

***Blaps mucronata* Latreille, 1804 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) and *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Coleoptera: Carabidae) in the Coleoptera collection of Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum**

David M. Green
davidmxgreen@gmail.com

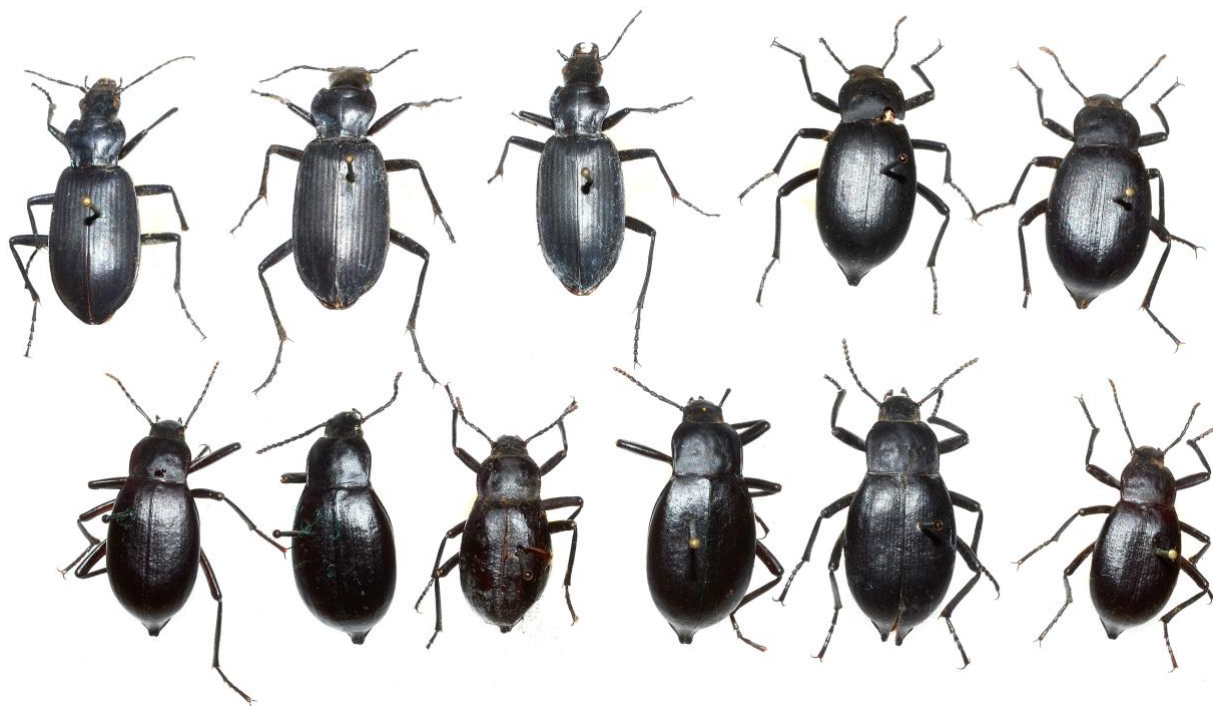
A recent record of *Blaps mucronata* Latreille, 1804 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) in Kemerton and a review of Worcestershire records

(Green & Poloni 2015, in this Worcestershire Record) makes it relevant to review records I have compiled for the species from specimens in Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum Coleoptera collection. Also I include the records of *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Coleoptera: Carabidae) which shares the same synanthropic habitat such as cellars. Picture 01 shows all the specimens of both species in the museum. Pictures 02-05 shows examples of both species and their labels. The following table lists records.

Species	Num	Collection	Provenance
<i>Blaps mucronata</i>	1	Fletcher	Indoors, Worcester 1883-July
<i>Blaps mucronata</i>	1	Fletcher	Indoors, Worcester 1885-August-28
<i>Blaps mucronata</i>	2	Fletcher	In cellar, Worcester 1856-July
<i>Blaps mucronata</i>	1	Fletcher	Skin[?] ..., Worcester 1893-July-20
<i>Blaps mucronata</i>	3	Bloom. Purchd. from Bloom Collection 1909	(no provenance otherwise)
<i>Sphodrus leucophthalmus</i>	3	Fletcher	In cellar, Worcester, by Alfred Burrow 1857

Num = number of specimens

Collection: The collection from which specimen originated; these are combined mostly into one cabinet in the museum.



