

**LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**The status of Diptera in
VC55**

Tachinidae

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Phasia obesa (Kate Nightingale)

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Preface

This LESOPS continues the project of establishing the status of each family of Diptera in Leicestershire & Rutland (VC55) as of 2020 to encourage future recording effort. The format used is similar to that previously applied covering brief information about genera/species (but not covering details of how identification is achieved), brief comment on VC55 appearance, distribution maps (MapMate©) and images where available. The latter have, in the main, been obtained, with permission, from contributions to NatureSpot.

Introduction

The Tachinidae are known as “parasite flies” as most have larvae that prey on other species. Invertebrate fauna, particularly, suffer these flies covering spiders, beetles, lepidoptera, hymenoptera, hemiptera and even some dipterans with updated information available at www.bioinfo.org.uk. Such larvae are usually internal (endo) parasites usually of host larvae although a few attack the adults of, for example, shieldbugs.

Identifying a tachinid

The Tachinidae family is one of the group of flies known as Calyptrates which have a pair of pale rounded membranous extensions (calyptrae or squamae) that cover the halteres. The group includes the Tachinidae, Rhinophoridae, Calliphoridae, Sarcophagidae, Muscidae, and Anthomyiidae. Separation of the families is quite straight forward as the latter two families do not have hypopleural bristles just below the hind spiracle. Of the remaining families the Tachinidae are the ones that show an enlarged rounded subscutellum (Figure 1) often best observed from the side although it should be noted that a few rare tachinids do not show this. These latter species tend to be distinctive looking and apparently can be recognised visually.



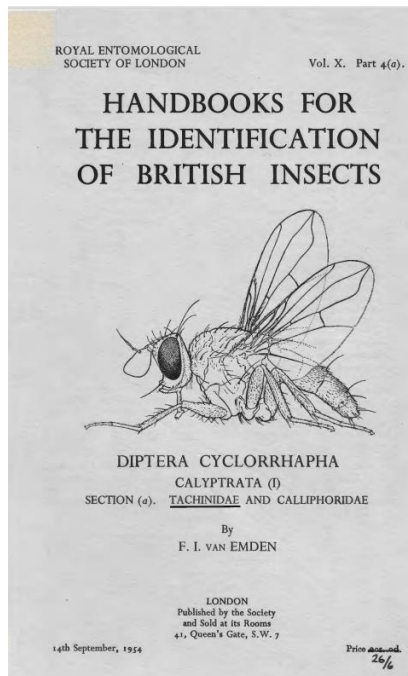
Figure 1: Family Tachinidae | ENT 425 – General Entomology (ncsu.edu)

Some other characters that may help with identifying a fly as a tachinid can include (but not exclusively) a strong bend in wing-vein *m* (Figure 2), strong bristles over the entire body and a delta-shape when at rest.

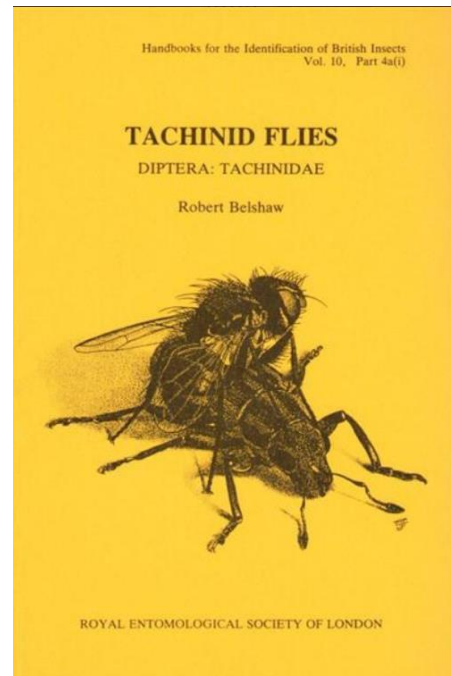


Figure 2: Bend on vein m

The overview to the Tachinidae (O'Hara, 2008, an excellent readable review!) and the history of how their classification evolved (O'Hara, 2013) indicated that much of the early work on the family was done by continental Europe entomologists and did not receive much attention in Britain until the publication of one of the Royal Entomological Society Handbooks for Identification of British Insects (van Emden, 1954, Figure 3a). An updated version of this volume was published over thirty years later (Belshaw 1998, Figure 3b).



(a) Van Emden (1954)



(b) Belshaw (1998)

Figure 3: British keys to the Tachinidae

Since that time, new species have been added to the British list (e.g. Chandler, Ford & Falk, 2001) and these are noted in the entries on the website of the Tachinidae Recording Scheme (TRS) www.tachinidae.org.uk which has all sorts of aids to help the amateur successfully identify these flies. Currently there are 270 British species.

[A German-language consideration of the Tachinidae of central Europe, published in 1994, provided extensive keys for identification of British species, and those yet-to be found in Britain, with a translation available on the TRS website which may give further assurance of correct identifications].

Tachinid recording was, until the 21st century, relatively infrequent in Leicestershire & Rutland. The family was not mentioned in either Crabbe's description of the natural history of the Vale of Belvoir (Crabbe, 1795) or in the Rutland volume of the Victoria County History (VCH-R, 1908). However, a single species (*Phasia hemipteran*, as *Alophora hemipteran*, noted from

Owston Wood) was mentioned in the Leicester volume (VCH-L, 1907) despite the County Collections having specimens of three other species which are assumed to have been donated by WA Vice during the late 19th century. The Collections have an Owston Wood specimen of *P. hemiptera* as part of the PAH Muschamp collection which may be Vice's specimen; however, the lack of data on the label (typical of Muschamp) does not allow confirmation. However, Muschamp was probably the first VC55 entomologist to take an interest in the Tachinidae locally, although not extensive, with some of his examples in the Collections.

References

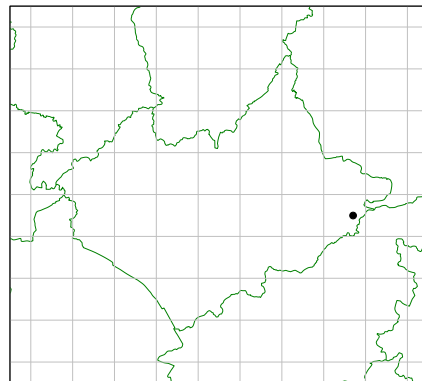
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Annotated species

Actia infantula Zetterstedt – 1 record

One of the two local species on the British list of six. The fly larva is an endoparasite of the larva of the Tineidae moth *Monopsis laevigella*.

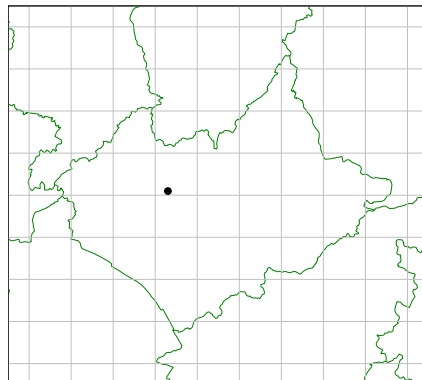
Nationally not a common fly with a single local record that came from Ketton Quarry in July 2004 when found by the late Jonathan Cole, a national expert dipterist.



Actia pilipennis Fallén – 1 record

The larva of this tachinid is a parasite of many Tortricidae larvae as well as other moths.

