

**Records of note, Spring 2019.**

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**Coleoptera**

*Larinus planus* (Col: Curculionidae). Notable B. (01)  
One specimen was found on a large dead Scots Pine log at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. This is my first record of this species anywhere in the West Midlands and there are currently no records held on the Worcestershire Biological Records Centre Database. *L. planus* is known from dry areas with well-drained soils where females oviposit in the developing flower heads of various thistle species.



01. *Larinus planus* at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K.McGee.

*Platyrhinus resinus* (Col: Anthribidae). Notable B (02)  
I have many records of this large distinctive weevil but on 30.03.2019 I found at least six on a large dead Ash log containing the 'Cramp-ball' fungus *Daldinia concentrica*. It is inside this easily recognised fungus where the larvae of *P. resinus* develop. Picture 03 shows the fungus and exit holes..



02. *Platyrhinus resinus* at Wissett's Wood, Shakenhurst on 30.03.2019. K.McGee.

This was the first occasion when I had found freshly emerged adults amongst their host fungi. They were on a large old ash log at Wissett's Wood, Shakenhurst not far from Clows Top. Later in the year on 18.04.2019 I found an adult apparently starting to gnaw a hole into the surface of a Cramp-ball fungus growing on a dead Horse Chestnut log near the confluence of the Teme and Severn behind the Ketch at Worcester. (04)



03. Cramp-ball fungus *Daldinia concentrica* on an Ash log at Wissett's Wood, Shakenhurst on 30.03.2019. K. McGee.



04. *Platyrhinus resinus* gnawing the surface of a Cramp-ball fungus on a dead Horse Chestnut log 18.04.2019. K. McGee

**Diptera**

*Criorhina ranunculi* (Dip: Syrphidae) (05).  
It's always one of my favourite moments of the year when I see my first *Criorhina ranunculi*; this normally heralds the official start of the entomological 'season'. These large and quite scarce bee-mimic hoverflies are occasionally seen in low numbers visiting goat willow or blackthorn flowers high in the uppermost branches, consequently, they rarely provide ideal photographic opportunities. However, during late afternoon of 30.03.2019 in Wissett's Wood, Shakenhurst, I came across two females ovipositing at the damp mossy bases of Silver Birch trunks alongside a woodland track. I have observed this species ovipositing in mosses at the bases of silver birch trunks on two previous occasions; at Mill Meadow, Drakes Broughton on 22.04.2007 and at Tiddesley Wood on 15.04.2009.





05. *Criorhina ranunculi* ovipositing at the base of a Silver Birch in Wissett's Wood, Shakenhurst on 30.03.2019. K.McGee.

***Scaeva selenitica*** (Dip: Syrphidae). (06).

A female was photographed and collected from St. Peters churchyard, Martley, on 13.03.2019. This is my first record of this species, and there are apparently no records held on the Worcestershire Biological Records Centre Database. *S. selenitica* is rather scarce but widely distributed throughout the British Isles and is most often found in the vicinity of conifer plantations. Several mature coniferous species occur at St. Peters churchyard and nearby.



06. *Scaeva selenitica* (female) at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley, on 13.03.2019. K.McGee.

***Myopa hirsuta*** (Dip: Conopidae). RDB3 (07).

During fine sunny weather on 06.04.2019 I counted at least twenty on the dense blossom of a group of flowering blackthorns at the Devil's Spittleful. Several pairs were observed *in-cop* (08).. In fact, this group of blackthorns in the centre of the reserve is a magnet for large numbers of visiting insects when in full bloom; particularly flies and bees. Note that *M. hirsuta* is also known as *M. strandi* by some authorities.



07. *Myopa hirsuta* on Blackthorn flowers at the Devil's Spittleful on 06.04.2019. K.McGee.



08. *Myopa hirsuta* in-cop on Blackthorn flowers at the Devil's Spittleful on 06.04.2019. K.McGee.

**Hemiptera**

***Coriomeris denticulatus*** (Hem: Coreidae). (09).

This is localised species I rarely encounter. On 17.04.2019 I found one on a low stone wall at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley which is my first record for this site (where I visit regularly). This bug is mainly associated with dry ground on free-draining soils. I have previous Worcestershire records from a disused railway at Broadway, Burlish Top and Beckford Gravel Pit.



09. *Coriomeris denticulatus* at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley. 17.04.2019. K.McGee.



