



# The Tanyptera Project



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## North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - March 2022

A selection of notable records brought to the attention of Tanyptera Project staff via email, social media etc. or submitted to iRecord. These records should be submitted, if not already, to relevant data collators. [iRecord](#) is recommended. Listed alphabetically by order, family and species. Only records from the featured month are listed unless they constitute a newly recognised VC / modern county record. All images are under copyright from the original recorder unless stated.

### iRecord summary March 2022 (6<sup>th</sup> April download)\*

\*Excluding Lepidoptera

- 776 (+580) records and 190 taxa (+125) 776
- Most recorded group: Hymenoptera (271 records)
- Most recorded family: Apidae (177)
- Top 5 most recorded species:
  1. 7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* (57) – joint 4<sup>th</sup> in Feb
  2. Buff-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* (54) – new entry
  3. Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* (48) – new entry
  4. Clarke's Mining Bee *Andrena clarkella* (27) – new entry
  5. Honeybee *Apis mellifera* (22) – joint 4<sup>th</sup> in Feb

#### iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - hymenopteran	271	34
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	183	29
insect - true fly (Diptera)	156	40
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	47	15
annelid	32	10
mollusc	29	17
crustacean	17	6
spider (Araneae)	17	8
millipede	7	3
centipede	4	3
springtail (Collembola)	3	2
acarine (Acari)	2	2
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	2	1
insect - orthopteran	2	1
false scorpion (Pseudoscorpiones)	1	1
insect - cockroach (Dictyoptera)	1	1
insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	1	1
sponge (Porifera)	1	1

# Notable Records

## Annelid (Segmented Worms)

***Murchieona muldali*** (Lumbricidae), Butterhill Meadow (Chester Zoo), VC58, 19/03, K. Derek Brown.

- New to VC58 according to the National Earthworm Recording Scheme.
- Given a conservation status of rare by Natural England (2014).
- A single adult found during Tanyptera Earthworm workshop.

## Acari (Mites and Ticks)

***Phytoptus avellanae*** (Phytoptidae), Gait Barrows, VC60, 1/3, R. Petley-Jones (image right CC-BY-NC).

- Bud gall causing mite associated with Hazel and Filbert. See red areas on image right.
- Apparently widespread in Britain but under-recorded. There are no other records on NBN Atlas or iRecord within VC60.



## Araneae (Spiders)

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## Chilopoda (Centipedes)

***Lithobius muticus*** (Lithobiidae), Dalton Craggs, VC60, 19/3, N. Garnham (CCO image right).

- The only other VC60 record located for this Nationally Scarce species is from 2019 at the same site.
- Two adults found under limestone in mixed sparse woodland on edge of limestone pavement.
- Typically occurs in deciduous woodland in rural areas.



## Collembola (Springtails)

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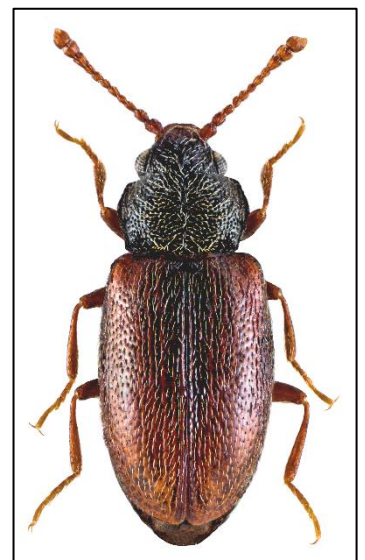
## Coleoptera (Beetles)

***Platyderus depressus*** (Carabidae), Styal, VC58, 29/03, C. Washington.

- Status is Nationally Notable B but appears quite common now and this status warrants revision.
- Found in dead wood and ground litter.

***Paramecosoma melanocephalum*** (Cryptophagidae), Styal, VC58, 29/03, C. Washington.

- No previous VC58 records found and found in Northern England according to Duff (2020).
- Found in dead wood and ground litter. Adults and larvae feed exclusively on fungi.
- Archive image right by U. Schmidt.



***Cercyon nigriceps*** (Hydrophilidae), Croft, VC58, 12/3, C. Washington.

- Nationally Notable B although widely distributed.
- This record is dung heap. Sometimes also found in damp decaying vegetation.

**Black Oil Beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*** (Meloidae), Ribble Estuary NNR, VC59, 27/3, R. Jackson.

