



The Tanyptera Project



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The Tanyptera Project / North West Invertebrates



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North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - March 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 Counties records

None reported

iRecord summary March 2021 (9th April download)

- 462 records / 161 species
- Most recorded order: Hymenoptera (166 records)
- Most recorded family: Apidae (96)
- Top 5 most recorded species:
 - Buff-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* (39)
 - 7-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella septempunctata* (31)
 - Dark-edged Bee-fly** *Bombylius major* (21)
 - Tree Bumblebee** *Bombus hypnorum* (15)
 - Clarke's Mining Bee** *Andrena clarkella* (14)

Group	No. of records	No. of species
annelid	2	1
centipede	4	3
crustacean	20	9
flatworm (Turbellaria)	6	2
harvestman (Opiliones)	2	2
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	106	43
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	3	2
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	3	3
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	2	2
insect - hymenopteran	166	28
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	2	0
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	1	0
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	25	14
insect - true fly (Diptera)	80	29
millipede	12	7
mollusc	23	13
spider (Araneae)	5	3

Notable Records

Annelida (Segmented Worms)

Australian Tubeworm - *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* (Serpulidae) – Crosby Coastal Park, VC59, 29/3, S. Marley & S. McWilliam (image below)

First recorded in the UK in London Docks in 1922. Thought to be transported via farmed mollusc shells and ship hulls. Large areas of calcareous tubes made by this tubeworm were found on the limestone rocks along the North-eastern edge of Crosby Marine Lake. All records from the region on NBN Atlas come from Seasearch Marine Surveys, who have recorded the species from Liverpool Docks since 2013.



Acari (Mites and Ticks)

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Araneae (Spiders)

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Chilopoda (Centipedes)

-

Collembola (Springtails)

-

Coleoptera (Beetles)

Plagionotus arcuatus (Cerambycidae) – Rochdale, VC59, 15/3, A. Gray (image right)

A saproxylic longhorn associated with broad-leaved trees. Recent UK records are assumed adventives as this longhorn beetle is presumed long extinct in the UK. The only other record for the region on the NBN Atlas is 1976 from the Wirral.

Cassida nobilis (Chrysomelidae) – Hale, VC59, 30/03, A. Hunter

A tortoise beetle scarce in Northern England. There are no other records for VC59 on NBN Atlas or iRecord.



Diplopoda (Millipedes)

Diptera (True Flies)

Agathomyia wankowiczii (Platypezidae), Haughton Green, VC59, 14/3, D. Higginson-Tranter (image right © G. Hedges)

A gall-causing flat-footed fly associated with the Fungus *Ganoderma applanatum*. First recorded in Kent in 1990 but has expanded its range. First reported from Cheshire in 1999 at Dunham Park. The distinctive gall is reported much more often than the adult, as in this record.

