

## A first county record for Worcestershire of the Southern Oak Bush-cricket *Meconema meridionale*

Gary Farmer

Southern Oak Bush-cricket (01) was first reported in Britain from Thames Ditton in 2001 and its spread since then has been remarkable (Benton 2012). Its arrival into Worcestershire had been anticipated (e.g. Worcestershire's Orthoptera web site) but the first record slipped in 'below the radar'.



(01) Southern Oak Bush-cricket, Barbourne, Worcester 2019. Daniel Squire.



(02) Oak Bush-cricket for comparison. G. Farmer.

It was a chance find of a record on iRecord that led to a follow up with Bjorn Beckmann National Orthoptera Recorder who had determined the record and Daniel Squire the recorder.

Daniel Squire recorded a Southern Oak Bush-cricket in Barbourne, Worcester on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019. He discovered it inside his house on an upstairs ceiling noting that a large crab apple tree grows close to the house and this might have been the cricket's aid to entering the building. Daniel has subsequently found this species down stairs in the house.

Southern Oak Bush-cricket closely resembles the Oak Bush-cricket *Meconema thalassinum* (02), with the most obvious difference being that Southern Oak Bush-cricket is wingless. There are many sources of images on the internet (e.g. the NatureSpot website) and in Benton 2012.

### Refernces:

Benton, T. 2012. *Grasshoppers and Crickets*. The New Naturalist Library, number 120. Collins, London.

iRecord web site. Available at

<https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord> [Accessed 17.11.2020]

NatureSpot web site. Available at

<https://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/southern-oak-bush-cricket> [Accessed 17.11.2020]

Worcestershire Orthoptera web site. Available at

<https://worcestershireorthoptera.weebly.com/2015.html> [Accessed 17.11.2020]

### Images

(01) Southern Oak Bush-cricket, Barbourne, Worcester 2019. Daniel Squire.

(02) Oak Bush-cricket for comparison. G. Farmer.