

The discovery of *Hyloniscus riparius* at a new site near the river Avon, Worcestershire.

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The woodlouse *Hyloniscus riparius* was discovered new to the UK in 2022 (Farmer 2022). At that time it had only been recorded from Haines Meadows at Wick and on the opposite bank of the river Avon at Lower Moor river meadows. Following flooding from the river during the winter 2022/23 I searched flood debris for this little purple woodlouse without success. Heavy rain on 30th March 2023 caused the river to overtop again flooding the immediate area along its banks. I took the opportunity on 1st April to walk near the river at The Valley country and retail park near Evesham, searching freshly deposited branches and other flood debris. I eventually found two *Hyloniscus riparius* woodlice (01 & 02) representing only the second known location for this species, about five miles as the crow flies or 12 miles following the river from the original location. On 16th April Paul Richards also found *Hyloniscus riparius* at The Valley (Steve Gregory pers. comm.).



01. *Hyloniscus riparius* at The Valley, Evesham 1st April 2023. Gary Farmer.



01. *Hyloniscus riparius* showing the dark and pale banded 'tail' field character. The Valley, Evesham 1st April 2023. Gary Farmer.

This species would be so easy to overlook so it is worth carefully checking small pink/purple woodlice along the Avon and maybe other water courses. It is very similar to *Trichoniscus pusillus* agg. but slightly larger and darker, and a good field character from my few observations is that it has alternate dark and pale bands on its 'tail' (02).

References

Farmer, G. 2022. An initial brief note on the discovery of *Hyloniscus riparius* (c. Koch, 1838) in VC37 Worcestershire, a new species of woodlouse to the UK. *Worcestershire Record* 50:39.

Images

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