

The continued rapid range expansion of the woodlouse *Trachelipus rathkii* along the river Avon.

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The woodlouse *Trachelipus rathkii* (01) was first noted along the Worcestershire Avon in 2020 (Farmer 2021) and has since continued to spread rapidly along the river corridor. It has also been found further away from the river and at higher altitudes including Sherriffs Lench at 118m/387feet (measured on FreeMapTools website).



01. *Trachelipus rathkii*, Carpenters Farm 26th March 2022.
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Records have recently come from Wick and further west, getting closer to linking up with records from Carpenters Farm at Berrow and older records from the Worcestershire/Gloucestershire border (Whitehead 1988). This woodlouse has now been discovered to the east and into VC38 Warwickshire from 10km squares SP05 at Marlcliff and SP15 at Barton, both near Bidford-on-Avon (Kevin Clements pers. comm.). It has also now made it as far east as Stratford upon-Avon where it has been found in two main areas. These records were submitted via iNaturalist and verified by the Woodlouse Recording Scheme (Steve Gregory pers. comm.) and are viewable on the iRecord website.

Trachelipus rathkii has undergone a rapid range expansion and is likely to spread further along other river courses. The presence of soils with impeded drainage overlying heavy clays or alluvial deposits seems to be the key factor (Gregory 2009). So it is worth taking a second look at any populations of *Porcellio scaber* or *Oniscus asellus*, especially along water courses.

References

- Farmer G. 2021. The discovery of the woodlouse *Trachelipus rathkii* during 2020 in the Vale of Evesham and surrounding area. *Worcestershire Record* 48:43-45.
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- FreeMapTools website. Available at: <https://www.freemaptools.com/elevation-finder.htm> [Accessed 22.04.23]
- iRecord website. Available at: https://irecord.org.uk/all-records?filter-date_age=&filter-taxon_meaning_list=100964 [Accessed 23.04.23].

Images

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