

Tanyptera Project



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North West Invertebrates Monthly Notes - June 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

Nomada guttulata (Apidae), Shocklach, SW Cheshire, VC58, 14/5, A & A Goodwin.

- New to VC58 and the region – likely due to range expansion.
- A rare cleptoparasite of the mining bee *Andrena labiata*, which was found in the vicinity a year earlier.
- Adults fly in May and June, visiting flowers such as Daisy and Dandelion.

iRecord summary June 2022 (11th July download)*

*Excluding Lepidoptera

- 3266 (+748) records and 718 taxa (+137)
- Most recorded group: Coleoptera (771 records)
- Most recorded family: Syrphidae (412 records)
- Top 5 most recorded species:
 1. Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* (134) – 2nd in April & May
 2. Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella* (97) – 4th in May
 3. Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* (83) – new entry
 4. Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* (70) – new entry
 5. 7-spot ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* (61) – 3rd in April & May

iRecord - Records and species numbers by taxon group

Group	No. of records	No. of species
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	771	174
insect - true fly (Diptera)	666	145
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	519	16
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	495	94
insect - hymenopteran	448	83
mollusc	71	27
acarine (Acari)	56	22
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	52	12
spider (Araneae)	45	15
insect - orthopteran	31	8
bacterium	24	1
crustacean	17	7
insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	14	9
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	12	3
harvestman (Opiliones)	9	5
insect - scorpion fly (Mecoptera)	9	3
millipede	9	4

springtail (Collembola)	5	1
annelid	3	1
centipede	3	2
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	3	2
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	2	2
insect - silverfish (Thysanura)	1	1
insect - snakefly (Raphidioptera)	1	1

Notable Records

Annelid

-

Acari (Mites and Ticks)

-

Araneae (Spiders)

-

Chilopoda (Centipedes)

-

Collembola (Springtails)

-

Coleoptera (Beetles)

***Crioceris asparagi* Asparagus Beetle** (Chrysomelidae), Longsight, Manchester, VC58, 7/6, K. McCartney © image right.

- Found in garden above two plants bought during the spring at a local garden centre.
- Common on Sefton Coast but generally absent elsewhere in the North West. However, since 2020, there have been three records in VC59, away from the coast.



Mordellistena neuwaldeggiana (Mordellidae), Scutchers Acres, West Lancashire, VC59, June, T. Hunter (image right).

- Appears new to VC59 and Lancashire.
- A scarce saproxylic tumbling flower beetle, also found at Tatton Park (VC58) in a vane trap in 2021. All species of Mordellidae are rarely encountered in the region.



Orchestes signifer (Curculionidae), Challan Hall Allotment, VC60, 12/6, G. Hedges.

- New to VC60. Widespread in Southern half of Britain, becoming scarcer further North.
- Larvae mine Oak leaves.

Glocianus punctiger (Curculionidae), Challan Hall Allotment, VC60, 12/6, G. Hedges (image right).

- New to VC60.
- Associated with Dandelions *Taraxacum*.

Datonychus melanostictus (Curculionidae), Challan Hall Allotment, VC60, 12/6, G. Hedges (image right).

- New to VC60 and at the northern extent of range in the UK. Widespread in Southern Britain.
- On Gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus* and mints *Mentha*.

Tanysphyrus lemnae Duckweed Weevil (Eirrhinidae), Challan Hall Allotment, VC60, 12/6, G. Hedges

- New to VC60. Frequent in Cheshire but few Lancashire records.
- Associated with aquatic and subaquatic plants including duckweeds *Lemna* and the liverwort *Ricciocarpus natans*.

Diplopoda (Millipedes)

-

Diptera (True Flies)

Pegomya incisiva (Anthomyiidae), Challan Hall, Morecambe Bay, VC60, 12/6, P. Brighton.

- 2nd English record and new to the region.
- Associated with fungi.
- Recorded from a Tanyptera Project field day.

Zaphne ambigua (Anthomyiidae), Challan Hall Allotment, VC60, 12/6, P. Brighton. Archive image right (CC BY 2.0) Janet Graham.

