesford Woods on 6th May 2016. On the same day numerous Brassica Shieldbugs, *Eurydema oleracea*, were seen along field margins and several Forget-me-knot Shieldbugs, *Sehirus luctuosus*, found in Ribbesford Churchyard under cultivated *Mysotis* plants.



01. *Podops inuncta*, Ribbesford. John Bingham.

Graptus triguttatus (Fabricius, 1775) Curculionidae, Coleoptera. (02).

Found in rough grassland near Menith Wood on 9th May 2016 this attractively marked weevil was new to us. It is associated with Ribwort Plantain, *Plantago lanceolata*, which was quite common in the grassland sward.



02. *Graptus triguttatus*, Menith Orchard. John Bingham.

Rhagium bifasciatum (Fabricius, 1775). Cerambycidae, Coleoptera. (03)

Found at Earnwood on the Shropshire side of Wyre Forest on 28th May 2016 by Wyre Forest Study Group members. A fairly common longhorn beetle but this specimen was an interesting aberration to the norm. Not seen before in Wyre Forest as far as I'm aware.



03. *Rhagium bifasciatum* ab. John Bingham.

Hoplia philanthus (Fuessly, 1775). Rutelidae, Coleoptera. (04).

A chafer beetle that was common in the past but rare in recent years. Several have been reported this year and this one was found in our Kidderminster garden on 10th June and more seen near the river Severn at Blackstone on 11th June 2016.



04. *Hoplia philanthus*, Bewdley. John Bingham.

Chrysolina oricalcia (Müller, O.F., 1776). Chrysomelidae, Coleoptera. (05).

This leaf beetle was previously given a Notable B status but no longer listed but still locally uncommon. Several were found by various members of the Wyre Forest Study Group on our meeting on 11th June 2016 at Park Dingle, Bewdley. The beetles were found on trackside vegetation on both Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and various grasses, Gramineae.



05. *Chrysolina oricalcia*, Park Dingle. John Bingham.

***Coelioxys inermis* (Kirby,1802). Apidae, Hymenoptera. (06).**
 Seen for the first time in our Kidderminster garden on 22nd July 2016, although the bee has been occasionally recorded in elsewhere Worcestershire. This species is a cleptoparasite of *Megachile maritima* and *M. centuncularis* bees. *M. centuncularis* present in the garden so we assume this is the host.



06. *Coelioxys inermis*, Kidderminster. John Bingham

***Curculio betulae* (Stephens, 1831). Curculionidae, Coleoptera. Nationally Notable B. (07).**
 A weevil beaten off a young Alder tree in our garden on 28th July 2016. Although rather small, just over 3 mm, it is quite distinctively marked.



07. *Curculio betulae*, Kidderminster. John Bingham.

***Physatocheila dumetorum* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1838). Tingidae, Hemiptera. (08)**
 This small lace-bug was found on 26th July 2016 taken off shrubs in our garden. It is uncommon locally but appears to follow the Severn Valley in this area of UK.



08. *Physatocheila dumetorum*, Lacebug. John Bingham.

***Pilophorus clavatus* (Linnaeus, 1767). Miridae, Hemiptera. (09).**
 Beaten off a small alder tree on 26th July 2016 this unusual bug was different from the more typical Miridae. It is said to use Sallow, *Salix* sp., so it may have been dislodged from a nearby bush of Goat Willow, *Salix caprea*.



09. *Pilophorus clavatus*. John Bingham

***Metrioptera roeselii* (Hagenbach, 1822). Orthoptera. (10).**
 A macropterous form of Roesel's Bush-cricket was discovered on our house wall on 22nd July 2016 during a few days of hot weather. Although hardly a good summer over-crowded populations develop longer wings than usual and normally flightless female Roesel's Bush-crickets disperse to new habitat, so extending the range.



10. *Metrioptera roeselii*, Kidderminster. John Bingham.

***Zeugophora subspinosa* (Fabricius, 1781), Chrysomelidae, Coleoptera. (11).**
 This small leaf beetle was beaten off young aspen trees by Denise at Shrawley Wood on 15th August 2016. It has an eastern UK distribution but becomes uncommon in Worcestershire. Although similar to other leaf beetles it was fairly easy to identify especially knowing the host plant species.



11. *Zeugophora subspinosa*, Shrawley. John Bingham.

***Eucallipterus tiliae* (Linnaeus, 1758). Aphididae. (12).**

A aphid discovered by Denise on small-leaved lime leaves at Shrawley Wood on 15th August 2016. Both adults and larvae were noted at low numbers but must have been widespread over the woodland. No records appear on NBN Gateway so difficult to know how common this attractive aphid may be. More were found more on hybrid limes along a Kidderminster street, so it suggests it is in fact a common and widespread species.



12. *Eucallipterus tiliae*, Lime Aphid. John Bingham.

***Stephanitis takeyai* (Drake & Maa, 1955). Tingidae, Hemiptera. Andromeda Lacebug or Pieris Lacebug.(13).**

An infestation found by Denise on 2nd September 2016 on a mature *Pieris japonica* shrub in the garden. It originates from Japan and was first detected in Britain in a garden near Windsor in 1998, (possibly 1994). Since then it has become widespread in southern England, where it can cause serious damage to the foliage of *Pieris* and some rhododendrons, according to the Royal Horticultural Society Website.



13. *Stephanitis takeyai*, Andromeda Lacebug, Kidderminster. John Bingham

Images

01. *Podops inuncta*, Ribbesford. John Bingham.
02. *Graptus triguttatus*, Menith Orchard. John Bingham.
03. *Rhagium bifasciatum* ab. John Bingham.
04. *Hoplia philanthus*, Bewdley. John Bingham.
05. *Chrysolina oricalcia*, Park Dingle. John Bingham.
06. *Coelioxys inermis*, Kidderminster. John Bingham.
07. *Curculio betulae*, Kidderminster. John Bingham.
08. *Physatocheila dumetorum*, Lacebug. John Bingham.
09. *Pilophorus clavatus*. John Bingham.
10. *Metrioptera roeselii*, Kidderminster. John Bingham.
11. *Zeugophora subspinosa*, Shrawley. John Bingham.
12. *Eucallipterus tiliae*, Lime Aphid. John Bingham.
13. *Stephanitis takeyai*, Andromeda Lacebug, Kidderminster. John Bingham