***Ceraleptus lividus*** (Hem: Coreidae) (10).

One specimen found on a dead Silver Birch log at the Devil's Spittleful on 19.04.2019. This is my first record of this localised species anywhere.



10. *Ceraleptus lividus* at the Devil's Spittleful on 19.04.2019. K.McGee.

**Hymenoptera**

***Osmia bicolor*** (Hym: Megachilidae). Scarce.

I was surprised to observe what looked for all the world like a female *Osmia bicolor* visiting a densely flowering Blackthorn at the Devil's Spittleful on 06.04.2019.

I managed a single (poor) photograph (11); this species is extremely difficult to approach for photography in my experience! (Apologies that the image is a touch out of focus, a very frustrating and difficult species to photograph). They spend little more than a nano-second at each flower and move with great speed between flowers.

I emailed the image to Steven Falk to ask his opinion, just in case I had stumbled upon a population of *Osmia cornuta*, a similar looking species that has recently arrived from the continent and become established in parts of the south and south-east. Steven is certain that my image is that of a female *Osmia bicolor*. This is a strange record as the Devil's Spittleful does not provide suitable habitat for *O. bicolor* and has never been recorded there previously despite many visits from eminent entomologists over the years. *O. bicolor* is strongly associated with lime-rich habitats with a plentiful supply of empty snail shells inside which females construct partitioned cells prior to ovipositing within each cell.

Steven and I agree that there must be a small (unknown) population of *O. bicolor* associated with the limestone ballast along the route of the nearby Severn Valley Railway, and this individual had found its way deep inside the reserve to visit the blackthorns in full bloom.



11. *Osmia bicolor* (female) at the Devil's Spittleful on 06.04.2019. K.McGee.

***Andrena trimmerana*** (Hym: Andrenidae). Scarce (12).

Singles of males and females were observed occasionally at St.Peters Churchyard in Martley between 13.03.2019 and 22.03.2019.



12. *Andrena trimmerana* (male) at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley. 22.03.2019. K.McGee.

***Andrena bucephala*** (Hym: Andrenidae). Notable A (13 & 14).

I first recorded this species at St. Peters Churchyard in Martley during April 2017, the breeding aggregation in a low south-facing stone wall was found to have grown on 26.04.2019 to accommodate approximately thirty females sharing the same communal entrances in suitable gaps between the stonework (13). I was pleased to photograph one of the much more elusive males on the same date (14).





13. Part of an aggregation of *Andrena bucephala* (females) sharing the same nest-site entrances at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley. 26.04.2019. K.McGee.



14. *Andrena bucephala* (male) at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley. 26.04.2019. K.McGee.

**Araneae**

***Euophrys frontalis*** (Araneae: Salticidae). (15)

My new quest to try and identify a selection of spiders to species level continues to develop; particularly at the Devil's Spittleful Reserve where I spend some time just watching patches of bare sandy ground to see what comes running out of the undergrowth. This tiny but distinctive male *Euophrys frontalis* paused just long enough for a photograph on 30.04.2019.



15. *Euophrys frontalis* (male) at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K.McGee.

***Evarcha falcata*** (Araneae: Salticidae). (16).

Another jumping spider found moving rapidly across open ground at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019 was this male *Evarcha falcata*, I have only previously recorded this species in Wyre Forest.



16. *Evarcha falcata* (male) at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K.McGee.

***Pseudeophrys lanigera*** (Araneae: Salticidae). (17). I was surprised

to find this tiny jumping spider species on a large old sun-dried dead oak log at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. This uncommon but widespread species is most frequently recorded from buildings.



17. *Pseudeophrys lanigera* (male) at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K. McGee.

**References**

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**Images**

- 01. *Larinus planus* at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K.McGee.
- 02. *Platyrhinus resinosus* at Wissett's Wood, Shakenhurst on 30.03.2019. K.McGee.

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13. Part of an aggregation of *Andrena bucephala* (females) sharing the same nest-site entrances at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley. 26.04.2019. K.McGee.
14. *Andrena bucephala* (male) at St. Peters Churchyard, Martley. 26.04.2019. K.McGee.
15. *Euophrys frontalis* (male) at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K.McGee.
16. *Evarcha falcata* (male) at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K.McGee.
17. *Pseudeouphrys lanigera* (male) at the Devil's Spittleful on 30.04.2019. K. McGee.