

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The status of Diptera in VC55

Lauxaniidae & Platypezidae

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Sapromyza quadricincta, Blaby GC 2017
(Graham Calow, NatureSpot)



Polyporivora picta, Braunston 2020
(David Gould, NatureSpot)

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Introduction

This LESOPS continues the review of the Status of the Diptera in Leicestershire & Rutland up to 2020. Maps have been produced using MapMate®, images have, in the main been sourced from NatureSpot with permission. General information on the national status of species has been drawn from several sources especially the NBN Atlas.

Lauxaniidae

The flies

These small flies (<7mm) may be yellow to brown or black or in a combination of colours. The ocellar triangle (arrow) is obvious with post-vertical bristles converging (Figure 1) and the eyes of some species can be vividly coloured.



Figure 1: Head of typical Lauxanid (David Nicholls, NatureSpot)

The adult flies tend to favour shady habitats with larvae inhabiting decaying vegetable matter. Due to their secretive behaviour sweeping suitable areas is usually the best way to obtain specimens. Some species have marked wings. As of July 2022 the family has 56 British species of which 29 have been recorded to date in Leicestershire & Rutland as of 2020.

Collin (1948) produced the first British keys for identification of the flies with the work being updated somewhat by Hackston (2017).

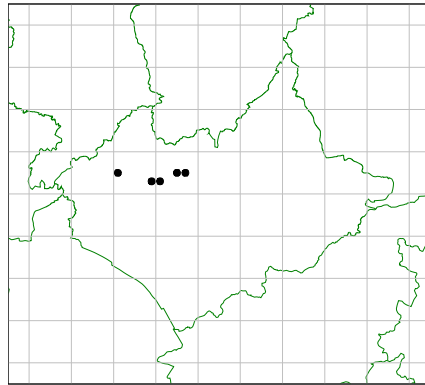
[Laurence Clemons privately produced a highly usable key in 2000 which was based on Collins as well as a wide range of European publications. He emphasised that this was for private use only and would not be widely circulated as it contained illustrations that he had "plagiarised". However, it does show that, with the wealth of publications available to draw upon, the enthusiastic amateur can, with patience, prepare a personal key for their own use!]

The species

Aulogastromyia anisodactyla Loew (22 records)

Scattered in England & Wales. First noted locally during site surveys at Ulverscroft NR by the National Trust and as part of the Invertebrate Site Register investigation both in 1985.

During Andy Godfrey's survey of the Mountsorrel Quarry complex (2010-2012) the species was found over much of the site. The only other records came from the Swannington area in 2019 by Andy Jukes.



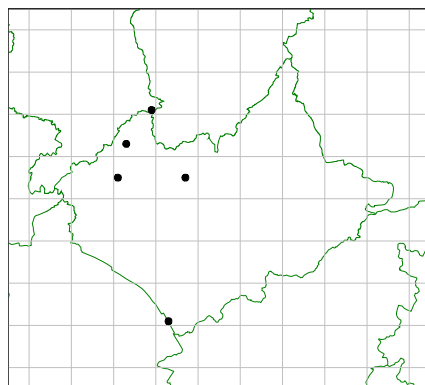
Calliopum aeneum Fallén (10 records)

Scattered across England & Wales and also in the Scottish Highlands.

Alan Stubbs made the first record for VC55 during survey work at the Lockington Marshes SSSI area in 1991. Further survey work by experienced entomologists showed the fly to be present at the Mountsorrel Quarry, Shawell Quarry and Swannington areas 2011-2019. Visiting entomologists from the Caledonian Conservation Ltd (Stirling, Scotland) during 2019 found the fly in the Diseworth and Tonge areas of north-west Leicestershire.



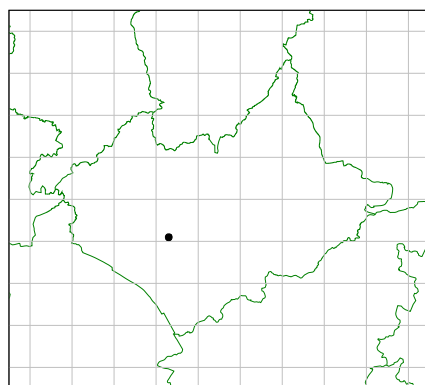
Normanton Woods, Earl Shilton 2022
(David Nicholls, NatureSpot)



Calliopum elisae Meigen (1 record)

Wales but scattered elsewhere – the Midlands has few records.

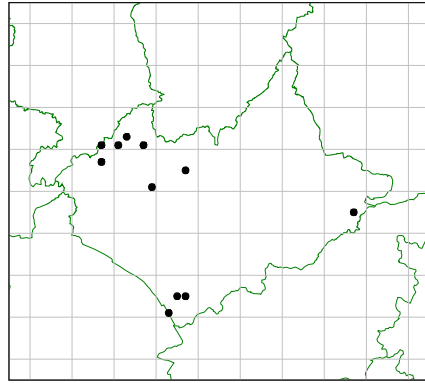
The sole VC55 record came from the Enderby area when survey work as part of the Invertebrate Site Register was carried out in 1987.



Calliopum simillimum Collin (18 records)

Throughout England & Wales, scattered in Scotland.

