

***Pterostichus madidus* (F., 1775) (Coleoptera, Carabidae) exercising in a Worcestershire health centre.**

Paul F. Whitehead
Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10
3EH. Email: paul@thewhiteheads.eu

On 27 June 2016 an example of the widespread eurytopic carabid beetle *Pterostichus madidus* (F., 1775) was observed patrolling the tiled surface of a Jacuzzi 'health suite' complex in a Worcestershire leisure centre for several minutes at about 21.20 hrs. The area in question is a large discrete enclosure, ceramic-tiled in its entirety, usually wet and adjacent to a steam room, sauna cabin and swimming pool. There are no external doors and no direct means of external access.

As *P. madidus* is flightless it can be presumed that it somehow gained access to the health suite under its own 'steam', no one there introducing any significant quantity of packets, bags or other containers. A possibility is that it gained egress by using a hidden subterranean service channel.

The beetle was normally pigmented and fully mature but the dorsal surface was somewhat softer than usual. When I set the beetle down it entered the darkened sauna cabin and was not seen again. The atmospheric conditions in the sauna cabin are maintained at about 95°C and 12% Relative Humidity, a climatic regime significantly more rigorous than that of Death Valley, California, but it is uncertain whether the beetle was reacting positively to some aspect of that or simply taking evasive action. Lack of repeated observation suggests that it was not a regular user of the facilities provided and I am not aware of any other published instances of ground beetles in such extreme controlled environments. However, according to on-site maintenance staff 'black beetles' have been observed there on a limited number of occasions.