

Stenophylax permistus, An early Caddisfly 20th March 2016, Blakedown, Worcestershire

Mark Peacock

Sitting atop my MV moth trap in Blakedown on a chilly March 20th 2016 morning was a large, 24mm Caddisfly (01). Its size, date of appearance and a hint of possible distinguishing features persuaded me to pot it and see if identification could be reached.



01. *Stenophylax permistus*. Mark Peacock

Consulting initially my limited Caddisfly related books, I didn't find a suitable match, but the NatureSpot website gave me a very positive suggestion, both in terms of time of year and coming to light. Eventually after some further searching I submitted the sighting as *Stenophylax permistus*, and the identification was confirmed by Ian Wallace, who runs the national Trichoptera Recording Scheme.

Whilst there are several records (15 on the Worcestershire Biological Records Centre database) of this species in VC37, it is almost certainly under recorded as it is common throughout Britain (Barnard & Ross 2012). Caddisflies are a common sight at the moth trap, probably often ignored, and thus under recorded. Ironically many of the skills, equipment and techniques possessed by moth enthusiasts could in theory readily improve recording of this group.

Reference

Barnard, P & Ross, E. 2012. *The adult Trichoptera (caddisflies) of Britain and Ireland*. Handbooks for the identification of British insects volume 1, part 17. Published for the Royal Entomological Society by The Field Studies Council, Telford.

Image

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