

**Weevil *Hadroplontus trimaculatus* (Fabricius, 1775)  
Curculionidae, Coleoptera found at Dropping Well  
Farm, Kidderminster.**

John Bingham

During a botanical recording visit by the North Worcestershire Flora Group to Dropping Well Farm (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust reserve) on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, I noticed some small, strongly marked black and white weevils on the top of stems of Musk Thistle *Carduus nutans* growing in a sandy arable field. It was later identified as *Hadroplontus trimaculatus*, National Notable B (01). This species appears not to have been recorded before in Worcestershire but Mark Gurney has a record for it nearby at Kinver Edge (National Trust reserve), in Staffordshire in 2021 (NBN).



01. *Hadroplontus trimaculatus* Dropping Well Farm 25.06.22. John Bingham.

The usual habitats for this weevil are undeveloped grassland, wooded margins and beside pathways etc. in open situations, often among lowland calcareous grassland communities (UK Beetles). Host plants include a wide range of Asteraceae but in the UK it is mostly Musk Thistle and to a much lesser extent other species of *Carduus* and *Cirsium*. (UK Beetles). The Dropping Well Farm site is perhaps best described as being similar to 'Breckland' due to its sandy nature and associated plant species. Many of the Musk Thistle flower heads contained weevils, often their presence shown by the uppermost bracts of the thistle being folded up onto the flowering head.

There are two species of *Hadroplontus* found in the UK; *H. litura* (02) is generally duller and lacks stripes on its femora. It is the commoner of the two species and occurs on Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* whilst *H. trimaculatus* (03) is separated by the bold bicoloured leg pattern and yellowish-brown scales along the suture.



02. *Hadroplontus litura* for comparison, showing generally duller appearance and unstriped femora. Wilden Marsh. John Bingham.



03. *Hadroplontus trimaculatus* showing bright pattern and striped femora. Dropping Well Farm 25.06.22. John Bingham

**References.**

UK Beetles WebSite. Available at:  
<https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/hadroplontus-trimaculatus>  
[Accessed 07.10.22].

NBN WebSite. Available at:  
<https://species.nbnatlas.org/species/NHMSYS0020152235>  
[Accessed 09.10.22].

**Images**

01. *Hadroplontus trimaculatus* Dropping Well Farm 25.06.22. John Bingham.

02. *Hadroplontus litura* for comparison, showing generally duller appearance and unstriped femora. Avon Meadows, Pershore 18.06.16. Gary Farmer.

03. *Hadroplontus trimaculatus* showing bright pattern and striped femora. Dropping Well Farm 25.06.22. John Bingham