



Bewdley Forest by W.G.Blatch 1879

CONTRIBUTED BY PAUL READE WITH MICK BLYTHE

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Entomological Rambles in the Midlands

No 1 – Bewdley Forest

In a former paper on "Midland Entomology" I tried to prove, amongst other things, that the oft-repeated statement about the Midland Counties not producing any but the commonest insects was a fallacy. I now propose to take my readers, mentally, to several of the best hunting grounds in the district, especially such as lie within easy reach of Birmingham, and to point out some of the more interesting insects, from a collector's point of view, to be obtained from them.

Foremost amongst these is undoubtedly Bewdley Forest, and we have accordingly chosen that for our first Ramble.

Some "forests" to which I have been introduced are hard to find, and harder to see when you have found them, almost every distinctive feature having been long since swept away by the march of civilization; but this does not apply in the present case, the forest for which we are now bound being perfectly genuine.

Wyre Forest (its right name) is several miles in extent, and is situated between Bewdley, Cleobury Mortimer, and Arley, at the junction of the three counties of Salop, Stafford, and Worcester. Its distance from Birmingham is 22½ miles, and the railway journey occupies (by certain trains) about an hour. There are several ways of entering the forest, those most generally used being the Arley and Bewdley routes. The first is preferred by many Botanists and Entomologists, but the latter is perhaps the best, all things considered; we will therefore follow it on this occasion. Upon leaving the station we make for the fine bridge over the Severn, connecting Wribbenhall with Bewdley, and, having crossed it, turn down the steps on the right and go up the river-side as far as the quaint little church at Dowles. We then cross a bridge, turn sharp to the left, and, by ascending Dowles Brook, soon find ourselves surrounded by dense woods, and busily engaged in our entomological pursuits.

But, in truth, before we had left the side of the river our attention had been arrested by the myriads of dragon-flies, stone-flies, and other insects which sport amongst the rank herbage margining the bank, and our nets had been busily occupied in securing specimens of the pretty little moths, *Emmelesia albulata* and *E. decolorata*, that flit about so softly and yet so merrily amongst the grass, strongly contrasting with the imposing colours, and fussy, whirring flight of the Burnet moths, *Zygaena filipendulae*, and *Z.*

trifolii, which accompany them. The sweeping-net of the Coleopterist has also been vigorously plied whilst walking along, and yielded upon examination quite a host of nice beetles, far "too numerous to mention." Amongst those "bottled" the *Phytophaga preponderate*, and include *Lema puncticollis*, *Crepidodera rufipes*, *Podagrica fuscipes*, *Psylliodes chrysocephala*, *Apteropeda graminis*, and *Coccidula rufa*. The Sternoxi were represented by *Lacon murinus*, *Cryptohypnus quadripustulatus*, *Limonius cylindrus*, *L. minutus*, *Athous haemorrhoidalis*, *A. longicollis*, *Corymbites pectinicornis*, *C. cupreus*, *C. tessellatus*, *C. quercus*, and *C. holosericeus*; *Dasytes plumbeo-niger*, *Oedemera lurida*, *Hedobia imperialis*, and the curious *Notoxus monocerus* are also amongst our captures. Before leaving this spot, being reminded of the beetle-hunter's maxim, "Leave not a stone unturned," we carefully overhaul the stones and rubbish lying beside the river, and are rewarded by finding some good beetles, including *Clivina fossor*, *C. collaris*, *Chlaenius vestitus*, *Stomis pumicatus*, *Trechus discus*, and several species of *Bembidium*. We also find under stones close to and in the water *Orectochilus villosus*, and on the sand and mud *Cryptohypnus riparius*, *C. pulchellus*, *Potamnius substriatus*, and *Parnus prolifericornis*.

