



The Tanyptera Project



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The Tanyptera Project / North West Invertebrates



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North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - April 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

Crataerea suturalis (Staphylinidae - Coleoptera) - Appleton, VC58, 21/3/2021, C. Washington.

- New to VC58. Just one NW record on NBN Atlas (T. Eccles 1987 S. Liverpool).

Trigonometopus frontalis (Lauxaniidae – Diptera) – Chester Zoo Nature Reserve, VC58, 22/3/2021, P. Brighton. (image right © Rui Andrade)

- New to VC58 and the North West. One specimen in the wetland area of the reserve. Resembles a plant-hopper, not just in overall appearance, but also in the way it shuffles its feet.



iRecord summary April 2021 (12th May download)*

*Excluding Lepidoptera

- 1010 records / 282 species
- Most recorded order: Hymenoptera (381 records)
- Most recorded family: Syrphidae (226)
- Top 5 most recorded species:
 1. Dark-edged Bee-fly *Bombylius major* (52) – 3rd in March
 2. Tawny Mining Bee *Andrena fulva* (45) – new entry
 3. 7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* (38) – 2nd in March
 4. *Eristalis pertinax* (37) – new entry
 5. Ashy Mining Bee *Andrena cineraria* (36) – new entry (image below © Roy Lowry)



iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - hymenopteran	381	58
insect - true fly (Diptera)	378	72
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	146	54
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	26	16
mollusc	16	9
crustacean	11	7
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	10	2
spider (Araneae)	10	8
millipede	7	3
acarine (Acari)	4	3
harvestman (Opiliones)	4	2
centipede	3	1
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	3	3
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	3	1
flatworm (Turbellaria)	2	1
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	2	2
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	2	1
insect - alderfly (Megaloptera)	1	1
springtail (Collembola)	1	0

Notable Records

Annelid

-

Acari (Mites and Ticks)

-

Araneae (Spiders)

Argenna subnigra (Dictynidae) - Cabin Hill NNR and Ainsdale NNR, Sefton Coast, VC59, 29/4 & 30/4, R. Gallon.

- Nationally Scarce. At the North West distribution limit in the UK on the Sefton Coast.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Iberina montana (Hahniidae) – Ainsdale NNR, Sefton Coast, VC59, 30/4, R. Gallon.

- New to Sefton coast and very few South Lancs records.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Parapelecopsis nemoralioides (Linyphiidae) – Cabin Hill NNR, Sefton Coast, VC59, 29/4, R. Gallon.

- Nationally Scarce. Coastal species often associated with sand dunes. One other Sefton Coast record since 1995 (2019 – Crosby – S. McWilliam)
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Mecopisthes peusi (Linyphiidae) – Cabin Hill NNR, Sefton Coast, VC59, 29/4, R. Gallon.

- Nationally Scarce. Winter maturing species with an unusual distribution. Associated with sand dunes and dune slacks in the North West. Found on dry heathland in Southern England.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Troxochrus scabriculus (Linyphiidae) – Cabin Hill NNR, Sefton Coast, VC59, 29/4, R. Gallon.

- A widespread species but a rare record of a bilateral gynandromorph: half an epigyne, one male palp, and a half female/half male head. (image right © R. Gallon)
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.



Chilopoda (Centipedes)

-

Collembola (Springtails)

-

Coleoptera (Beetles)

Plagionotus arcuatus (Cerambycidae) – Manchester, VC59, 18/4, L. Drury, Det. J. Hardie

- Found in lizard tank full of imported cork.
- 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.
- See March 2021 Monthly notes for details of a Rochdale record. Also on the NBN Atlas recorded from the Wirral in 1976.

Black Oil-beetle (*Meloe proscarabaeus*) (Meloidae)

RSPB Hesketh Out Marsh, VC59, 02/04, J. Pelham, Det. A. Marsh.

Ribble Estuary NNR, VC59, 04/2021, R. Jackson. See [YouTube video](#)

- A scarce beetle in Northern England. Nest parasite of solitary mining bees.
- There is only one other verified record on iRecord from the region (Yealand – 2019 – S. Garland).

Violet Oil-beetle (*Meloe violaceus*) (Meloidae) – Littledale, VC60, 10/04, T. Cutler.

- Currently listed on iRecord as *M. proscarabaeus* but images are clearly this species.
- A nest parasite of solitary mining bees. Often found in upland habitat. No other records on iRecord for Lancashire.

Glow-worm (*Lampyris noctiluca*) (*Lampyridae*)

- Gait Barrows NNR, VC60, 20/4, R. Petley-Jones (© image right)
- Heald Brow, VC60, 23/4, G. Hedges

***Cousya nigrata* (*Staphylinidae*) - Pickerings Pasture, VC59, 8/4, C. Washington.**

- New to North West and one of very few UK records.



Diplopoda (Millipedes)

Diptera (True Flies)

***Lonchoptera scutellata* (*Lonchopteridae*), Chester Zoo Nature Reserve, VC58, 3/4, P. Brighton.**

- Found in the wetland area of the reserve.
- There is only one previous record of this species in Lancashire and Cheshire, from Hatchmere in 1955 by Leonard Kidd.
- *L. scutellata* is immediately identifiable within the genus by the black scutellum.