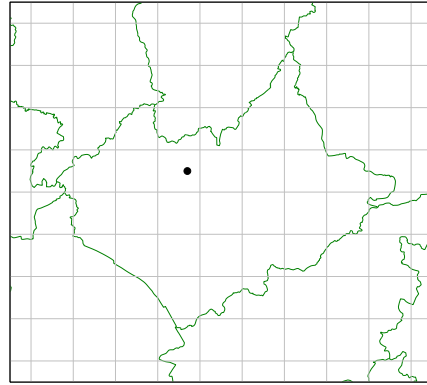
Nationally occurs scattered throughout Britain although in VC55 only one record has been identified. The County Collections has two specimens labelled "Bradgate" (?Park) attributed to PAH Muschamp found in 1917 (CRC 45/2/5B/2-3).



Cinochira atra Zetterstedt – 1 record

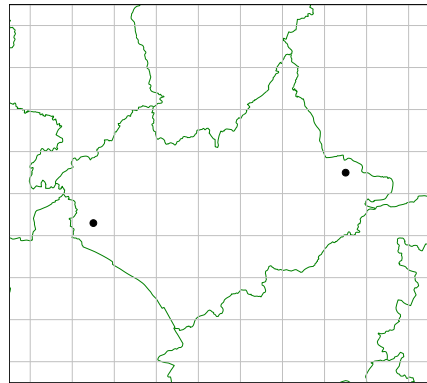
The sole member of this genus in Britain. Scattered throughout much of England but less commonly recorded elsewhere. An endoparasite of *Eremocoris* seed bugs (Hemiptera).

The single VC55 record came during survey work at the Mountsorrel Quarry complex in 2011 by Andy Godfrey.

***Cistogaster globosa*** Latreille – 2 records

The sole member of this genus in Britain. Predator of the Bishop's Mitre shieldbug *Aelia acuminata*. The fly occurs in southern Britain and to the east of the Pennines further north.

Recorded twice from VC55 from opposite sides of the area both times in late summer 2019 (Twycross, Stretton). The host is widely found in VC55.



George Henry Wood, Stretton, 2019
(Matthew Merriman, NatureSpot)

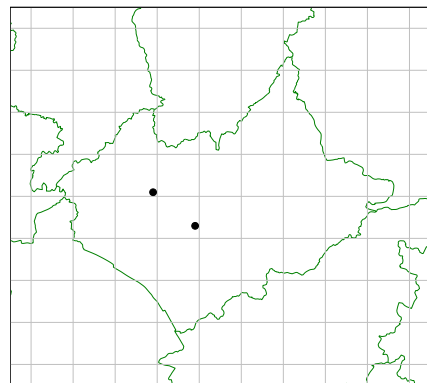


Aelia acuminata, Ketton Quarry 2013
(Mark Skevington NatureSpot)

Compsilura concinnata Meigen – 2 records

Sole member of this genus in Britain. A parasitoid of a wide range of Lepidoptera as well as some Coleoptera and Hymenoptera. Used for control of pest moths in North America.

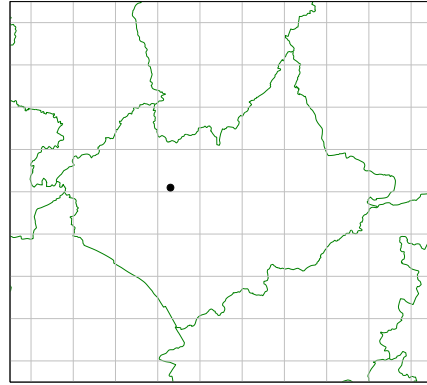
Scattered records from England into Wales with only two records from VC55 both as a result of breeding out from pupae of lepidopteran hosts. Specimens in County Collections – Markfield 1975 (from Small Tortoiseshell) and Leicester 1990 (from Grey Dagger).



Cyzenis albicans Robineau-Desvoidy – 1 record

Sole member of this genus in Britain. Parasite of the larvae of the Winter moth (*Operophtera brumata*).

Found scattered throughout Britain but only recorded once (three insects) in VC55 presumably from Bradgate Park by PAH Muschamp in 1940 with specimens in the County Collections (CRC 44/9/2B/2-4).

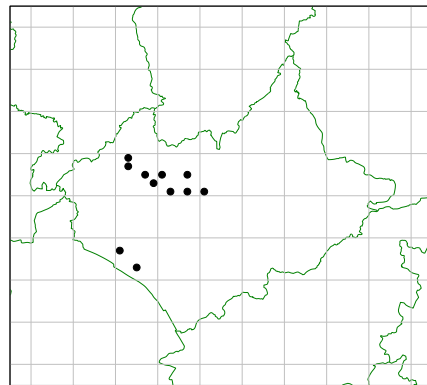
***Dexiosoma caninum*** Fabricius – 35 records

Sole member of this genus in Britain. A parasite of the Common Cockchafer.

Found throughout Britain although some East Midlands areas seem to have no records. Seen mostly to the western area of VC55 with the Charnwood area particularly favoured. It is anticipated that, as the host is widespread in VC55, the fly is probably more widespread locally than records suggest.

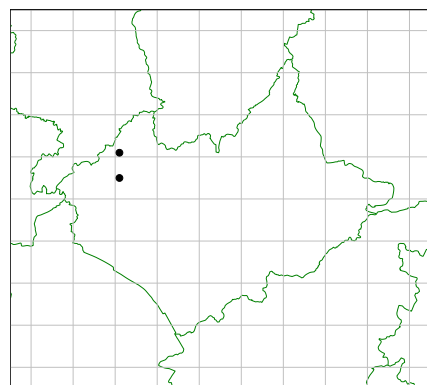


Bradgate Park, 2007
(David Nicholls, NatureSpot)

***Drino lota*** Meigen – 2 records

Sole member of this genus in Britain. Larvae parasitise the larvae of hawk moths.

Scattered throughout England & Wales but not common. The VC55 records come from Finney Wood, Swannington (near Coalville) in 2019 and at Cloud Wood NR in 2020 both during July.



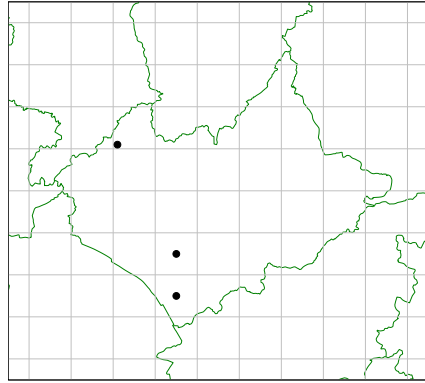
Epicampocera succincta Meigen – 3 records

Sole member of this genus in Britain. Parasitic on many of the Pieridae (white) butterflies. Widespread in England & Wales, less so elsewhere.

Local records have come since 2018 when seen at Misterton SSSI during survey work by David Gibbs and then in 2020 from Whetstone (Mark Skevington) and Cloud Wood NR (B Lygo).



Whetstone, 2020
(Mark Skevington, NatureSpot)

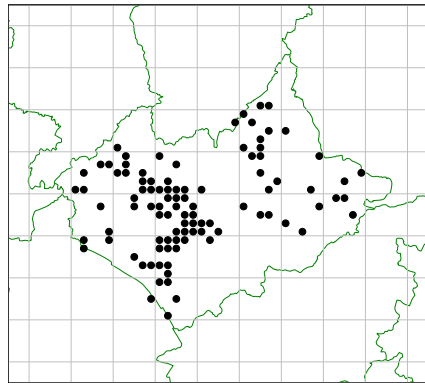
***Eriothrix rufomaculata*** De Geer – 277 records

One of the two British species of this genus (the other is only encountered, at this time, in southern England). Parasitic on the larvae of many lepidoptera. Distinguished by the obvious orange-red sides to the abdomen.

