

## Invertebrate Challenge – Cerambycidae (long-horned beetle) atlas, a request for help

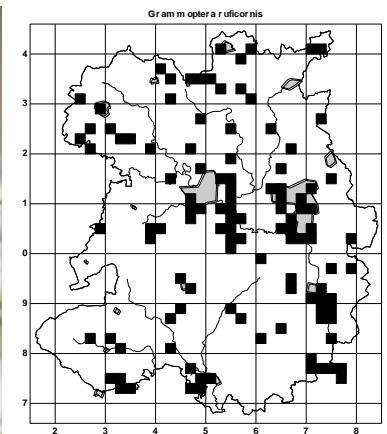
With the weather set fair for the next few days I wondered whether you might help look for one of the easier found long-horned beetles that is common at the moment if you are in **Shropshire**. The species, the Common Grammoptera *Grammoptera ruficornis*, is easily found on hawthorn and hogweed and other flowers. It is one of the smaller long-horned beetles being around 3-7mm usually. The best way of finding it is to tap flowering hawthorn bushes with a stick or net handle, whilst holding a tray, a sheet, or net underneath (as ably illustrated by Charlie from Preston Montford below). Therefore if you are able to spend ten minutes looking in your local area for this species this weekend or wherever the opportunity presents itself over the next couple of weeks it would be a great way to boost records for the forthcoming Shropshire Atlas and get the long-horned recording year off to a great start!!! There are two other species in the genus, one absent from Shropshire, and the other recorded only once in the county in 1979. This species, *G. ustulata* appears a little later in the year and is markedly different in colour (picture at the bottom).

### *Grammoptera ruficornis* (Fabricius 1781) Common Grammoptera

Length 3-7mm. A very small and slender, mainly black longhorn, this species is very frequent on woodland flowers in the early summer. Antennae long, nearly reaching the elytral apex when laid back. *G. ruficornis* is distinguished from the two rarer species of *Grammoptera* by having an elongate 2nd antennal segment, and the antennal segments are usually bicoloured. Larvae feed for 1 year in fungus-infected small branches of various broadleaved trees. Adult April to July, visiting flowers, especially hawthorn. Widespread and frequent in England and Wales; very local in southern Scotland. Also recorded from Ireland.



Typical habitat (Photo: David Nicholls)



Current Shropshire distribution

Description of *G. ruficornis* from British Wildlife (Duff, 2007).



*G. ruficornis* - Image from [www.aramel.free.fr](http://www.aramel.free.fr)



Searching technique (Photo: Pete Boardman)



*Grammoptera ustulata* (Photo: [www.naturspaziergang.de](http://www.naturspaziergang.de))

Please send any records to either myself at;

[pete@field-studies-council.org](mailto:pete@field-studies-council.org)

OR

[Caroline.Uff@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.Uff@nationaltrust.org.uk)

along with a six-figure grid-reference, site name and date.

Many thanks for your help!

15/05/14