

***Atomaria morio* Kolenati, 1846 (Coleoptera, Cryptophagidae) a further rare beetle observed in Worcestershire by Mr Alan Brown during 2013.**

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Introduction

Amongst numerous beetles passed to me by Mr Alan Brown during 2013 was an *Atomaria* collected at Hurcott Wood, Worcestershire (SO 8577 45m O.D.) in the parish of Churchill and Blakedown near Kidderminster on 6 July 2013. I set the specimen aside suspecting it was *Atomaria morio* Kolenati, 1846 but only now, with the use of better optical aids, can this be confirmed (Fig. 1).

Discussion

Atomaria morio is amongst the rarer British *Atomaria* and is associated with ancient woodland. It was introduced to the fauna of Worcestershire by Lott, Alexander, Drane & Foster (1999) and is often associated with *Querceta* or derived-*Querceta* as it is in central European *Urwald*. However *A. morio* is distributed across 19 European countries and was represented by one example in 2058 beetles of 20 taxonomic families recorded at a dead cat in a Swedish forest (Ferrer, Gomy, Snäll & Whitehead, 2004) indicating that it is not strictly limited to angiosperm woodland. Johnson (1993) regarded it as “very localised or rare.....usually in small numbers or singly.” Lohse (1967) believed it to be scattered and rare in Central Europe in nests of raptors in hollow trees and Johnson (1993) extended this to include the nests of a variety of arboreal hole-nesting birds. Mr Brown’s Hurcott Wood specimen was found on the trunk of a decaying beech tree *Fagus sylvatica* L.

contribution. In Britain adult beetles have been observed almost throughout the year (Hyman, 1994).

References

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Image

01. *Atomaria morio*, Hurcott Wood, Churchill and Blakedown, 6 July 2013, A. Brown leg., P.F. Whitehead.



----- 1 mm -----

01. *Atomaria morio*, Hurcott Wood, Churchill and Blakedown, 6 July 2013, A. Brown leg., © P.F. Whitehead.

Brown (2013) recorded a number of significant beetles in the Kidderminster area to which *Atomaria morio* makes a notable