01. All the museum specimens of *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* (top left three) and *Blaps mucronata* (remainder) in the museum collection. David M Green



02. All the museum specimen labels - layout same as specimens in 01.



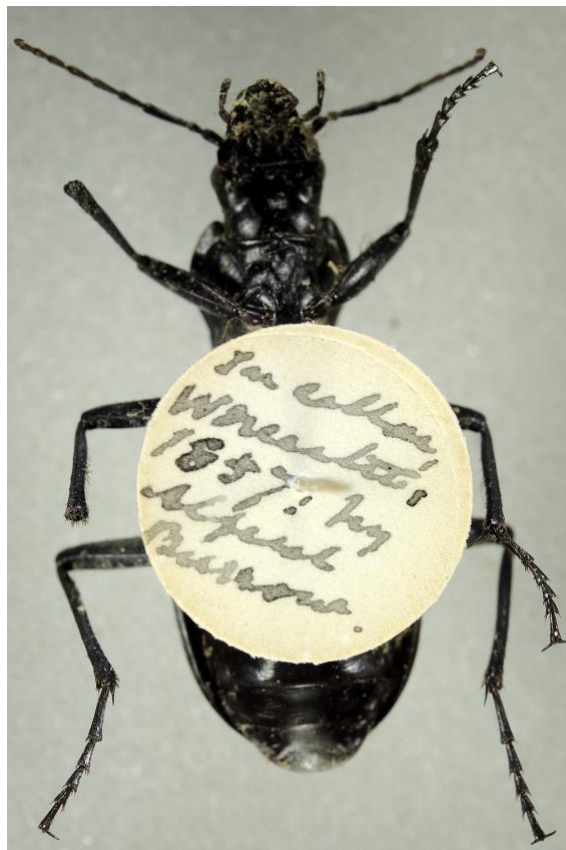
03. *Blaps mucronata* - example specimen on pin in museum. The colour should be interpreted as black. David M Green



05. *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* example specimen on pin in the museum. David M Green



04. Same specimen as 03 *Blaps mucronata* underneath showing label. David M Green



06. Same specimen as 05 *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* underneath showing label. David M Green

Both species are now generally known to have declined with the reduction of synanthropic habitat in cellars, stores and mills. Of *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* Duff 2012 states: no British records since 1979, and, "in cellars and stores, usually in urban areas, apparently preying on larvae of *Blaps* spp". Fletcher's *Blaps mucronata* records of "indoors" suggests the species was common in 19th century Worcester when there were more dark/damp places with more cereals and vegetable matter available for food indoors and protective containment of such food only partial. The Green & Poloni (2016) list of *Blaps mucronata* records for Worcestershire indicates it is now found occasionally in villages. It seems possible *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* might be extinct in Britain so it would be relevant to look for it particularly where *Blaps mucronata* is found and to avoid use of insecticides on synanthropic insects generally, especially in dark/damp places indoors.

Acknowledgements

To curators Garston Philips, Deborah Fox, and other staff, my thanks for providing access to the Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum insect collection for long term work and recent photography. To Harry Green, for information/article in prep. (Green & Poloni 2015) that caused the writing of this article.

References

Duff, Andrew G. 2012 *Beetles of Britain and Ireland*. Vol 1: Sphaeriidae to Silphidae: p199. West Runton, Norfolk: A.G. Duff
Green, Harry & Poloni, Jake. 2015. Cellar Beetle *Blaps mucronata* at Kemerton, Worcestershire 2015. *Worcestershire Record* 39 This issue (in prep)

Images

01. All the museum specimens of *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* (top left three) and *Blaps mucronata* (remainder) in the museum collection. David M Green
02. All the museum specimen labels - layout same as specimens in 01.
03. *Blaps mucronata* - example specimen on pin in museum. The colour should be interpreted as black. David M Green
04. Same specimen as 03 *Blaps mucronata* underneath showing label. David M Green
05. *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* example specimen on pin in the museum. David M Green
06. Same specimen as 05 *Sphodrus leucophthalmus* underneath showing label. David M Green.