

## A Beetling Visit to Wyre Forest

CLIVE WASHINGTON

In April 2019 I took a break from my usual recording habitats in Cheshire and visited Wyre Forest for 3 days to search for beetles, and hopefully add some new species to its checklist. I was kindly hosted by Rosemary Winnall and John and Denise Bingham, who were able to show me some interesting locations and provide local knowledge, always invaluable when exploring an unfamiliar site.

My recording effort was mainly directed towards ground, litter and decay habitats; partly because these are my main areas of interest, and partly as this supports a large number of cryptic beetles which are infrequently found and thus under-recorded. Many specimens were found by sieving leaf litter, loose decaying timber, dung and similar materials. However many interesting beetles are almost impossible to see in the sieve tray, as they are small and inactive. To find these species, all the residue that passed through the sieve was collected into seal-top bags and brought home. This material was placed in an extractor, which is simply a mesh basket which is suspended over a bucket. The invertebrates fall into the bucket through their own activity, and are found easily, most within a few hours. Even sluggish and cryptic species can be found in this way. Although no detailed records were made, my experience is that this technique reveals at least half of the species from a typical visit, and is the easiest way of finding the smallest beetles such as some Latriidae, Pselaphinae and Scydmaeninae.

Over the three days, a number of sites were studied. These included a timber yard at SO723775, where several *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* (L.) were seen, possibly females looking for ovipositing sites on logs. We were also able to watch two large *Rhyssa persuasoria* (L.) females, one ovipositing, on a log. A meadow area at

SO746764 provided an opportunity to use a suction sampler on short grassland; one interesting species found was the Staphlinid *Medon apicalis* (Kraatz). *Medon* species are very rarely recorded, but *apicalis* seems to be undergoing significant range extension; while mainly an eastern fenland species, it has been turning up in woodchip heaps further afield. I have found it in woodchip at two Cheshire sites, but this is the first time I have encountered it in open meadow.

A good deal of effort was centred around the Hawkbatch site (SO761777) due to that most rare and desirable habitat, a free car park. Again, *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* (L.) was seen, as well as *Pogonocherus hispidus* (L.) by carefully examining tree trunks. Ground litter yielded two specimens of the tiny Latriid *Dienerella clathrata* (Mannerheim), with only 39 records on NBN, almost certainly due to its small size and cryptic habits.

In total 213 individual records were made of 134 separate beetle species. It is interesting to compare this record list (Appendix 1) with the previous website checklist for Wyre, which as of April 2018 stood at 690 species. Of the 134 species found during the visit, 58 were not on the existing checklist. Even allowing for uncertainties due to taxonomic name changes, misidentifications, and the like, it is clear that there is still substantial scope for new beetle species to be found in the area. If the overlap of lists is used to project the possible total number of beetle species at Wyre, then a figure something in excess of 1200 is obtained. This is not unreasonable for a large area of ancient woodland and may itself prove to be an underestimate. Recording efforts easily (!) find the more well-known and evident species (such as Cerambycidae and large Carabidae), but many small reclusive species will only be found by careful examination of unusual and specialist habitats.



Clive Washington in Coppice Creation's woodyard, Sturt, 28 April 2019

Rosemary Winnall

A good example of this is the recent note by Mike Bloxham (2018) concerning *Lomechusa emarginata* (Paykull) which is found in ant nests. I have been wanting to see this genus for some time, and searched in several ant nests but without success. Clearly, specialist species such as this are going to require considerable targeted effort to find.

Many of the previously unrecorded species belong to the family Staphylinidae. There are a number of reasons for this; they tend to inhabit the litter/decay habitats studied; some are rather small and readily overlooked, and they have developed an undeserved reputation for being difficult to identify, which has led to them being avoided by many entomologists. The tiny *Trichiusa immigrata* (Lohse) was first recorded in the UK in 1993 (Heal 1993) and has spread rapidly, having already appeared in Northern Ireland in 2011 (Anderson and Bryan 2012). A specimen was sieved from ground litter at SO746764 and remained unidentified until I happened across a single example in the collection at World Museum Liverpool. Another small Staphylinid found (by litter extraction) at Hawkbatch, *Thiasophila inquilina* (Markel) has only 8 records on NBN, mostly from the South East. *Thiasophila* species tend to be

associated with ants and there were a considerable number of ant nests in the area.

Not all Staphylinids are small and plain; *Platydracus stercorarius* (Olivier) is 12mm long with bright orange elytra and is already known from Wyre; I had found it in Cheshire some years ago but the other two *Platydracus* species (*fulvipes* (Scopoli) with metallic blue elytra, and *latebricola* (Gravenhorst)) are much less common and had eluded me. I was fortunate to sieve both from beech leaf litter within 50 feet of each other! Both are Notable B species.

I would like to thank Rosemary Winnall, and John and Denise Bingham for their help and hospitality during the visit and Paul Jackson from Coppice Creations for access to his woodyard. I hope that a repeat performance can be held in 2020.

## References

- Anderson, R. & Bryan, M.D. (2012). *Trichiusa immigrata* Lohse (Staphylinidae) in Ireland. *The Coleopterist* 21(2): 94.
- Bloxham, M. (2018). Notes on two Myrmecophilous Beetle Species in the Collections. *Wyre Forest Study Group Review* p.13.
- Heal, N.F. (1993). *Trichiusa immigrata* Lohse (Staphylinidae) - first record for Britain. *The Coleopterist* 2(1): 18.



Appendix 1. Species list.

