



The Tanyptera Project



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The Tanyptera Project / North West Invertebrates



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North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - July 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 July 2021 (6th August download)*

*Excluding Lepidoptera

- 1205 (-427) records / 368 (-59) species
- Most recorded order: Diptera (361 records) – also top in June
- Most recorded family: Syrphidae (234) – also top in May and June
- Top 5 most recorded species:
 1. Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis* (37) – new entry
 2. Marmalade Hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus* (35) – 3rd in June
 3. Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator* (34) – new entry
 4. Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella* (30) – 1st in June
 5. Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* (29) – new entry

iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - true fly (Diptera)	361	101
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	256	22
insect - hymenopteran	204	74
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	143	64
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	103	47
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	36	12
spider (Araneae)	26	15
insect - orthopteran	24	5
harvestman (Opiliones)	12	4
crustacean	11	5
mollusc	8	6
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	7	5
acarine (Acari)	3	2
millipede	3	2
bacterium	2	0
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	2	2
insect - scorpion fly (Mecoptera)	2	1
centipede	1	1
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	1	0

Notable Records

Annelid

-

Acari (Mites and Ticks)

-

Araneae (Spiders)

-

Chilopoda (Centipedes)

-

Collembola (Springtails)

-

Coleoptera (Beetles)

Stenocorus meridianus (Cerambycidae), Knutsford, VC58, July, B. Foreman (© image right).

- Spotted on rear bumper of van parked in services car park.
- Very few records for Cheshire and the NW region.
- According to Duff (2012), it is a scarce longhorn beetle that is widespread in Central and Southern England, and local in Northern England and Wales.



Geotrupes spiniger (Geotrupidae), Bury, VC59, Late July, D. Bentley (© image right)

- Occurs in cattle and horse dung in a wide range of situations.
- Only two VC59 records on iRecord and local in North England according to Duff (2020). Widespread further south despite recent declines.



Mycetochara humeralis (Tenebrionidae), Dunham Massey, VC58, 8/7 (traps emptied), G. Hedges, Det. C. Washington.

- Nationally Scarce and only known site in Cheshire. Six adults found in separate traps.
- Found during Tanyptera Project survey of deadwood invertebrates.

Diplopoda (Millipedes)

-

Diptera (True Flies)

Crataerina pallida (Hippoboscidae), Preston, VC60, 28/7, A. Bedford (image right).

- Adult female crawled in house through bathroom window. Associated with Swifts nesting above, with whom this species is a blood-feeding ectoparasite.
- Thought to be common in England but severely under-recorded and no records on NBN Atlas for the region.



Solieria vacua (Tachinidae)

Heysham LNR, VC60, 21/7, N. Garnham (© image right).
Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones

- 18 records on NBN Atlas and only a single record from the region, also from the Morecambe Bay area at Warton Crag in 2008 (A. Godfrey).
- New to Cheshire, where several males were found attending hogweed flowers.



Gastrolepta anthracina (Tachinidae), Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones

- Not recorded in Cheshire since 1996.
- Found during Tanyptera Project / Butterfly Conservation commissioned survey.

Thelaira solivaga (Tachinidae), Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones.

- A second county record for Cheshire.
- Found during Tanyptera Project / Butterfly Conservation commissioned survey.

Platycheirus immarginatus (Syrphidae), Thurstaston – Dee Estuary, VC58, 20/7, N. Jones.

- Nationally Scarce and only 7 previous VC58 records according to the regional checklist, with the most recent in 2013 (Rostron, 2020).
- A single male swept from Saltmarsh, a typical habitat for this coastal species.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Mallota cimbiciformis (Syrphidae), Tatton Park, VC58

8/7, A. Grayson.
17/7, G. Hedges (image right – male at rot hole).

- Nationally Scarce and not reported from Cheshire since 2005.
- Associated with water-filled rot holes in mature trees.



Oxycera trilineata (Stratiomyidae), Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones.

- Apparently scarce in VC58 with just 9 records on the regional checklist (Brighton, 2017) and only two submitted to iRecord since publication (both P. Brighton from Red Rocks).
- Several adults found at Ashton's Flash.
- Associated with a variety of wetlands.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Stratiomys singularior (Stratiomyidae), (image right)

RSPB Marshside, VC59, 10/7, D. Tyler.
Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones.

