

Records of note 2018.

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Lepidoptera

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* (Lep: Lycaenidae).

Three freshly emerged adults were seen at the Devil's Spittleful on 5.05. 2018. They were all in the area immediately alongside the Severn Valley railway line among emergent Broom.



01. Green Hairstreak at the Devil's Spittleful on 05.05.2018. © K.McGee.

Yellow-legged Clearwing *Synanthedon vespiformis* (Lep: Sesiidae).

One adult was briefly seen in flight around a large log-pile at the Shakenhurst estate on 10.06 2018.

Coleoptera (in date order)

Notoxus monocerus (Col: Anthicidae).

One was found on emergent vegetation alongside the track leading from Blackstone Rock car park towards the Devil's Spittleful on - 05.05.2018.

Phytoecia cylindrica (Col: Cerambycidae). Notable B.

One was found on Hogweed foliage alongside the track leading from Blackstone Rock car park towards the Devil's Spittleful on 05.05.2018.



02. *Phytoecia cylindrica* near the Devil's Spittleful on 05.05. 2018. © K.McGee.

Agonum emarginatum (Col: Carabidae).

I rarely encounter this species. I collected one from beneath a log at

the edge of a seasonal pool at the Mackeness Reserve, Wyre Forest on 21.04.2018 and another from beneath a log on the banks of the River Rea at the Shakenhurst estate on 07.05.2018.

Mycetophagus piceus (Col: Mycetophagidae). Notable B.

One was collected from inside a very dry and crumbling part of a large and long dead oak log at the Shakenhurst estate on 13.05.2018.



03. *Mycetophagus piceus* at Shakenhurst on 13.v. 2018. © K.McGee.

Stenostola dubia (Col: Cerambycidae). Notable B.

Up to five were present on the foliage of a large open-grown mature Lime tree at the Shakenhurst estate between 17th and 26th May 2018. A pair in-cop were noted on 19.05.2018.



04. *Stenostola dubia* at Shakenhurst on 17.05.2018. © K.McGee.

Pterostichus diligens (Col: Carabidae).

One collected from boggy ground alongside the seasonal pool at the Mackeness Reserve, Wyre Forest on 19.05.2018 is my only record for this species anywhere in the midlands.

Kibunea minuta (Col: Elateridae).

One collected from Goat Willow foliage alongside a pool at the Shakenhurst estate on 26.05.2018.

Melandrya caraboides (Col: Melandryidae). Notable B.

One was present on a large log-pile at the Shakenhurst estate on 28.05.2018.

Pyrrhidium sanguineum (Col: Cerambycidae). RDB2.

One was present on a large log-pile at the Shakenhurst estate on 28.05.2018.



05. *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* on an oak log at the Shakenhurst estate on 28.05.2018. © K.McGee.

Staphylinus dimidiaticornis (Col: Staphylinidae).

One freshly emerged adult was encountered sunning itself on emergent meadowsweet foliage alongside the pool at Martley Millennium Green (near St. Peters Church) on 31.05.2018. It is rare to be presented the opportunity of photographing rove beetles in perfect situations such as this, but I managed two or three decent images before it dropped off the leaf into dense ground vegetation beneath. My only other Worcestershire record is of one I collected from muddy ground at the edge of a ditch near Grafton Wood on 28.05.2003 and later confirmed by P. F. Whitehead.



06. *Staphylinus dimidiaticornis* at Martley Millennium Green on 31.05.2018. © K.McGee.

Agrilus biguttatus (Col: Buprestidae).

One in flight landed briefly on the trunk of a dead Horse Chestnut at the Shakenhurst estate on 10.06.2018.

Leiopus nebulosus (Col: Cerambycidae).

One was found on a large log-pile at the Shakenhurst estate on 10.06.2018.

Axinotarsus ruficollis (Col: Malachiidae).

One was found at rest on the southern wall of St. Peters Church, Martley on 12.07.2018. My first record of this species anywhere.



07. *Axinotarsus ruficollis* at St. Peters Church, Martley on 12.06.2018. © K.McGee.

Diptera (in date order)

Criorhina ranunculi (Dip: Syrphidae).

