



The Tanyptera Project



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The Tanyptera Project / North West Invertebrates



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North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - April 2022

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

Pegomya flavifrons (Anthomyiidae), Heysham Nature Reserve, VC60, 07/04/2019, R. Zloch.

- New to VC60

Sarcophaga teretirostris (Sarcophagidae), Middleton Nature Reserve, VC60, 13/07/2019, R. Zloch.

- New to VC60
- Subsequently found at Heald Brow on the Tanyptera Recording Day on 20/07/2021

Sarcophaga aratrix (Sarcophagidae), Birk Bank, VC60, 14/09/2016, R. Zloch.

- New to VC60. Found beside bog.

Sarcophaga sinuata (Sarcophagidae), Barnaby's Sands - Arm Hill, VC60, 23/08/2018, R. Zloch.

- New to VC60.

Sarcophaga anaces (Sarcophagidae), Heysham Nature Reserve, VC60, 01/07/2017, R. Zloch.

- New to VC60. Female found.
- Male subsequently found at the site on 10/09/2019.

iRecord summary April 2022 (13th May download)*

*Excluding Lepidoptera

- 1700 776 (+924) records and 387 taxa (+197)
- Most recorded group: Hymenoptera (476 records)
- Most recorded family: Coccinellidae (245)
- Top 5 most recorded species:
 1. Alder Leaf Beetle *Agelastica alni* (111) – new entry
 2. Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* (82) – 3rd in March
 3. 7-spot ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* (68) – joint 4th in Feb, 1st in March
 4. Tawny Mining Bee *Andrena fulva* (57) – new entry
 5. Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* (50) – new entry

iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - hymenopteran	476	62
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	471	71
insect - true fly (Diptera)	348	85
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	133	30
mollusc	80	25
crustacean	59	12
spider (Araneae)	29	12
millipede	17	6
acarine (Acari)	13	8
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	12	7
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	11	2
insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	11	4
centipede	8	3
harvestman (Opiliones)	6	3
insect - alderfly (Megaloptera)	6	1
springtail (Collembola)	5	3
annelid	4	3
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	4	2
flatworm (Turbellaria)	3	1
insect - orthopteran	3	1
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	1	1

Notable Records

Annelid (Segmented Worms)

-

Acari (Mites and Ticks)

-

Araneae (Spiders)

-

Chilopoda (Centipedes)

-

Collembola (Springtails)

-

Coleoptera (Beetles)

Amara lucida (Carabidae), Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), VC58, 27/4, C. Washington.

- Found in dunes.
- In VC58, previously recorded from Wallasey in 1917 and there are possibly other historical records.

Harpalus anxius (Carabidae), Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), VC58, 27/4, C. Washington.

- Nationally Scarce
- UK distribution is mainly dunes but also occurs on sandy heaths.
- Within the region also known from the Sefton Coast.

***Orchestes alni* Elm Flea Weevil** (Curculionidae), Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), VC58, 27/4, P. Brighton & G. Hedges (image right)

- Single adult specimens found by each recorder in elm scrub, which is the species foodplant.
- According to the regional checklist (C. Washington, 2020), these records represent the 2nd and 3rd vice county records having first been recorded in 2001.



Tournotaris bimaculata (Eirirhinidae), Burton Marsh, VC58, 15/4, C. Washington

- Found in tidal grass litter.
- No VC58 records since 2005.
- A scarce weevil associated with marshes and riverbanks.

Oxyomus sylvestris (Scarabaeidae), Burton Marsh, VC58, 15/4, C. Washington (image right)

- Found in tidal grass litter.
- Appears to be rare in NW England. An historical record appears on the Invertebrate Site Register but this is the only reference in searchable online databases.



Aphodius merdarius (Scarabaeidae), Hill Cliffe, Warrington, VC58, 26/04, C. Washington (image right).

- Nationally Scarce.
- No VC58 records since 1991 and the few others many decades older.
- Found in fresh horse dung heap.

Tesarius caelatus (Scarabaeidae), Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), VC58 27/4, C. Washington.

- Found in dunes. This is one of two sites on the Wirral coast. In Britain, the only other areas are the Sefton and Fylde coasts.
- An established introduction from the West coast of North America.