By beating the shallows at the mouth of the brook we obtain specimens of *Cryptorhynchus lapathi*, which fall into the umbrella apparently lifeless, and look like dry bird-droppings. We know these actors of old, or we might throw them away, not imagining them to be living beings. From the same trees we obtain those insect gems *Crepidodera nitidula*, *C. helxines*, *C. aurata*, and *C. chloris*, as well as (from alder) *Campylus linearis*. By the side of the brook, on the figworts, *Scrophularia aquatica* and *C. nodosa*, we find the pretty tessellated beetles *Cionus scrophulariae*, *C. hortulanus*, *C. blattariae* and *C. pulchellus*, whilst on the rising ground on the right, by sweeping amongst woodsage, we obtain the compact little *Gonioctena litura*, which, when captured for the first time, is almost always mistaken for a species of *Cryptocephalus*. A few steps further, on the railway bank, real *Cryptocephali* may be found, viz.: *C. aureolus* and *C. moraei*, the latter a pretty shining black insect with orange spots, on *Hypericum perforatum*, sometimes in numbers. On the same plant, and in the same place, we take *Chrysomela varians* and *C. hyperici*. By beating the broom, growing so luxuriantly all around us, we find the larvae of *Pseudopterpna cytisaria* and *Chesias spartiata*, as well as the uncommon (at least in our district) *Apion fuscirostre*. Having left the railway we descend towards the brook again, plucking a handful of moss from the bank as we go. From this we shake out on to a sheet of paper carried for the purpose the curious, almost spider-like weevil *Orobitis cyaneus*, and



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the tiny seed-like *Mniophila muscorum*, besides some Pselaphidae, including *Bryaxis juncorum*, *Pselaphus Heisei*, *Scydmaenus Godarti* and *Cephennium thoracicum*. Stopping to examine some fine plants of the rather rare *Helleborus viridis*, we notice, close by, a dead hedgehog, strongly appealing to our sense of smell, and not in vain, for, knowing that what is so offensive to us is considered a rich treat by certain members of our favourite order of insects, we carefully and expectantly turn it over and examine it, being rewarded for our pains (literal meaning, if you please!) by several fine beetles. Amongst them are two or three species of *Choleva*, the Burying Beetles *Necrophorus humator*, *N. mortuorum* and *N. vespillo*; *Silpha littoralis*, *S. thoracica* and *S. sinuata*, also come forth in plenty; whilst Histers positively abound, and *Nitidula bipustulata*, *Omosita colon* and *O. discoidea*, swarm upon the remains of poor "spiny." Of course there are also a good many "Staphs"- *Aleochara*, &c., but nothing to be specifically noted.

In rising from our unsavoury, but, withal profitable beetle-trap, our attention is riveted on a handsome caterpillar feeding on the hawthorn above us, and which we recognise as the larva of *Trichiura crataegi* (one of the Bombycidae,) which, if we take it home and carefully feed it, will become a moth in August or September, proving an acquisition to our cabinet.

We are now fairly in the forest, and find so much to claim our attention that it is at first somewhat bewildering. A little too early for the Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia*, the dark variety of which, *valezina*, also occurs here; and the Purple Hair-streak, *Thlela quercus*, (of which two or three laggard larvae, which ought to have completed their feeding and changed into pupae before this, have fallen to the beating stick,) we are gladdened with the sight of scores of "Pearl borders," *Argynnis euphrosyne* and *A. selene*, flitting about all around us, the former somewhat worn and showing signs of living beyond its time. Ah! what have we now? Not a Black-veined White, certainly, visions of which have more than once crossed our minds, and which is reported to have been formerly found here; nor a Camberwell Beauty, a butterfly assuredly netted here, once at any rate, not many years ago; but, fluttering in our net, we have a very interesting butterfly, nevertheless, viz., the "Greasy Fritillary," *Melitaea artemis*. This is soon boxed, and the net again in requisition. This time we have taken two curious day-flying moths, "Mother Shipton" and "Mother Shipton's Likeness," *Euclidia mi* and *E. glyphica*, the former having a droll caricature figure of a human face on each fore-wing. Here also is *Phytometra aenea*, likewise a lover of sunshine; and, flitting about in the shady parts of the walks, the prettily speckled Geometer, *Venilia maculata*. Sitting