Trevor James

Apionidae	<i>Betulapion simile</i>	Scarabaeidae	<i>Anoplotrupes stercorosus</i>
Apionidae	<i>Perapion hydrolapathi</i>	Scarabaeidae	<i>Melinopterus prodromus</i>
Carabidae	<i>Abax parallelepipedus</i>	Scarabaeidae	<i>Melinopterus sphaelatus</i>
Carabidae	<i>Acupalpus dubius</i>	Scarabaeidae	<i>Onthophagus coenobita</i>
Carabidae	<i>Agonum emarginatum</i>	Scarabaeidae	<i>Volinus sticticus</i>
Carabidae	<i>Bembidion guttula</i>	Scirtidae	<i>Odeles marginata</i>
Carabidae	<i>Bembidion quadrimaculatum</i>	Scaptidae	<i>Anaspis frontalis</i>
Carabidae	<i>Bradycellus sharpi</i>	Scaptidae	<i>Anaspis maculata</i>
Carabidae	<i>Bradycellus verbasci</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Amischa analis</i>
Carabidae	<i>Harpalus latus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Anotylus sculpturatus</i>
Carabidae	<i>Loricera pilicornis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Anotylus tetracarinatus</i>
Carabidae	<i>Notiophilus biguttatus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Anthobium atrocephalum</i>
Carabidae	<i>Ocys harpaloides</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Anthobium unicolor</i>
Carabidae	<i>Poecilus cupreus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Brachygluta fossulata</i>
Carabidae	<i>Pterostichus diligens</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Brachygluta haematica</i>
Carabidae	<i>Pterostichus strenuus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Bryaxis curtisii</i>
Cerambycidae	<i>Pogonocherus hispidus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Bryaxis puncticollis</i>
Cerambycidae	<i>Pyrrhidium sanguineum (Red list)</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Bythinus macropalpus</i>
Cerambycidae	<i>Rhagium mordax</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Cephennium gallicum</i>
Cerylonidae	<i>Cerylon histeroides</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Cypha longicornis</i>
Chrysomelidae	<i>Altica oleracea</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Drusilla canaliculata</i>
Chrysomelidae	<i>Chaetocnema hortensis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Euplectus karsteni</i>
Chrysomelidae	<i>Crepidodera fulvicornis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Geostiba circellaris</i>
Chrysomelidae	<i>Psylliodes napi</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Habrocerus capillaricornis</i>
Ciidae	<i>Cis boleti</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Lathrobium brunnipes</i>
Clambidae	<i>Clambus armadillo</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Leptusa fumida</i>
Coccinellidae	<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Lesteva longoelytra</i>
Coccinellidae	<i>Rhyzobius litura</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Lesteva sicula</i>
Coccinellidae	<i>Scymnus haemorrhoidalis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Medon apicalis (Nationally Notable)</i>
Colonidae	<i>Nargus velox</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Micropeplus fulvus</i>
Corylophidae	<i>Orthoperus aequalis (Red list)</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Micropeplus staphylinoides</i>
Corylophidae	<i>Sericoderus brevicornis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Mocyta fungi</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Acalles ptnoides (Notable B)</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Myllaena brevicornis</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Anthonomus pedicularius</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Ocypus brunnipes</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Archarius pyrrhoceras</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Omalium caesium</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Barypeithes araneiformis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Omalium riparium</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Barypeithes pellucidus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Othius punctulatus</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Ceutorhynchus obstructus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Othius subuliformis</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Curculio glandium</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Oxypoda acuminata</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Euophryum confine</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Oxypoda formiceticola (Rare NBN 35)</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Leiosoma deflexum</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Oxypoda opaca</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Nedus quadrimaculatus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Philonthus carbonarius</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Phyllobius pyri</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Philonthus decorus</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Polydrusus cervinus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Platydracus fulvipes (Notable B)</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Sciaphilus asperatus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Platydracus latebricola (Notable B)</i>
Curculionidae	<i>Strophosoma melanogrammus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Proteinus ovalis</i>
Dryopidae	<i>Dryops ernesti</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Quedius fuliginosus</i>
Elateridae	<i>Agriotes acuminatus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Quedius maurorufus</i>
Elateridae	<i>Agriotes pallidulus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Quedius picipes</i>
Elateridae	<i>Athous haemorrhoidalis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Rugilus rufipes</i>
Histeridae	<i>Dendrophilus punctatus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Sepedophilus immaculatus</i>
Hydrophilidae	<i>Anacaena globulus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Sepedophilus marshami</i>
Hydrophilidae	<i>Cercyon analis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenichnus collaris</i>
Hydrophilidae	<i>Megasternum concinnum</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenus clavicornis</i>
Kateretidae	<i>Brachypterus urticae</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenus flavipes</i>
Latridiidae	<i>Cartodere bifasciata</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenus impressus</i>
Latridiidae	<i>Cartodere nodifer</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenus ossium</i>
Latridiidae	<i>Corticarina minuta</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Sunius propinquus</i>
Latridiidae	<i>Corticarina gibbosa</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Tachyporus chrysomelinus</i>
Latridiidae	<i>Dienerella clathrata (Rare NBN 39)</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Tachyporus hypnorum</i>
Latridiidae	<i>Enicmus transversus</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Tachyporus nitidulus</i>
Nitidulidae	<i>Eपुरaea aestiva</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Tachyporus obtusus</i>
Nitidulidae	<i>Eपुरaea biguttata</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Thiasophila inquilina (Rare, NBN 8)</i>
Nitidulidae	<i>Meligethes aenea</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Tinotus morion</i>
Ptiliidae	<i>Acrotichis fascicularis</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Trichusa immigrata</i>
Ptiliidae	<i>Acrotichis intermedia</i>	Staphylinidae	<i>Xantholinus longiventris</i>
Ptiliidae	<i>Ptenidium pusillum</i>	Tenebrionidae	<i>Nalassus laevocostriatus</i>
	new to Wyre species list		new to Wyre species list