

The tortoise beetle *Cassida nobilis* on an allotment in Redditch.

Gary Farmer.

On 13th May 2020 I received an email from Jackie Hardy; she had found an “unknown insect” walking across the bare soil on her allotment in Redditch. Unable to identify it, she forwarded me a photo (01) and asked if I could help.



01. ‘Unknown insect’ – *Cassida nobilis*. Jackie Hardy.

I could immediately see that it was a tortoise beetle **Cassidinae** but it was a species I was not familiar with. It was pale brown with a single golden stripe on each elytra (02 & 03), and much smaller than the common green species. With reference to *Beetles of Britain and Ireland* (Duff 2016) I was able to identify it as *Cassida nobilis*, a species which feeds on Fat Hen *Chenopodium album* (04) and is described as being local in central and southern England and Wales and very local in northern England. It does not appear to have been recorded in Worcestershire before.



02. *Cassida nobilis* 13.05.20 Redditch. G. Farmer.



03. Tortoise beetle *Cassida nobilis* 13.05.20 Redditch. G. Farmer.



04. *Cassida nobilis* feeding on Fat Hen. 13.05.20. Redditch. G. Farmer.

Reference

Duff, G.D., *Beetles of Britain and Ireland* Volume 4: Cerambycidae to Curculionidae. A.G. Duff (Publishing), Norfolk.

Images

- 01. ‘Unkown insect’ – *Cassida nobilis*. Jackie Hardy
- 02. *Cassida nobilis* 13.05.20 Redditch. G. Farmer
- 03. Tortoise beetle *Cassida nobilis* 13.05.20 Redditch. G. Farmer
- 04. *Cassida nobilis* feeding on Fat Hen, 13.05.20 Redditch. G. Farmer