on the flowers in the hot sunshine, busily sipping their sweets, are several specimens of the small Angle-shades moth, *Euplexia lucipara*, and in yonder shady opening in the wood, moving with ghost-like flight, is the Wood-white butterfly, *Leucophasia sinapis*. Having boxed as many as required of the former, and netted the latter while at rest on a "lady's smock," we pass towards a number of large purplish flowers, descried growing just within the margin of the wood, and which prove to be those of two species of *Geranium*, *G. sanguineum*, and *G. sylvaticum*. Whilst moving towards these, we notice a large and strikingly beautiful moth sitting on an oak leaf, and of course stop to examine it. It is one new to us, and we feel all the thrilling pleasure of a "first find." We gloat over it-the delicately outlined markings, and the silvery, pearly-grey gloss on the wings are inexpressibly exquisite, and a fine crest on the thorax, gently stirred by a passing zephyr, seems to be waved at the will of the insect. It is so lovely, and spreads all its riches of beauty so unsuspectingly before us, that we shrink from the idea of laying violent hands upon it. But the moth is the Silvery Arches, *Aplecta tincta*, and our cabinet hitherto knows not the species! Acquisitiveness overcomes sentiment, and in a moment the rarity is ours! In capturing it (of course you must understand that "perfect coolness" steadied our hands!) we rustle the tree, and out fly two other prizes, by name *Limacodes testudo* and *Lithosia mesomella*, which soon share a similar fate.

Now for the *Geranium* flowers, in which we find, quite in the centre of the blossoms, a chubby, rugose, intensely black-backed, white-bellied little weevil, which feigns death and falls to the ground at your slightest touch of the plant on which it is resting. This is a good catch, and rejoices in the name of *Coeliodes geranii*. We take plenty 'for selves and friends,' but scarcely seem to diminish their numbers. Two, male and female, in one flower, are common, and often three- generally one male and two females -occur in a single bloom. They eat the petals of the flower, and seem to like such fairy-food, as indeed they ought. But, tempting as these little beauties are, we must move on, seeking "fresh fields and pastures new." Lo! here, "where the bee sucks," is fine sport. In front of us is a grand specimen of the Guelder rose in full bloom, and swarming with insects. Where shall we begin, and what shall we take first? Beetles first, decidedly, and Longhorns before everything, and so we attack accordingly. *Clytus arietis*, *Rhagium inquisitor*, *R. bifasciatum*, *Toxotus meridienuis*, *Pachyta collaris*, *P. octomaculata*, *Strangalia quadrifasciata*, *S. armata*, *Leptura livida* and *Grammoptera ruficornis* - all are here, and all are captured. Some of them so covered with pollen-dust that it is hard, at first sight, to tell what they are. This is particularly the case with *Pachyta*



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collaris, which, instead of his usual genteel blue-black coat and red waistcoat, looks as if he had been made tipsy and then rolled in a baker's trough, "for a lark." We are glad to have him, though, and feel already more than satisfied with our success. There is, however, more work yet to be done before retracing our steps. But first let us think of responding to an increasingly powerful appeal from the "inner man," and, with that view, make bold to enter the house at Cooper's Mill, placed hereabouts as if on purpose to meet our gastronomic requirements. Mrs. Weaver, always kind and obliging, provides a bountiful supply of ham and eggs, and brews some excellent tea, upon which, with plenty of her own home-made bread, we regale ourselves with the relish inspired by good fare and keen appetites.

Having indulged in a fair amount of rest and refreshment, we long to resume our charming and instructive ramble, and are soon out again amongst the insects, at the first step meeting with "good things." One of the lads here brings us a fine male specimen of the Stag beetle, *Lucanus cervus*. Just outside the door, close by the Mill, two species of *Dyschirius* turn up, viz., *D. politus* and *D. globosus*; and, in the same place, troops of *Steni*, like soldiers clad in close-fitting armour, some of them having their lead-coloured wing-cases relieved with orange spots, are marching busily to and fro; amongst them we recognise (and capture) the aristocratic-looking *Dianous caeruleus*, *Stenus biguttatus*, *S. bipunctatus*, *S. guttula*, *S. bimaculatus*, *S. Juno*, and others. The neat and extremely active little *Bembidium articulatum* abounds, as also do *Elaphrus riparius* and *E. cupreus*. Flying around a willow by the mill-stream are numerous specimens of *Hoplia philanthus*, and from the same kind of trees a little further on are beaten two species of *Clythra* - *tridentata* and *quadripunctata*, the first-named being quite a red-letter capture. From nut and alder we beat *Phyllobius calcaratus*, and *C. pyri*; from birch, *Apoderus coryli*, *Zeugophora subspinosa*, and the marvellously beautiful larva of the scarce Vapourer moth, *Orgyia gonostigma*; and from young oak, *Attelabus curculionoides*.