A common fly throughout Britain and is often encountered in VC55. First noted at Bradgate Park in the 1930s and again in the 1940s in Leicester by Muschamp with specimens in the County Collections.



Sapcote, 2009
(Graham Calow, NatureSpot)



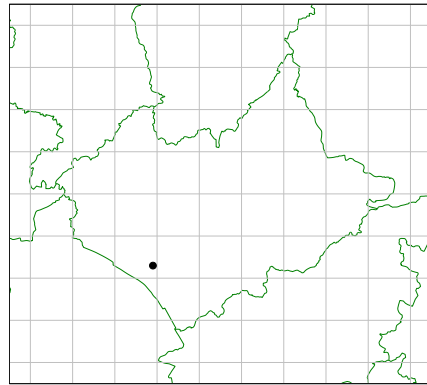
Eumea linearicornis Zetterstedt – 1 record

One of the two British species of this genus with the other, *E. mitis*, being much rarer and absent from VC55. Found throughout England & Wales. An endoparasite primarily of noctuid moths.

A single occurrence of this fly came from Sapcote in 2014 (Graham Calow) verified by Chris Raper of the Tachinid Recording Scheme.

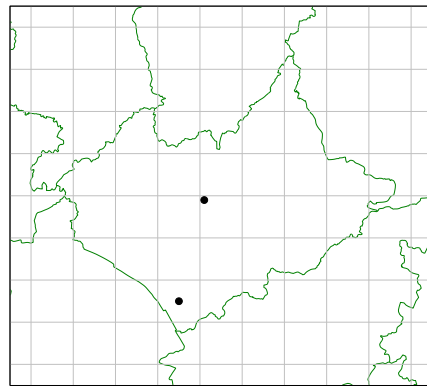


Sapcote, 2014
(Graham Calow, NatureSpot)

***Exorista larvarum*** Linnaeus – 3 records

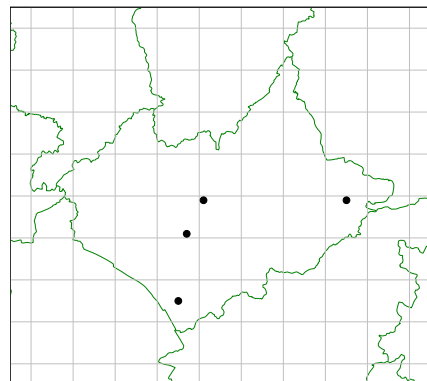
One of the two species on the British list of seven that has been found to date in VC55. Larvae are parasitic on moths and have been used for biological control of pest species in some instances. Found across England & Wales and western Scotland.

Seen at Watermead Country Park in 2016 (Saharima Roenisch) and during the 2018 survey work at the Misterton Marshes complex by David Gibbs.

***Exorista rustica*** Fallén – 8 records

A parasite of sawflies. Throughout England but scattered elsewhere.

VC55 records started in 2007 when seen at Watermead CP (David Nicholls) and then from scattered locations. Noted in several parts of the Misterton Marshes complex in 2018 (David Gibbs)



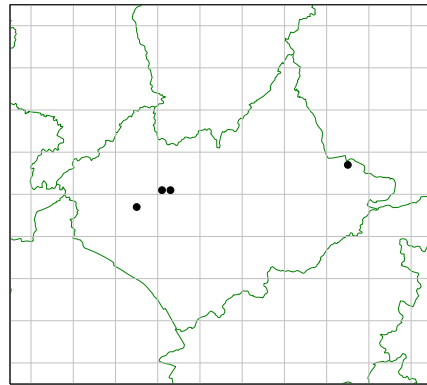
Gonia picea Robineau-Desvoidy– 4 records

The only member of this genus of four British species to have been found in VC55 to date. Abdominal segments have a white hind edge. Found throughout England & Wales. A moth parasite apparently favouring *Cerapteryx graminis* (Antler).

Initially seen at Bagworth Heath Woods in 2012 and then from Bradgate Park (2015), Lea Meadows NR (2016) and George Henry Wood (Stretton, 2020).



Lea Meadows NR, 2016
(Kate Nightingale, NatureSpot)

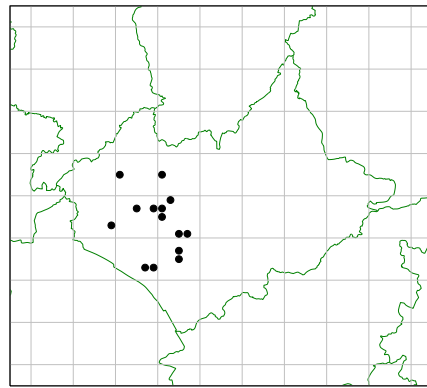
***Gymnocheta viridis*** Fallén – 19 records

A spring species with a metallic green abdomen being the only one of this genus in Britain and being found throughout the country. A parasite of lepidopteran larvae.

All VC55 records come the west of the area having being first noted by David Gould in a Braunstone (Leicester) garden in 2007 and occasionally since.



Braunstone, Leicester, 2021
(David Gould, NatureSpot)



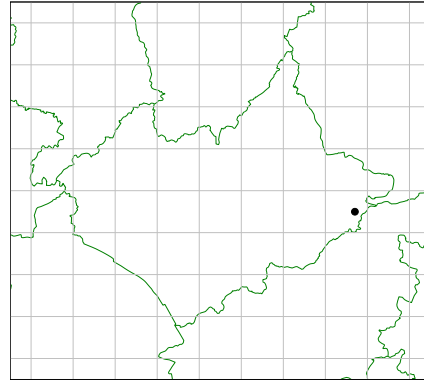
Hemyda vittata Meigen – 2 records

A parasite of Pentatomidae shield bug larvae. Scattered in England south of the Trent.

First seen at Ketton Quarry NR in 2012 (David Nicholls) and again at the same site in 2015 (Alan Cann).



Ketton Quarry NR, 2012
(David Nicholls, NatureSpot)

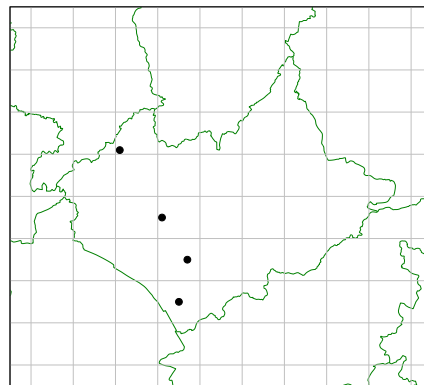
***Linnaemya picta*** Meigen – 4 records

This genus needs care when identifying with three of the five British species noted locally. Scattered throughout England being scarce elsewhere. A larval endoparasite of noctuid moths.

Only recently noted in VC55 having been seen at in the Lutterworth area (2018, Cloud Wood NR (2019), Whetstone (2020) and Wirlybones Wood (Ratby, 2020).

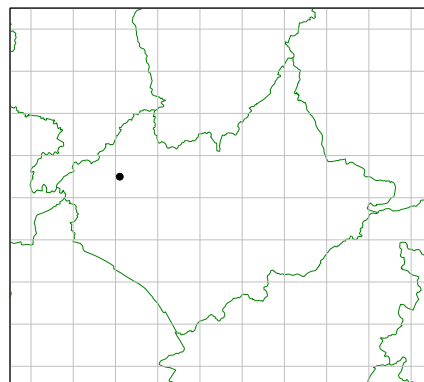


Wirlybones Wood, Ratby 2020
(David Nicholls NatureSpot)

***Linnaemya tessellans*** Robineau-Desvoidy
– 3 records

Tends to be restricted to south-east England, rarely elsewhere.

