



The Tanyptera Project



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The Tanyptera Project / North West Invertebrates



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North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - May 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

None reported

iRecord summary May 2021 (8th June download)*

*Excluding Lepidoptera

- 1058 (+48) records / 329 (+47) species
- Most recorded order: Diptera (391 records)
- Most recorded family: Syrphidae (261)
- Top 5 most recorded species:
 1. 7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* (40) – 3rd in April
 2. Common Carder Bumblebee (*Bombus pascuorum*) (35) – new entry
 3. Blotch-winged hoverfly (*Leucozona lucorum*) (22) – new entry
 4. Tree Bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*) (19) – new entry
 5. Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) (18) – new entry

iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - true fly (Diptera)	391	114
insect - hymenopteran	205	55
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	193	61
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	77	29
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	69	8
acarine (Acari)	28	10
mollusc	28	15
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	17	6
spider (Araneae)	12	9
harvestman (Opiliones)	6	2
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	6	5
insect - scorpion fly (Mecoptera)	6	3
crustacean	5	3
millipede	5	3
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	4	2
flatworm (Turbellaria)	2	1
insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	2	1
centipede	1	1
insect - alderfly (Megaloptera)	1	1

Notable Records

Annelid

-

Acari (Mites and Ticks)

-

Araneae (Spiders)

Attulus saltator (Salticidae), Ainsdale, VC59, May 2021, A. Hye.

- Nationally Scarce and mainly associated with coastal sand dunes.
- Previously found on the Sefton Coast at Birkdale in the 1990s by C. Felton.

Rhysodromus fallax (Philodromidae), Formby, VC59, 24/5, R. Gallon & A. Hunter.

- 2 females found amongst marram. 3rd Sefton Coast record.
- Nationally Rare and Vulnerable mobile sand dune specialist.
- A Tanyptera Project commissioned survey target species.

Argenna subnigra (Dictynidae) - Starr Hills, Lytham St Annes, VC60, 25/5, R. Gallon.

- New VC record according to Spider Recording Scheme database. Most northerly UK record and new site record.
- Nationally Scarce. At the North West distribution limit in the UK on the Sefton Coast.
- Restricted to sand dunes in Northern England.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Styloctetor romanus (Linyphiidae) Hightown (VC59) 23/5, Formby (VC59) 24/5, Starr Hills - Lytham St Annes (VC60) 25/5, R. Gallon.

- New 10 km square and site record at Hightown. New to Fylde Coast at Starr Hills. New site record on Formby dunes (1 male, 7 females).
- Nationally Rare sand dunes specialist. Occurs amongst marram.
- A Tanyptera Project commissioned survey target species.

Parapelecopsis nemoralioides (Linyphiidae) – Hightown (VC59) 23/5, Formby (VC59) 24/5, Starr Hills, Lytham St Annes (VC60) 25/5, R. Gallon.

- Nationally Scarce. Coastal species often associated with sand dunes. New site records following discovery at Cabin Hill in April 2021.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Mecopisthes peusi (Linyphiidae) – Starr Hills, Lytham St Annes, VC60, 25/5, R. Gallon.

- 1 female found. 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.

Chilopoda (Centipedes)

-

Collembola (Springtails)

-

Coleoptera (Beetles)

Hylecoetus dermestoides (Lymexylidae)

Beacon Fell, VC60, 14/5, A. Hunter, Det. G. Hedges (image right, © A. Hunter) – 1 female sweep from Scots Pine.
Greenfield, Saddleworth, VC58, 29/5, K. Gartside.

- Adults only live for a few days.
- A local saproxylic species that has a symbiotic relationship with the fungus *Endomyces hylecoeti*



Apoderus coryli (Attelabidae)

A distinctive leaf-rolling weevil virtually restricted to the Morecambe Bay area in the region.

