

Hymenoptera of note from Martley, 2017.

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Agenioideus cinctellus (Hym; Pompilidae).

Small numbers of male and females were recorded on several dates from the low wall near Martley Church between 22.05.2017 and 07.09.2017. Although a widespread species nationally, it is considered generally rare in the midlands (BWARS, 2017). There are records on the WBRC database from the Devil's Spittleful and Hartlebury Common where it was recorded by Colin Plant and Mike Archer during the early 1990's (G. Trevis, pers.comm.). I have a record from Hartlebury Common on 14.08.2004. This small spider-hunting wasp is quite distinctive; especially the female with her red legs that are easily distinguishable in the field. They nest in old aculeate burrows in bare soil (BWARS, 2017).



01. *Agenioideus cinctellus* male at Martley on 16.06.2017. © K.McGee.



02. *Agenioideus cinctellus* female at Martley on 04.09.2017. © K.McGee.

Andrena bucephala (Hym; Andrenidae) Notable A. One female photographed at the church wall on 13.04.2017. Confirmed *via* email from Steven Falk. *A. bucephala* is univoltine flying between mid-April to May in a wide variety of habitats, but often recorded from sunny banks (BWARS, 2017). The uncommon cleptoparasite of this species, *Nomada hirtipes*, was also recorded here during 2017 (see below).



03. *Andrena bucephala* female at Martley on 13.04.2017. © K.McGee.

One male visiting flowers of Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* at the millennium green alongside the church on 23.05.2017. It is well worth inspecting flowering patches of speedwells during mid to late May for this distinctive mining bee which is possibly undergoing an increase in its geographical range.



04. *Andrena labiata* male at Martley on 23.05.2017. © K.McGee

Andrena trimmerana (Hym; Andrenidae) Notable B. One male was photographed at the church wall on 21.03.2017. A bivoltine species most often recorded sparingly from steep banks and slopes where they nest singly in a variety of habitats (BWARS, 2017).



05. *Andrena trimmerana* male at Martley on 21.03.2017. © K.McGee

Anthidium manicatum (Hym; Megachilidae) Wool Carder Bee. Up to three males were regularly seen visiting flowers of Black Horehound *Ballota nigra* on several dates between 19.06.2017 and 04.09.2017.



06. *Anthidium manicatum* male at Martley on 27.06.2017. © K.McGee

Anthophora furcata (Hym; Apidae). Up to two were regularly seen visiting flowers of Black Horehound *Ballota nigra* on several dates between 22.06.2017 and 07.07.2017. This widespread but generally uncommon species is most often recorded visiting Lamiaceae between June and July (BWARS, 2017).



07. *Anthophora furcata* female at Martley on 22.06.2017. © K.McGee

Coelioxys elongata (Hym; Megachilidae). One female was collected on 14.07.2017 from flowers of Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* at the millennium green alongside the church. This is a cleptoparasite of the leaf-cutter bee *Megachile willughbiella* and although nationally widespread in a variety of habitats it is considered rare in the midlands. *C. elongata* is fond of bird's-foot trefoil species and melilot species (BWARS, 2017).



08. *Coelioxys elongata* female at Martley on 14.07.2017. © K.McGee

Coelioxys rufescens (Hym; Megachilidae). One female was collected from flowers of Green Alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens* at the church wall on 16.06.2017. This is a cleptoparasite of the leaf-cutter bee *Megachile willughbiella*, but also parasitizes *Anthophora furcata* (BWARS, 2017).



09. *Coelioxys rufescens* female at Martley on 16.06.2017. © K.McGee

Ectemnius rubicola (Hym; Crabronidae). One female was collected from Martley Millennium Green on 15.06.2017. Although this species is considered to be nationally widespread (BWARS, 2017), there are very few records on the NBN Atlas, most of which are from the south and east of England. This *Ectemnius* is distinctly smaller than closely related and much commoner species; including *E. continuus* and *E. lituratus*, which emerge as adults somewhat later in the year in my experience.