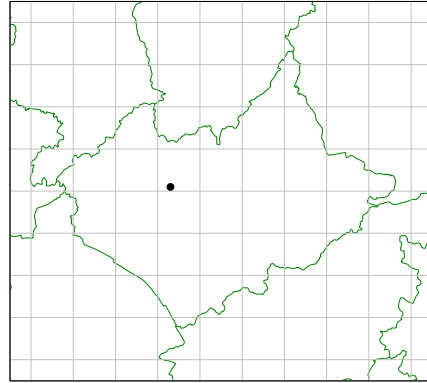
All VC55 records came in 2019 during survey work in the Swannington area by Andy Jukes from sweeping samples.



Linnaemya vulpina Fallén – 1 record

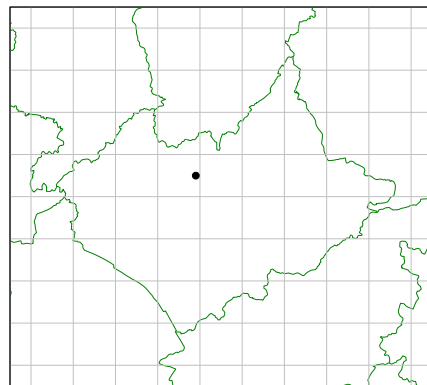
A parasite of noctuid larvae. Found throughout much of Britain.

The sole VC55 record came from Bradgate Park in 1936 when two were located by PAH Muschamp and added to the County Collections (CRC 45/1/6B/7-8).

***Lophosia fasciata*** Meigen – 1 record

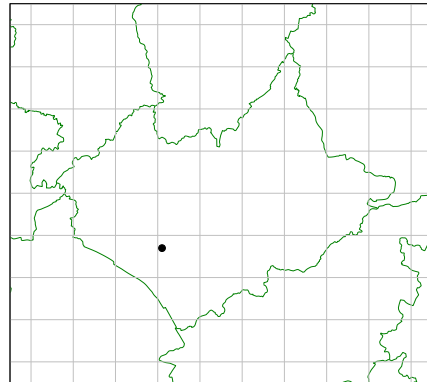
The sole member of this genus in Britain being a larval endoparasite of shieldbugs. Found throughout England & Wales.

The sole VC55 record came from a conservation area at Mountsorrel in 2012 when swept by Steve Woodward and Helen Ikin.

***Lydella grisescens*** Robineau-Desvoidy – 1 record

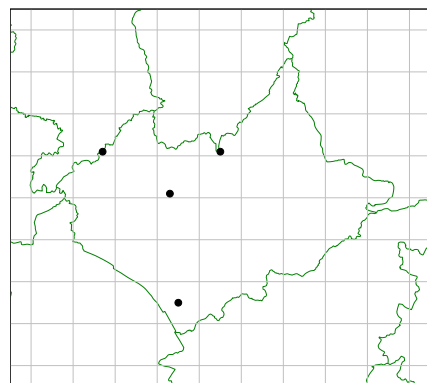
An endoparasitoid of some moth larvae. Found throughout England & Wales, scarce elsewhere.

The sole VC55 record was made by PAH Muschamp in 1930 from Croft as *Paraphorocera senilis*.

***Lydella stabulans*** Meigen – 8 records

Found in England & Wales as well as into some areas of Scotland. An endoparasitoid of mainly noctuid moths. The commoner species of the genus in Britain.

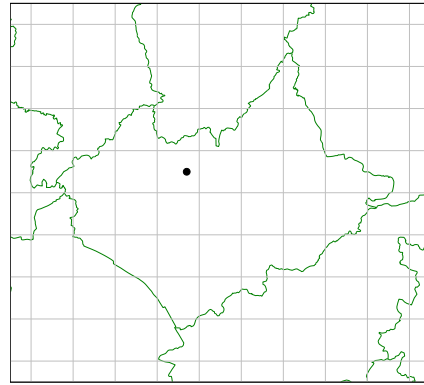
Noted by WA Vice at Bradgate Park in 1887 the specimen being deposited into the County Collections (CRC 44/8/3A/4). Next seen at Twenty Acre Piece (Six Hills) by Neil Frankum in 1994 and during a visit by the Dipterists Forum to Dimmingsdale NR in 2015. Found at several sites at Lutterworth-Misterton in 2018 during survey work by David Gibbs.



Lydina aenea Meigen – 1 record

Endoparasitoid of a range of lepidoptera. Found across England & Wales, scattered elsewhere.

Found during survey work in the Mountsorrel Quarry area survey by Andy Godfrey in 2011.

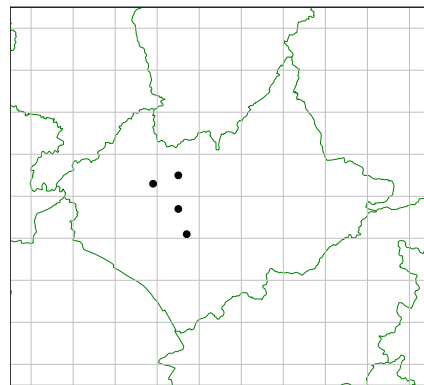
***Lypha dubia*** Fallén– 4 records

Mainly recorded from England with scattered records elsewhere, Usually parasitic on moths it has been noted associated with chrysomelid beetles and *Merodon equestris* (Syrphidae).

Noted by WA Vice in 1896 at Buddon Wood with two examples in the County Collections (CRC 45/2/1A/13 &14). Further records came from Aylestone Meadows (2011), Ulverscroft NR (2011) and from the environs of County Hall (Glenfield) in 2017.

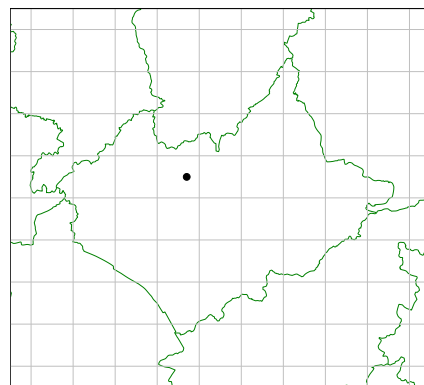


Ulverscroft NR. 2011
(David Nicholls, NatureSpot)

***Medina separata*** Meigen – 1 record

The only member of this genus of three British species found in VC55. Scattered in England & Wales. An endoparasite of the adult of several beetle families.

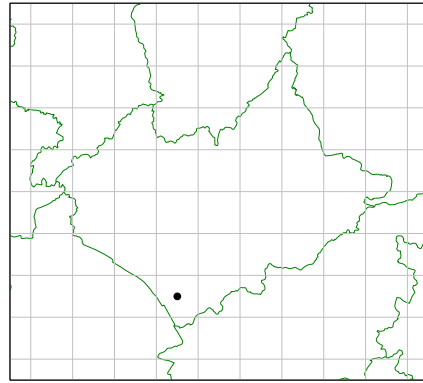
The sole record for this species came from the Mountsorrel Quarry complex survey by Andy Godfrey in 2011.



Meigenia mutabilis Fallén– 7 records

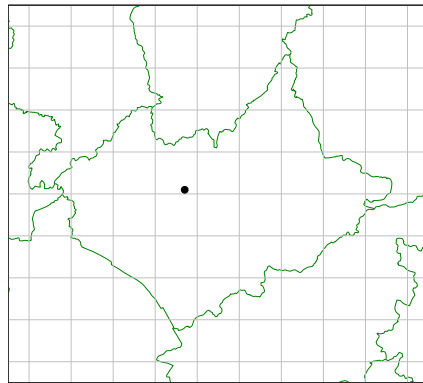
The genus has three British species with only *mutabilis* being noted locally. An endoparasite of the larvae of many beetles and some Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera. Throughout England & Wales,

All local records come the 2018 survey work carried out by David Gibbs in the Lutterworth-Misterton area,

***Mintho rufiventris*** Fallén – 2 records

Mainly recorded from England. Endoparasite of the larvae of some Pyralidae moths.