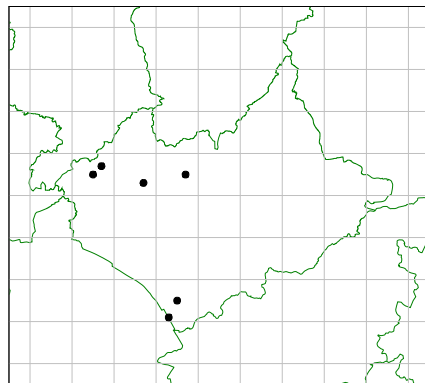
VC55 records came from experienced entomologists during surveys. First noted in 1985 at Ulverscroft NR (National Trust) then at Ketton Quarry NR 2006 (Jonathan Cole), Mountsorrell (2011-2102), Shawell Quarry (2014) and Misterton (2018). The 2015 visit by Dipterist's Forum members noted the species at Dimminsdale and Cloud Wood NRs. Also seen at a disused aquatic plant nursery in 2018 and in the Tonge & Diseworth areas in 2019.



Calliopum tuberculatum Becker (10 records)

Across England & Wales, scarce in Scotland.

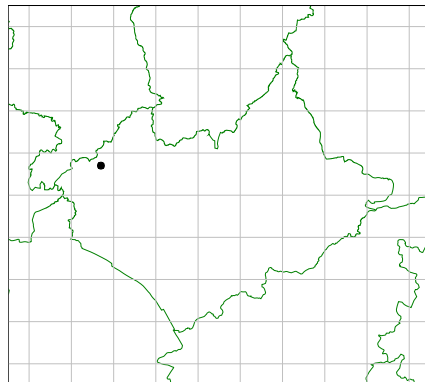
Noted locally in 2008 in the Bardon Hill area, at the Mountsorrel Quarry complex 2011-12, Shawell Quarry (2014) and a disused aquatic plant nursery at Ashby (2018) all by Andy Godfrey. Noted in the Packington area in 2019 by Caledonian Coservation Ltd.



Cnemocantha muscaria Fallén (1 record)

Mainly to the western side of England and into Wales. Eastern England has few records.

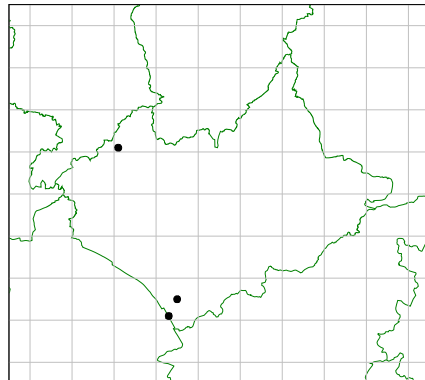
The sole VC55 record came from Andy Godfrey when surveying a disused aquatic plant nursery at Ashby in 2018.



Homoneura interstincta Fallén (8 records)

Scattered in England.

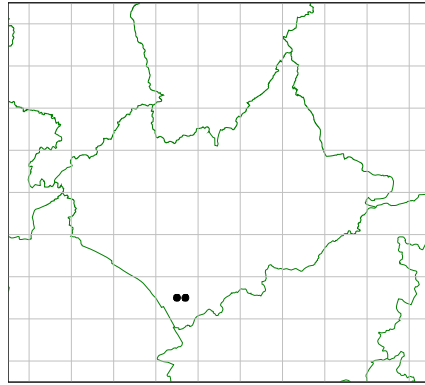
All records except one come from the south of Leicestershire (Misterton Marsh SSSI complex and Shawell Quarry). Noted at Cloud Wood NR during the Dipterist's Forum visit of 2015.



Homoneura thalhammeri Papp (3 records)

Scattered in England & Wales

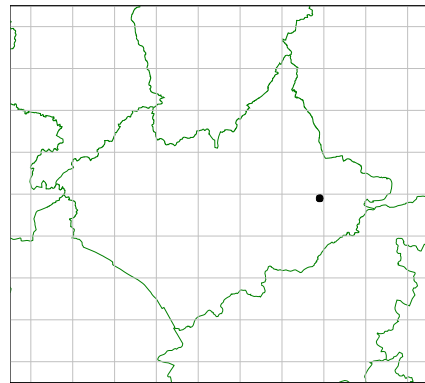
Known only from the Misterton Marsh area during survey work by David Gibbs in 2018.



Lauxania cylindricornis Fabricius (1 record)

Scattered in England & Wales less so in Scotland

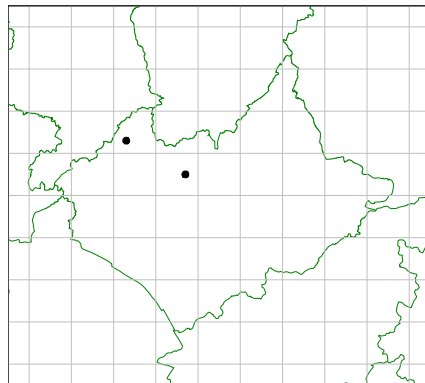
Recorded at Burley Wood in 1989 by nationally-noted dipterist Alan Stubbs.



Meiosimyza affinis Zetterstedt (4 records)

Scattered across Britain

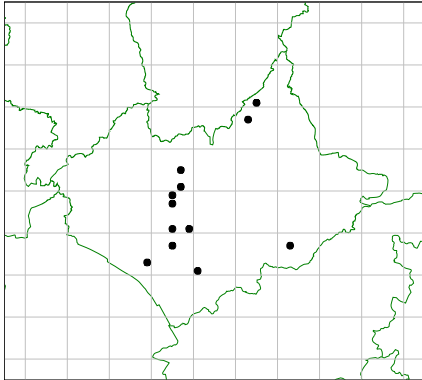
Noted by Andy Godfrey during survey work in the Mountsorrel Quarry complex 2011-2013. The only other record came from the Diseworth area by the Caledonian Conservation Ltd in 2019.



