

Coleoptera of note 2023

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Chlaenius nigricornis (Fabricius, 1787)



01. *Chlaenius nigricornis* collected from Hartlebury Common on 15.04.2023. © K.McGee.



02. The pool alongside the road at Hartlebury Common where *Chlaenius nigricornis* was collected on 15.04.2023. © K.McGee

A single specimen of *Chlaenius nigricornis* (01) was collected from under loose bark of a Goat Willow on a log-pile by the roadside pond at Hartlebury Common on 15.04.2023 (02). This species has a widespread distribution but a conservation status of Nationally Notable B (NBN Atlas, 2023). Most records are from wetland habitats, including those with fluctuating water levels that may occasionally become dry, as is the case with the wetlands at Hartlebury Common. The NBN Atlas shows a few Worcestershire records which were supplied by P. F. Whitehead from the Avon floodplains near Birlingham and Bredon in 1988 & 1989. However, the NBN Atlas does not show records supplied by Alan Brown who found the species "in small numbers on bare muddy ground at Puxton Marsh, Kidderminster" on 10.04.2009 (Brown 2010).

Rhodaphodius (Aphodius) foetens (Fabricius, 1787)



03. *Rhodaphodius foetens* at Shakenhurst on 01.09.2023.
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A single specimen of *Rhodaphodius foetens* was photographed and collected from low-growing creeping thistle foliage at Shakenhurst on 01/09/2023. This species is widely distributed throughout England and Wales but with just 239 records on NBN Atlas it must be considered as local.

There are no Worcestershire records on the NBN Atlas map, but this is incorrect as I have submitted a record of one found at Hartlebury Common on 11.09.2015 and it is highly likely other county records exist. Nevertheless, it remains one of the less frequently found dung beetles. Most records are of adults collected from cow dung (Jessop, 1986): the location of the Shakenhurst specimen is a short distance from cow sheds and a dairy herd.

References

- Brown, A. (2010). *Carabidae of note 2009-2010 in the Kidderminster and Bewdley area*. Worcestershire Record No. 29, pp 11-14. Worcestershire Biological Records Centre & Worcestershire Recorders
- Jessop, L. (1986). *Dung Beetles and Chafer, Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea*. Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Vol. 5, Part 11. Royal Entomological Society of London.
- NBN Atlas *Species search* [on-line] <http://www.nbnatlas.org/> [Accessed 14/10/2023]
- UK Beetles *Species search* [on-line] <https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/chlaenius-nigricornis> [Accessed 14/10/2023]

Images

01. *Chlaenius nigricornis* collected from Hartlebury Common on 15/04/2023. © K.McGee.
02. The pool alongside the road at Hartlebury Common where *Chlaenius nigricornis* was collected on 15.04.2023. © K.McGee
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