I encountered a female ovipositing in mosses at the base of a silver birch tree late in the afternoon along a woodland ride at the Shakenhurst estate on 21.04.2018. Unfortunately, I didn't have my camera with me! I have previously recorded this species ovipositing in mosses at the base of an oak tree at Mill Meadow, Drakes Broughton, on 27.04.2007.

Myopa hirsuta (Dip: Conopidae). RDB3.

One was collected from Blackthorn flowers at the Devil's Spittleful on 25.04.2018.



08. *Myopa hirsuta* from Devil's Spittleful on 25.04.2018. © K.McGee.

Myopa extricata (Dip: Conopidae). RDB3.

One was collected from Dandelion flowers at the Devil's Spittleful on 25.04.2018.

Lasiopogon cinctus (Dip: Asilidae). Notable.

One was collected at the Devil's Spittleful on 05.05.2018. This is my first record of this species anywhere.



09. *Lasiopogon cinctus* at Devil's Spittleful on 05.05.2018. © K.McGee.

Xanthogramma citrofasciatum (Dip: Syrphidae). One was seen briefly among ant-hills in a recently grazed area of the Devil's Spittleful on 05.05.2018. Up to five (males and females) were recorded in species-rich grassland with ant-hills alongside Lodge Hill Farm, Wyre Forest, on 19.05.2018.

Hybomitra distinguenda (Dip: Tabanidae).

One male was seen in flight above a boggy area of ground at the Mackeness Reserve in Wyre Forest on 23.06.2018. Males of this species have been observed during hot sunny conditions patrolling and 'hovering' at a height of approximately five feet above muddy puddles in woodland rides in the New Forest where they are defending territory that may attract females (Stubbs & Drake, 2001). I have previously encountered this same behaviour when I collected one of two males further upstream alongside Dowles Brook on 05.06.2006.



10. *Hybomitra distinguenda* (male) at the Mackeness Reserve, Wyre Forest on 23.06.2018. © K.McGee.

Senotainia conica (Dip: Sarcophagidae).

During hot and sunny weather on 30.06.2018 I encountered several of these small but distinctive flies taking a great deal of interest in nest burrows of *Oxybelus uniglumis*, a digger wasp in the family Sphecidae that occurs frequently in sandy areas of the Devil's Spittleful. *S. conica* is one of many 'satellite' flies that are kleptoparasites of hymenoptera, females wait at the nest entrances of bees and wasps returning with prey and then follow them inside to try and oviposit on the prey item. According to the NBN Atlas eggs of *S. conica* have been found on the bodies of various digger wasps in the family Sphecidae but this could imply that the female fly has missed the intended target. This is my first record of this species which appears to be mainly coastal in its UK distribution. It will be interesting to see if they are only kleptoparasites of *Oxybelus*

uniglumis at Devil's Spittleful, or if they are using other bees and wasps as hosts.



11. *Senotainia conica* at Devil's Spittleful on 30.06.2018. © K.McGee.



12. *Oxybelus uniglumis* (female) excavating a burrow at Devil's Spittleful on 30.06.2018. © K.McGee.

Sericomyia silentis (Dip: Syrphidae). I was surprised to encounter two females visiting ivy flowers at St. Peters church in Martley on 28.09.2018.

Hemiptera

Alydus calcaratus (Hem: Alydidae).

Several were seen actively moving across the ground in a sandy section of the Devil's Spittleful during hot sunny weather on 21.07.2018. I have never seen them here previously, but I do have records from similar habitat at Hartlebury Common in 2001 and 2003.



13. *Alydus calcaratus* at Devil's Spittleful on 21.07.2018. © K.McGee.

Hymenoptera (in date order)

Sphcodes crassus (Hym: Halictidae). Notable B.

One female was collected from a sheep-grazed hillside during the Worcestershire Recorders field visit to Camp Farm, Great Witley on 02.06.2018. This is my first record of this species.

Osmia bicolor (Hym: Megachilidae). Notable B.

Approximately five females were present on an ungrazed hillside during the Worcestershire Recorders field visit to Camp Farm, Great Witley on 02.06.2018. As is usual for this species in my experience, none of them provided a decent opportunity for a really good photograph!

Agenoideus cinctellus (Hym: Pompilidae).

I was surprised to find a female on a south facing brick wall at the end of our garden on the Shakenhurst estate on 03.06.2018. Most records of this small and localised spider-hunting wasp are from well-observed sandy sites but I have recently recorded them regularly from old sandstone walls associated with St. Peters church in Martley, perhaps old crumbling brick walls anywhere are also worth searching for this distinctive little pompilid?

