

The first record of the mirid bug *Closterotomus trivialis* known to Worcestershire Biological Records Centre in VC37.

Des Jennings

The Covid-19 pandemic has restricted my movements this year and meant much more time spent in my garden. Not surprisingly, my attention turned to recording and photographing virtually anything I encountered: bees, wasps, butterflies, spiders and ladybirds, all came in for scrutiny.

In June (2020), an early evening investigation of the flowers and vegetation encircling my small garden pond disturbed an insect that settled briefly on a flower. With my camera at the ready, I took some record shots before the insect moved underneath the vegetation and out of view. Investigation of the website 'British Bugs', an online ID guide to UK Hemiptera, narrowed down my search to Lucerne Bug *Adelphocoris lineolatus* - little did I know that the insect I had seen was not in the systematic list, including photographs.



01. Male *Closterotomus trivialis*. Moseley, Birmingham.. June 2020. Des Jennings.



02. Male *Closterotomus trivialis* Moseley, Birmingham. June 2020, Des Jennings.

I submitted my sighting online to iRecord and was surprised by the eventual verification by Maria Justamond, a specialist in Hemiptera, who identified the insect as *Closterotomus trivialis* (01) and (02), a mirid bug considered a pest to Olive trees *Olea europaea* in the Mediterranean area, first identified in the UK in 2008 in the London

area. *C. trivialis* is concentrated in the south-east of England with scattered records elsewhere (03).



03. Map of the UK distribution of *C. trivialis* at August 2020, including the VC37 records. Courtesy of iRecord.

By chance, I discovered that *C. trivialis* had been found in 2019 at Canon Hill Park, Birmingham and was thus the first record for VC 37 but the WBRC had not been made aware of the fact.

References:

- Maria Justamond-verifier for iRecord.
- www.britishbugs.org.uk
- Bantock, T., spring 2010. *Closterotomus trivialis* in north London. *Newsletter of the Heteroptera Recording Scheme*.

Images:

- 01. Male *Closterotomus trivialis*, Moseley, Birmingham.. June 2020. Des Jennings.
- 02. Male *Closterotomus trivialis*, Moseley, Birmingham.,. June 2020, Des Jennings.
- 03. Map of the UK distribution of *C. trivialis* at August 2020, including the VC 37 records. Courtesy of iRecord.