On the large flowers of the "Moon-daisy" we find *Strangalia melanura* and *Grammoptera tabacicolor* - two desirable Longhorns; and on the milk-weed, (spurge,) especially by the brook-side, *Strangalia nigra*. Some species of *Donacia* are sunning themselves on the flags and Potamogetons, but we content ourselves with securing *D. bidens* and *D. typhae*; the latter bears a purplish-coppery streak on each elytron, and is rather scarce in our parts. Amongst the stones by the brook swarms of *Bembidia* disport themselves, and examples of the following species are captured:- *B. obtusum*, *aeneum*, *Mannerheimi*, *decorum*, *monticola*, *brunnipes*, *tibiale*, *atrocaeruleum*, *bruxellense*, *flammulatum*,

varium, *punctulatum*, &c., and in company with them a beetle new to us: it is red and black, runs with its tail curled over its back, and looks vastly like a *Myrmedonia*. To catch it and put it in a small glass tube is a momentary operation; the pocket-lens is then brought to bear on it, and we discover that our new friend is *Deleaster dichrous*, another name to be recorded in red ink. A bit further up the brook, on a spot from which every breath of wind is excluded by the encompassing woods, and where the sun's rays seem to actually broil us, are more good things, calling for the further use of "ink of sanguine hue!" What have we found now? Why, that graceful, girl-like beetle, with the slender waist, *Tachyusa constricta*, which we have not seen since taking it by the Mole at Leatherhead, and in company with it is the most curious and droll of all small beetles. Stoop down and look at it. You cannot see it? Lie down on the sandy bank of the stream and look closely. Do you now see a number of small grains of mud moving slowly about as if endowed with life? See, they march to and fro, hither and thither, evidently controlled by some hidden intelligence, and mark how certain of them seem to possess a powerful attraction for each other. As long as you lie quiet and look on, their activity appears rather to increase, but put forth your hand and touch the ground on which they move, and instantly all is still. Take one up as soon as it begins again to stir, and examine it: you will find upon rubbing it gently between your fingers, and thus removing the mud-case enclosing it, a small, roundish, rather long-legged, coarsely-punctured, black beetle, about three-quarters of a line in length, the *Georyssus pygmaeus* of naturalists. It always covers itself with a coating of mud in this droll way - no doubt finding some advantage in it - not improbably protection from its active little neighbour *Tachyusa constricta*, and the hosts of *Lycosae* and other spiders that watch and hunt for prey in the damp places in which it loves to dwell. This amusing though diminutive beetle is the only representative of its family and genus in this country, and is generally considered to be a coast insect; besides on this spot, I have taken it only at Luccomb Chine, in the Isle of Wight.

Having bottled as many *constricta* and *pygmaeus* as required, and the stooping posture having made our heads and backs ache, let us for a few minutes assume the recumbent attitude on yonder heather-clad and shady slope, previous to breaking fresh ground. What is the matter? Ants? "Yes; and how they bite!" But never mind; even ants have their entomological uses. Where's their nest? Under this stone, perhaps; so over it goes! And what do we see? Not only ants, but positively some of those curious beetles of which we have often heard as inhabiting ants' nests are here - *Dinarda Markeli*,



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Atemeles emarginatus, *Myrmedonia humeralis* and *M. canaliculata*. Well, we have our revenge upon the ants for their keen bitings; but suppose we make other reprisals before abandoning them? Let us attack that large nest on the right, first tying our sleeves tightly at the wrists, and tucking our trousers in our socks, to prevent the ants making unpleasant reprisals upon us. Spreading a large sheet of paper on a convenient heather bush some distance from the nest, we advance upon the enemy, and boldly and quickly plunge our hands into the midst of their citadel, part of which we take away and carefully shake over the paper. This operation is repeated two or three times, care being of course taken not to destroy the nest, and upon reckoning up our captures we find ourselves in possession of more *Dinarda* and *Myrmedonia*, *Megacronus inclinans*, *Thiasophila angulata*, *Oxypoda formicetorum*, *Myrmetes piceus*, *Monotoma angusticollis* and hosts of *Homalotae*. From the mouth of one of the ants we took a fine specimen of *Myrmedonia humeralis*, much larger than itself, which it appeared to be carrying, with affectionate care, to a place of safety. Gladly would we renew the combat, but, remembering that "discretion is the better part of valour," we desist. (To tell the plain truth, the ants are too many and too active for us, and we feel compelled to retreat!) Upon reaching neutral territory we rest ourselves, pick off the stray ants which persist in following and worrying us, and examine by means of our glasses the queer-looking beetles captured from their friends, (or enslavers, as the case may be,) and which, but for our interference, would probably have passed the rest of their lives in the midst of a colony of *Formica rufa*, in comparative darkness, and surrounded with an atmosphere of formic acid. Looking through your glass you observe that such of the beetles as are peculiar to ants' nests, as *Dinarda*, *Atemeles*, &c., have their armour-plates, so to speak, sculptured in a special style, the whole upper surface of the body, especially the thorax and elytra, being beautifully chased in such perfection of execution as to shame even the most skilful worker in fine gold, who, were he willing, might learn valuable art lessons from these obscure and despised insects.

