



The Tanyptera Project



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The Tanyptera Project / North West Invertebrates



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North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - January 2021

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. Some records received late may be included next month. All images are under copyright from the original recorder unless stated.

Newly Recognised Vice County Records

Stictopleurus abutilon (Rhopalidae) – Bolton Museum, VC59, 5/11/2019, I. Trumble.

A specimen found dead in Bolton Museum lab SD716091 by Ian Trumble [Archaeology Curator]. Identified by Don Stenhouse in 2020. Added to iRecord Jan 2021.

Ocys tachysoides (Carabidae) – First three records for the region:

Location	VC	Date	Recorder	Habitat/Comment
Dibbinsdale Wood, LNR, Cheshire	58	1m, 02/07/1991	D.A. Stenhouse	deciduous woodland
Dunham North Park, Cheshire	58	1m, 14/06/1994	S. Garland	originally indet, verified using aedeagus
Smithills Estate, Lancs	59	27/05/2017	D.A. Stenhouse	deciduous woodland

iRecord summary Jan 2021 (1st Feb download)

- 57 records / 73 species
- Most recorded order: Isopoda (15 records)
- Most recorded family: Coccinellidae (8)
- Most recorded species: *Meliscaeva auricollis* (Syrphidae) (4)

Group	No. of records	No. of species
annelid	1	0
centipede	3	2
crustacean	15	7
flatworm (Turbellaria)	1	1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	14	10
insect - hymenopteran	2	2
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	9	8
insect - true fly (Diptera)	7	4
millipede	5	5
mollusc	13	9
spider (Araneae)	2	2
springtail (Collembola)	1	1

Notable Records

Araneae (Spiders)

Cryptachaea blattea (Araneae) – Nether Kellet, VC60, 26/1, N. Garnham (image right)

- New to VC60. Adult Female with webbing and retreat made of vermiculite. Associated with spiderlings. Found living in a heated plant propagator (25c and humid). A recently introduced, synanthropic species. This observation would represent the 2nd most northerly UK record on the [Spider Recording Scheme distribution map](#).



Chilopoda (Centipedes)

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Coleoptera (Beetles)

Four common ladybirds recorded (Coccinellidae): **Orange** (*Halyzia sedecimguttata*), **7-Spot** (*Coccinella septempunctata*), **Harlequin** (*Harmonia axyridis*), and **Coccidula rufa** (image right, A. Cropper). Ladybird records were submitted by C. Aldridge, A. Cropper, S. Hind, D. Stenhouse, and L. Reed. The conspicuous **Alder Leaf Beetle** (*Agelastica alni*) was seen at Bramhall Park (VC58) by D. Higginson-Tranter on 07/01. This conspicuous and abundant beetle over winters on the ground but can be seen in early spring feeding on leaves of various deciduous before favoured *Alnus* leaves appear.



Diplopoda (Millipedes)

Melogona voigtii (Chordeumatidae) – Dalton Crag, VC60, 1/1, N. Garnham (image right).

- 3rd record at only known English site having been discovered at Dalton Crag in 2019. Otherwise only known from Scotland, including several sites in the Lothians. This specimen was found in very open woodland, stony limestone. Found under an embedded rock.



Diptera (True Flies)

Hoverflies (Syrphidae)

As in December 2020, 3 species were seen but *Episyrphus balteatus* replaces *Scaeva pyrastris*:

Episyrphus balteatus (1 record)

Eristalis tenax (1 record)

Meliscaeva auricollis (4 records)

The *E. tenax* (image right, © P. Kinsella) and *M. auricollis* records were made by Pete Kinsella at Crosby Marine Park, Sefton Coast (VC59). *E. balteatus* was seen by Martin Grimes in Widnes, VC59, on 21/1.

Other fly families

Taxomyia taxi (Cecidomyiidae) – Bruntwood Park, VC58, 6/1, D. Higginson-Tranter.

- A very common Cecidomyiidae made easy to record all year round by the conspicuous artichoke galls it causes on Yew (*Taxus baccata*).



Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

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Hemiptera (True Bugs)

Two common Shieldbug species seen:

2 x **Green Shieldbug** (*Palomena prasina*) (Pentatomidae)

- Crosby Marine Park, VC59, 25/1, P. Kinsella
- Billington Nab, VC59, 29/1, L. Martin (image right in winter colouration)

Birch Shieldbug (*Elasmostethus interstinctus*) (Acanthosomatidae) – Ruff Wood, Ormskrik, VC59, 18/1, D. Stenhouse

Another species that can be fairly easily observed in Winter is **Hawthorn Shieldbug** (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*). Try shining a torch on tree trunks on mild nights.



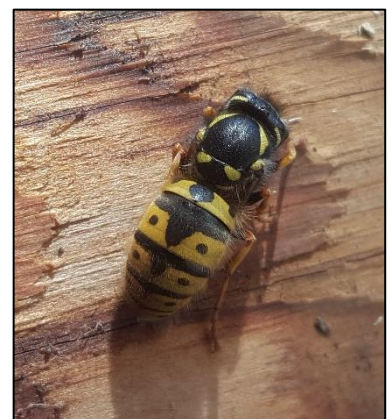
Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

Common Wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*) (Vespidae) – Radcliffe, VC59, 27/1, L. Reed.

- Overwintering queen found whilst cutting back Ivy (*Hedera sp.*).

German Wasp (*Vespula germanica*) (Vespidae) – Marston, Northwich, VC58, G. Hedges.

- Overwintering queen found in garden shed.



Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

Trichoniscoides sarsi (*Trichoniscidae*) – Nether Kellet, VC60, 03/01, N. Garnham (image right)

- Nationally Scarce. Found in a garden under plant pots on gravel. Likely to still be the only known site in Lancashire having first been recorded there in 2019. Most UK records are from synanthropic sites, such as old gardens or churchyards.



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.

- No notable records submitted to iRecord, NW invertebrates facebook group or reported to Tanyptera Project staff.

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

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