Meiosimyza decempunctata Fallén (34 records)

Scattered in England & Wales but occasional in Scotland.

Perhaps the most easily recognised of the Lauxaniidae as witnessed by the spread of records from VC55 mainly provided by NatureSpot contributors. First noted from a malaise trap sample at Great Merrible Wood in 1985 but then regularly since 2009 especially from gardens.

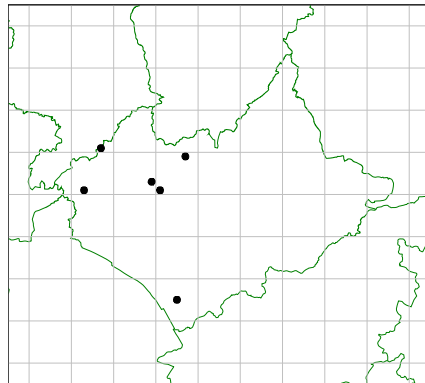


Long Clawson, 2013
Barbara Cooper, NatureSpot)

Meiosimyza decipiens Loew (8 records)

Scattered in England & Wales and in the Scottish Highlands.

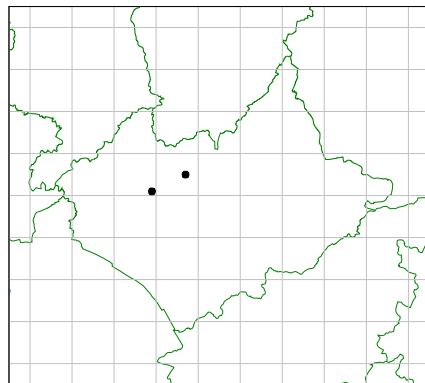
Derek Lott noted the fly in the vicinity of parts of the R Lin and also the R Soar at Pillings Lock in 2006 with identifications by Martin Drake. Also in 2006 noted at a brickworks site at Measham (Andy Godfrey). Single records came from Dimminsdale NR (2015) and Misterton Marshes SSSI (2018).



Meiosimyza platycephala Loew (3 records)

Mainly England & Wales, occasional in Scotland.

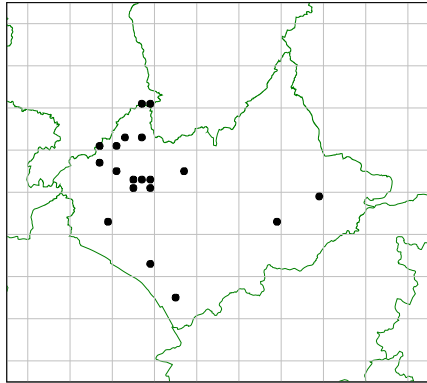
Found at Ulverscroft NR during the 1985 National Trust survey and then again during the Mountsorrel Quarry complex surveys of 2011-2012 by Andy Godfrey.



Meiosimyza rorida Fallén (31 records)

Present throughout much of Britain although not in the Scottish Borders.

Noted by the National Trust in 1985 at Ulverscroft NR and then at Burley Wood (1989) and Lockington Marshes SSSI (1991) by Alan Stubbs. Seen across Leicestershire since 2006 with few records from Rutland (probably due to under-recording?).

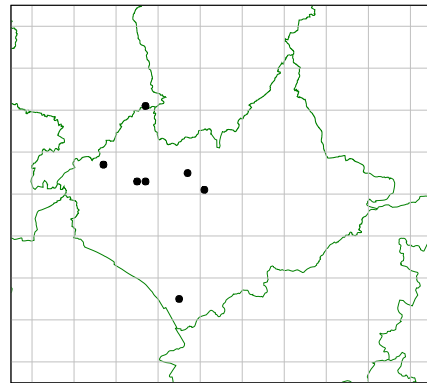


Martinshaw Wood, 2022
(David Nicholls, NatureSpot)

Meiosimyza subfasciata Zetterstedt (10 records)

Scattered across much of Britain.

All VC55 records came as results of survey work by experienced entomologists e.g Bardon Hill area, Mountsorrel Quarry complex and Misterton Marshes SSSI complex. Other records came from a development adjacent to Watermead CP (2011) and a disused aquatic plant nursery at Ashby (2018).



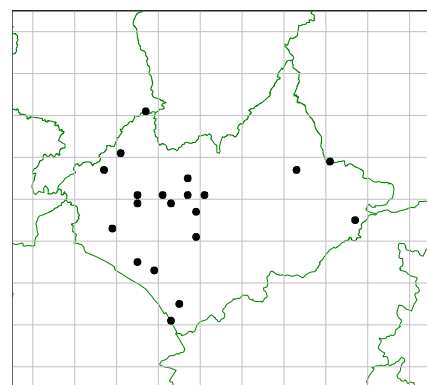
Minettia fasciata Fallén (43 records)

Common in England & Wales scattered in Scotland - possibly an aggregate of species but not yet clarified.

Derek Lott noted the fly at several VC55 sites in 2006. Seen across much of Leicestershire since 2008 but only rarely from Rutland.



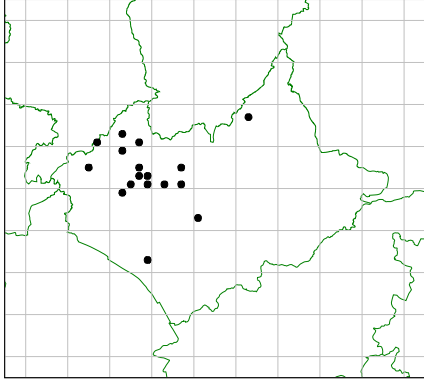
Sheet Hedges, 2010
(David Nicholls, NatureSpot)



Minettia inusta Meigen (27 records)

Throughout England & Wale, scattered elsewhere.