The questions you naturally ask as to the reason why of these beetles being domiciled with the ants are not easily answered. What the connection between them is -whether the ants attract the beetles, or the beetles fascinate the ants -whether the motives of either or both are those of friendliness or self-interest -is at present involved in mystery. It has been observed, as we ourselves have seen, that the ants certainly manifest some degree of attachment to their guests, and we know that, though very destructive to insects generally, they cherish these particular species with praiseworthy

devotion and care. The subject is one of much interest, and the temptation to pursue it almost irresistible, but we must choose some other opportunity to speculate upon it. Both time and insects fly, and if we stop to talk now we shall soon find the hour of departure close upon us, and our entomological sport curtailed. Let us, then, now cross the brook and ascend the wooded hill, beating the birches and other trees as we go. Here are various species of *Rhynchites* in abundance - *R. pubescens* being one of them - and on the leaves of young oaks the curious and active *Agrilus viridis*, which must be bottled quickly, or it will be gone. By beating a crab tree we secured a specimen of the remarkable pupa of *Ledra aurita*, a fine name by which entomologists recognise a rather rare member of the "bug" tribe; from a small grove of young aspens we obtain *Saperda populnea*, *Gonioctena rufipes*, and *G. viminalis*; the fallows close by yield a new Longhorn beetle, which it is a great pleasure to see, viz., *Liopus nebulosus*, as well as some larvae of *Notodonta ziczac*. In beating the margin of the wood a number of moths are disturbed, and amongst others, are recognised and secured *Angerona prunaria*, *Melanthia albicillata*, *Melanippe hastata*, and the very pretty *Ennychia octomaculalis*. After disposing of these, we examine the proceeds of our beating exertions, and find lots of nice things, including the stick-like larvae of *Phigalia pilosaria* and *Amphydasis prodromaria*; two odd-looking spiders, *Epeira bicornis* and *E. conica*, and a perfect swarm of wood-ants, which manifest an almost boy-like predilection for climbing up every available tree. On the flowers of a rhododendron, by the side of a small stream, are observed a number of gaily-decorated little moths, busily engaged sipping nectar, and as they prove to be *Anarta myrtilli* - a species that is "wanted" - we carefully box a few specimens. Turning over two or three stones lying near us brings to light a single example of the elegant beetle *Cychnus rostratus*, together with specimens of the glow-worm, *Lampyrus noctiluca*, the female still bearing the semblance of its larva-hood, and the male looking like a beetle "Friend" in his straight-cut suit of sober brown-black. This species may be taken abundantly in the forest at night - the females amongst the herbage, and the males flying - both of them exhibiting their wonderful light, that of the female, however, being by far the most intense. I have found larvae of this insect feeding on living snails, *Helix aspersa* and *H. nemoralis*.

Our steps are now resolutely set in the direction of the keeper's cottage, where we propose to take tea previous to quitting this fascinating region. But our resolution is soon put to the test and found wanting; for, although our success has been beyond our hopes, we are not able to pass by a likely-looking beetle-trap



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without subjecting it to examination. Hence that group of suspended moles, dead and dry, is tapped over the inverted umbrella, and lo! quite a shower of the beautifully tinted *Dermestes murinus* drop out. Those rotting fragments of an old saddle must also be looked over with care. What! Insects there? Yes! here is *Trox sabulosus*, sixteen fine specimens, in appearance like bits of caked mud. That these apparently inanimate objects are endowed with vitality certainly seems open to question, until, holding one upside-down between your fingers and applying gentle pressure laterally, you see the abdomen slightly move and hear a sound almost like the wailing of a sickly infant.