- Marshside record appears to be the second for VC59 and Lancashire, new to the Sefton Coast, and most northerly in the West of the UK. First Lancashire record by P. Brighton at Rixton Claypits in 2018.
- At Ashton's Flash a male was found on 8/6 and a female on 13/7. Just 10 previous records in 4 hectads according to Brighton (2017).



- Predominately a species of coastal grazing marsh.

Themira leachi (Sepsidae), Nether Kellet, VC60, 6/7, N. Garnham (© image right).

- Group of adults found in polytunnel.
- Appears to be only the third VC60 record after P. Skidmore (1957) and R. Zloch (2017) both recorded this species nearby in Lancaster.



Lispe nana (Muscidae), Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones.

- New to Cheshire.
- A Nationally Scarce status fly that has an almost exclusively coastal distribution in Britain.
- Adults present in good numbers at this inland former salt mine.
- Found during Tanyptera Project / Butterfly Conservation commissioned survey.

Coenosia atra (Muscidae), Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones.

- A rather local species with only one other NW record on NBN Atlas.
- Adults found in good numbers
- Found during Tanyptera Project / Butterfly Conservation commissioned survey.

Diaphorus nigricans (Dolichopodidae), Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones.

- Seldom recorded from Cheshire. Also found in June at the site but not reported in the monthly notes.
- Found during Tanyptera Project / Butterfly Conservation commissioned survey.

Melieria cana (Ulidiidae), Thurstaston – Dee Estuary, VC58, 20/7, N. Jones.

- Nationally Scarce and only 8 records on iRecord, 5 of which are from Morecambe Bay by S. Garland. No NBN Atlas records from Cheshire.
- A single adult swept from salt marsh.
- Inhabits upper saltmarsh, brackish coastal marsh and sparsely vegetated sand and shingle at, or just above, the high tide mark.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Melieria omissa (Ulidiidae), Thurstaston – Dee Estuary, VC58, 20/7, N. Jones.

- Numerous swept from wet flushes in the soft rock cliffs.
- No Cheshire records on NBN Atlas or the RECORD database but three on iRecord (2017 & 2020).
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Tethina grisea (Canacidae), Thurstaston – Dee Estuary, VC58, 20/7, N. Jones.

- Apparently new to Cheshire. No records on NBN Atlas, RECORD database or iRecord.
- Four examples of this diminutive beach fly collected from sandy areas.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Tethina illota (Canacidae), Thurstaston – Dee Estuary, VC58, 20/7, N. Jones.

- Apparently new to Cheshire. No records on NBN Atlas, RECORD database or iRecord.
- Many seen in the company of the above.
- Found during Tanyptera Project commissioned survey.

Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

Hemiptera (True Bugs)

Woundwort Sheildbug - *Eysarcoris venustissimus* (Pentatomidae), Upton, VC58, 2/7, H. Davies (© Image right).

- Mating pair on Hedge Woundwort growing on path verge
- First recorded in Cheshire in 2005 and a few records per year since but apparently not known from Lancashire.



Closterotomus trivialis (Miridae), Scutchers Acres, VC59, 9/7, P. Brighton, K. Fowler, G. Hedges.

- New to VC59 last month when found at Formby by P. Smith (see June notes).
- Several found at Scutchers Acres during a Tanyptera Project recording day.

Atractotomus parvulus (Miridae), Scutchers Acres, VC59, 9/7, K. Fowler.

- Possibly new to VC59, Lancashire and the region. No records on NBN Atlas, iRecord, or regional checklist (Judd, 2011).
- Associated with Scots Pine.
- Found during a Tanyptera Project recording day.

Closterotomus fulvomaculatus (Miridae), Scutchers Acres, VC59, 9/7, P. Brighton & K. Fowler.

- No records for the region on NBN Atlas but there are pre-1970 records according to the regional checklist (Judd, 2011).
- Found during a Tanyptera Project recording day.

Phoenicocoris obscurellus (Miridae), Scutchers Acres, VC59, 9/7, K. Fowler.

- No records for VC59 on NBN Atlas or iRecord but there are pre-1970 records according to the regional checklist (Judd, 2011).
- Associated with Scots Pine.
- Found during a Tanyptera Project recording day.

Populicerus laminatus (Cicadellidae), Scutchers Acres, VC59, 9/7, P. Brighton & K. Fowler.