First noted at Ulverscroft NR (1987) and then regularly since 2008 across parts of Leicestershire. Records are rare from the south and north-east of the county with none up to 2020 from Rutland.



Cropston, 2012
(Kate Nightingale, NatureSpot)

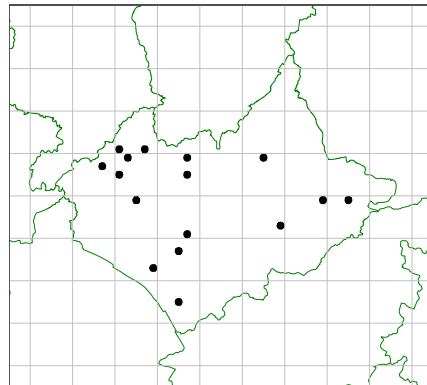
Minettia longipennis Fabricius (29 records)

Throughout England & Wale, scattered elsewhere

Scattered across VC55 being first noted by Alan Stubbs and John Mousley at Burley Wood in 1989.



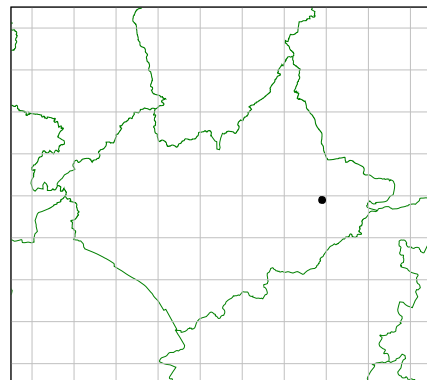
Aylestone Meadows, 2010
(David Gould, NatureSpot)



Minettia lupulina Fabricius (2 records)

Scattered in England & Wales.

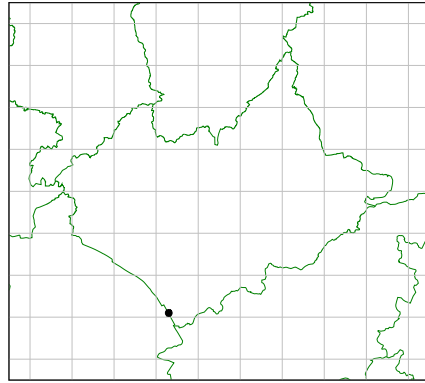
Only known locally from Burley Wood when found by John Mousley and Alan Stubbs in 1989.



Minettia plumicornis Fallén (2 records)

Scattered in Britain appearing to be mostly coastal.

Found by Andy Godfrey on two occasions three days apart in 2014 during survey work at Shawell Quarry.



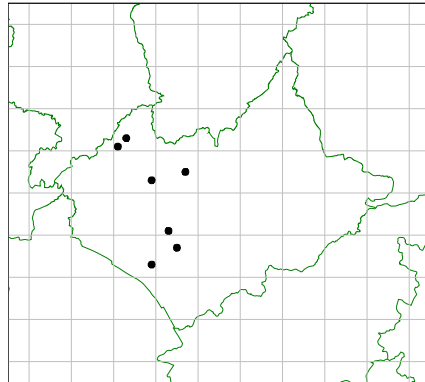
Peplomyza litura Meigen (10 records)

Found across England & Wales, scarce elsewhere.

The Invertebrate Site Register 1987 survey notes the species in the Enderby area while Derek Lott found it in the vicinity of the R Lin at Ulverscroft (2006). Noted in 2010 from Narborough Bog NR (David Gould) and during the Mounstorrel Quarry survey of 2011-12. Scattered sites since.



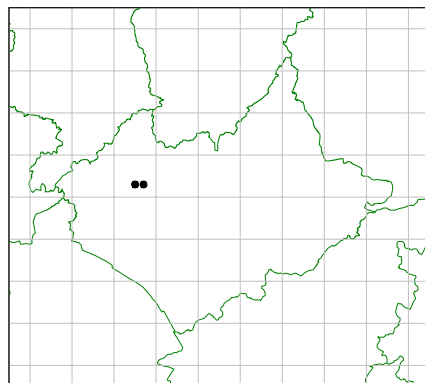
**Narborough Bog NR, 2010
(David Gould, NatureSpot)**



Pseudolyciella pallidiventris Fallén (3 records)

Scattered in England & Wales, occasional in Scotland.

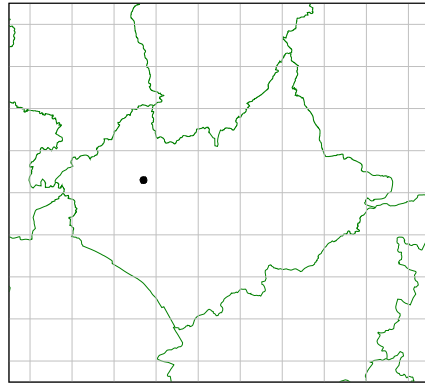
All VC55 records came the Bardon Hill survey of 2008 carried out by Andy Godfrey,



Pseudolyciella stylata Papp (1 record)

Scattered in England & Wales.

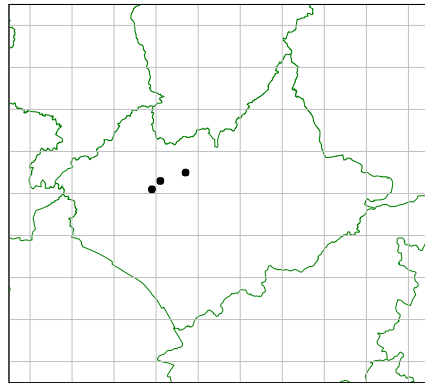
The sole local record came during the 2008 Bardon Hill survey by Andy Godfrey.



