

***Uleiota planatus* (Linnaeus, 1761) (Coleoptera: Sylvanidae) at Shakenhurst, Worcestershire.**

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Uleiota planatus is reported from the Shakenhurst Estate in the north-west of the county at Grid Ref: SO675731. On 08.12.2023 a single specimen was collected from a cluster of approximately twenty small beetles found while searching beneath loose bark at a log-pile. Later microscopic examination established the distinctive species as *U. planatus* in the family Sylvanidae. A return visit on 11.12.2023 to photograph the cluster found they had all dispersed except for one remaining individual which was successfully captured on camera (01).



01. *Uleiota planatus* beneath loose bark of a large dead Holly log at Shakenhurst on 11.12.2023. Kevin McGee.



02. The log-pile formed mainly of Holly where the beetles were found. Kevin McGee.

Detailed descriptions of the distribution, preferred habitats and recent expansion in range are available on the UK Beetles website. Adults can be found beneath dead or damaged bark of a wide variety of (predominantly) deciduous trees in open woodlands, parks, and gardens, and have been found in numbers beneath *Salix* bark in riparian locations in south Hertfordshire (UK Beetles, 2024). The Shakenhurst specimens were collected from beneath bark of the trunks of large Holly *Ilex aquifolium* trees placed together as a log-pile in a small copse (02).

The NBN Atlas and the JNCC Taxon Designations list the species as Notable A, but that designation was established in 1992 and the

species is now considered more widespread. The NBN Atlas has 289 records with most being from south-eastern and eastern England but there are a few scattered Worcestershire records. Three recent records are from the orchards alongside the northern boundary of Tiddesley Wood where one was found by G. Farmer on 17.3.2021, and two were found nearby on 28.5.2022 and 9.4.2023 by W. J. Heeney (via iRecord).

References

JNCC Taxon Designations. Available at:
<https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/478f7160-967b-4366-acdf-8941fd33850b> [Accessed 02.07.24]
NBN Atlas *Species search*. Available at: <http://www.nbnatlas.org/> [Accessed 06.02.2024]
UK Beetles (2024). Available at:
<http://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/uleiota-planatus> [Accessed 06.02.2024]

Images

01. *Uleiota planatus* beneath loose bark of a large dead Holly log at Shakenhurst on 11.12.2023. Kevin McGee.
02. The log-pile formed mainly of Holly where the beetles were found. Kevin McGee.