



# The Tanyptera Project



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## North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - September 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 / modern county records

***Xorides filiformis*** (Ichneumonidae), Tatton Park, VC58, 10/06-07/07/2021, G. Hedges, Det. T. Hunter.

- New to Cheshire and the NW region. UK host/s unknown but will be a saproxylic invertebrate.
- Adult female found in vane trap hung on veteran Sweet Chestnut – as part of a Tanyptera Project deadwood invertebrate survey.
- Image is from Haughmond Hill (2017), where it was found new to Britain by Nigel Jones (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0).



***Trichopalpus fraternus*** (Scathophagidae), Bury, VC59, 15/9/2020, D. Bentley.

- New to VC59 and Greater Manchester. No records showing on NBN Atlas, iRecord, and does not appear in the regional checklist by Brighton (2020).
- The only record for the region on NBN Atlas is near Silverdale (VC60).

***Themira superba*** (Sepsidae), Elton Goit SBI, Bury, VC59, 17/9, D. Bentley.

- Probably new to Greater Manchester but previously known from VC59. Widespread but uncommon in the UK and according to Brighton (2017), ranked about halfway down the Sepsidae species list for the region in terms of frequency.
- Adult female found in wetland.

***Lonchoptera nitidifrons*** (Lonchopteridae), Elton Goit SBI, Bury, VC59, Sept, D. Bentley.

- Probably new VC59 and Greater Manchester. 2-3 records elsewhere in the region but only one UK record currently on iRecord.
- Adult male found in boggy habitat with willows.

***Cryptopleurum subtile*** (Hydrophilidae), Elton Goit SBI, Bury, VC59, 17/9/2020, D. Bentley (image right).

- Probably new to VC59 and Greater Manchester. No records showing on NBN Atlas, iRecord, and not reported in Sharp (1908) or Brockton Tomlin (1917).
- Three adults found in dung.
- Duff (2012) says associated with warm manure, compost heaps, and sometimes rotten fungi and MV lights. Very local in England.



***Limotettix striola*** (Cicadellidae), Elton Goit SBI, Bury, VC59, 17/9/2020, D. Bentley.

- Probably new to Greater Manchester. Known from the Sefton Coast but this may be first NW inland record. No records showing on NBN Atlas, iRecord, or Ledra maps.
- Local nationally according to the British Bugs website and associated with sedges in marshy habitats.

## iRecord summary September 2021 (8<sup>th</sup> Oct download)\*

\*Excluding Lepidoptera

- 603 (-538) records / 260 (-164) species
- Most recorded order: Diptera (202 records) – also top in June - August
- Most recorded family: Syrphidae (151) – also top May - August
- Top 5 most recorded species:
  1. *Eristalis tenax* (24) – new entry
  2. Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum* (22) – 1<sup>st</sup> in August
  3. *Helophilus pendulus* (18) – new entry
  4. Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* (16) – joint 2<sup>nd</sup> in August
  4. Ivy Bee *Colletes hederæ* (13) – new entry

### iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - true fly (Diptera)	202	65
insect - hymenopteran	113	44
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	82	10
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	65	30
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	39	23
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	29	13
spider (Araneae)	18	9
insect - orthopteran	13	6
acarine (Acari)	11	9
mollusc	10	6
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	8	5
harvestman (Opiliones)	6	4
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	2	1
annelid	1	1
crustacean	1	1
flatworm (Turbellaria)	1	1
insect - scorpion fly (Mecoptera)	1	0
insect - silverfish (Thysanura)	1	1

## Notable Records

### Annelid

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### Acari (Mites and Ticks)

-

### Araneae (Spiders)

-

### Chilopoda (Centipedes)

-

### Collembola (Springtails)

-

## Coleoptera (Beetles)

***Attelabus nitens* Oak Leaf-roller** (Attelabidae), Tatton Park, VC58, 18/9, D. Skingsley.

- According to Duff (2016), widespread in Northern England, and frequent where it occurs. However, seemingly very scarce in the region. This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record submitted to iRecord, after being reported by B. Nixie near Lancashire in 2016. This record is also represents the only datapoint on NBN Atlas for the region.
- W. E. Sharp checklist (1908): Very common in Delamere Forest on both oaks and Spanish chestnuts; not recorded from elsewhere in our district.



***Ontholestes tessellatus*** (Staphylinidae)

- Distinctive and widespread across much of England but apparently uncommon in the NW. Usually associated with carrion.

