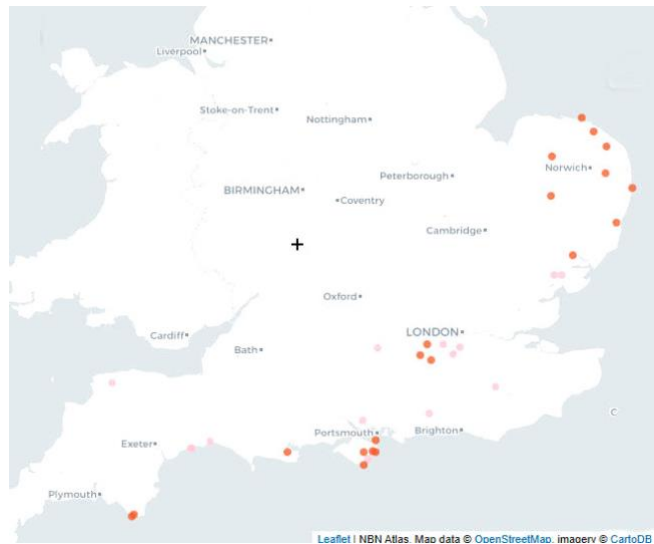


**A scarce wasp *Lestiphorus bicinctus* (Rossi, 1794) (Hymenoptera, Crabronidae) at Evesham, Worcestershire**

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**Introduction**

A nationally scarce crabronid wasp *Lestiphorus bicinctus* (Rossi, 1794) flew into an outbuilding in a town garden on the northern edge of Evesham, Worcestershire (52°06'N 1°56'W VC37 SP04 54 m a.s.l.) on 8 July 2019. It appears to be new to midland England and was not cited by Trevis (2006, 2017) for Worcestershire.



01. NBN atlas distribution map of *Lestiphorus bicinctus* in England (as at October 2019) with the Evesham record (+) indicated.

**Discussion**

The 2019 Evesham example of *L. bicinctus* is located about 140 kms north-west of records in the home counties of London (01), where it is regarded as scarce and very local (Baldock, 2010) around ‘scrubby and brambly places on light soils.’ Like related species of *Gorytes*,

*L. bicinctus* is a parasitoid of Hemiptera:Auchenorrhyncha but given that no further regional information is available nothing more substantive can be said. It is not clear whether this example represents a population on the Evesham town fringe that has escaped detection or is an outlying vagrant and it is also unclear whether *L. bicinctus* is presently expansive. In contrast *Gorytes laticinctus* appears to be consolidating its English midland range.

There is a possibility that the life cycle of *L. bicinctus* is favoured by recent comparative drought years, in particular that of 2018, possibly paralleled by the unexpected appearance in Worcestershire of *Gymnetron rostellum* (Herbst, 1795) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) during 2019 (Whitehead, 2019, in press).

*Lestiphorus bicinctus* is a distinctive ‘waisted’ crabronid (Fig. 02) with distally infusate forewings (Fig. 03) so is unlikely to be confounded with other species.

**References**

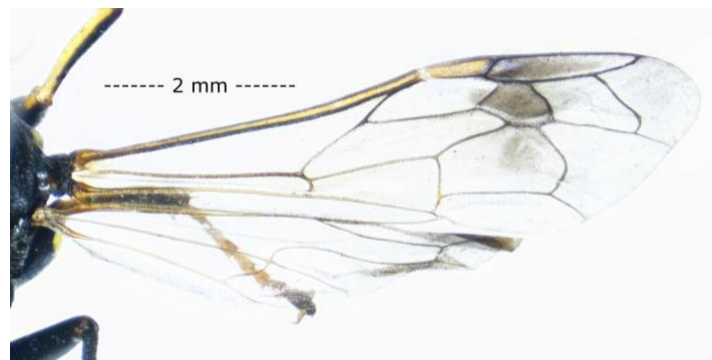
- Baldock, D.W. 2010. *Wasps of Surrey*. 335 pp. Surrey Wildlife Trust.
- Trevis, G. 2006. A review of Worcestershire aculeate Hymenoptera. *Worcestershire Record* 21:34-39.
- Trevis, G. 2017. An annotated list of the aculeate Hymenoptera of Worcestershire. *Worcestershire Record* 43:38-43.
- Whitehead, P.F. 2019, in press. *Gymnetron rostellum* (Herbst, 1795) (Curculionidae) on a cultivated plant in Worcestershire.

**Images**

- 01. NBN atlas distribution map of *Lestiphorus bicinctus* in England.
- 02. *Lestiphorus bicinctus*, Evesham, Worcestershire, 8 July 2019. Habitus, lateral. Paul Whitehead.
- 03. *Lestiphorus bicinctus*, Evesham, Worcestershire, 8 July 2019. Right side wings and venation. Paul Whitehead.



02. *Lestiphorus bicinctus*, Evesham, Worcestershire, 8 July 2019. Habitus, lateral.



03. *Lestiphorus bicinctus*, Evesham, Worcestershire, 8 July 2019. Right side wings and venation.