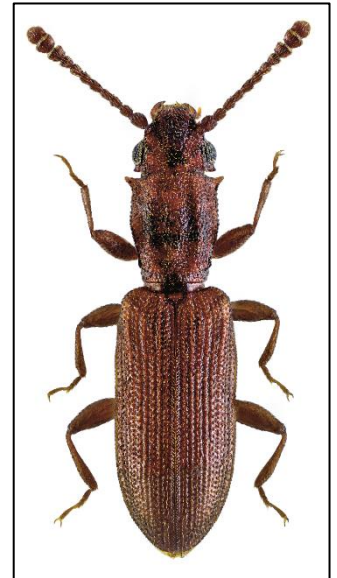
- About a dozen seen at boundary seawall, thought to be all males. [See video](#)
- This is a known site but there are very few areas where Meloids are recorded in the region.
- They are likely to be seen in open, sandy ground in the vicinity of solitary bee colonies, which they parasitise and the peak time for adults is April. *M. proscarabaeus* is more coastal in the North where as *M. violaceus* can often be seen in upland areas.

***Silvanus bidentatus*** (Silvanidae), Dunham Massey, VC58, 8/3, C. Washington.

- Nationally Notable B and possibly new for VC58.
- An established introduction with a mainly South-Eastern distribution in the UK.
- This record is from decaying timber and woodland litter.
- Archive image right by U. Schmidt.

***Coproporus immigrans*** (Staphylinidae), Dunham Massey, VC58, 8/3, C. Washington.

- New to the Lancashire and Cheshire region.
- A small Tachyporine, new to UK in 2005, only previous records are from the London area and Norfolk.
- Found in woodchip.



***Euconus campestris* (= *duboisii*)** (Staphylinidae), Croft, VC58, 12/3, C. Washington.

- Only 15 records on NBN Atlas.
- Found in dung heap.

***Oxytelus migrator*** (Staphylinidae), Croft, VC58, 12/3, C. Washington.

- A relatively new addition to UK fauna, few UK records.
- Found in dung heap.

***Proteinus crenulatus*** (Staphylinidae), Appleton Thorn, VC58, 23/3, C. Washington.

- Nationally Notable B although widely distributed.
- Found in woodchip.

***Scydmaenus rufus*** (Staphylinidae), Croft, VC58, 12/3, C. Washington.

- This is the only Cheshire record outside of Tatton Park.
- Found in dung heap.

## Diplopoda (Millipedes)

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## Diptera (True Flies)

***Triphleba collini*** (Phoridae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 18/3, P. Brighton (image right).

- New to VC59 and the Lancashire and Cheshire region.
- There are no other *Triphleba* species recorded in Lancashire or Cheshire, and there are no records of *collini* on the NBN Atlas. However, according to Disney (1983), it has been recorded in March and April and in Cambs, Essex, Surrey, Sussex and Roxburghshire.



***Crumomyia roserii*** (Sphaeroceridae), Aughton Woods, VC60, 7/3, R. Zloch.

- New to VC60.
- Adult found on a badger latrine.
- The larvae live in a wide range of moist decaying organic materials where they feed on micro-organisms.

***Bombylius major*** (Bombyliidae)

- 17 records within VC58-60 up to the end of March.
- The first 2022 observations were made on 19<sup>th</sup> March at Bebington VC58 (R. Lowry) and also at Brockholes LWT Reserve VC60 (T. Southward) (CCO image right).
- 19<sup>th</sup> March for the first observation is the average date across previous 5 years of iRecord data for the region. This species is not usually recorded beyond the first week of June.
- *B. major* appears to have only recently colonised the Sefton Coast after being spotted for the first time in April 2021 at Blundel Isands by P. Kinsella. So far this year the species has been recorded at Ainsdale NNR (27/3 P. Kinsella).



***Chrysotoxum arcuatum*** (Syrphidae), Saddleworth, VC63, 29/3, K. Gartside.

- This is a particularly early record. The next earliest record for the region on iRecord in 25/4/2021 at Ludworth Plantation.
- Found in sheltered, scrubby parts of heathland, moorland and open structured woodland, particularly in upland districts of Britain

## Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

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## Hemiptera (True Bugs)

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## Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

**Northern Mining Bee *Andrena ruficrus*** (Andrenidae), VC59, Crowthorn / Darwen, B. Hargreaves.

25/3, Haslingden Moor, VC59, B. Hargreaves.

28/3, Jack Keys Reservoir, Darwen, VC59, J. Wright (© image right).

- Listed as Rare (RDB3) in Falk (1991).





- These records represent two new colonies discovered. The only record before this year for the region is nearby at Edgeworth (VC59).
- This area is most south westerly known part of the UK distribution for this northern species.
- At Jack Keys, *A. ruficus* was nesting with *Andrena clarkella* and *Andrena barbilabris* in a sandy bank with plentiful flowering willow closeby.



**Sallow Mining-Bee *Andrena apicata* Large** (Andrenidae), VC60, Yealand Allotment, 29/3, J. Wright.

- A group of lekking males found.
- Known from the Morecambe Bay limestones since 1990s but found nowhere else in Lancashire.

