

***Eledona agricola* (Herbst, 1783) (Col: Tenebrionidae)
at Martley.**

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Two specimens of *Eledona agricola* (Herbst, 1783) were collected from decaying 'chicken of the woods' fungus *Laetiporus sulphureus* near the base of a yew tree in St. Peters church yard, Martley, on 14.11.2018. This beetle is listed as Nationally Notable B (NBN Atlas, 2018).



01. *Eledona agricola* inside *Laetiporus sulphureus* at Martley on 30.11.2018. K.McGee.

During my lunch break on 14.11.2018 I investigated the decaying remnants of a large bracket fungus growing near the base of a yew tree. Three small dark beetles were collected; each less than 3mm in length. Several more appearing to be the same species were left *in-situ* within the fungus. The advanced level of decay of the fungus meant I was unable to identify the species by general appearance so I collected a sample. I posted the sample to P.F.Whitehead who kindly confirmed the fungus as *Laetiporus sulphureus*.

One of the beetles collected was *Dacne rufifrons* (Fabricius, 1775), Erotylidae, the other two keyed out as *Eledona agricola*. This constitutes my first record of *E. agricola*. Research of the available literature shows a strong association with *Laetiporus sulphureus*. On 30.11.2018 I returned to the same decaying fungus and located two more adults of *Eledona agricola* and was able to photograph a live specimen (01).

Acknowledgements

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References.

Brendell, M.J.D. 1975). *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects*, Vol.V Part 10. *Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae*. Royal Entomological Society of London.
NBN Atlas *Species search* [on-line] <http://www.nbnatlas.org/>
[Accessed 15.11.2018]

Images.

01. *Eledona agricola* inside *Laetiporus sulphureus* at Martley on 30.11.2018. K.McGee.