***Angioneura acerba* (*Calliphoridae*), Chester Zoo Nature Reserve, VC58, 04/2021, P. Brighton.**

- This species is very scarce, with British records confined to Oxon, Berkshire, Lancashire, Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Yorkshire, Warwickshire and East Lothian (see Andrews & Sivell, 2019, Dipterists Forum 26: 219-226)
- Resembles a small greyish housefly. The larvae are presumed to be parasitoids of hygrosopic succineid snails.

***Trichopalpus fraternus* (*Scathophagidae*), Chester Zoo Nature Reserve, VC58, 04/2021, P. Brighton. (image right © Marko Mutanen)**

- Only previously recorded in Cheshire by Harry Britten in 1921 at Rostherne.

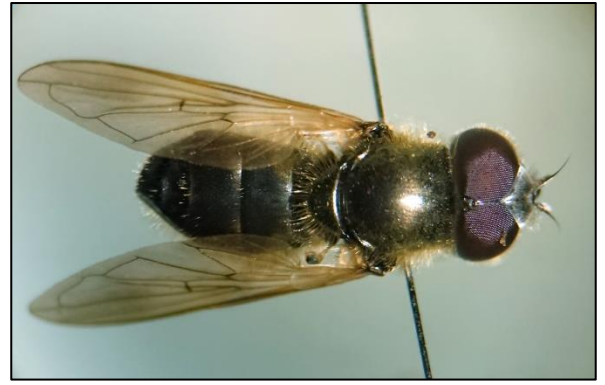


***Cheilosia urbana* (*Syrphidae*), Ashton's Flash - Northwich, VC58, 17/4, N. Jones.**

- New to VC58 according to NW Hoverfly Checklist (Rostron 2020). A Spring-flying species associated with Mouse-ear Hawkweed. Two adult females found.
- Found during Tanyptera Project & Butterfly Conservation commissioned survey.

Cheilosia nebulosa (Syrphidae), Heysham Nature Reserve, VC60, 19/4, N. Garnham (© image right).

- Only four previous VC60 records and none since 2005 according to the Lancashire and Cheshire Hoverfly Checklist (Rostron 2020).
- Nationally Scarce but found in a variety habitats. April is peak adult season.



Hilara bistriata (Empididae), Crown Farm Quarry – Oakmere, VC58, 14/4, N. Jones.

- First VC58 record since Harry Britten's 6 East Cheshire records 1921-1944. There are no Lancashire records.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Trichina opaca (Hybotidae), Ashton's Flash – Northwich, VC58, 17/4, N. Jones.

- The only other Lancashire and Cheshire records are two by Bill Hardwick from Runcorn and from Ashton's and Neumann's Flashes in 1997 and 1999.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Gonia ornata (Tachinidae)

Not recorded on the Sefton coast for thirty years prior to 2021. See [blog post](#) for more information.

- Hightown dunes, VC59, 10/4 & 21/4, P. Kinsella (© image right)
- Wickes Lane, Formby, VC59, 12/4, P. Smith
- Ainsdale NNR, VC59, 14/4, P. Kinsella



Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

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Hemiptera (True Bugs)

-

Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

Common Mourning Bee (*Melecta albifrons*) (Apidae) (Image right G. Hedges)

A distinctive cleptoparasite of Hairy-footed flower Bee - new to Cheshire in the past few years (see March 2021 notes).

- Bebington, VC58, 20/4, R. Lowry.
- Thurston, VC58, 22/4, N. Jones & I. Cheeseborough – numerous on the soft rock cliffs where the species is clearly well established.
- Found during Tanyptera Project soft rock cliffs aculeate survey.



Jet Ant (*Lasius fuliginosus*) (Formicidae) – Bidston Moss, VC58, 18/04, L. Anderson (Det. Matt Hamer).

- According to the Cheshire Bees, Wasps, and Ants Atlas (2017), this *L. fuliginosus* has not been recorded in Cheshire since 1901. There are no other recent records on iRecord, NBN Atlas, or the RECORD database.
- A hyperparasite. Makes colonies in those of the *Lasius umbratus* group which are in turn founded in colonies of the *Lasius niger/flavus* species complexes.

Ophion forticornis (Ichneumonidae) – Formby National Trust, VC59, 27/4 & 30/4, T. Hunter.

- A rare parasitic wasp. The larval stage of scarce creeping willow feeding Portland Moth is a known host. Known from Southern sand dunes and one NBN Atlas record from North Wales.
- A single male swept from young pines 27th April and a single female swept from White Poplar/ willow on 30th April.
- Several specimens of this species were also Malaise Trapped by World Museum staff and associates during surveys at Ainsdale NNR in April 2000 and Ainsdale LNR in May 1999.

Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

Armadillidium album (Trichoniscidae) – Formby Point NT, VC59, 02/04, D. Whiteley

- A Nationally Scarce species strongly associated with undisturbed sand-dune systems. Well known from the Sefton Coast.

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.

Mollusca (Slugs and Snails)

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Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

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