The only VC55 records came from Kate Nightingale's garden at Cropston in 2019 and 2020 with confirmation by Chris Raper *et al.*

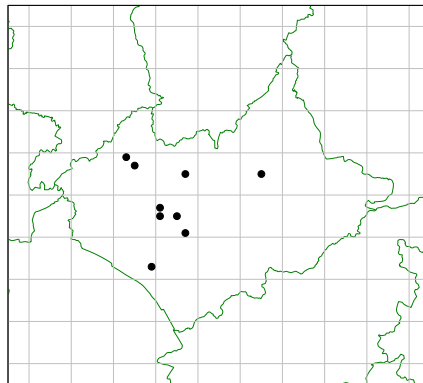
***Nemorilla floralis*** Fallén – 12 records

The only member of this genus in Britain is an endoparasite of the larvae of a range of lepidoptera. Found throughout England into eastern Wales.

The earliest VC55 record came from the Glenfield area in 1957 (CRC 44/10/1B/9) having been bred out from a nymphalid pupa (recorder unknown). Since 2009 seen at scattered locations in the area.



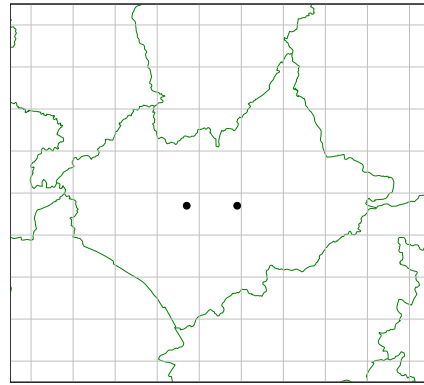
Aylestone, Spearwort Fields, 2017
(David Gould, NatureSpot)



Nilea hortulana Meigen– 2 records

Sole member of the genus in Britain which is sparsely distributed in England & Wales. An endoparasite of many lepidopterous larvae.

Found by WA Vice in 1887 in the Anstey Lane area and not again until 1979 when seen at Hungarton. Examples of each record are in the County Collections (CRC44/8/3B/4; CRC 44/8/3B/1 respectively).

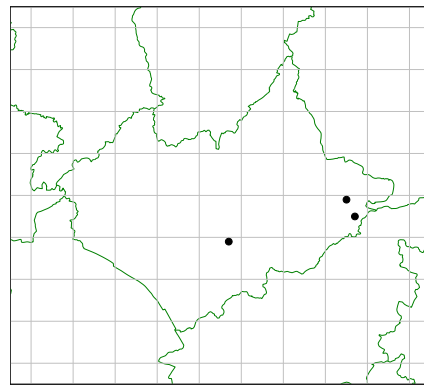
***Nowickia ferox*** Panzer – 3 records

The sole member of this genus in Britain is an endoparasite of the larvae of some lepidoptera. Common throughout England and south Wales.

Despite being quite recognisable the fly has only been recorded locally on three occasions – Ketton Quarry NR (Alan Cann, 2015), Little Stretton (Christine Pochin 2020) and Empingham (Andrew Dejardin 2020).

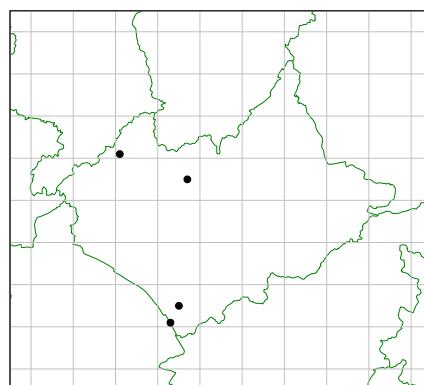


Ketton Quarry NR, 2015
(Alan Cann, NatureSpot)

***Ocytata pallipes*** Fallén– 4 records

Endoparasitic on the Common Earwig. Found throughout England but less so in Wales and Scotland.

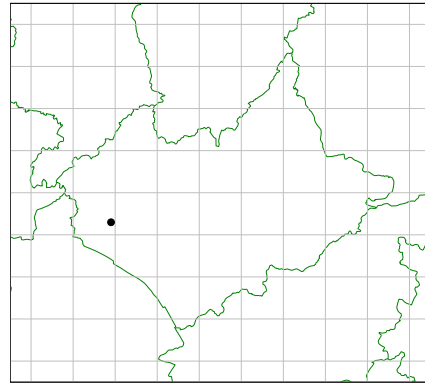
VC55 records come from survey work in the south of Leicestershire (Shawell, Misterton) and the Mountsorrel Quarry complex. The most recent came from Cloud Wood NR in 2020 (B. Lygo). The host is very common and further records should be anticipated.



Oswaldia muscaria Fallén– 1 record

The sole member of this genus in Britain being found scattered in England & Wales less so in Scotland. Endoparasite of lepidopterous larvae.

Recorded once in VC55 during survey work by Richard Wright at Sedgemere, Market Bosworth (the previous home of Frank Bouskell renowned Victorian coleopterist from Leicestershire) in 2011 now a housing development).

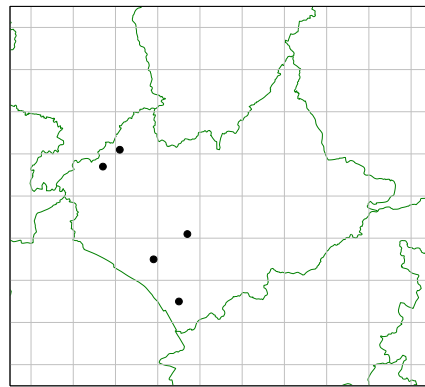
***Pales pavid*** Meigen – 7 records

An endoparasite of the larvae of many lepidoptera. Common in England & Wales less so in Scotland.

First encountered in VC55 at the disused coal site at Lounge in 2012 by Colin Plant and since at scattered locations to the west of Leicestershire. Often seen at the Spearwort Fields (Aylestone) by David Gould.



Aylestone, Spearwort Fields. 2017
(David Gould, NatureSpot)

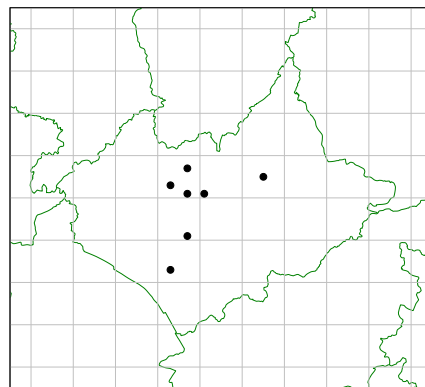
***Panzeria anthophila*** Robineau-Desvoidy– 36 records (previously *Eurythia anthophila*)

Common in England & Wales, less so elsewhere. The larva is endoparasitic on lepidoptera larvae.

Regularly recorded in Kate Nightingale's Cropston garden with other records from scattered Leicestershire locations.



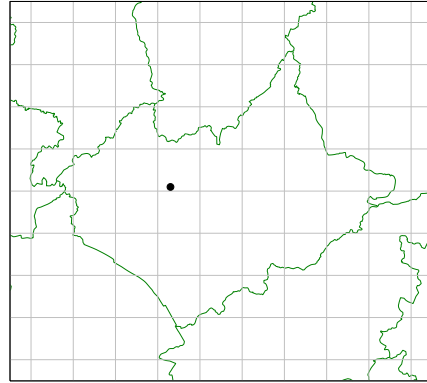
Cropston 2017
(Kate Nightingale)



Panzeria laevigata Meigen – 1 record
(previously *Ernestia laevigata*)

Scattered in England & Wales. Fly larva is an endoparasite of lepidoptera larvae.

