

Some interesting invertebrate records from Worcestershire in 2022.

John Bingham



01. Fairy-ring Longhorn Beetle *Pseudovadonia livida* (Fabricius, 1777) Cerambycidae, Coleoptera. John Bingham.

This longhorn beetle has now established itself in north Worcestershire: until last year I had no records locally near Kidderminster. It has now appeared at Bishop's Wood, Crossway Green on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in good numbers and several were found on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Dropping Well Farm, Kidderminster. It appears to be moving north in a period of expansion.



02. Small Poplar Borer *Saperda populnea* (Linnaeus, 1758) Cerambycidae, Coleoptera. John Bingham.

This longhorn beetle appears to be rather uncommon especially in the West Midlands area. A small but stable population occurs in at least two locations on the Devil's Spittleful/Rifle Range NR near Kidderminster, utilising young Aspen *Populus tremula* trees. Galls from the beetle were found on Aspen twigs to confirm breeding at one location. The beetle has also been recorded from the Wyre Forest but this population appears to be quite small and scattered.



03. A leaf beetle *Cryptocephalus aureolus* (Suffria, 1847) Chrysomelidae, Coleoptera. John Bingham.

A more southern species, this beetle was found by Denise Bingham sweeping herbage at Burlish Meadows NR on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Normally associated with various yellow flowers, especially hawkweeds *Hieracium* and cat's-ears *Hypochaeris* on warm, dry sites.



04. Red Collar Soldier Beetle *Silis ruficollis* (Fabricius, 1775) Cantharidae, Coleoptera. John Bingham.

Another species that appears to be on the move further north. Several were found in rank marshland vegetation at Wilden Marsh, Kidderminster on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Not a species generally found in the county until recently. Further information about this species can be found at UK Beetles website.



05. Denticulate Leatherbug *Coriomeris denticulatus* (Scopoli, 1763) Coridae, Hemiptera. John Bingham.

Now becoming more common at least around the Kidderminster area. Denise Bingham found it at a new site Burlish Meadows NR on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022. It feeds on various medicks and clovers in grasslands.



06. Turtle Shieldbug *Podops inuncta* (Fabricius, 1775) Pentatomidae, Hemiptera. John Bingham.

North Worcestershire appears to be at the limit of the range of this species, being more common to the south-east. One was found in sandy soil in rough grassland by Denise Bingham on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Burlish Meadows NR, Stourport. The location was on a former brownfield site now part of the Wyre Forest District Council's new Nature Reserve.



07. A Ground Bug *Peritrechus lundii* (Gmelin, 1790) Lygaeida, Hemiptera. John Bingham.

One found on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at the Rifle Range, Kidderminster in a typical sandy heathland habitat. A common Breckland species that occurs at a number of dry sandy/heathy sites in the West Midlands but nowhere common, it is strongly associated with Common Stork's-bill *Erodium cicutarium*.



08. Banded General *Stratiomys potamida* (Meigen, 1822) Stratiomyidae, Diptera. John Bingham.

A species that appears to be increasing or is at least being more frequently recorded. It has been noted in our Kidderminster garden in 2022, 2020 and 2012. Presumably it must have flown in from the nearby wetlands associated with Podmore and Hurcott pools, Kidderminster.



09. Speckled Semaphore Fly *Platystoma seminationis* (Fabricius, 1775) Platystomatidae, Diptera. John Bingham.

Found during the Worcestershire Recorders meeting at Naunton Beauchamp on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, this attractively marked fly is restricted to south Worcestershire and new to me. This is perhaps presently the most northerly site for the county.



10. Tooth-thighed Hoverfly *Tropidia scita* (Harris, 1780) Syrphidae, Diptera. John Bingham.

Found at a Worcestershire Recorders meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at the Wildgoose Rural Training Centre, Grimley. This is an uncommon species with just two or three Worcestershire records. Several were noted resting on vegetation near an area of willow carr woodland. Perhaps a species overlooked in similar wet disused gravel workings along the River Severn corridor.



11. Small Beegrabber *Thecophora atra* (Fabricius, 1775) Conopidae, Diptera. John Bingham.

Seemingly a localised species in Worcestershire or perhaps just overlooked? A cluster of records occur around the Wyre Forest/Kidderminster area with several noted in recent years at Burlish Meadows, Wildgoose Rural Training Centre and Hurcott.



12. Little Mason Wasp *Microdynerus exilis* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1839) Vespidae, Hymenoptera. John Bingham.

This Scarce Nb species was seen on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at the Rifle Range NR with a pair using an old beetle hole located in an old dead Scot's Pine, *Pinus sylvestris* stump on the heathland. This appear to be a new location much further to the north-west than previous Worcestershire records. This species was first found in Britain in 1937 in Hampshire and initially considered a great rarity. In recent years it has increased in frequency and spread as far north as Warwickshire and Norfolk.



13. Scarce Black Mining Bee *Andrena nigrospina* (Thompson, 1872) Andrenidae, Hymenoptera. John Bingham.

A good population of this Red Data Book bee is to be found around the Kidderminster area and has been recorded often over recent years by local naturalists. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 I recorded a specimen feeding on cultivated rose in our Kidderminster garden, this being our second garden record for the bee in recent years. It was also seen on

24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Dropping Well Farm using a nest hole on a sandy grassland slope.



14. Woodlouse Spider *Dysdera crocata* (C.L. Koch, 1838) Dysderidae Arachnida. John Bingham.

I've read about the Woodlouse Spider *Dysdera crocata* in the New Naturalist book 'The World of Spiders' (Bristow 1958) but never seen any until 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 when one was found on our kitchen floor. It had most likely come in from the garden, where young specimens were later discovered under a flower pot. Just goes to show what you can miss! Seemingly not common in Worcestershire, but check your flowerpots.

#### Note

Many of the vernacular names used here come from Steven Falk's Flickr Web pages. Perhaps the names are not to everyone's taste but Steven's pages are highly recommended for reference and to aid identification.

#### References

Bristow, W.S. 1958. *The World of Spiders*. New Naturalist 38. Collins, London.  
Steven Falk's Flickr pages. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/7215762922209764/> [Accessed 17.10.22].  
UK Beetles. Available at: <https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/silis-ruficollis> [Accessed 17.10.22].

#### Images

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