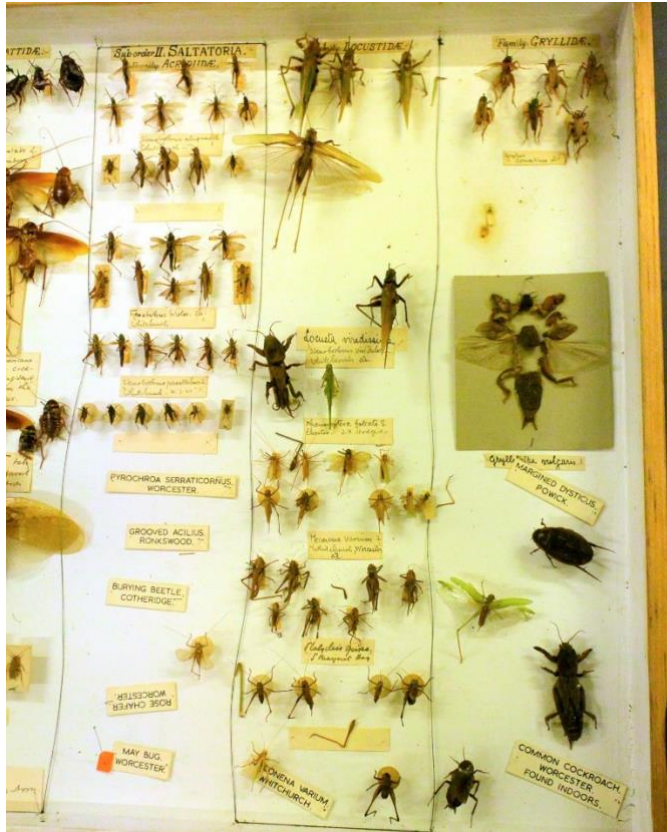


Some early records of Orthoptera from Worcestershire held in the Fletcher Collection, Worcester Museum and Art Gallery.

Gary Farmer

Shortly after the publication of the Worcestershire Orthoptera Atlas (Farmer 2018), I accompanied Harry Green to the Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG) where Harry had arranged for us to view any specimens of Orthopterans and their allies (01). Many of the insect specimens held there are from the Fletcher collection, some of which have been inspected and the Coleoptera have been catalogued (Green 2010), but little or no work has been done on other Orders.



01. Draw containing Fletcher's Orthoptera and allies held at Worcester Museum and Art Gallery 05.11.2018. Harry Green.

John Edward Fletcher, was born in Newtown, Worcester, England, 1836 and died at St. John's, Worcester, in 1902. His Orthoptera specimens span the years 1871 to 1900. The museum collection also includes a small number of Orthopterans from other collections (not from Worcestershire), included in this report for interest.

In 1936 Dr Malcolm Burr reported that there were no records of any Orthopterans from Worcestershire at that time (Burr 1936). The 2018 Worcestershire Orthoptera Atlas regards Fred Fincher's notes (Fincher 1953) as the earliest records of Orthopterans in the county. Our search in the Worcester Museum and Art Gallery collection reveals some earlier specimens, dating back to the late 1800s. A list of identified specimens follows together with any notes taken from their identification tags.

Oak Bush-cricket *Meconema thalassinum* (labelled *Meconema varium*):

Bransford, Worcester – 13.10.1879
 In the garden Worcester – 26.08.1873
 Monk Wood Worcester 30.10.1882
 In the garden 08.09.1871

Speckled Bush-cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*:

Monk's Wood nr Worcester 18.10.1877
 Oldbury Lane area – 03.09.1873
 Bransford Worcester – 17.09.1888

Dark Bush-cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*:

Grimley nr Worcester – 18.10.1880
 Crown East Wood Worcester 04.09.1882

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*:

Worcester - 26.08.1874

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*:

Worcester 28.07.1883

Common Groundhopper *Tetrix undulata*:

Monkswood nr Worcester 05.10.1878
 Worcester indoors – 10.08.1881

Slender Groundhopper *Tetrix subulata*:

Cotheridge nr Worcester – 09.04.1883

House Cricket *Acheta domestica*:

indoors, Worcester – 08.09.1886.
 indoors Worcester - 29 June 1872
 in the house (St Johns) – 19.06.1873
 in the garden – 20.07.1872

Common Cockroach *Blatta orientalis*:

Worcester indoors - 16.08.1884
 Worcester in cellar – 01.11.1900
 On path Worcester - 16.05.1889
 By William Morris Worcester July 1861

Lesser Earwig *Labia minor*:

Worcester in garden – 17.09.1875
 Worcester - 06.09.1875
 At light Worcester – 12.07.1871

In the house Worcester 13.07.1871

Grimley Worcester - 30.07.1889

Garden Worcester – 12.05.1884

Common Earwig *Forficula auricularia*:

Monkswood – 30.10.1878
 Broad Heath Worcester – 06.10.1879
 Oldberry Farm (dig at roots of tree) – 08.03.1886

Specimens from WMAG collected outside of VC37/Worcestershire

Great Green Bush-cricket *Tettigonia viridissima*:

Several from London – Harold Hodge – 10.01.1879

Mole Cricket *Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa*:

Kingsworthy, Winchester, Hants – C. Rea – 22.05.1902

Sickle-bearing Bush-cricket *Phaneroptera falcata*:

From the Bloom Collection – Presd at 7.1909. No location.

Grey Bush-cricket *Platycleis albopunctata*:

From the Bloom Collection - No date. No location.

References

- Green, D.M. 2010. Identification of specimens and cataloguing of the Coleoptera (beetle) collection of Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery. *Worcestershire Record*. 29: 9.
- Burr, M 1936. *British grasshoppers and their allies*. Janson & Sons, London.
- Farmer, G. 2018. *Worcestershire's Orthoptera*. Aspect Design Malvern.
- Fincher, F. 1953. Some notes on Orthoptera and Dermaptera in the West Midlands. *Entomologist's Record* 65:151-154.

Image

01. Drawer containing Fletcher's Orthoptera and allies held at Worcester Museum and Art Gallery 05.11.2018. Harry Green.