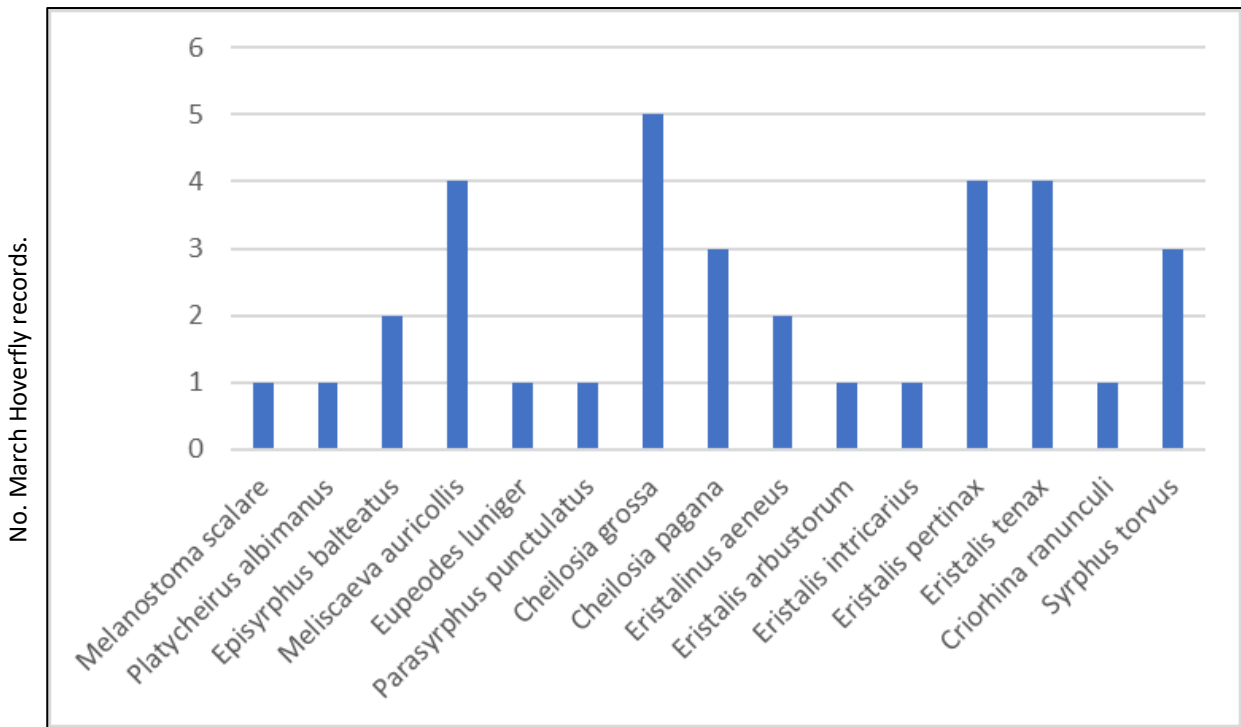


Dark-edged Bee-fly - *Bombylius major* (Bombyliidae) was reported on iRecord for the first time this year on 7th March by Bernard Fanel in Little Sutton, Cheshire and became the third most recorded invertebrate of the month (21 records). Image right © Trevor Southward – Preston on 31/3. Bee-fly watch is run annually by the Soldierflies and Allies Recording Scheme. iRecord submissions contribute to this. See <https://www.brc.ac.uk/soldierflies-and-allies/bee-fly-watch>



Hoverflies (Syrphidae)

35 Hoverfly records of 15 species were submitted to iRecord for the region, up only 11 records from February but an extra 11 species seen. The first 4 on the left-hand side of the graph below were recorded during the Winter months, all others appeared for the first time as adults in March 2021. In addition, a *Chrysotoxum* sp. larva was found by Nicola Garnham in North Lancashire. This genus is apparently rarely seen in the larval stage.



Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

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Hemiptera (True Bugs)

Shieldbug records remained low in March with 15 records of 6 species. Green Shieldbug was most commonly seen with 9 records.

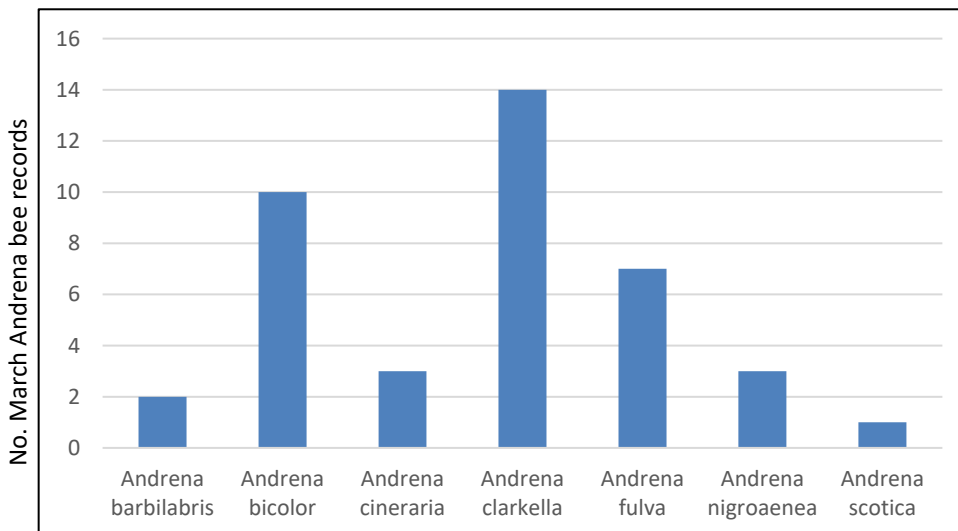
Juniper Shieldbug - *Cyphostethus tristriatus*

(Acanthosomatidae) - Bebington, VC58, 29/3, R. Lowry (image right). This species has been expanding its range in the UK by using Lawson's Cypress. A 3rd Cheshire record on iRecord.



Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

Andrena sightings took off in in March with 40 records of 7 species (see graph below).



Common Mourning Bee - *Melecta albifrons* (Apidae) - Tattenhall, VC58, 25/3, C. Aldridge. (Image right © Ian Wallace)

A distinctive cleptoparasite of Hairy-footed flower bee new to Cheshire in the past few years. Does not appear on the Cheshire Bee Atlas. This represents the first record of the year but seen regularly by the recorder in her garden in South Cheshire since. Also spotted by Brenda Wallace in late March in a garden at Thingwall, Wirral.



Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

Armadillidium depressum (Trichoniscidae) – Nab Gate, VC59, 30/03, R. Hedley (det. W. Maguire & R. Hedley) (image right)

A mainly synanthropic species often found on walls and limestone. UK distribution is SW bias with outlying populations. No VC59 records on NBN Atlas but there is one other on iRecord from Preston is 2019.



Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

The first two adult Odonata species to be seen were Large Red Damselfly and Blue-tailed Damselfly. Both were recorded on 31st March at Anderton Nature Park, Cheshire. In 2020, the earliest iRecord records for the region were 11th April for Large Red and 26th April for Blue-tailed.

Large Red Damselfly - *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* (Coenagrionidae) – Anderton Nature Park, VC58, 31/03, R. McHale.

Blue-tailed Damselfly - *Ischnura elegans* (Coenagrionidae) – Anderton Nature Park, VC58, 31/03, R. McHale.

Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

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Plecoptera (Stoneflies)

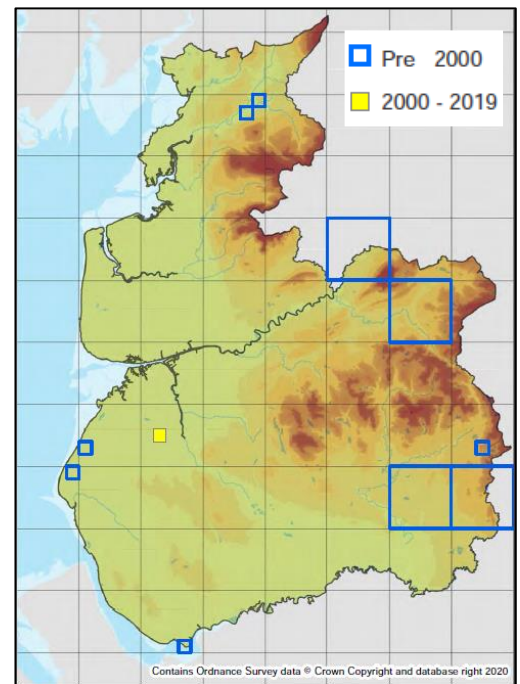
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Lepidoptera (Butterflies & Moths)

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.

Striped Hawkmoth - *Hyles livornica* (Sphingidae), Formby National Trust, VC59, 31/3, Richard Walker (image below)

A migrant. Most UK records come from Southern England. Rarely recorded in North West England. This is the first record in Lancashire vice counties (VC59 & 60) since 2006 and only the 13th Lancashire record overall. Map from Lancashire Moth Atlas 2021.



Mollusca (Slugs and Snails)

Asian Clam - *Corbicula fluminea* (Cyrenidae) – Wharton Lock, VC58, 22/03, Steve Richardson (image right) [not yet verified on iRecord]

An invasive freshwater clam native to Eastern Asia and Eastern Russia. *C. fluminea* was first recorded in the UK in 1998 on the Norfolk Broads and has been spreading through canal and river systems. There are only two records for the region on NBN Atlas – also on the Shropshire Union Canal but c.30 km further south in 2018.



Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

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