Sapromyza hyalinata Meigen (4 records)

Scattered in England & Wales.

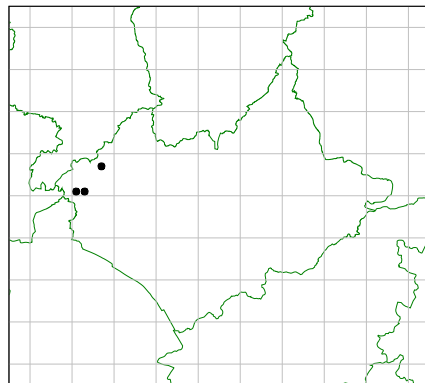
Noted during 1985 recording at Ulverscroft (National Trust, Invertebrate Site Register) and during Andy Godfrey's survey at the Mountsorrel complex 2011-12.



Sapromyza opaca Becker (4 records)

Scattered across Britain.

Noted in 2019 when Caledonian Conservation Ltd, visiting the Measham area, found the fly on two occasions in the vicinity of the R Mease. The other records came from a survey by Andy Jukes in 2020 at a mitigation site near Ashby de la Zouch.

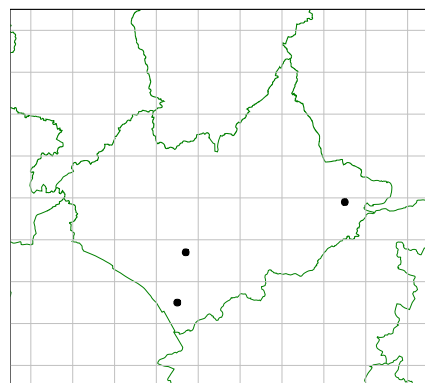


Sapromyza quadricincta Becker (3 records)

Scattered across England & Wales,

First noted in 2017 by Graham Calow (identification by Tony Irwin of Norwich Museum) on waste land near Blaby Golf Club. David Gibbs found the fly during his Misterton Mash SSSI survey of 2018 and the only other record came 2020 from an Empingham garden in Rutland by Andrew Dejardin).

(Image on cover)



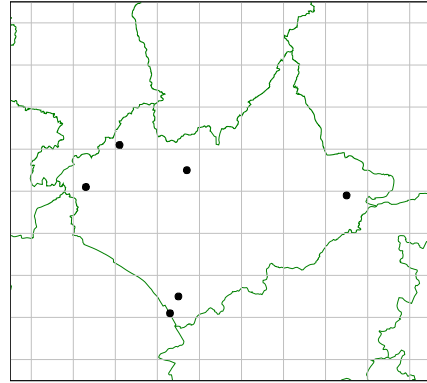
Sapromyza quadripunctata Linnaeus (11 records)

Across England & Wales, scarce elsewhere.

Andy Godfrey found the species at a Measham brickworks (2006), at the Mountsorrel Quarry complex (2011-12) and again at Shawell Quarry (2014). Members of the Dipterist's Forum found the fly at Cloud Wood NR in 2015 while Andrew Dejardin noted it in his Empingham garden in 2017. David Gibbs recorded the fly at several sites as part of the Misterton Marshes SSSI survey of 2018.



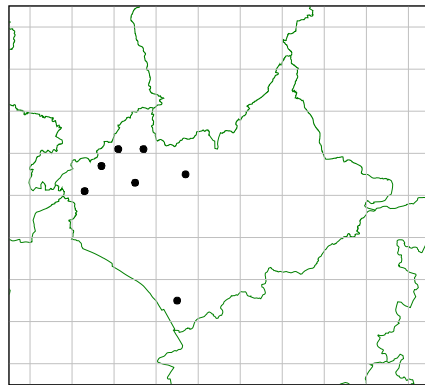
Empingham, 2017
(Andrew Dejardin, NatureSpot)



Sapromyza sexpunctata Meigen (10 records)

Scattered in England & Wales, few in Scotland.

All VC55 records came from experienced entomologists. Andy Godfrey found the fly at a Measham brickworks (2006), Bardon Hill (2006) and the Mountsorrel Quarry complex (2011-12). Visiting Dipterist's Forum members noted the species near Shepshed and at Cloud Wood NR (2015) while the Misterton Marsh SSSI survey (David Gibbs, 2018) showed the presence of the insect.



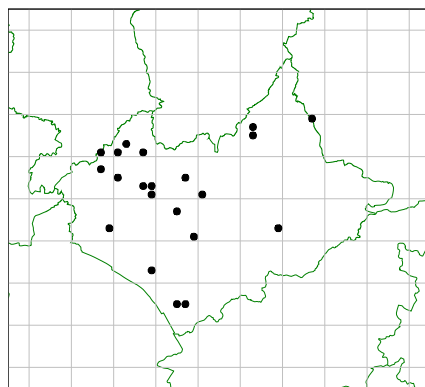
Tricholauxania praeusta Fallén (50 records)

Widespread across Britain.

Recorded at Ulverscroft NR by the National Trust in 1985 and from many sites since 2006 but being scarce in Rutland (possibly due to under-recording?)



