

***Osmia spinulosa* (Kirby, 1802) (Hym: Megachilidae)
at Penny Hill Bank & Quarry.**

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The establishment of breeding populations of the Spined Mason Bee *Osmia spinulosa* (Kirby, 1802) at Penny Hill Bank and the adjoining former quarry is reported.

A single female was collected from flowers of Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* at Penny Hill Bank (SO753616) on 31.07.2020. This may be the second Worcestershire record; the NBN Atlas distribution map shows one record from a site near Broadway in the south-east of the county. On 08.08.2020 a female was collected from flowers of Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* further up the slope from Penny Hill Bank on the site of the former quarry (SO752616). It is estimated that four female *O. spinulosa* were visiting this patch of fleabanes. Another single female was at the same patch of fleabanes on 11.08.2020.

O. spinulosa is strongly associated with calcareous sites including calcareous grasslands and brownfield sites such as disused quarries (Falk & Lewington, 2015) where females create up to three nest cells in empty snail shells using chewed leaves. Flowers visited for pollen include Hawkbits, Hawk's-beards, Ox-eye Daisy, Common Fleabane, Ragworts, Knapweeds, and Thistles (Falk & Lewington, 2015).

O. spinulosa has a long flight period (mid-May to late September) and should be looked for on similar sites in Worcestershire such as anywhere on or near Bredon Hill, and Windmill Hill near Evesham.



01. *Osmia spinulosa* (female) on Common Fleabane at Penny Hill Quarry on 08.08.2020. K.McGee.



02. Penny Hill Quarry on 08.08.2020. Note the patch of Common Fleabanes on the left. K.McGee.

References

NBN Atlas *Species search* [on-line] <http://www.nbnatlas.org/>
[Accessed 23.08.2020]
Falk, S. & Lewington, R (2015). *Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain & Ireland*. Bloomsbury.

Images

01. *Osmia spinulosa* (female) on Common Fleabane at Penny Hill Quarry on 08.08.2020. K.McGee.
02. Penny Hill Quarry on 08.08.2020. Note the patch of Common Fleabanes on the left. K.McGee.