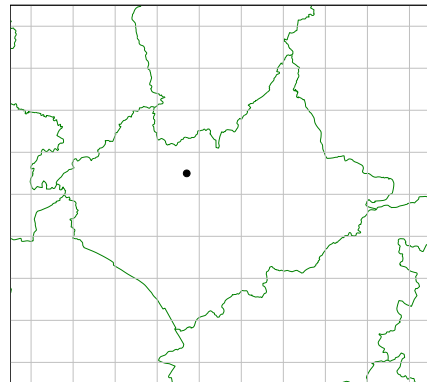
The sole local record was made by PAH Muschamp at Bradgate Park 1940 with a specimen in the County Collections (CRC 44/10/5A/3).



Paracraspedothrix montivaga Villeneuve – 2 records

Scattered in Britain. Only found in Britain in 2002 and the hosts for the larvae are unclear at this time.

The 2012 surveys of the Mountsorrel Quarry complex and Buddon Wood by Andy Godfrey gave the sole records for this fly locally.



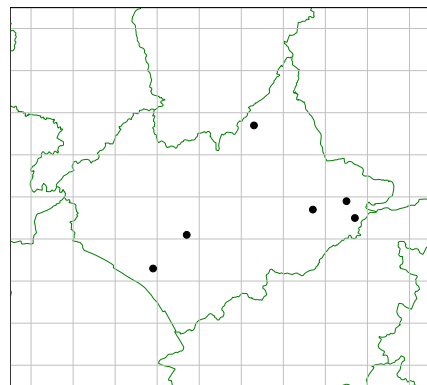
Phania funesta Meigen – 13 records

Most British records come from England. An endoparasite of shieldbugs.

First seen at Ketton Quarry NR in 2006 by the late Jonathan Cole. Often noted at the Spearwort Fields, Aylestone and at other scattered locations,



Aylestone, Spearwort Fields, 2018
(David Gould, NatureSpot)

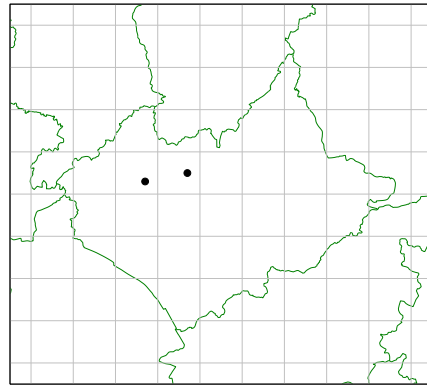


Phasia barbifrons Girschner– 4 records

This genus has four British species all of which are parasitoids of shieldbugs and all have been recorded in VC55.

The current species occurs scattered throughout England & Wales.

All local records were made by Andy Godfrey during survey work at Bardon Hill SSSI in 2008 and the Mountsorrel Quarry complex in 2011-2013.

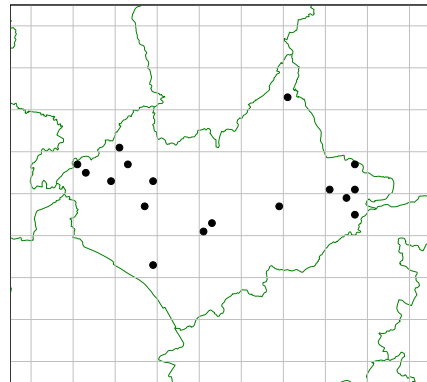
***Phasia hemiptera*** Fabricius – 27 records

Found throughout much of Britain.

The commonest of the four species in this genus in VC55. Recorded from Owston Wood in the VCH-L and then in 1930 (PAH Muschamp) but not again until seen at Ketton Quarry NR in 2003 (Roger Morris). Since 2010 records have come from across the area.



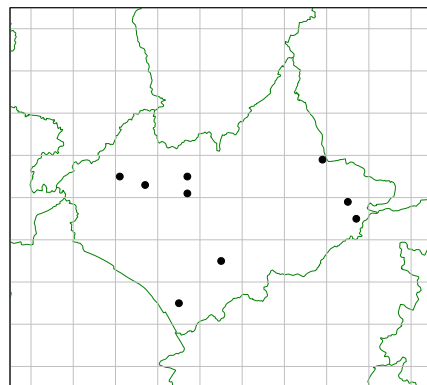
Sapcote 2012 ♀
(Graham Calow, NatureSpot)

***Phasia obesa*** Fabricius – 14 records

Found throughout England but scattered elsewhere.

Noted in 2003 at Ketton Quarry NR by Roger Morris with further records mainly coming from surveys at the Mountsorrel Quarry complex (Andy Godfrey) and the Lutterworth-Misterton area (David Gibbs). Scattered locations elsewhere.

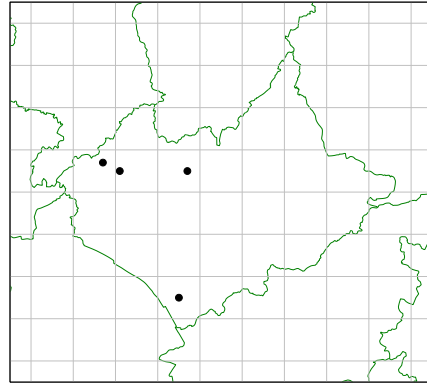
[Image on cover]



Phasia pusilla Meigen – 6 records

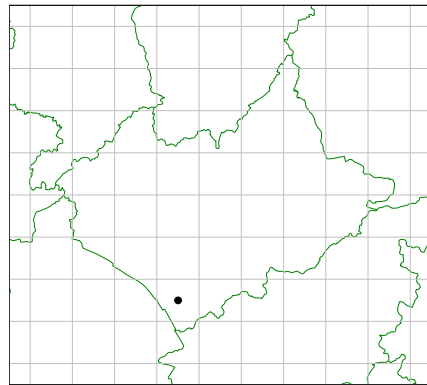
Predominantly recorded from England. Larva is an endoparasite of Hemiptera.

Colin Plant found the fly in 2012 at the former coal site at Lounge. Recorded in 2018 and 2019 from scattered sites by contract entomologists carrying out survey work.

***Phryxe heraclei*** Meigen – 3 records

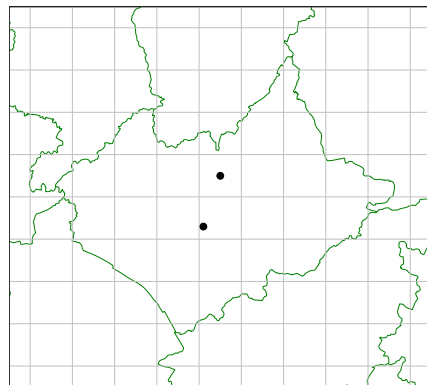
Five British species of which three have been found in VC55. The current species is an endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae. Scattered in much of England and Wales with many from coastal areas.

In VC55 the species has only been recorded during the 2018 survey work in the Misterton Marshes area by David Gibbs.

