

**Dinarda maerkelii (Kiesenwetter, 1843.) Coleoptera:  
Staphylinidae. A Myrmecophilous Rove Beetle in  
Wyre Forest.**

John Bingham



01. *Dinarda maerkelii* a rare rove beetle. Wyre Forest 18.03.24.  
John Bingham.

This rare rove beetle was found on 18th March 2024 on the trunk of a *Salix* tree in an open area within oak woodland at Hurst Coppice, Wyre Forest. The beetle is a myrmecophile and associated with the Southern (or Red) Wood Ant *Formica rufa*, often living within the actual ant nests. In this case a very active *F. rufa* nest was within three metres of the *Salix*, with many ants foraging up and down the tree trunk. The beetle was crawling on the trunk in isolation apparently ignored by the ants.

The last record for the main area of Wyre Forest was by Collinwood in 1957 (NBN Database) but on a Wyre Forest Study Group meeting in Eymore Wood on 8th October 2022, Brett Westwood found several *Dinarda maerkelii* associated with an active nest of *F. rufa* on an old conifer wood stack. Nationally there are some 21 records quite well scattered over England, all presumably depending on the presence of *Formica rufa*. Given the secretive nature of the beetle it must be under-recorded and could possibly be common in Wyre Forest given the number of Southern Wood Ant nests through the woodland.

Of interest is another myrmecophilous rove beetle from Wyre Forest, *Lomechusa emarginata* found by Gary Farmer (Farmer 2023) in 2023 associated with the ant *Myrmica ruginodis*.

**References**

NBN Database. Available at:  
<https://species.nbnatlas.org/species/NHMSYS0021419829#overview>  
[Accessed 21.03.24]  
Farmer, G. 2023. A myrmecophilous rove beetle *Lomechusa emarginata* in Wyre Forest. *Worcestershire Record* 51:15-16.

**Images**

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