

***Donacia clavipes* Fabricius, 1793 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) at the Worcester & Birmingham Canal.**

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During a lunch-time stroll on 18.05.2022 along the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near the Offerton Lane Local Nature Reserve in north Worcester, I discovered a population of approximately fifty *Donacia clavipes* on dense stands of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. This is one of several similar bright metallic species of reed beetle found on a variety of riparian plants in and around water bodies. Many are host specific and the developing larvae are often dependent on one plant species. *D. clavipes* is an uncommon species with a conservation status of Nationally Notable B. It is entirely associated with Common Reed on which the larval development takes three years. Nearby stands of Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* supported several of the related and more widespread *Donacia simplex*.



01. *Donacia clavipes* at the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Offerton Lane on 18.05.2022. Kevin McGee.



02. *Donacia clavipes* at the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Offerton Lane on 18.05.2022. Kevin McGee.



03. Location of *Donacia clavipes* at the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Offerton Lane on 18.05.2022. Kevin McGee.

This is only my second record of this species in Worcestershire; the first was of one of several collected from Common Reed at the River Avon, Eckington Bridge on 29.05.1998.

References

UK Beetle Recording website. Available at: <https://www.coleoptera.org.uk/species/donacia-clavipes> [Accessed 12.10.2022]

Images

- 01. *Donacia clavipes* at the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Offerton Lane on 18.05.2022. Kevin McGee.
- 02. *Donacia clavipes* at the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Offerton Lane on 18.05.2022. Kevin McGee.
- 03. Location of *Donacia clavipes* at the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Offerton Lane on 18.05.2022. Kevin McGee.