

***Plagionotus detritus* (L., 1758) (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) imported to the Tenbury Wells area of Worcestershire during 2016**

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The attention of PFW was drawn to a striking cerambycid beetle that appeared in a rural garden at Lindridge, Worcestershire (SO76963), 7.5 kms east of Tenbury Wells, on 17 July 2016 where it remained for two days. From images (01, 05) provided by PT it was clear that it was a female hornet mimic *Plagionotus detritus* (L., 1758), an arboreal species widely distributed in Europe east to the Caucasus and Iran (Bílý & Mehl, 1989; Izhevsky *et al.*, 2005; Švácha & Danilevsky, 1988) but not native to Britain. Populations in Denmark are now greatly declined and the Swedish population may be reduced to one site (Lindhe, Jeppsson & Ehnström, 2010). In southern Europe *P. detritus* is regarded as Holomediterranean (Vives, 2001) but there is also evidence of decline in parts of central Europe.



01. *Plagionotus detritus*, Lindridge, 17 July 2016



02. Stack of sawn oak timber bearing *Plagionotus detritus* imported from France to Lindridge during June 2016.

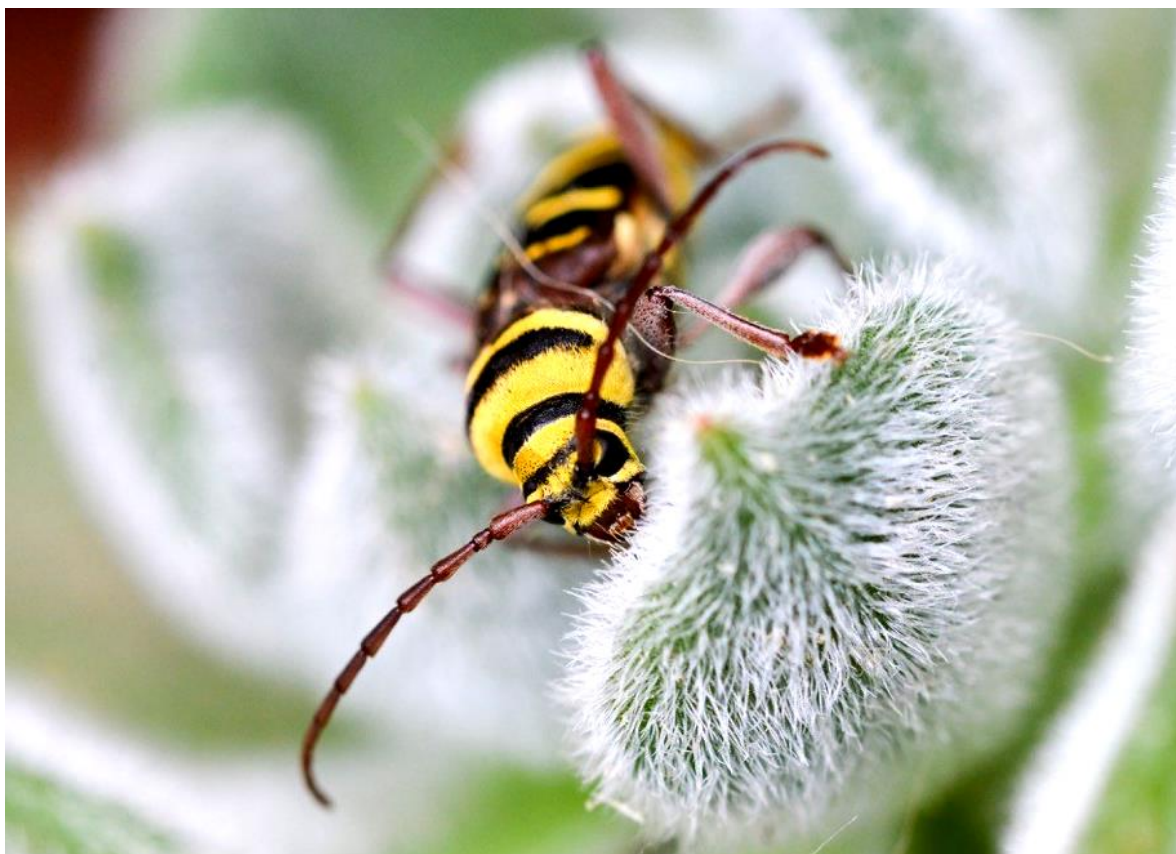


03. *Plagionotus detritus* larval gallery in oak wood imported from France.



04. *Plagionotus detritus* emerging from oak wood imported from France, Lindridge, 29 August 2016.





05. *Plagionotus detritus* (L., 1758) on *Echeveria pulvinata* (Hook F.) Rose cv 'Frosty', Lindridge, 17 July 2016.

*Plagionotus detritus* has a particular affinity for oak where in the larval stage it most usually inhabits the inner bark and later the outer sapwood rather like the presumably extinct native *Plagionotus arcuatus* (L., 1758); it also colonises other hardwood trees but with a preference for Fagaceae. We are not aware of other local records of *P. detritus* but it not infrequently turns up in Britain in imported timber or through passive transportation. The emergence of the female on 17 July 2016 accords with expectations but the emergence of a second beetle (04) on 29 August 2016 is considerably later than expected.

At Lindridge it was soon determined that the beetle had emerged from a stack of sawn oak wood *Quercus* sp. (02) imported by PT from France through a London supplier six weeks earlier; exit holes were clearly visible. Other evidence included frass lines (03) created by a larva working between the contact of two pieces of wood. The circumstances of this find replicate those of the local appearance of another cerambycid of French origin viz. *Cerambyx cerdo* L., 1758, at Broadway, Worcestershire, during 2009 (Whitehead, 2010). Such circumstances may well form a bridgehead for the establishment of new British populations of these and similar species; the Straits of Dover are now being bridged so comprehensively by human activity that they scarcely exist.

#### References

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#### Images

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