Lords lot, Capernwray, VC60, 5/5, N. Garnham (image right)
Myers Allotment, VC60, 22/5, B. Nixie
Gaitbarrows NNR, VC60, 27/5, P. Kinsella & R. Petley-Jones



Diplopoda (Millipedes)

-

Diptera (True Flies)

Tanyptera atrata (Tipulidae) Bickerton Hill, VC58, 24/5, C. Aldridge (© image right)

- Seen in cop and female ovipositing into rotting wood thereafter.
- A scarce saproxylic species associated with broad-leaved trees. Has been recorded in at least 11 hectads in Cheshire according to Brighton (2017).



Molophilus pleuralis (Limoniidae) Red Rocks, VC58, 27/5, K. Fowler.

- Only two previous VC58 records and none since 2001 according to the regional checklist (P. Brighton 2017).
- Found during Tanyptera Project recording day at Red Rocks.

Myopa buccata (Conopidae)

Apparently fairly frequent in the UK but no recording scheme data currently on NBN Atlas. Only 4 records on iRecord for the region. The larvae are endoparasites of *Andrena* bees.

Southport (garden), VC59, 14/5, N. Hunt.
Hustwood, VC60, 12/5, A. Holmes (© image right)



Callicera rufa (Syrphidae)

First found on the Sefton Coast in 2020 by P. Kinsella ([see blog post](#)). Nationally Scarce. The larvae develop in water-filled rot holes of pines and other conifers. The adults are usually observed resting on pine trunks in mid-late summer. Prior to 2011, only known from the Caledonian pine woods of Scotland.

Ainsdale NNR, VC59, 25/5, P. Kinsella – 1 female ([see blog post](#))
Devil's Hole, Formby, VC59, P. Smith – 1 male



Meligramma euchromum (Syrphidae), Dalton Craggs, VC60, 05/2021, N. Garnham.

- Nationally Scarce. An UK northern range limit in the Morecambe Bay area.
- Larvae found nearby by N. Garnham in the last two years.
- 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.

Brachyopa pilosa (Syrphidae), Greenfields, Saddleworth, VC63, 30/5, K. Gartside (© image right).

- A Nationally Scarce saproxylic species associated with Beech woodland, but also Aspen and other poplars.
- Previously recorded in VC63 from a nearby spot in late April and early May in 2017.



Brachyopa bicolor (Syrphidae), Greenfields, Saddleworth, VC63, 28/5, K. Gartside

- New to VC63
- A Nationally Scarce Species with scattered records in the southern half of Britain.
- Adults are usually encountered in old woodland or parkland resting on the trunks of old Beech and Oak trees, especially those with sappy wounds created by Goat Moth or beetle larvae.

Parasyrphus nigrirarsis (Syrphidae), Mossley, VC unclear, 19/5, S. Suttill (© image right – pale larvae).

- Eggs found amongst Green Dock Beetle (*Gastrophysa viridula*) egg batches and reared to identifiable size. ID Confirmed by N. Garnham.
- Nationally Scarce. Mostly found in damp woodland.



Noeeta pupillata (Tephritidae), Beacon Country Park, Upholland, VC59, 8/5, A. Hunter.

Larval host is hawkweed. There are 100 records on the NBN Atlas with only one unconfirmed record from VC59.

Platypalpus albicornis (Hybotidae), Croft, VC59, 05/2021, P. Brighton (image © P. Brighton).

- New to North-West England
- This is a large genus of predaceous flies in the family Hybotidae, which run around on leaves in bushes and trees to seek their prey.



Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

Hemiptera (True Bugs)

Sehirus luctuosus - Forget-me-not Shieldbug (Cydnidae), Neston, VC58, 16/5, S. Hatton (Det. E. Hardy) (Image Right).

- Possibly new to Cheshire. Records search = NBN Atlas, RECORD, Recording Scheme atlas 2018, iRecord.
- Ground-dwelling species associated with dry, sandy or chalky soils, feeding on forget-me-nots Myosotis species



Chloriona glaucescens (Delphacidae), Red Rocks, VC58, 27/5, P. Brighton.