Sapcote, 2011
(Graham Calow, NatureSpot)



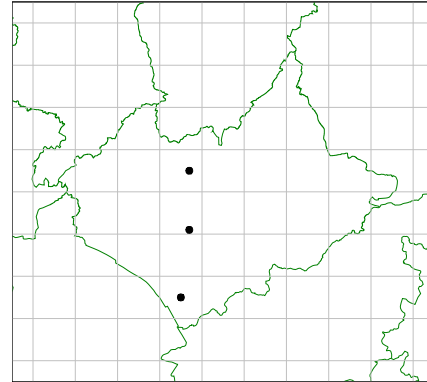
Trigonometopus frontalis Meigen (6 records)

Scattered in England & Wales

Characterised by its triangular head-shape in profile making this lauxanid readily recognisable. First noted in VC55 during Andy Godfrey's survey of the Mountsorrel Quarry complex in 2013. Seen at three sites during the Misterton SSSI survey by David Gibbs in 2018. David Gould recorded this distinctive fly at the Spearwort Fields (Aylestone) in both 2019 and 2020 with identifications confirmed by national experts.



**Spearwort Fields, 2020
(David Gould, NatureSpot)**



References

- Collin, J.E. (1948). A short synopsis of the British Sapromyzidae (Diptera). *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London*, **99**, 25-242.
- Hackston, M. (2017). Family Lauxaniidae. On-line key.

Platypezidae

The flies

The Platypezidae is family of small flies with 34 British species and are often neglected. They are called 'flat-footed flies' because they have widened hind tarsi, a characteristic that is particularly striking in the females.



Hackston (2021)

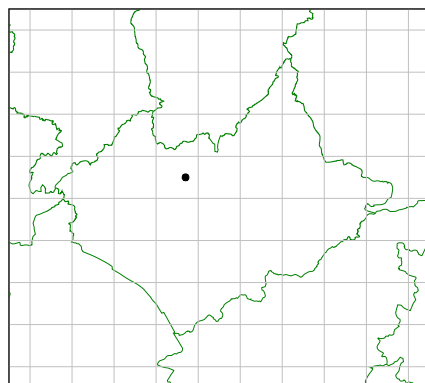
As far as is currently known, larvae feed on fungi around which the adults can be commonly found. These small flies are especially noticeable because they run around nervously on the top of the leaves of deciduous trees and shrubs. Most trapping methods fail to catch the flies so that sweeping is probably the most fruitful collection method. Notes on each species originate from Chandler (2018) as well as from the NBN Atlas. Identification is mainly by referral to Chandler 2011 but Mike Hackston's keys (Hackston, 2021) are useful in getting to genus and some species.

The species

Agathomyia antennata Zetterstedt (2 records)

Widespread in Britain.

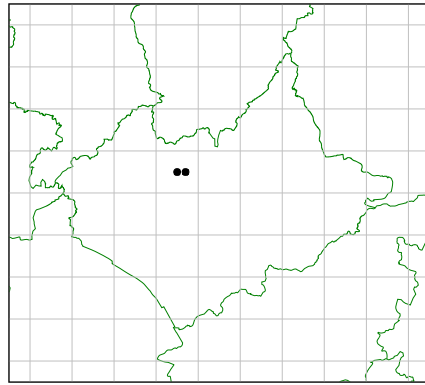
Found at the Mountsorrel Quarry complex during survey work by Andy Godfrey 2011-12.



Agathomyia boreella Zetterstedt (2 records)

Widespread in England & Wales.

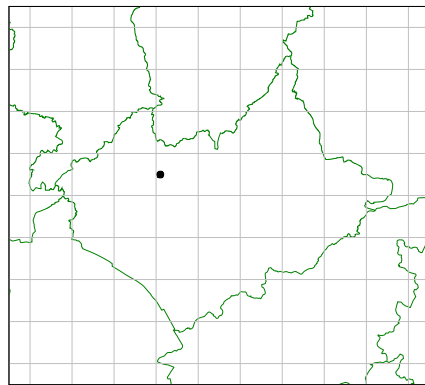
Located in two parts of Buddon Wood during surveying in 2011 by Andy Godfrey.



Agathomyia lundbecki Chandler in Shatalkin (1 record)

Apparently widespread but tends to be local with larvae feeding on the fungus *Inonotus radiatus* which is usually found on alder.

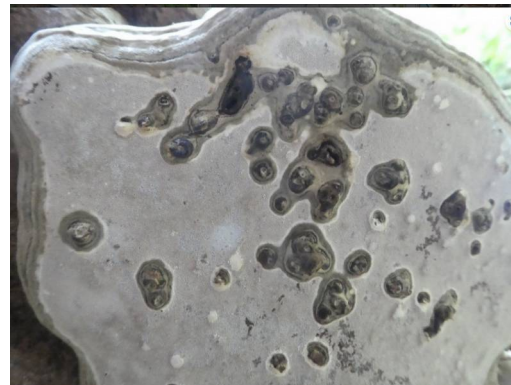
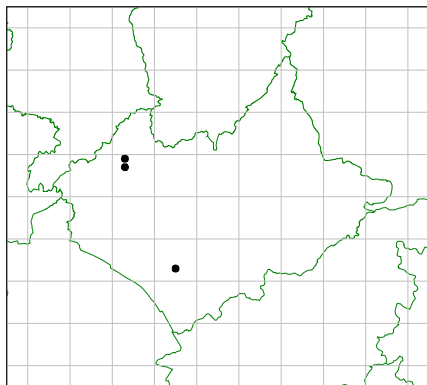
The sole VC55 record came when Peter Chandler found it at The Outwoods (Loughborough) in October 2007. The fungus is known at several woodland sites in the Charwood and north-west Leicestershire area so that the fly may also occur there.