Dunham Massey, VC58, 16/9, T. Hunter (image right), G. Hedges, K. Flowerdew.

- Several found on pungent decaying fungi at the base of a veteran Beech at night as part of a Tanyptera Project survey of deadwood invertebrates.



Buckshaw, Chorley, VC59, 20/9, A. Billington.

- Possibly new to Lancashire. No records on NBN or iRecord. Not reported in Sharp (1908) or Brockton Tomlin (1917). No recording scheme data on NBN Atlas.
- Seen in the afternoon sat on top of pungent decaying fungi in woodland.

***Phyllodrepania crenata*** (Staphylinidae), Tatton Park, VC58, 14/9, C. Washington.

- Nationally Scarce. Other records in the region possibly confined to Dunham Massey and Lyme Park.
- Adults occur in moss and fungi on decaying trees.
- Found at night as part of a Tanyptera Project survey of deadwood invertebrates.

***Corticeus unicolor*** (Tenebrionidae), Tatton Park, VC58, 14/9, C. Washington.

- Nationally Scarce. Other records in the regional possibly confined to Dunham Massey and the Petty Pool area.
- Develops chiefly in freshly dead birch *Betula* wood, also beech *Fagus* and oak *Quercus*, and is probably predatory on larvae of the beetle *Hylecoetus dermestoides* and other wood borers (K. Alexander *et al* 2015).
- Found on dead Beech at night as part of a Tanyptera Project survey of deadwood invertebrates.

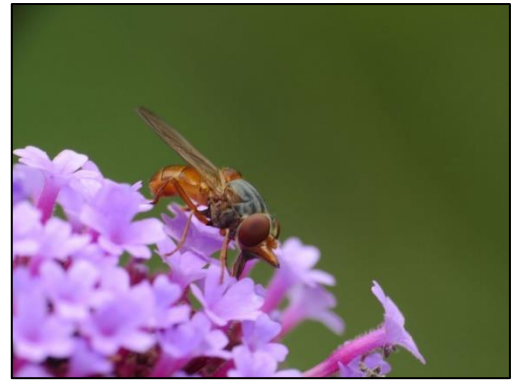
## Diplopoda (Millipedes)

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## Diptera (True Flies)

***Rhingia rostrata*** (Syrphidae), Coppull, Chorley, VC59, 9/9, G. Wilson, Det. C. Heintzen and B. Pierce (image right).

- This hoverfly has undergone a rapid spread across Southern Britain in about 2000 and reached Cumbria in 2013. However, according to Rostron (2020), there are still only a handful of Lancashire records (8 x VC59 records at the time of checklist publication).
- Rarely found away from woodland.



***Phytosciara halterata*** (Sciaridae), Leyland, VC60, 3/9, A. Billington, Det. P. Chandler.

- Probably new to Lancashire. No records on NBN Atlas or iRecord and not included in Brindle (1959) or Chandler (1981). No Recording Scheme data on NBN Atlas.
- Three adults emerged on 21/9 having been reared from larvae found mining Creeping Buttercup leaves in a small woodland area.
- Image below © Andrew Billington – from left to right: i) larva feeding on underside of leaf, (ii) cocoon on underside of leaf under slime, (iii) adult female.



## Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

## Hemiptera (True Bugs)

***Palomena prasina*** Common Green Shieldbug (Pentatomidae),

- Greenfield, Saddleworth, VC63, 1/9, K. Gartside (© image right).
- A very common and widespread shieldbug but the golden colour of the final instar nymph pictured right appears to be very unusual. The species is typically green during this stage.



***Metatropis rufescens*** (Berytidae), Croft, VC59, 19/9, P. Brighton.

- Probably new to VC59 and at the northern extreme of known UK distribution. The only apparent record for the region from National Trust Quarry Bank in 2012 (NBN Atlas) but there are currently no datasets from the National Recording Scheme on NBN Atlas. Also not reported in the regional checklist (Judd 2010).
- Adult found in a local woodland in Croft.
- A large, distinctive, woodland stiltbug that feeds on the leaves of Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*.



**Water Forget-me-not Lacebug *Dictyla convergens*** (Tingidae), Elton Goit, Bury, VC59, D. Bentley (image right).

- Possibly new to Greater Manchester. No records on iRecord or NBN Atlas. There are currently no datasets from the National Recording Scheme on NBN Atlas.
- Found widely but locally across the UK in a range of wetland habitats.