- No Cheshire records on the recording scheme maps (ledra.co.uk)
- A saltmarsh specialist
- Found during Tanyptera Project recording day at Red Rocks

Eupelix cuspidata (Cicadellidae), Red Rocks, VC58, 27/5, P. Brighton & K. Fowler.

- No Cheshire records on the recording scheme maps (ledra.co.uk)
- Occurs in dry habitats inland as well as on the coast. Widespread but uncommon in the UK.
- Very distinctive with a massive keel on the head which extends across the eyes (image right © P. Brighton).
- Found during Tanyptera Project recording day at Red Rocks



Saldula opacula (Saldidae), Red Rocks, VC58, 27/5, K. Fowler.

- Probably new to VC58. Does not appear on Aquatic Heteroptera Recording Scheme maps, RECORD database or NBN Atlas.
- Bimodal habitat: saltmarshes and the shores of high-altitude lochans and pools.
- Found during Tanyptera Project recording day at Red Rocks

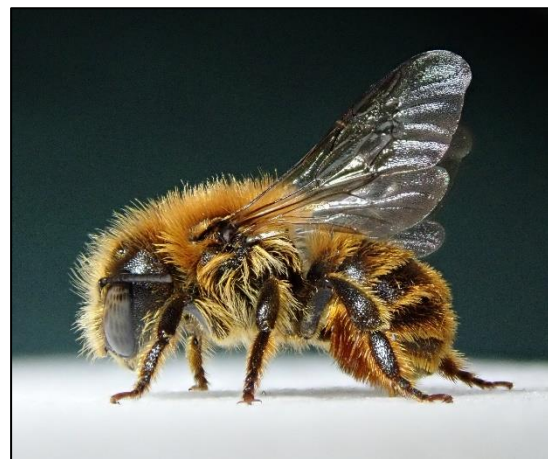
Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

Osmia aurulenta Gold-Fringed Mason Bee (Megachilidae)

Red Rocks, VC58, 27/5, L. Dixon & C. Aldridge. (image right © L. Dixon)

Warton Crag, VC60, 20/5, T. Southward (Det. B. Hargreaves)

- New site record at Red Rocks and one of only a few from Cheshire, all from the Wirral.
- Restricted to the coast in North West England. Commonly builds nests in empty snail shells.
- Found during Tanyptera Project recording day at Red Rocks.



Dinocampus coccinellae (Braconidae), Appleton, VC58, 28/5, D. Skingsley.

- An endoparasitoid of adult ladybird beetles thought to be widespread and frequent but poorly recorded.
- Creates a cocoon beneath the paralysed host, which acts as a shield from predators (Image right, © C. Washington).



Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

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Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

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Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

-

Plecoptera (Stoneflies)

-

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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Neuroptera (Lacewings)

Hemerobius perelegans (Hemerobiidae), Beacon Fell Country Park, VC60, 14/5, A. Hunter.

- Likely new to the region. Does not appear in [preliminary regional checklist May 2020](#).
- 30 NBN Atlas records but recording scheme data only goes up to 1999.
- A brown lacewing associated with mature birch. Graded Nationally Scarce A.
- Record yet to be verified.

Wesmaelius balticus (Hemerobiidae), Formby National Trust, VC69, 26/5, A. Hunter. (Image right)

- Likely new to the region. Does not appear in [preliminary regional checklist May 2020](#).
- 28 NBN Atlas records but recording scheme data only goes up to 1999.
- A brown lacewing associated with marram. Graded Nationally Scarce A.
- Record yet to be verified.



Strepsiptera

Stylops melittae (Stylopidae) Tatton Park, VC58, 13/4 – 5/5, Det. A. hunter.

- Male found in vein-trap. This sex is rarely encountered. Just 34 records on NBN Atlas.
- Part of a Tanyptera Project dead wood invertebrates survey.

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

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