Agathomyia wankowiczii Schnabl (5 records)

First noted in Britain in 1999 a species that galls the Artist's Fungus (*Ganoderma applanatum*) which makes recording of the fly simpler.

All VC55 records come from evidence of galling of the fungal host.

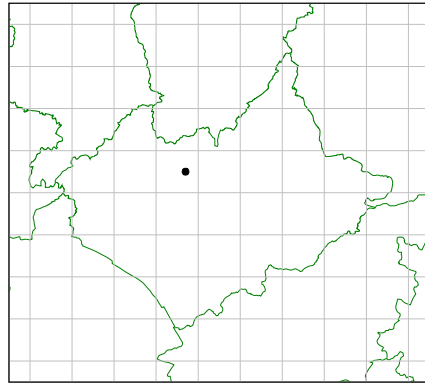


Galls on *Ganoderma applanatum*, Willesley Wood 2021
(Melinda Bell, NatureSpot)

Callomyia amoena Meigen (2 records)

Widespread in Britain but darker forms may result in confusion with another species which, fortunately, is not found in our district. Larvae feed on encrusting fungi on dead wood.

The two VC55 records came during the survey work at the Mountsorrel Quarry complex by Andy Godfrey in 2011-12.



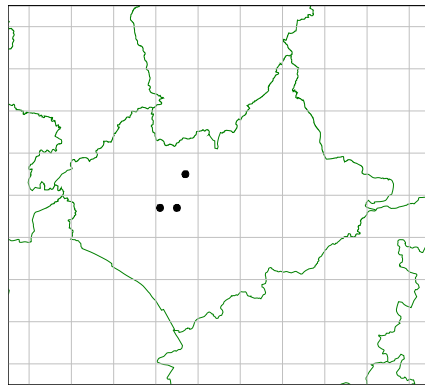
Callomyia speciosa Meigen (5 records)

Widespread in Britain having similar habits as *C. amoena*. Larvae feed on a range of fungi including field mushrooms and Parasol fungi.

Noted at Martinshaw Wood in 2010 (David Nicholls) and during the Mountsorrel Quarry complex surveys (2011-12, Andy Godfrey). Also seen in the grounds of County Hall, Glenfield in 2015 by Mike Higgott.



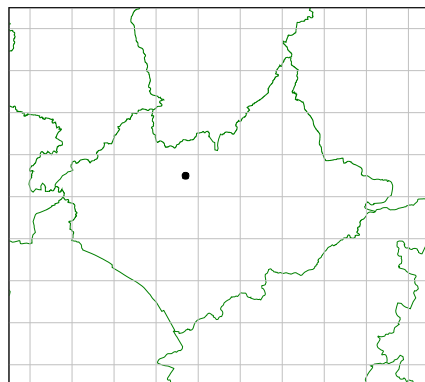
**Martinshaw Wood, 2010
(David Nicholls, NatureSpot)**



Lindneromyia dorsalis Meigen (1 record)

Widespread but scattered in England. Larvae feed on a variety of terrestrial fungi especially field mushrooms.

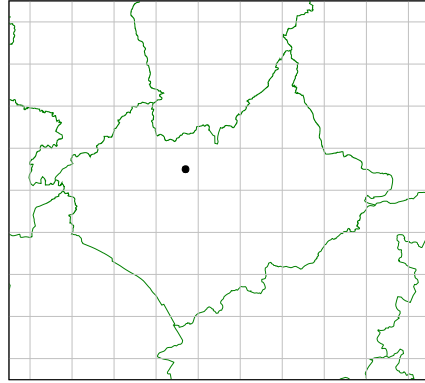
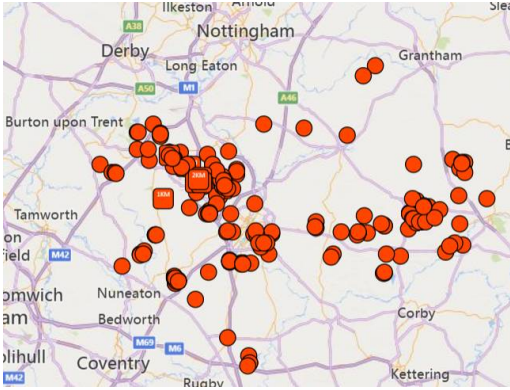
The single local sighting came from Andy Godfrey in 2012 from the Mountsorrel Quarry complex.



Paraplatypeza atra Meigen (1 record)

A widespread species with *Pluteus cervinus* being the larval foodplant.

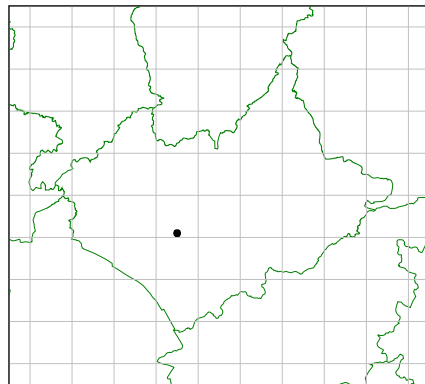
The host seems to be widely occurring in VC55 (map ex LREC ORCA) but there is only a single record of the fly – Mountsorrel Quarry complex (2011, Andy Godfrey).



Paraplatypeza bicincta Szilády (1 record)

First noted in Britain in 2001 with current distribution being from the Midlands south in England. The larval host is *Pluteus cervinus*.