- New to VC60. Widely recorded, particularly in western Wales.
- 359 records on NBN Atlas, which is a large number for this under-recorded family of flies.
- 7 other British representatives in the genus but the only larval food data is for *Z. inuncta*: larvae found in pellets of hair ejected from owls.

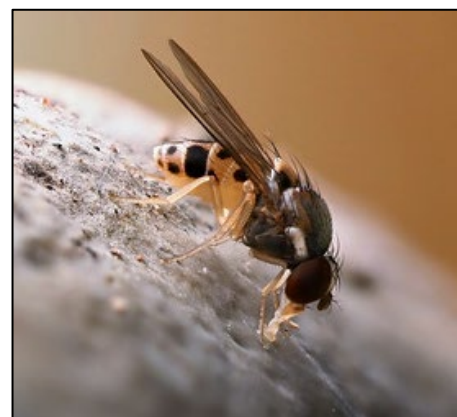
Syntormon submonilis (Dolichopodidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 16/6, P. Brighton

- New to VC59. Just 12 scattered records on NBN Atlas.
- No ecological information readily available online.



Leucophenga maculata (Drosophilidae), Challan Hall, Morecambe Bay, VC60, 12/6, P. Brighton. Archive image (CC BY 2.0) Frank Vassen.

- New to VC60. NBN Atlas does not show any NW England records.
- Associated with fungi.
- Recorded from a Tanyptera Project field day in wooded limestone pavement.



Platyura marginata (Keroplatidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 2/6, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59. UK distribution appears to be mainly western.
- No ecological information readily available online.

Molophilus lackschewitzianus (Limoniidae), Challan Hall, Morecambe Bay, VC60, 12/6, P. Brighton.

- New to VC60. A small orange crane fly associated with limestone sites and known from VC69. Just 58 records currently on NBN Atlas.
- Recorded from a Tanyptera Project field day in wooded limestone pavement.

Boletina pallidula (Mycetophilidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 16/6, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59. Just 16 scattered records on NBN Atlas.
- No ecological information readily available online.

Rivellia syngenesiae (Platystomatidae), Elton Reservoir NW side, Bury, VC59, 14/06, Steven Higginbottom (© image right), Det. D. Bentley

- First record for Greater Manchester and local nationally.
- Found in damp or marshy places and seems to be associated with Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*.



Spania nigra Liverwort Snipefly (Rhagionidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 2/6, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59. Widespread in the UK but considered under-recorded due to small size and habits.
- Associated with liverworts along woodland streams and seepages, cliff seepages and seepages associated with old quarry faces.

Stomorphina lunata Locust Blowfly (Rhiniidae), New Ferry Butterfly Park, Wirral, VC58, 12/6, R. Lowry.

- A distinctive mid-sized blowfly, becoming a more frequent vagrant to North West England.
- The larva predate egg pods of Acrididae (locusts). It is not thought that the species can use any British grasshoppers so UK records are all considered vagrants.



Themira gracilis (Sepsidae), Smithills Estate, VC59, 2/6, P. Brighton.

- New to VC59. Just 29 records on NBN Atlas with those suggestive of a western and northern UK distribution. This is reflected in the global distribution where GBIF records outside of the UK are restricted to NW Europe, mainly in Scandinavian countries.

- No ecological information readily available online.

Chrysotoxum festivum (Syrphidae), Crumpsall, North Manchester, VC59, 14/6, K. Gartside © image right.

- Uncommon in Greater Manchester, in particular the inner city. More common in Southern England.
- Associated with tall grassland and open scrub.



Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

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Hemiptera (True Bugs)

Acalypta carinata (Tingidae), Challan Hall Allotment, VC60, 12/6, G. Hedges (image right).

- Two previous records for the region (1999 & 2011), both from nearby sites in Morecambe Bay.
- Local throughout Britain, in moss on rotting logs.
- Found on Tanyptera Recording Day.

Metatropis rufescens (Berytidae) Challan Hall Allotment, VC60, 12/6, G. Hedges.

- New to VC60 and appears to be at the Northern extent of UK range.
- Feeds on the leaves of enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*.
- Found on Tanyptera Recording Day.



Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies)

Nysson trimaculatus (Crabronidae), Ness Gardens, Wirral, VC58, 24/6, C. Aldridge © image right.