- Only two previous records on NBN Atlas for VC59; 1915 and 1959 at Ainsdale.
- On poplars, especially Aspen.
- Found during a Tanyptera Project recording day.

Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

Cimbex femoratus (Cimbridae)

Freshfield Dune Heath NR, VC59, 13/7, P. Smith (© image right).
Winsford, VC58, 19/7, Z. Hinchcliffe

- Mating pair in grassland on heathland nature reserve with frequent birch (P. Smith) and a single adult in woodland (Z. Hinchcliffe).
- A large, imposing sawfly unlikely to be ignored by entomologists yet only a few records in the region each year.

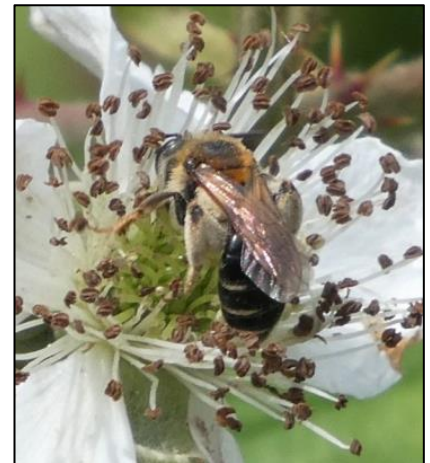


Silvery Leafcutter Bee - *Megachile leachella* (Megachilidae),
Freshfield Dune Heath NR, VC59, 13/7, P. Smith.

- On sandy trackside through heathland.
- Lancashire is at the Northern extreme of an expanding range in the UK but is now locally abundant in many areas of the Sefton coast (Hargraves 2021).

Short-fringed Mining Bee - *Andrena dorsata* (Andrenidae), Bickerton Hill, VC58, 10/7, A. Goodwin (currently unverified) (image right).

- Two females found on scrub heathland.
- Probably only the third Cheshire record having been recorded at Crown Farm, Delamere in 2019 by N. Jones as part of a Tanyptera Project commissioned survey, and in Tarvin 2020 by S. Richardson.



Heather Mining Bee - *Andrena fuscipes* (Andrenidae), Bickerton Hill, VC58, 10/7, A. Goodwin. (currently unverified)

- Three females found on scrub heathland.
- According to Clee & Parker (2018), not seen in Cheshire since 1945 although there's an unverified 2020 record from Bebington.

Cerceris arenaria (Craonidae)

Ness Gardens, VC58, 17/7, C. Aldridge (© image right).
Kersal Moor, VC59, 22/7, K. McCartney.

- At the North Western range limit in Greater Manchester and Cheshire. There are few records although it is known from Ness Gardens in the past decade and historically on the Wirral. Known from Greater Manchester since 2019.
- Associated with sandy soils and preys on adult weevils.

Spined Mason Bee - *Osmia spinulosa* (Megachilidae), Ashton's Flash, VC58, 13/7, N. Jones.



- New to Cheshire and NW England. A species that has been slowly spreading North and West with records from Derbyshire and Staffordshire.
- First found on 8th June at the site but not reported in monthly notes. Good numbers of males and females seen.

Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

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Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

Golden-ringed Dragonfly - *Cordulegaster boltonii* (Cordulegastridae), Burton Mere, VC58, 15/7, E. Wilson.

- Adult photographed. Just 6 other Cheshire records of this species on iRecord, and 6 on the RECORD database (some maybe duplicates).
- Breeds in acidic rivers and streams of all sizes.

Small Red-eyed Damselfly - *Erythromma viridulum* (Coenagrionidae), Burnley, VC60, 22/7, A. Holmes (© image right)

- Two adult males.
- First recorded in Lancashire in 2019, having first been recorded in the UK in 1999.
- Found on ponds, lakes and ditches. Associated with floating vegetation.



Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Roesel's Bush-cricket - *Roeseliana roeselii* (Tettigoniidae), Marbury Country Park, VC58, 26/7, D. Higginson-Tranter.

- Possibly new to Cheshire and VC58. There are no records on RECORD, iRecord, or NBN Atlas.
- A species expanding its range. Within the region, known from NW Lancashire and more recently in 2019, first detected in VC59 and now established on the Manchester Mosses.

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)

-

Neuroptera (Lacewings)

-

Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)

-

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

-