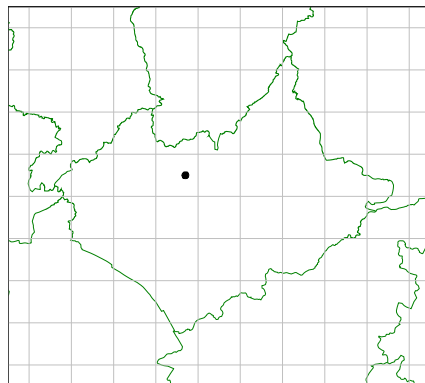
Only known from the Wood Close Plantation at Braunston (Leicester) when found by David Gould in 2020 (image).



Platypeza aterrima Walker (1 record)

Widespread in England. Records of females must be treated with caution as they may be *P. hirticeps*.

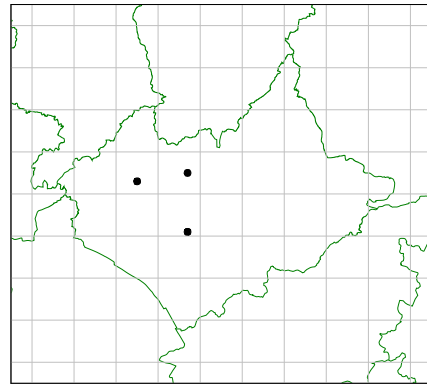
There is only a single record of the fly from VC55 – Mountsorrel Quarry complex (2011, Andy Godfrey).



Platypeza consobrina Zetterstedt (4 records)

Widespread in England & Wales with the larvae often associated with Honey Fungus (*Armillaria* sp)

VC55 records come from the Bardon Hill area (2005) and the Mountsorrel Quarry complex (2011) during surveying by Andy Godfrey. In October 2020 David Gould photographed a female (identified by Ryan Mitchell *et al* online) at the Wood Close Plantation (Braunston, Leicester) (image).



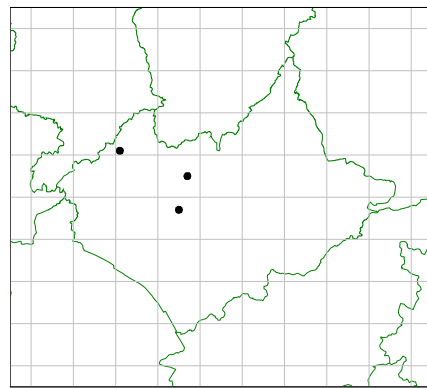
Polyporivora ornata Meigen (3 records)

Widespread with larvae associated with the bracket fungus *Trametes versicolor* (Turkey-tail; image).

The fungus is common in VC55 and should be carefully examined for the presence of the fly for which there are only three local records. These came from the Mountsorrel Quarry complex (2012), County Hall (Glenfield, 2013) and Cloud Wood NR (2020).



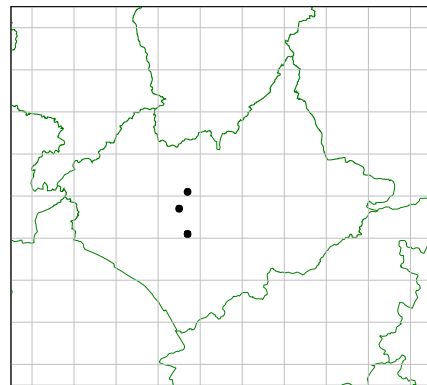
Sapcote, 2007
(Graham Calow, NatureSpot)



Polyporivora picta Meigen (4 records)

Similar in distribution and habits as *P. ornata*.

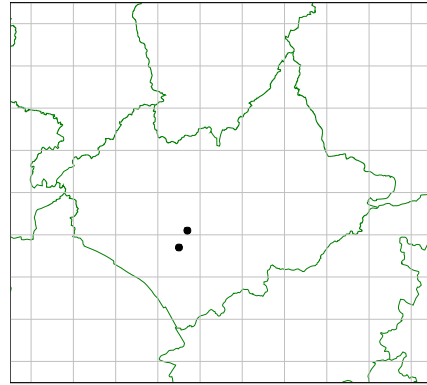
First recorded from the County Hall site at Glenfield in 2013 and again in 2014 (Mike Higgott). Kate Nightingale found the fly in her Cropston garden in 2018 while David Gould photographed it at the Wood Close Plantation (Braunston, Leicester) in 2020 (image on cover).



Protoclythia modesta Zetterstedt (2 records)

Common throughout Britain often associated with Honey Fungus (*Armillaria* sp).

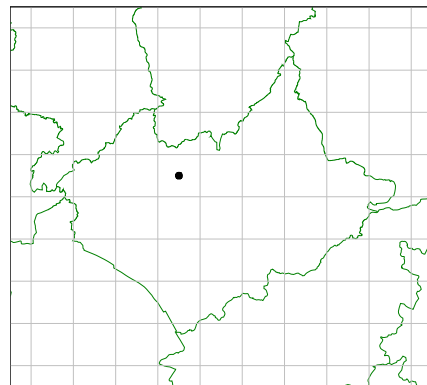
The first VC55 record came from Ullesthorpe on 21st October 2007 – this seems to have originated from the Royal Horticultural Society (via the NBN Atlas) but no other details have been located to date. The other record from VC55 came almost exactly thirteen years later (20 October 2020) when noted by David Gould at the Wood Close Plantation site (image).



Seri obscuripennis Oldenburg (1 record)

A species first recorded in Britain in 1970 with the larvae associated with soft-textured bracket fungi on dead wood e.g. *Polyporus* sp. The fly has increased its range quickly up to the Midlands.

Andy Godfrey noted the fly in 2011 when surveying Buddon Wood.



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