

The invasive plant pest Brown Marmorated Shieldbug *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) found in Worcestershire.

Gary Farmer

On 12th June 2024 Amy Fleming found a large, speckled shieldbug at Sherriff's Lench near Evesham (01-03). She passed the specimen to me to identify, and I initially thought it might be a Mottled Shieldbug *Rhaphigaster nebulosa*, a recent arrival in the UK. I checked British Bugs website for confirmation and noticed the following text in the species information "Requires careful separation from the recent arrival *Halyomorpha halys*".

Further investigation led me to the UK Government website and a fact sheet for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug [Shieldbug] *Halyomorpha halys*. The images and description within the fact sheet confirmed the Sherriff's Lench specimen to be *H. halys*.



01. *Halyomorpha halys* Sherriff's Lench 12.06.24. Gary Farmer.



02. *Halyomorpha halys* Sherriff's Lench 12.06.24. Gary Farmer.



03. *Halyomorpha halys* underside Sherriff's Lench 12.06.24. Gary Farmer.

Details from the UK Government fact sheet:

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), native to East Asia, is an invasive species that is expanding its range in North America (first detected 1996) and in Europe (first detected 2004).

Although BMSB is not being treated as a quarantine pest, findings of the bug in the UK are increasing. There have also been records, mostly from southern England and one in Leicester, but so far there has been no evidence of breeding. It is highly likely that BMSB will be encountered more frequently in Britain as it is becoming more common and widespread on the continent.

To date we have found no other *H. halys* around Sherriff's Lench, but with the plum picking season upon us we will be looking out for this handsome, if destructive shieldbug.

References

British Bugs website. Available at:

https://www.britishbugs.org.uk/heteroptera/Pentatomidae/halyomorpha_halys.html

UK Government Plant Pest Fact Sheet Brown Marmorated Shieldbug *Halyomorpha halys*. Available at:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Halyomorpha-halys-Defra-Pest-Factsheet-March-2021-FINAL.pdf>

Images

01. *Halyomorpha halys* Sherriff's Lench 12.06.24. Gary Farmer.

02. *Halyomorpha halys* Sherriff's Lench 12.06.24. Gary Farmer.

03. *Halyomorpha halys* underside Sherriff's Lench 12.06.24. Gary Farmer.