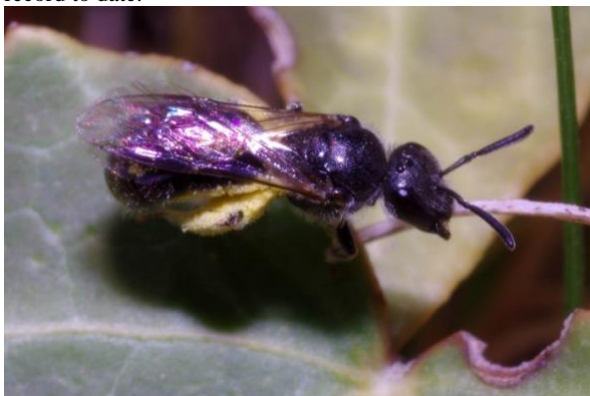
10. *Ectemnius rubicola* female at Martley on 15.06.2017. © K.McGee

Evagetes crassicornis (Hym; Pompilidae). One female was collected from the low wall at Martley church on 26.09.2017. This rather small spider-hunting wasp is a cuckoo of other pompilids but there are still gaps surrounding the knowledge of this species. It is thought to parasitize *Anoplius nigerrimus* and/or *Arachnospila anceps* (BWARS, 2017). Both are considered widespread and common and I have recorded both species from the wall at Martley church on several occasions. It is always particularly satisfying to capture a decent image of a spider-hunting wasp and collect it for correct identification later as they move very rapidly and erratically through often dense vegetation close to the ground.



11. *Evagetes crassicornis* female at Martley on 26.09.2017. © K.McGee

Lasioglossum rufitarse (Hym; Halictidae). One female was collected from the wall at the church on 09.05.2017. Although considered to be nationally widespread (BWARS, 2017) this remains my only record to date.



12. *Lasioglossum rufitarse* female at Martley on 09.05.2017. © K.McGee

Melecta albifrons (Hym; Apidae). One or two were regularly seen visiting flowers of Green Alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens* at the church wall between 28.03.2017 and 18.04.2017. This is a cleptoparasite of *Anthophora plumipes* and *A. furcata* (BWARS, 2017).



13. *Melecta albifrons* male at Martley on 31.03.2017. © K.McGee

Nomada hirtipes (Hym; Apidae). RDB3. Three females were present at the church wall on 18.05.2017. A photograph of one female was emailed to Steven Falk who kindly confirmed my identification. This rare species is a cleptoparasite of *Andrena bucephala* (BWARS, 2017).



14. *Nomada hirtipes* female at Martley on 18.05.2017. © K.McGee

Nysson trimaculatus (Hym; Crabronidae) Notable B. (**No image**). One male was collected on 21.07.2017 from the low wall near Martley Church. This scarce digger wasp is a cleptoparasite of *Gorytes quadrifasciatus* in the midlands (BWARS, 2017); a species I have previously recorded on Angelica flowers at Martley Millennium Green on 28.08.2015. The only other record I have for *N. trimaculatus* is of a male collected from sandy ground at Cherry Orchard, Worcester, on 18.06.2005.

Sphecodes niger (Hym; Halictidae) RDB3. Recorded in small numbers from the low wall at Martley Church between 09.05.2017 and 01.09.2017. The very small but distinctive all-black males are seen more frequently than females in my experience. They occupy just one area of bare soil at the top of part of the wall where females search for nest burrows of the host mining bee *Lasioglossum morio* which they parasitise (BWARS, 2017). *L. morio* is abundant at the wall.



15. *Sphecodes niger* female at Martley on 13.07.2017. © K.McGee



16. *Sphecodes niger* male at Martley on 05.07.2017. © K.McGee

References

BWARS Species search [on-line] <http://www.bwars.com/> [Accessed 29.9.2017]

Images

01. *Agenioideus cinctellus* male at Martley on 16.06.2017. Kevin McGee.
02. *Agenioideus cinctellus* female Martley on 04.09.2017. Kevin McGee.
03. *Andrena bucephala* female at Martley on 13.04.2017. Kevin McGee.
04. *Andrena labiata* male at Martley on 23.05.2017. Kevin McGee.
05. *Andrena trimmera* male at Martley on 21.03.2017. Kevin McGee.
06. *Anthidium manicatum* male at Martley on 27.06.2017. Kevin McGee.
07. *Anthophora furcata* female at Martley on 22.06.2017 . Kevin McGee.
08. *Coelioxys elongata*. female at Martley on 14.07.2017. Kevin McGee.
09. *Coelioxys rufescens*. female at Martley on 16.06.2017. Kevin McGee.
10. *Ectemnius rubicola*. female at Martley on 15.06.2017. Kevin McGee.
11. *Evagetes crassicornis*. female at Martley on 26.09.2017. Kevin McGee.
12. *Lasioglossum rufitarse*. female at Martley on 09.05.2017. Kevin McGee.
13. *Melecta albifrons*. male at Martley on 31.03.2017. Kevin McGee.
14. *Nomada hirtipes*. female at Martley on 18.05.2017. Kevin McGee.

15. *Sphecodes niger* female at Martley on 13.07.2017. Kevin McGee.

16. *Sphecodes niger* male at Martley on 05.07.2017. Kevin McGee..