***Phryxe nemea*** Meigen – 2 records

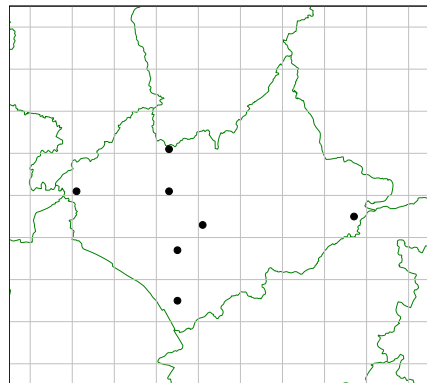
Well distributed throughout England & Wales scattered elsewhere. Primarily an endoparasite of lepidoptera larvae but may possibly use sawflies.

For the period of this LESOPS, the fly has only been recorded from Leicester (Muriel Statham) and Rearsby (PM Ladkin) in 1980 – specimens in the County Collections (CRC 44/8/3C/20, CRC 44/8/4B/1).

***Phryxe vulgaris*** Fallén – 10 records

Widespread in England & Wales. An endoparasite of the larvae of lepidoptera and occasionally of sawflies,

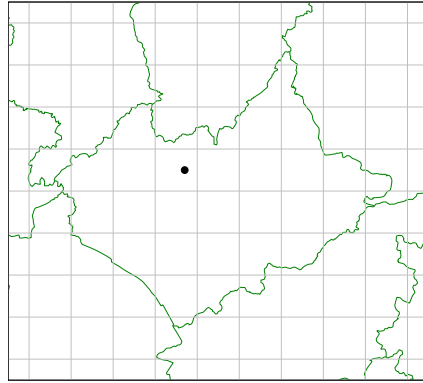
PAH Muschamp noted the species from Bradgate Park in 1922. Specimens in the County Collections were bred from parasitised lepidoptera larvae 1979-1981 (CRC 44/8/4C/3-5). The Lutterworth-Misterton 2018 surveys by David Gibbs showed the presence of the fly in the area.



Phytomyptera nigrina Meigen – 1 record

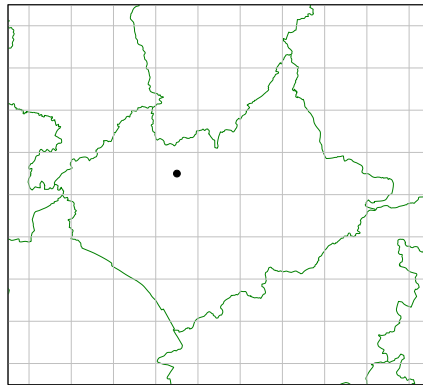
Scattered in England being mainly southern. Endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae.

The only species of the four on the British list for this genus to be found in VC55. Recorded by Andy Godfrey during his 2011 surveys of the Mountsorrel Quarry complex.

***Rondania fasciata*** Macquart– 1 record

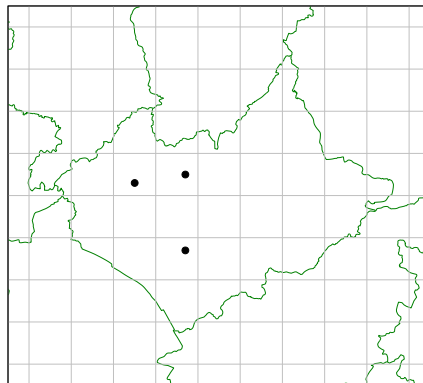
The larva of the sole member of this genus in Britain is an endoparasite of adult weevils. Nationally, records are few and mostly scattered in England.

Found at Buddon Wood SSSI in 2012 by Andy Godfrey.

***Siphona cristata*** Fabricius – 3 records

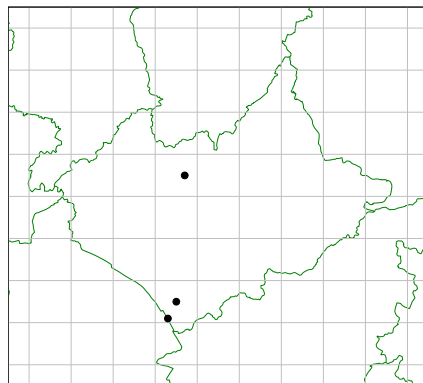
The British list shows sixteen species of this genus of which only two have been noted from VC55. The current species is an endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae occurring scattered through England & Wales and parts of Scotland.

First noted by Audrey Lomas at Blaby 1980 (identity by JP Dear) when three flies were bred out from an unnamed host (CRC 45/2/5C/1-3). Andy Godfrey found the species at Bardon Hill (2008) and the Mountsorrel Quarry complex in 2011.

***Siphona geniculata*** De Geer – 11 records

An endoparasite of lepidoptera larvae but has also been associated with the larvae of the dipteran *Tipula paludosa*. Occurs throughout Britain.

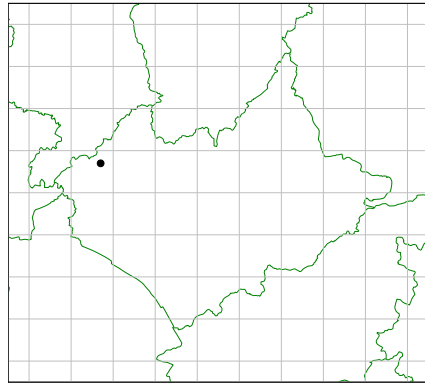
VC55 records for the review period come entirely from site surveys by experienced entomologists – Mountsorrel Quarry complex, Shawell Quarry and Lutterworth-Misterton.



Solieria pacifica Meigen – 1 record

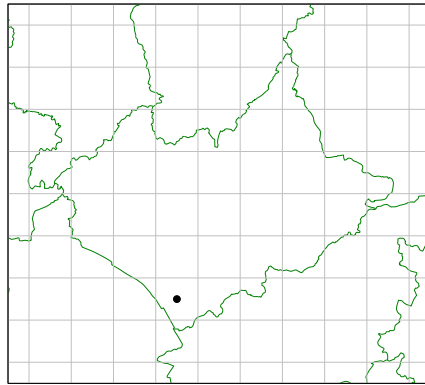
The only one of the four British species of this genus recorded in VC55 to date. Records mainly come from England. Endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae.

The single record came in 2020 during surveying of mitigation land at Lounge near Ashby de la Zouch by Andy Jukes.

***Sturmia bella*** Robineau-Desvoidy– 1 record

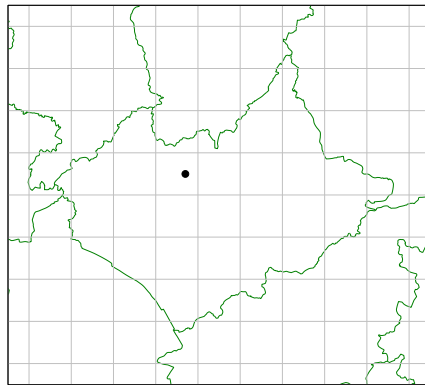
The only British species of this genus being recorded mainly from England. Endoparasite of butterfly larvae.

Only known, at this time, from Misterton Marshes SSSI during 2018 survey work by David Gibbs.

***Subclytia rotundiventris*** Fallén – 1 record

The only British species of this genus being recorded mainly from England. Endoparasite of shieldbugs.

The sole VC55 record came from Andy Godfrey who found this fly at Buddon Wood SSSI in 2011.



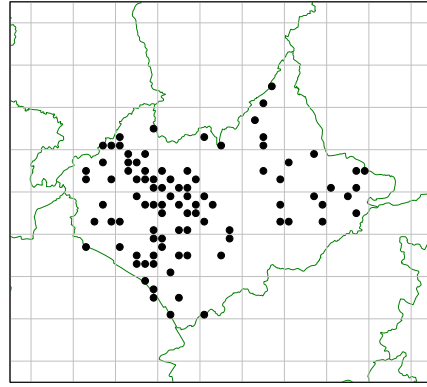
Tachina fera Linnaeus – 296 records

One of the commoner of the four British species of this genus being widespread in Britain. Endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae,

A frequent tachinid in VC55 although not recorded locally until 1994 when found at Twenty Acres Piece, Six Hills by Neil Frankum. Seen regularly through the area since 2007.

