

## The Black Lacewing *Nothochrysa capitata* at Norchard, Worcestershire, 2019.

Mike Southall

I recorded *Nothochrysa capitata*, sometimes known as the Black Lacewing, in my garden MV moth trap on the 25/07/2019 at Norchard. The night followed a particularly warm day, the hottest UK July day on record with the temperature reaching 38.1°C in Cambridge, over 100°Fahrenheit, in the UK for only the second time ever. The high temperature may have led to some local insect dispersion with the Yellow Mayfly, *Potamanthus luteus* also recorded.

I had not come across *Nothochrysa capitata* before, but it was soon identified because of its distinctive appearance. It is one of the few orange species in the Green Lacewing family (Chrysopidae). It is a large species with a wing length of 25mm. The creamy coloured mass near the tip of the abdomen is a spermatophore - a package of sperm passed from the male to the female. It is said to have varied habitats although typically associated with pine but with some records from the tops of oak trees. The adults may be seen from summer to early autumn (NatureSpot web site).



01. The Black Lacewing *Nothochrysa capitata*. Mike Southall



02. The Black Lacewing *Nothochrysa capitata*. Note spermatophore near tip of the abdomen. Mike Southall

The UK status is widespread but infrequent and local in Britain. There are a few Worcestershire records on the database: Ankerdine Hill and Nipple Coppice 1982-1983 by Anon at CEP Survey. Willow Bank, Wyre Forest 29/07/2005, 03/08/2005, and 29/08/2006 all to MV light by Rosemary Winnall. Hurcott & Podmore Pools 12/08/2014 by John Bingham.

I have recorded other large Lacewings in my garden moth traps including *Nothochrysa fulviceps*, *Nineta flava*, the Giant Lacewing, *Osmylus fulvicephalus* and also *Potamanthus luteus* (Southall 2018)

### Acknowledgement.

With thanks to Harry Green for arranging for the Worcestershire records to be extracted from the Worcestershire Biological Records Centre database.

### References

NatureSpot <https://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/nothochrysa-capitata>  
Southall, M. 2018. Yellow Mayfly *Potamanthus luteus* at Norchard, Worcestershire 2018 *Worcestershire Record* 45:35

### Images

01. The Black Lacewing *Nothochrysa capitata*. Mike Southall.
02. The Black Lacewing *Nothochrysa capitata*. Note spermatophore near tip of the abdomen. Mike Southall.