



North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - December 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. Only records from the featured month are listed unless they constitute a newly recognised VC / modern county record. All images are under copyright from the original recorder unless stated.

Newly recognised vice county / modern county records

Viridicerus ustulatus (Cicadellidae), Woolton, VC59, 6/9/2021, S. McWilliam (Image right CCO – S. McWilliam)

- Singleton taken in the back-garden at an MV Light trap.
- Probably new to VC59, Merseyside and the region, and at the extreme North of currently known range. No other records for the region published online (NBN Atlas, iRecord, Ledra).
- First recorded in the UK from Norfolk in 1991.
- Associated with grey and white poplar and overwinters on evergreens.



Acericerus heydenii (Cicadellidae) Woolton, VC59, 15/9/2021, S. McWilliam (Image right CCO – S. McWilliam)

- Probably new to VC59, Merseyside and the region. No previous records for the region published online (NBN Atlas, iRecord, Ledra).
- Also recorded at the same location since on 08/11/2021 & 29/12/2021.
- Presumed to be a recent arrival from the continent, it was found at a number of sites in southern England during 2010. Has now been recorded widely in England and reached Scotland.
- Associated with Sycamore.



Meditiocerus rutilans (Cicadellidae), Mystery Park, Wavertree, VC59, 29/11/2019 S. McWilliam & S. Marley (Image right CC-BY – S. McWilliam)

- Probably new to VC59, Merseyside and the region. No previous records for the region published online (NBN Atlas, iRecord, Ledra).
- Locally distributed on willows, primarily in southern Britain, often overwintering on pines.
- Also found on 10/10/2021 in a garden MV light trap at Woolton by S. McWilliam



iRecord summary December 2021 (10th Jan download)*

*Excluding Lepidoptera

Please note, since October there is an iNaturalist link to iRecord, which means many more records can be viewed on the iRecord website.

- 379 (+190) records and 217 (+135) species 217 – gain in records and species since November is largely the result of annual submissions to iRecord.
- Most recorded order: Coleoptera (292 records) – Higher in December due to an annual submission, where monthly records are not usually represented.
- Most recorded family: Staphylinidae (114)
- Top 5 most recorded species:
 1. Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* (11) – also 1st in October-November
 2. 7-spot ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* (6) – 3rd in October, 5th in November
 3. Orange ladybird *Halyzia sedecimguttata* (5) – new entryMany species with 4 records

iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	292	158
mollusc	18	14
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	16	10
crustacean	12	8
spider (Araneae)	11	7
insect - true fly (Diptera)	10	5
insect - hymenopteran	9	6
millipede	6	4
centipede	2	2
harvestman (Opiliones)	2	1
springtail (Collembola)	1	1

Notable Records

Annelid

-

Acari (Mites and Ticks)

-

Araneae (Spiders)

Atypus affinis (Purse Web Spider) (Monotomidae), Thurstaston, VC58, 27/12, J. Styles

- A distinctive, Nationally Scarce spider associated with unimproved, open habitats.
- There was a gap of records for this species on the Wirral from 1979 to 2018 when it was found by Rich Burkmar. [See blog post.](#)
- Elsewhere in the region, only known from Morecambe Bay limestone sites.
- *A. affinis* is the only member of the infra-order Mygalomorphae in the UK.



Chilopoda (Centipedes)

Lithobius macilentus (Lithobiidae), Trowbarrow, VC60, 4/12, N. Garnham (image right CCO, N. Garnham)

- A Nationally Scarce species of rural woodland.
- This record represents a third North Lancashire limestone site after N. Garnham found the species at Newbiggin Crags and Gaitbarrows in 2020.
- No other regional records have been found from online maps (NBN Atlas, iRecord) but recorded in VC60 historically according to the most recent regional checklist Blower (1987).



Collembola (Springtails)

-

Coleoptera (Beetles)

Rhizophagus cribratus (Monotomidae), Plumley Nature Reserve, VC58, 23/12, C. Washington

- Very local and scarce in England (Duff 2020). Few Cheshire records.
- Associated with broad-leaved trees, leaf litter, fungi, carrion etc.

Cassida vibex (Chrysomelidae), Plumley Nature Reserve, VC58, 23/12, C. Washington (archive image right G. Hedges)

- Widespread and common in Southern England.
- Very local in Northern England according to Duff (2016) but the first 4 Cheshire records on iRecord in 2021, and from widely separated locations so likely becoming more common further North.
- Asteraceae feeder, in particular Common knapweed.



Clambus nigriclavis (Clambidae), Leftwich Meadows, VC58, 9/12, C. Washington

- The only record on iRecord for this species.
- Very local and rare according to Duff (2020) and no records found in Cheshire on NBN atlas or on RECORD.
- Usually in dry flood litter.

Dorytomus ictor (Curculionidae), Leftwich Meadows, VC58, 9/12, C. Washington (image right © C. Washington)

- New to the region. Associated with Black Poplar and its hybrids.
- Very local in Northern England according to Duff (2016).

Endomychus coccineus (False Ladybird) (Endomychidae), Leftwich Meadows, VC58, 9/12, C. Washington

- A very distinctive fungi feeder, active at night.
- Widespread in England but not commonly recorded in the region.

Synchita undata (Zopheridae), Leftwich Meadows, VC58, 9/12, C. Washington

- First detected in the UK in 1984, and spreading.



- The only other regional record published on iRecord or NBN Atlas is also from 2021 at Phoenix Park, Runcorn (C. Washington).
- Associated with fungus *Biscogniauxia corticalis* on Sycamore trees, where it's found under the bark.

Bisnius subuliformis (Staphylinidae), Marshall's Arm Nature Reserve, VC58, 15/12, C. Washington

- Few Cheshire records. Restricted to England and Wales on NBN Atlas maps and distributed across Northern Europe on GBIF map.
- Little ecological information readily available online.

Lithostygnus serripennis (Latridiidae), Marshall's Arm Nature Reserve, VC58, 15/12, C. Washington (archive image right - NML)

- A tiny Latridiid native to New Zealand but well established in the UK.
- Usually synanthropic but sometimes in rotten wood and leaf litter.
- Found at various sites across Cheshire by C. Washington, amounting to half the records on iRecord.
- The only barcoded specimen on BOLD is from Warrington, UK (C. Washington).



Orthoperus brunripes (Corylophidae), Marshall's Arm Nature Reserve, VC58, 15/12, C. Washington

- The only other regional record published online is from Marbury Park in 2020 (C. Washington).
- There are only 2 other records of this species on iRecord, and 16 on NBN Atlas maps, mostly in eastern England.
- Found in mouldy decaying vegetation in damp places.
- Very local and rare in Northern England according to Duff (2020).

Diplopoda (Millipedes)

Brachychaeteuma bagnalli (*Brachychaeteumatidae*), Dalton Craggs, VC60, 26/12, N. Garnham

- A Nationally Scarce, mainly Northern species in Great Britain but widespread in Ireland.
- Shows a strong association with cultivated sites in urban and suburban locations in the UK but found in caves and limestone areas on the continent. The current record, on a limestone pavement site, may represent it occurring in a more natural situation.
- All 5 iRecord submissions are from North Lancs by N. Garnham.



Diptera (True Flies)

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Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

-

Hemiptera (True Bugs)

-

Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

-

Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

-

Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

-

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)

-

Neuroptera (Lacewings)

-

Opiliones (Harvestmen)

-

Psocoptera (Barkflies)

-

Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)

-

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

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