Euconnus hirticollis (Staphylinidae), Burton Marsh, VC58, 15/4, C. Washington.

- Found in tidal grass litter.
- Few regional records and this is possibly the first from the Wirral.

Phacophallus parumpunctatus (Staphylinidae), Hill Cliffe, Warrington, VC58, 26/04, C. Washington.

- Found in Dung heap
- Recent VC58 arrival

Diplopoda (Millipedes)

-

Diptera (True Flies)

Egle parvaeformis (Anthomyiidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59.
- 27 NBN Atlas records, all but one further south.
- The genus *Egle* is associated with Willow Catkins.

Canace nasica (Canacidae), VC58, Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), 27/4, P. Brighton. iRecord ID 25064280 (image right)

- New to VC58 and the Lancs and Cheshire region.
- A single adult female found.



Telmatogeton japonicus (Chironomidae), VC58, Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), 27/4, E. Brighton (Det. P. Brighton), iRecord ID 25064313 (image right)

- New to VC58.
- Found crawling around in the bright green seaweed on the sea-wall.
- This marine Chironomid midge arrived from Japan and the first British records were in Scotland about 20 years ago.
- The only other English record on NBN Atlas is from just across the Mersey in Crosby by Steve Tomlinson in November 2020.



Gymnomus amplicornis (Heleomyzidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59 and the Lancs and Cheshire region. NBN Atlas has 38 records, mainly from Wales and Scotland.

Boletina trispinosa (Mycetophilidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59 and the Lancs and Cheshire region. NBN Atlas has 39 widely scattered records.
- A Fungus Gnat. Members of this genus are found in a wide variety of habitats from wooded streams to wetlands and open moorland.

Boletina gripha (Mycetophilidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59.
- This Fungus Gnat appears more common than *B. trispinosa* with 110 widely scattered records on NBN Atlas.

Boletina sciarina (Mycetophilidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59.
- There are 28 NBN Atlas records for this Fungus Gnat, mainly from western parts of Britain and Scotland.

Phora atra (Phoridae), VC58, Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), 27/4, P. Brighton, iRecord ID 25064187 (image right).

- New to VC59 and the Lancs and Cheshire region. 2 Male and 1 Female recorded
- 167 records on NBN atlas and widely scattered throughout England and Wales but few from Scotland.



Triphleba papillata (Phoridae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59 and the Lancs and Cheshire region. NBN Atlas has 11 records, all further South.
- The genus has a cosmopolitan distribution.

Austrosciara hyalipennis (Sciaridae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59.
- 66 widely scattered NBN Atlas records.
- Sciarids are also known as dark-winged fungus gnats and are one of least studied of the large Diptera families.

Orygma luctuosum (Sepsidae), VC58, Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), 27/4, P. Brighton, iRecord ID 25064187.

- New to VC58.
- Found around the coastline of Great Britain, including VC59 & 60.
- Associated with decaying kelp on beaches.

Borborillus vitripennis (Sphaeroceridae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 10/4, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59.
- A diurnal lesser dung fly with 19 NBN Atlas records, all from England.

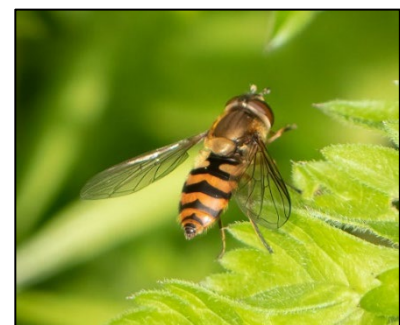
Cheilosia chrysocoma (Syrphidae), Combermere Park, VC58, 29/4, N. Jones (image right)

- First VC58 record since 19th Century. It is included by Kidd and Brindle (1959) on the basis of Cooke's (1881) list.
- At least 9 males seen at woodland edge.
- Thought to develop in *Angelica*.



Parasyrphus nigratarsus (Syrphidae), Guild Wheel, Preston, VC60, 30/4, T. Southward (Det. C. Sellen & R. Morris). (Image right © T. Southward)

- Nationally Scarce. Larvae feed on leaf-beetle larvae on Alder and willows.
- Adults often found basking on sunlit leaves by rivers and streams.



