

An unusual form of teratology in a Worcestershire carabid beetle *Amara lunicollis* Schiödte, 1837.

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During a visit to Hartlebury Common, Stourport (52°33'N 2°26'W VC37 SO87 41 M.O.D.) on 14 September 2014 I chanced upon a male *Amara lunicollis* Schiödte, 1837. The terminal segment of the right maxillary palpus, instead of being a symmetrical ellipse, was expanded into a wide hollow-tipped triangle i.e. with the apex invaginated almost creating two terminal segments on the one palpus. The beetle was otherwise normal apart from some mechanical damage.

Teratology is not rare in Coleoptera and may be relatively frequent in some families of Hemiptera. It may involve, for example, the multiplication of skeletal parts such as accessory tibiae joined to one femur. Other elements of the appendicular skeleton may be involved (Allen, 1995; Whitehead, 1988) but abnormalities of the palpi seem to be less commonly cited.

References

- Allen, A.A., 1995. Examples of antennal and fore-limb teratology in Coleoptera. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **131**:45.
Whitehead, P.F., 1988. Further aberrations in Coleoptera. *Coleopterist's Newsletter* **31**:3-4.