

**Southern Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema meridionale*  
(Costa, 1860) Tettigoniidae, Orthoptera, established  
in Worcester.**

John Bingham

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October whilst on a botanical group recording visit to the Diglis area of Worcester I happened by chance to look on a Horse Chestnut tree *Aesculus hippocastanum* in a green space parkland. A single male Southern Oak Bush-cricket *Meconema meridionale* was found just above head height on the main trunk of the tree (01). Its pale green colour meant that I nearly mistook it for the commoner Oak Bush-cricket *M. thalassinum*, but it was smaller and lacking long wings. Several other nearby trees were checked but no other bush-crickets were found.



01. Southern Oak Bush-cricket *Meconema meridionale* on Horse Chestnut Diglis, Worcester 03.10.22. John Bingham.

It is reported to be a nocturnal carnivore and a predator of the Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner micro moth *Cameraria ohridella* (Nature Spot) which is now common on these trees. This cricket was first recorded from Britain in 2001 and is spreading quite rapidly. With the first Worcestershire record at Barbourne in 2019 (Worcestershire Orthoptera web site), it would appear to have established itself in the Worcester area if not further afield in the county.

**References**

NatureSpot WebSite. Available at:  
<https://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/southern-oak-bush-cricket>  
[Accessed 07.10.22].

Worcestershire Orthoptera WebSite. Available at:  
<https://worcestershireorthoptera.weebly.com/crickets.html>  
[Accessed 07.10.22]

**Images**

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