Parasyrphus malinellus (Syrphidae), Gisburn, Lancashire, VC64, 19/4?, N. Garnham (image right).

- Few regional records and probably not recorded in Lancashire since 1996.
- Associated with conifers in woodland.
- New to science in 1952.



Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

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Hemiptera (True Bugs)

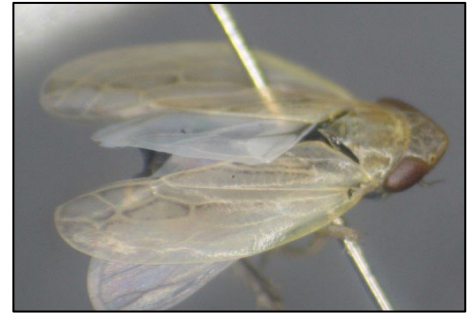
***Rhaphigaster nebulosa* Mottled Shieldbug** (Pentatomidae), VC60, Preston, 29/4, L. Farifax (image right), iRecord ID 25029656

- Found on garden fence basking in sun in central Preston
- New to VC60 and possibly the most northerly UK record. The only others are Skelmersdale on 28 August 2020 by Frank Whitney and from a garden centre in Radcliffe on 15 March 2021 by Laura Reed.
- A polyphagous species associated with a range of deciduous trees. First recorded in Britain from the London area in 2010.



Psammotettix cephalotes (Cicadellidae), VC58, Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), 27/9, P. Brighton (image right), iRecord ID 25064280.

- New to VC58 according to unpublished working provisional Auchenorrhynca checklist (K. Fowler)
- Appears to have a scattered distribution, mainly in England.



Viridicerus ustulatus (Cicadellidae), VC58, Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), 27/9, P. Brighton (image right), iRecord ID 25064322.

- Female swept from White Poplar.
- New to VC58 according to unpublished working provisional Auchenorrhynca checklist (K. Fowler)
- Overwinters on evergreens.



Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

Andrena falsifica (Apidae), Yealand Hall Allotment, VC60, April 2022, J. Wright.

- New to VC60
- Nationally Scarce and mainly in Southern England but has been recorded at Whitbarrow (South Cumberia).

***Melecta albifrons* Common Mourning Bee** (Apidae), VC59, Speke Hall NT, 22/4, P. Brash (image right), iRecord ID 24970290.

- New to VC59.
- Seen entering Anthophora holes in mortar in the pig pens.
- A distinctive cleptoparasite of the Hairy-footed Flower Bee that has expanded into Cheshire in the past few years.



***Osmia aurulenta* Gold-Fringed Mason Bee** (Megachilidae) Leasowe Gunsite (Tanyptera Recording Day), VC58, 27/4, R. Lowry (© image right).

- New site record 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



Ancistrocerus nigricornis (Vespidae), Central Manchester, VC59, 21/4, K. McCartney (© image right).

- A Solitary wasp often found in gardens.
- Few Greater Manchester records but recently recorded from Manchester City football academy in 2021 and near Marple in 2017.



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.

***Lithophane semibrunnea* Tawny Pinion** (Noctuidae), Freshfield, VC59, 26/4, T. Davenport.

- 2nd Sefton Coast record. In garden light trap.
- An adult hibernating, mostly Southern species whose caterpillars feed mainly on Ash.

***Phytometra viridaria* Small Purple-barred** (Erebidae), Hightown dunes, VC59, 27/4, P. Smith (© image below).

- A local species in Northern England. In recent years within Lancashire, restricted to the Sefton Coast and Fylde Coast (online atlas right up to 2019, yellow = 2000 onwards, blue = pre 2000 records)
- Caterpillars feed on the flowers and leaves of common milkwort (*Polygata vulgaris*) and heath milkwort (*P. serpyllifolia*). Adults are mainly diurnal.



Mollusca (Slugs and Snails)

-

Neuroptera (Lacewings)

-

Opiliones (Harvestmen)

-

Psocoptera (Barkflies)

-

Pseudoscorpiones (Pseudoscorpions)

-

Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)

-

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

-

Zygentoma (Silverfish, Fishmoths, Firebrats)