

The weevil *Sitona lineatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) travelling 12.6 kms on a moving car

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Introduction

On 3 May 2023 a live weevil *Sitona lineatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) was transported 12.6 km on the windscreen of a car in south Worcestershire.

Discussion

On 3 May 2023 an example of the weevil *Sitona lineatus* alighted on the windscreen of a car travelling through Netherton CP (SP002412) south-east of Elmley Castle. It travelled in this way through the settlements of Hinton-on-the-Green and Childswickham until it reached the Broadway by-pass, where, on the ascent to Fish Hill (SP101384), it abandoned the vehicle. The uninterrupted 12.6 kms was travelled at vehicle speeds varying from 0-93 kph.

Sitona lineatus is a widespread, abundant weevil routinely capable of flight. Although it is able to travel this distance independently using mobile warm air currents, there are few examples of passive transportations in this way. Air currents passing over the windscreen of a moving car create downward pressure which may facilitate such transport even if plenty of opportunities otherwise exist for the beetle's departure.

On 9 September 2000 a live example of the chrysomelid beetle *Longitarsus suturellus* (Duftschmid, 1825) travelled 13 kms on the windscreen of a car travelling at up to 96 kph in North Somerset (Whitehead, 2001). People measuring the dearth of insects on car windscreens over time should not ignore the survivors or the benefits to them that passive transportation may bring; perhaps this evidences their Anthropocene success.

The writer is also aware of a noctuid moth, the widespread Angle Shades *Phlogophora meticulosa* (Linnaeus, 1758), travelling inside a car for 267 kms between Worcestershire and Holyhead in Anglesey where it flew off strongly, undoubtedly just one example of many.

References

Whitehead, P. F. 2001. *Longitarsus suturellus* (Dufts.) (Col., Chrysomelidae) travelling eight miles on a moving car. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **137**:66.

Editor's Note (GF)

It's not a competition but, on 8th April 2023 I noticed a weevil on my windscreen as I left the centre of Evesham heading for Redditch. On arriving at my destination the weevil was still present having travelled a distance of 23.8 km. I identified it as *Sitona lineatus* before releasing it in the garden (01).



01. Long distance traveller *Sitona lineatus*. 08.04.23. Gary Farmer.