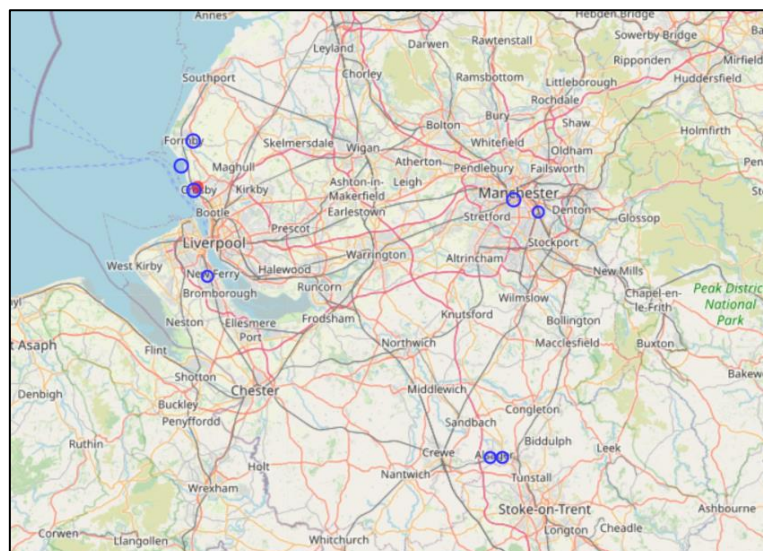
**Hawthorn Mining Bee *Andrena chrysoceles*** (Andrenidae), Debale Park, Gorton, VC59, 26/3, K. McCartney (AAR image right).

- Fairly widely recorded in the region with no clear habitat preferences.
- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> earliest observation of the species in the region on iRecord after 22/3/2019 at Shrigley Hall, Cheshire.



**Hairy-footed Flower Bee *Anthophora plumipes*** (Apidae)

- 12 records submitted to iRecord / iNaturalist for March, as far North as Formby within the region (map below).
- 1<sup>st</sup> record = 6<sup>th</sup> March at Crosby by P. Kinsella (3 x adult male) (CC-BY image right).
- In 2021, the first adult was seen on 1<sup>st</sup> March, also at Crosby. In 2020, the first adult was seen on 13<sup>th</sup> March at Latchford, Cheshire.



## Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

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## Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

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## Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

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## Plecoptera (Stoneflies)

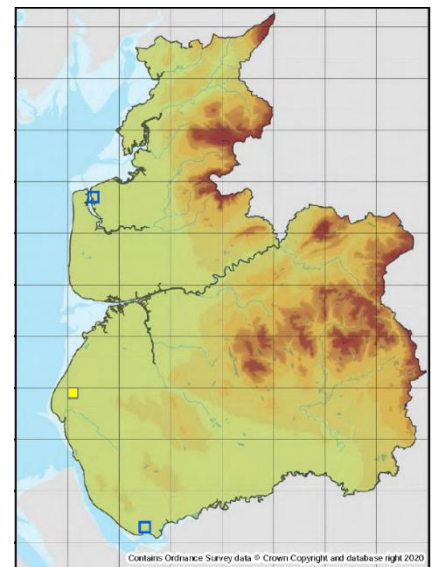
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## Lepidoptera (Butterflies & Moths)

Moths are reported upon for VC59&60 biannually and VC58 annually via Lancashire moth group and Cheshire moth group respectively. Butterfly records are summarised annually by local branches of Butterfly Conservation. This summary will therefore only share observations reported to Tanyptera staff or posted on the North West invertebrates Facebook group.

***Phyllonorycter ulicicolella*** (Gracillariidae), Ainsdale dunes, VC59, 18/3, B. Smart (© image right).

- The larva of this Nationally Scarce micro-moth mines shoots and spines of gorse.
- This is thought to be the first time the mines have been recorded in Lancashire.
- Rarely recorded in Lancashire, with only one previous observation since 2000 according to the online atlas (right – records up to 2019, yellow = 2000 onwards, blue = pre 2000 records).



## Mollusca (Slugs and Snails)

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## Neuroptera (Lacewings)

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## Opiliones (Harvestmen)

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## Psocoptera (Barkflies)

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## Pseudoscorpiones (Pseudoscorpions)

*Lamprochernes savignyi* (Chernetidae), Arkholme, VC60, 10/3, N. Garnham (CCO images right).

- No other VC60 records found.
- In stable block adjacent grassland, small wet copse and near manure heap
- Found on the legs of Helomyzid *Tephrochlamys rufiventris* (image right)



**Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)**

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**Trichoptera (Caddisflies)**

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**Zygentoma (Silverfish, Fishmoths, Firebrats)**

## **References**

Natural England (2014) Natural England Commissioned Report NECR145 Earthworms in England: distribution, abundance and habitats <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5174957155811328>