**Large Willow Aphid *Tuberolachnus salignus*** (Aphididae), Houghton Green Pool, VC59, P. Brighton, Det. R. Zloch.

- Adult female swept from an area of willow scrub.
- One of the largest aphids in the UK. This species always reproduces parthenogenetically.
- Likely under-recorded but possibly only the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> VC59 record. Recorded at Formby in 2020 by Phil Smith.



***Edwardsiana ulmiphagus*** (Cicadellidae), Crowtrees Farm, Bury, VC59, 26/9, D. Bentley (image right).

- Probably new to VC59 and the region. No records on NBN Atlas or iRecord, and there is no regional checklist covering this group.
- A recent addition to the UK fauna according to the Auchenorrhyncha Recording Scheme website.
- A dead adult, live male, and a nymph found on Elm.



## Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

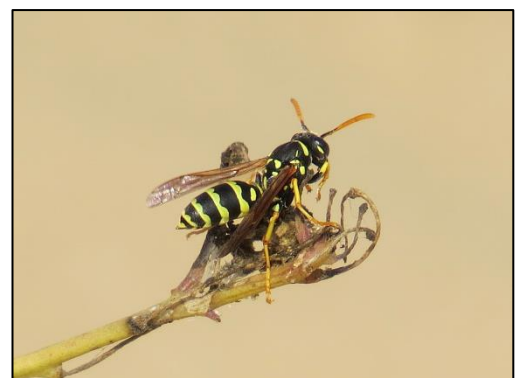
**Greater Horntail Wasp *Urocerus gigas*** (Siricidae), Burscough Wharf, VC59, 4/9, Unknown observer but submitted by T. Hunter.

- A very large, distinctive and widespread sawfly but only occasionally seen.
- Usually found in or near coniferous woods where the larvae feed on dead wood.
- A host of one of Europe's largest Ichneumon wasps, *Rhyssa persuasoria* (the sabre wasp).



***Polistes gallicus*** (Vespidae), Hightown dunes, VC59, 6/9, P. Kinsella (image right).

- New to Merseyside, VC59, and the NW region.
- This paper wasp has been recorded in the UK previously as a vagrant (Baldock, 2009).
- The number of previous UK records is unclear but there is no species account on the BWARS website and no records on NBN Atlas.
- More info: P. Kinsella wrote a [blog post](#) about the record for the NW invertebrates website.



## Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

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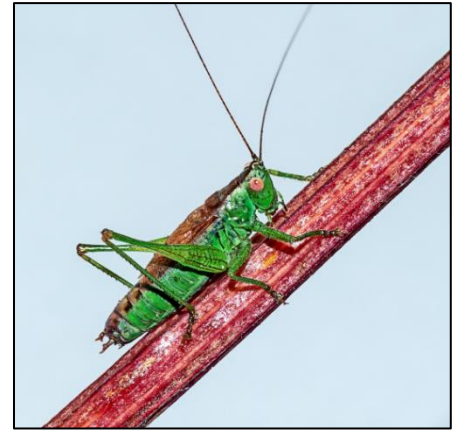
## Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

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## Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

**Short-winged Cone-head (*Conocephalus dorsalis*)** (Conocephalidae), Hightown dunes, Sefton Coast, VC59, 2/9, P. Smith (image right).

- Small colony on seepage zone with much *Bolboschoenus maritimus*.
- Seems to be a first for Hightown and an extension of the known distribution in the vice-county.



**Roesel's Bush-cricket (*Roeseliana roeselii*)** (Tettigoniidae), Netherley, VC59, 8/9, J. Styles.

- New to North Merseyside.
- Colony discovered on derelict land with 20+ stridulating males heard.
- A few new sites have been found in the region in 2021 as the species continues to colonise. See August notes.

## 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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## Neuroptera (Lacewings)

***Symphorobius pygmaeus*** (Hemerobiidae), Woolton, Liverpool, VC59, 8/9, S. McWilliam.

- New to VC59 and North Merseyside. NBN Atlas, iRecord and checklists searched. The only regional records found are from VC58: Dibbinsdale, Wirral (1995), and an old record from Cotterill Clough.
- A rarely encountered genus in the region. The 1994 national atlas says widespread but Local.
- A single adult attracted to MV light trap. Associated with mature oak-trees.



## Opiliones (Harvestmen)

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**Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)**

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**Trichoptera (Caddisflies)**

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