

The caddis fly *Athripsodes bilineatus* in VC 37 Worcestershire.

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June 2014 was a busy month for recording along the River Cole in south Birmingham. I had been trying to record as many sightings as possible of Beautiful Demoiselle along a four mile length of the river, as well as anything else of interest. The “anything else of interest” category was fulfilled on the 19th June when my attention was drawn to an insect sitting on the lichen covered branch of a tree by the river bank. The area was in heavy shade but I decided to try to take some photographs of the very dark insect (01). As I could not get particularly close to the tree, sharp images were going to be a challenge. I could see that the all-black insect was a caddis fly and further investigation would be needed. For various reasons the sighting lay in the “in box” of my records until earlier this year when I determined to discover its identification.

01 just shows the small white marks on the wings which can stand out like beacons, even in the poor light and are distinctive of *Athripsodes bilineatus*. National Trichoptera Recorder Dr Ian Wallace confirmed my identification. There is a confusion species, the dark brown *Athripsodes albifrons* which occasionally has black wings but unlike *A. bilineatus* has white hairs on its head.

The table below shows the records of *Athripsodes bilineatus* held by Worcestershire Biological Records Centre (WBRC) March 2016.

<i>Athripsodes bilineatus</i>	Dowles Brook, Wyre Forest	SO722766	30/06/1977
<i>Athripsodes bilineatus</i>	Carpenter's Farm, Berrow	SO777339	05/07/2012
<i>Athripsodes bilineatus</i>	Defford	SO917437	18/05/2014
<i>Athripsodes bilineatus</i>	Defford	SO917437	03/07/2014
<i>Athripsodes bilineatus</i>	Dowles Brook, Wyre Forest	SO722766	29/03/1977 - 30/12/1977

Additional records provided by Dr Ian Wallace include one at Hopwood in 2001 (Environment Agency); at two sites near Malvern in the early 2000's; one in the Redditch area in 1930s; and another from Wyre Forest in 1984. The species is found throughout England, Wales and mainland Scotland although scarce in SE England (Barnard & Ross 2012). It is probably under-recorded in Worcestershire.

Acknowledgements:

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Worcestershire Biological Records Centre for searching their database and supplying records..

References:

Barnard, P & Ross, E. 2012. *The adult Trichoptera (caddisflies) of Britain and Ireland*. Handbooks for the identification of British insects volume 1, part 17. Published for the Royal Entomological Society by The Field Studies Council, Telford.

Image

01. The caddis fly *Athripsodes bilineatus* on River Cole. Des Jennings