Rhyssa persuasoria (Hym: Ichneumonidae).

A very large and impressive specimen was actively flying and searching around a big log-pile at the Shakenhurst estate on 10.06.2018. I waited around for at least an hour as it kept re-appearing, but it never once landed in a situation suitable for photography. This is my first record of this species.

Coelioxys elongata (Hym: Megachilidae).

One male collected from bramble flowers at St. Peters church in Marley on 15.vi.2018.



14. *Coelioxys elongata* (male) at St. Peters Church, Martley on 15.06.2018. © K.McGee.

Coelioxys inermis (Hym: Megachilidae).

One collected from a low wall at St. Peters church in Martley on 21.06.2018.



15. *Coelioxys inermis* (male) at St. Peters Church, Martley on 21.06.2018. © K.McGee.

Chrysis viridula (Hym: Chrysididae).

Two females were observed on an up-turned root-plate of a dead Damson tree during the Worcestershire Recorders field visit to Lambswick Orchard, Lindridge on 01.07.2018. *C. viridula* is a kleptoparasite of *Odynerus spinipes*, a potter wasp in the family Vespidae. *O. spinipes* is commonly known as the 'chimney' potter wasp because of the curious chimney-type structures the females construct at their nest-entrances. Up-turned root-plates of fallen trees provide ideal habitat where *O. spinipes* can find the right consistency of clay-based soil particles among the roots to build their chimneys. These chimneys are actually difficult to find unless you happen to encounter either the adult potter wasp, or its striking kleptoparasite *C. viridula*. No adults of *O. spinipes* were seen but several chimneys were found on the root-plate. Both species are rare in Worcestershire in my experience.



16. *Chrysis viridula* (female) inspecting a 'chimney' created by *Odynerus spinipes* at Lambswick Orchard on 01.07.2018. © K.McGee.



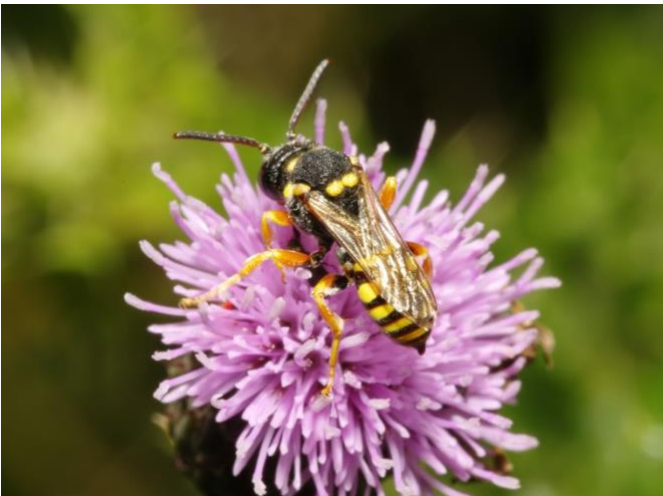
17. *Odynerus spinipes* (female) at her 'chimney' nest entrance. This was photographed at Bencroft Wood, Hertfordshire on 25.06.2012. © K.McGee.

Pemphredon morio (Hym: Sphecidae). Notable B.

One female was collected from the trunk of a dead plum tree during the Worcestershire Recorders field visit to Lambswick Orchard on 01.07.2018. This is only my second record of this scarce species following one I collected from an orchard near Wyre Forest on 07.06.2004.

Nomada flavopicta (Hym: Apidae). Notable B.

One male was visiting creeping thistle flowers at Martley Millennium Green on 17.07.2018. This is just my second record of the scarce species, my previous record also from this site of two females at Ragwort flowers on 29.07.2016.



18. *Nomada flavopicta* at Martley Millennium Green on 17.07.2018. © K.McGee.

Colletes similis (Hym: Colletidae).

I collected one of five females visiting Tansy flowers alongside the track leading beneath the Severn Valley Railway bridge into the Devil's Spittleful on 21.07.2018. This is my first Worcestershire record for this species.



19. *Colletes similis* (female) visiting Tansy flowers at Devil's Spittleful on 21.07.2018. © K.McGee.

References

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