

Invertebrate Notes for 2023

John Bingham & Denise Bingham



01. *Hedychrum nobile* Habberley Valley 29.06.23. John Bingham

Hedychrum nobile (Scopoli, 1763). (Hymenoptera:Chrysididae). JB.



02. *Hedychrum nobile* Habberley Valley 29.06.23. John Bingham

This attractive jewel wasp *Hedychrum nobile* (01, 02) was new to Britain some 25 years ago and has recently spread into the Midlands. It is very similar to *H. niemelai* but as far as I know that species has not yet been found in Worcestershire(?). *H. nobile* is larger in size (6-10mm) than *H. niemelai* (Baldock & Hawkins 2016). Large numbers of *H. nobile* were seen at Habberley Valley NR near Kidderminster during the summer of 2023. The Solitary Wasp *Cerceris arenaria* is the host species and although abundant on the site the numbers of *H. nobile* were also impressive. Nearly every nest hole of *C. arenaria* was being investigated by at least one *H. nobile*. Whether this predation of *C. arenaria* will have an impact on the host population remains to be seen. Problems in identification will become difficult if *H. niemelai* also becomes established in our area. So far, from checking a few specimens, I have assumed all are still *H. nobile*, but this may change!

Dryudella pinguis (Dahlbom, 1832) (Hymenoptera:Crabronidae). JB.



03. *Dryudella pinguis* Devil's Spittleful, 24.06.23. John Bingham.

Several male examples of this small wasp were seen on Devil's Spittleful, Kidderminster on 24th June 2023. It appears to have few inland records but was recorded in July 2022 at Hartlebury Common by Ian Cheeseborough (iRecord). It frequents areas with bare sandy soil and uses nymphs of Lygaeid bugs as prey (BWARS webpages).

Astata boops (Schrank, 1781) (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae). JB.



04. *Astata boops* Habberley Valley 07.07.23. John Bingham.

Formerly scarce, this wasp has established itself over the last few years and was recorded in good numbers at both Habberley Valley and the Devil's Spittleful in 2023. This is another species associated with sandy heathland where it preys on Pentatomid bugs. (BWARS webpages).

Thelaira solivaga (Harris, 1780) (Diptera: Tachinidae). JB.



05. *Thelaira solivaga* Dropping Well Farm 09.08.23. John Bingham.

All records of this Tachinid fly are from the north of Worcestershire where it was noted in Wyre Forest by Mick Blythe in 2005 and at Dropping Well Farm, Kidderminster by Steven Falk in 2022. I found several at Dropping Well Farm on 9th August 2023 on herbage along the farm trackway.

Solieria pacifica (Meigen, 1824) Tachinidae: Diptera. JB.



06. *Solieria pacifica* Burlish Meadows 18.07.23. John Bingham.

Solieria pacifica is probably not uncommon in Worcestershire but with only a few records. This Tachinid fly was recorded on 18th July 2023 at Burlish Meadows NR near Stourport. It is often associated with brownfield sites as in this case, a former rubbish tip.

Nomada sheppardana Kirby, 1802. (Hymenoptera: Apidae) another Worcestershire Record. JB.



07. *Nomada sheppardana* Dropping Well Farm 21.05.23. John Bingham.

While recording on the Worcestershire Recorders' day at Dropping Well Farm on the 21st May 2023, I collected a small *Nomada* bee that looked unusual. On checking, it appeared to be *Nomada sheppardana* a species apparently only recorded twice before from Worcestershire. Kevin McGee kindly confirmed my identification and reported his observation of the bee at Shakenhurst Estate in 2020 (McGee 2020). Another record appears on iRecord from Hartlebury Common by Ian Heard in 2018. This bee, a cleptoparasite of small *Lasioglossum* species, is slowly becoming quite well established locally.

Nomada zonata (Panzer, 1798) (Hymenoptera: Apidae). JB.



08. *Nomada zonata* Kidderminster 26.07.23. John Bingham.

This *Nomad* bee was first discovered on Jersey in 2011. It first appeared on mainland Britain in Kent and Essex in 2016, spreading rapidly to Northants and Norfolk by 2019 and Warwickshire by 2021 (Falk 2023). On the 26th July 2023 I discovered one in our garden at Kidderminster. At first, I wondered if my identification was correct so an image was sent to Kevin McGee who confirmed it as correct and reported he had found a female at Penny Hill near Martley on 29th April 2023. Jill Orme also reported one on 28th April 2023 at North Littleton, Worcestershire, (iRecord) making mine probably the third Worcestershire record. So, another *Nomad* Bee rapidly colonising Worcestershire. The host is *Andrena dorsata* and has two generations a year, the first peaking in May and the second in July.

Gonatopus clavipes (Thunberg, 1827) (Hymenoptera:Dryinidae). JB.