But we really must not linger over this wailing mimic; our time has nearly run out, and tea and train must now occupy the leading place in our thoughts to the exclusion of beetles and butterflies. It is hard, however, to drag ourselves away from the many attractions by which we are surrounded here, and only when a sort of compromise is mentally entered into, to the effect that we will take the first opportunity of returning, do we, reluctantly yielding to the force of circumstances, consent to rejoin the current of social life, which during one day, we seem to have quitted for Fairy Land.

List of species mentioned in the article compiled by Mick Blythe, with additional notes about the Lepidoptera from Tony Simpson.

Lepidoptera

- Amphydasis prodromaria* now *Biston strataria* (Geometridae). Oak Beauty.
- Anarta myrtilis* (Noctuidae) Beautiful Yellow Underwing
- Angerona prunaria* (Geometridae) Orange Moth
- Aplecta tincta* now *Polia trimaculosa* (Noctuidae) Silvery Arches. Last Wyre record 1989.
- Argynnis euphrosyne* now *Boloria euphrosyne* (Nymphalidae) Pearl-bordered Fritillary
- Argynnis paphia* (Nymphalidae) Silver-washed Fritillary. No records of *valezina* from Wyre in recent years.
- Argynnis selene* now *Boloria selene* (Nymphalidae) Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
- Chesias spartiata* now *Chesias legatella* (Geometridae) Streak
- Emmelesia albulata* now *Perizoma albulata* (Geometridae) Grass Rivulet
- Emmelesia decolorata* now *Perizoma flavofasciata* (Geometridae) Sandy Carpet
- Ennychia octomaculalis* now *Anania funebris* (Crambidae) White-spotted Sable. UK BAP Nationally Notable A.
- Euclidia glyphica* (Erebidae) Burnet Companion
- Euclidia minow* now *Callisteges mi* (Noctuidae) Mother Shipton
- Euplexia lucipara* (Noctuidae) Small Angle Shades

- Leucophasia sinapis* now *Leptidea sinapis* (Pieridae) Wood White
- Limacodes testudo* now *Apoda limacodes* (Limacodidae) Festoon. This is the only Wyre record
- Lithosia mesomella* now *Cybosia mesomella* (Arctiidae) Four-dotted Footman
- Melanippe hastate* now *Rheumaptera hastata* (Geometridae) Argent and Sable. UK BAP. Last Wyre record 2002.
- Melanthia albicillata* now *Mesoleuca albicillata* (Geometridae) Beautiful Carpet
- Melitaea artemis* now *Euphydryas aurinia* (Nymphalidae) Marsh Fritillary
- Notodonta ziczac* (Notodontidae) Pebble Prominent
- Orygia gonostigma* now *Orygia recens* (Lymantriidae) Scarce Vapourer. Vulnerable UK BAP. Last Wyre record 1924.
- Phigalia pilosaria* (Geometridae) Pale Brindled Beauty
- Phytometra aenea* now *Phytometra viridaria* (Erebidae) Small Purple-barred
- Pseudopteryx cytisaria* now *Pseudopteryx pruinata* (Geometridae) Grass Emerald. Last Wyre record 1978.
- Thecla Quercus* now *Neozephyrus quercus* (Lycaenidae) Purple Hairstreak
- Trichiura crataegi* (Lasiocampidae) Pale Eggar
- Venilia maculate* now *Pseudopanthera macularia* (Geometridae) Speckled Yellow
- Zygaena filipendulae* (Zygaenidae) Six-spot Burnet
- Zygaena trifolii* (Zygaenidae) Five-spot Burnet - probably Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet

Hemiptera

- Ledra aurita* (Cicadellidae) What is meant by a pupa?