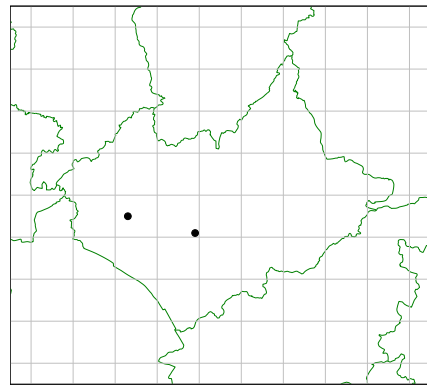


Stanford Reservoir 2011
(John Cranfield NatureSpot)

***Tachina grossa*** Linnaeus – 2 records

A widespread fly in Britain being an endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae.

Despite its national occurrence the fly has only been noted twice in VC55 – Knighton (Leicester) 2011 by the late Maggie Frankum and at a Barlestone farm in 2020 by a visiting Worcestershire entomologist Joshua Evans.

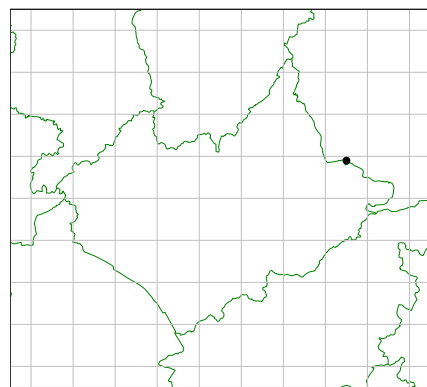
***Tachina lurida*** Fabricius – 2 records

Scattered in England & Wales being an endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae.

Matthew Berriman recorded the species twice in 2020 at Stocken on the far east edge of VC55 with identification by Chris Raper of the Tachinidae Recording Scheme.



Stocken, 2020
(Matthew Berriman, NatureSpot)



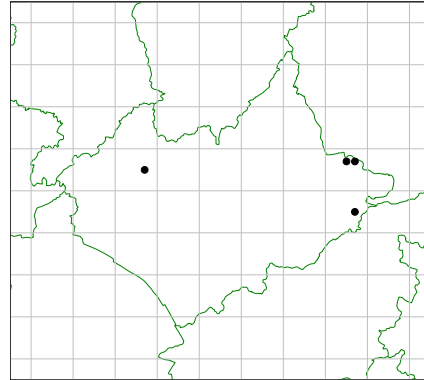
Tachina ursina Meigen – 4 records

Occurs throughout Britain being an endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae.

First noted in VC55 in 2014 when seen at Ketton Quarry NR and again to the east of VC55 from Stretton and Clipsham Park Woods in 2020. The fourth sighting was of a mating pair seen at Charnwood Lodge NNR by Kate Nightingale in 2017. Appears to be very much a spring species with all records in March.



Charnwood 2017, in cop
(Kate Nightingale, NatureSpot)

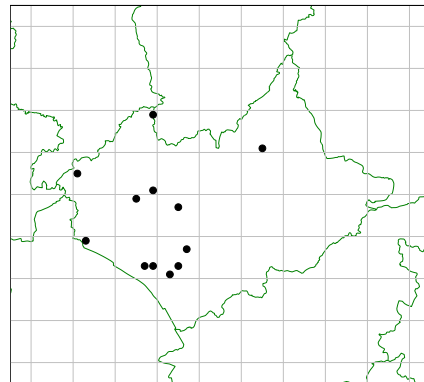
***Thelaira nigrina*** Fallén – 17 records

One of the three British species which is found throughout England & Wales but less so in Scotland. Endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae.

First noted in the Blaby area by WA Vice in 1887 with the fly in the County Collections (CRC 44/7/4A/7). Regularly seen in the past decade at scattered locations.

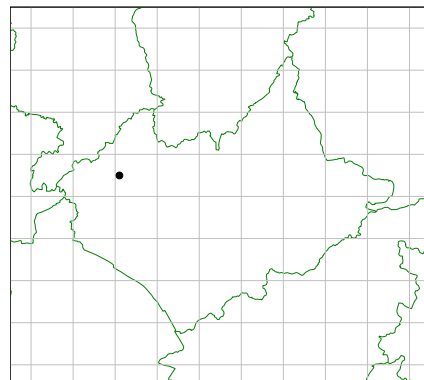


Bagworth, 2019
(Sue Timms, NatureSpot)

***Thelaira solivaga*** Harris – 2 records

A lepidopteran larval endoparasite found scattered across England & Wales.

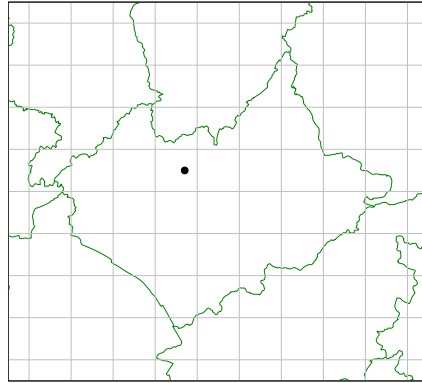
Survey work in the Swannington (Coalville) area in 2019 by Andy Jukes showed the presence of this fly in VC55.



Triarthria setipennis Fallén – 1 record

An endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae being found scattered across England & Wales.

The sole member of this genus in Britain was found during survey work by Andy Godfrey in 2011 at the Mountsorrel Quarry complex.

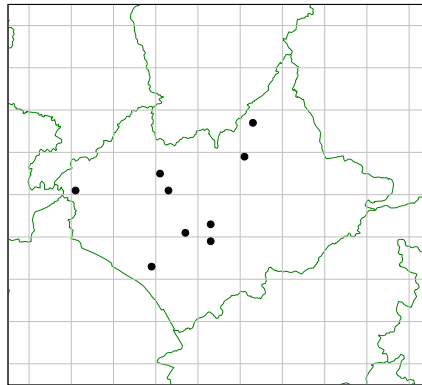
***Trixa conspersa*** Harris – 10 records

Occurs in England & Wales extending into parts of Scotland. Endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae.

Noted by PAH Muschamp in 1922 from Bradgate Park but not again until the past decade from scattered locations.



Spearwort Fields, Aylestone, 2019
(David Gould, NatureSpot)

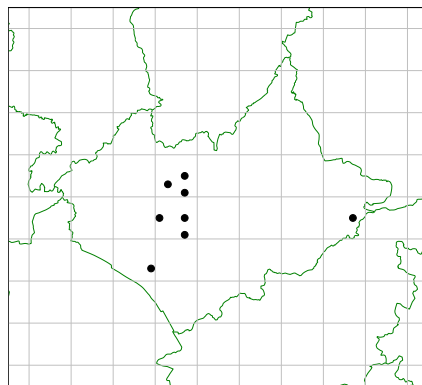
***Voria ruralis*** Fallén – 9 records

An endoparasite of lepidopteran larvae being recorded in England & Wales into Scotland.

All VC55 records have come from the past decade being first noted in 2013 at Sapcote by Graham Calow and also at Mountsorrel Quarry by Andy Godfrey.



Ketton Quarry NR, 2017
(Annie Smith, NatureSpot)



Note: since the completion of this LESOPS, two more Tachinidae genera have been added to the VC55 list – *Dufouria* and *Pseudoperichaeta* both with one species.

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