

## Bombardier Beetle *Brachinus crepitans* in North Littleton, Worcestershire.

Gary Farmer

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 I dropped in to Vale Landscape Heritage Trust's (VLHT) North Littleton Community Orchard & Nature Reserve (NLCO) for a brief visit. On finding a discarded saloon car parcel shelf (it's amazing what turns up there) I lifted it to see what might be taking shelter underneath. To my surprise there was a huddle of five or six Bombardier Beetles *Brachinus crepitans*. One of these is shown in picture 01.



01. Bombardier beetle *Brachinus crepitans* at North Littleton. Gary Farmer.

I was not familiar with the species in Worcestershire so I searched the internet and found two articles from *Worcestershire Record*: *Bombardier Beetle Brachinus Crepitans Found Near Honeybourne* by John Meiklejohn, John Partridge and Harry Green (Meiklejohn et al 2001) and *The Bombardier Beetle Brachinus crepitans* (Linnaeus, 1758) by Harry Green (Green 2002). Both of these articles suggest that this beetle is very rare in the county. It was later found by Kevin McGee on an industrial site near Shrub Hill railway station in Worcester and he also mentions an earlier record on the old railway line at Brotheridge Green in the 1970s. This 2019 record is therefore the fourth for Worcestershire.

### References

- Green, H. 2002. Bombardier Beetle. *Worcestershire Record* 12:24.  
Meiklejohn, J., Partridge, J. & Green, H. 2001. Bombardier beetle *Brachinus crepitans* found near Honeybourne. *Worcestershire Record*, 11:44.  
McGee, K. 2017. Bombardier beetle *Brachinus crepitans* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Carabidae) and other species of interest from a brownfield site in Worcester. *Worcestershire Record* 43:14-16

Image

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