- A Nationally Scarce sand wasp. BWARS holds just 2 other records in VC58, and this area appears near the North West extent of its range in the UK.
- A cleptoparasite of *Gorytes quadrifasciatus* and *G. bicinctus*.



Trypoxylon clavicerum (Crabronidae), Chester Zoo Nature Reserve, VC58, 22/6, C. Aldridge © image right.

- A spider-hunting wasp widespread in most of England and Wales but at the North West extent of range in Cheshire, where there are few previous records.
- Nests are constructed in old insect burrows or galleries in dry wood or hollow plant stems.



Gorytes quadrifasciatus (Crabronidae), Manchester City Training Ground, VC59, 22/6, K. McCartney © image right.

- A single female.
- Appears to be the first record for Greater Manchester. Widely, albeit patchily distributed in England.
- Preys upon adults of *Philaenus spumarius* and possible other leafhoppers. Usually found in sandy places.



Hylaeus signatus (Colletidae), Chester Zoo car park, VC58, 28/6, C. Aldridge © image right.

- A male found sheltering from blustery weather.
- A Nationally Scarce solitary bee most often found at flowers of mignonette and weld.
- First recorded at the same location new to Cheshire in 2019 by L. Dixon, and nowhere else since.



Megachile leachella (Megachilidae), Thurstaston, Wirral, VC58, 17/6, A. Goodwin

- Appears to be new to Cheshire, following a pattern of Northern range limit expansion. Elsewhere in the region known from Sefton Coast (since 2015) and Fleetwood (2019). Nationally Scarce.
- This small, ground-nesting leafcutter bee is mainly associated with coastal sand dunes.

Abia candens (Cimbicidae), Chester Zoo Estate, VC58, 13/6, B. Harris © image right.

- Possibly a first VC58 record and local throughout the UK.
- Larvae associated with scabious
- Thought to be mainly parthenogenetic. Males are seldom found and females produce offspring from unfertilized ova (eggs).



Itoplectis maculator (Pimplinae), Stretton Meadows, Cheshire, VC58, 15/6, B. Formstone © image right.

- This Ichneumon wasp emerged from a fully formed Tortrix pupae of *Tortrix viridana*
- No records for Cheshire on NBN Atlas or iRecord but likely under-recorded. Appears generally widespread in the England.



Meterous ictericus (Braconidae), Stretton Meadows, Cheshire, VC58, 15/6, B. Formstone © image right.

- This Ichneumon wasp emerged from a fully formed Tortrix pupae of *Tortrix viridana*
- No records for Cheshire on NBN Atlas or iRecord but likely under-recorded. Appears generally widespread in the England.



Andricus grossulariae (Cynipidae), Leyland, VC59, 9/6 (galls found), A. Billington (images below).

- Galls found on Turkey Oak reared 6 specimens of the sexual generation of *Andricus grossulariae* (emerged 15/6 (1), 16/6 (1), 19/6 (4)).
- Only arrived in Britain around 2000 and has been spreading north since. This record may represent the first record for the modern county of Lancashire and the most North Westerly in the UK to date. In the region has been found at Huyton (also VC59) and Runcorn (VC58) by S. McWilliam and S. Marley.



Isopoda (Woodlice and their relatives)

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Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isocles* (Aeshnidae), Amberswood Common, Hindley, VC59, 21/6, D. Tyler © image right.

- Adult Male seen on the main lake.
- Thought to be the first record North West record, following the species' rapid UK range expansion.
- Formerly restricted to fens and marshes in East Anglia, and listed as Endangered in the British Odonata Red List 2008.
- Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



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)

Xanthostigma xanthostigma (Raphidiidae), Challan Hall, Morecambe Bay, VC60, 12/6, P. Brighton (archive image right CC BY-NC 2.0 Walwyn)

- Although this species is known from Cheshire, there are no Lancashire records on NBN Atlas or iRecord so this maybe a new VC / County record.
- Snakeflies are thought to spend most of their time in tree tops, which is thought to be why they are so sparingly encountered.



Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

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Zygentoma (Silverfish, Fishmoths, Firebrats)