09. *Gonatopus clavipes* Postenplain 20.08.23. John Bingham.

This tiny wasp had been recorded in 2022 at Postensplain as a first record for Wyre Forest and Shropshire. On 20th August 2023 at Longdon Wood, Wyre Forest, whilst using a vacuum sampler along a heathy ride, Jim Cresswell managed to collect one unbeknown to him. Luckily, having seen it before, I spotted the wasp amongst the other species in his sample tray. It was collected and checked carefully to verify its identification. This tiny wasp is likely to be under-recorded and may be quite common over the Worcestershire portion of the forest in suitable habitats.

Cistogaster globosa (Fabricius, 1775) (Diptera:Tachinidae). JB.



10. *Cistogaster globosa* Burlish Meadows 17.07.23. John Bingham.

This small Tachinid fly was seen in considerable numbers at Burlish Meadows LNR near Stourport on 17th July 2023. Most were males and seemed to prefer nectaring on Wild Carrot *Daucus carota* flowers which were plentiful on the site. At the start of the Millennium it was considered rare and given RDB status, but has spread considerably in recent years and appears well established in Worcestershire (e.g. Jennings 2023). It is a parasitoid of Bishop's Mitre Shieldbug *Aelia acuminata*, which is now a common grassland species in the county.

Oxycera nigricornis Olivier, 1812 (Stratiomyidae:Diptera). Delicate Soldier on the Great Bog, Wyre Forest. DB.



11. *Oxycera nigricornis* Great Bog 18.06.23. John Bingham.

This small Soldierfly (4mm) was found on the Great Bog in Wyre Forest on 18th June 2023. Although not uncommon nationally there appear to be very few records for Worcestershire. It was found in wet spring-fed flush with a high pH (over 7.0). The site has species-rich vegetation with Alder *Alnus glutinosa* being the commonest tree species present. This small fly is possibly overlooked at similar wetland habitats.

Nysson trimaculatus (Rossi, 1790). (Hymenoptera:Crabronidae). Wildgoose Centre, Grimley, Worcestershire. DB.



12. *Nysson trimaculatus* Wildgoose Training Centre 16.09.23. John Bingham.

Whilst out on a North Worcestershire Flora Group meeting on 16th September 2023 at the Wildgoose Centre, Grimley, Denise found a single specimen of *Nysson trimaculatus*. It is listed as Nationally Scarce (Nb) and has spread across the Midlands in recent years. Its main host species is *Lestiphorus bicinctus*, also listed as Nationally Scarce (Nb) and a species more restricted to the southern part of England, but quite recently recorded from parts of south Worcestershire. *Gorytes quadrifasciatus* is the other secondary host and appears more common locally, so is the most likely host in Worcestershire. It appears that both *L. bicinctus* and *N. trimaculatus* are moving north but *N. trimaculatus* is the furthest ahead in this race.

Leopoldius signatus (Wiedemann in Meigen, 1824) (Conopidae). JB.



13. *Leopoldius signatus* Bewdley 14.10.23. John Bingham.

Ivy flowers *Hedera helix* are particularly good nectar sources for various insects in late autumn and well worth looking at. On 14th October 2023, along a hedgerow near Bewdley, I found a single female *Leopoldius signatus* nectaring on Ivy. This Conopid species is found scattered over most of England and Wales, but it appears to be quite a scarce insect with very few records locally. Although it is apparently uncommon I wonder if entomologists locally may be missing this late season species. It is often associated with Ivy as it predates Common Wasps *Vespula vulgaris* which seem particularly attracted to the Ivy nectar. I have looked before but never been lucky enough to find *L. signatus*, so perhaps it is genuinely rather rare in Worcestershire.

Eremocoris fenestratus (Herrich-Schäffer, 1839) (Hemiptera). DB.



14. *Eremocoris fenestratus* Far Forest 07.11.23. John Bingham.

Several *Eremocoris fenestratus* were found by Denise in dry needle litter under an old Cypress *Cupressus sp.* tree at Far Forest Churchyard on 7th November 2023. Previously known from the Chilterns this bug was then associated with Juniper but horticultural introductions appeared in the London area in 2010 under Cypress. It has now spread to other parts of England (British Bugs website).

Micrommata virescens (Clerck, 1757) & *Apis mellifera*. DB.



15. *Micrommata virescens* & *Apis mellifera* Wyre Forest 22.05.23. John Bingham.

The Green Huntsman *Micrommata virescens* spider has a stronghold in Wyre Forest and is often recorded but unusually in May 2023, a female was seen with a captured Honey Bee *Apis mellifera*. Prey items for this spider are not often seen or recorded, so whether this is normal prey is unknown: an impressive meal nevertheless.

References

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Images

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