Coleoptera

- Taxonomy quoted according to: A. G. Duff (2012), Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2nd Edition Pemberley Books. The Wyre Forest database (WFdb) of biological records is held by the Wyre Forest Study Group and is a subset of that held by the Worcestershire Biological Records Centre.
- Agrilus viridis* (Buprestidae) Beech Splendour Beetle, wood borer. Nationally Notable A. No records in WFdb.
- Aleochara* sp. (Staphylinidae).
- Apion fuscirostre* now *Exapion fuscirostre* (Apionidae) Broom Seed Weevil. Last recorded 1984.
- Apoderus coryli* (Attelabidae) Hazel Leaf-roller Weevil Recent records
- Apteropoda graminis* now *Chrysolina graminis* (Chrysomelidae) Tansy Beetle. Nationally Notable A. No records in WFdb
- Atemeles emarginatus* now *Lomechusa emarginata* (Staphylinidae). Nationally Notable. No records in the WFdb.
- Athous haemorrhoidalis* (Elateridae).
- Athous longicollis* now *Athous bicolor* (Elateridae)
- Attelabus curculionoides* now *Attelabus nitens* (Attelabidae). Oak Leaf Roller
- Bembidium aeneum* now *Bembidium aeneum* (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.



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Bembidium articulatum now *Bembidion articulatum* (Carabidae)

Bembidium atrocaeruleum now *Bembidion atrocaeruleum* (Carabidae)

Bembidium brunnipe Species not traced possibly *Acupalpus brunnipes*? *A. brunnipes* is Nationally Notable A. No records in WFdb.

Bembidium bruxellense now *Bembidion bruxellense* (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.

Bembidium decorum now *Bembidion decorum* (Carabidae)

Bembidium flammulatum now *Bembidion dentellum* (Carabidae)

Bembidium Mannerheimi now *Bembidion mannerheimii* (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.

Bembidium monticola now *Bembidion monticola* (Carabidae). Nationally Notable B. No records in WFdb.

Bembidium obtusum now *Bembidion obtusum* (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.

Bembidium punctulatum now *Bembidion punctulatum* (Carabidae)

Bembidium tibiale now *Bembidion tibiale* (Carabidae)

Bembidium varium now *Bembidion varium* (Carabidae)

Bryaxis juncorum now *Reichenbachia juncorum* (Staphylinidae). No records in the WF database .

Campylus linearis now *Denticollis linearis* (Elateridae)

Cephennium thoracicum now *Cephennium gallicum* (Staphylinidae) .No records in WFdb.

Chlaenius vestitus (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.

Chrysomela hyperici now *Chrysolina hyperici* (Chrysomelidae)

Chrysomela varians now *Chrysolina varians* (Chrysomelidae)

Cionus blattariae now *Cionus alauda* (Curculionidae)

Cionus hortulanus (Curculionidae). No records in WFdb.

Cionus pulchellus now *Cleopus pulchellus* (Curculionidae). No records in WFdb.

Cionus scrophulariae (Curculionidae)

Clivina collaris (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.

Clivina fossor (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.

Clythra pyri (Chrysomelidae). Species name not traced.

Clythra quadripunctata now *Clythra quadripunctata* (Chrysomelidae)

Clythra tridentata now *Labidostomis tridentata* (Chrysomelidae). No records in WFdb.

Clytus arietis (Cerambycidae) Wasp Beetle

Coccidula rufa (Coccinellidae)

Coeliodes geranii now *Zakladus geranii* (Curculionidae)

Meadow Cranesbill Weevil

Corymbites cupreus now *Ctenicera cuprea* (Elateridae)

Corymbites holosericeus now *Prosternon tessellatum* (Elateridae) Chequered Click Beetle

Corymbites pectinicornis now *Ctenicera pectinicornis* (Elateridae). Nationally Notable A.

Corymbites Quercus now *Aplotarsus incanus* (Elateridae)

Corymbites tessellatus now *Actenicerus sjaelandicus* (Elateridae) Marsh Click Beetle. No records in WFdb.

Crepidodera aurata (Chrysomelidae) Willow Flea Beetle

Crepidodera chloris now *Crepidodera plutus* (Chrysomelidae)

Crepidodera helxines now *Crepidodera aurea* (Chrysomelidae)

Crepidodera nitidula (Chrysomelidae). Nationally Notable B. No records in WFdb.

Crepidodera rufipes now *Derocrepis rufipes* (Chrysomelidae). No records in WFdb.

Cryptocephalus aureoles (Chrysomelidae). Nationally Notable B. No records in WFdb.

Cryptocephalus moraei (Chrysomelidae). No records in WFdb.

Cryptohypnus pulchellus now *Negastris pulchellus* (Elateridae). Vulnerable. No records in WFdb.

Cryptohypnus quadripustulatus now *Oedostethus quadripustulatus* (Elateridae). No records in WFdb.

Cryptohypnus riparius now *Hypnoidus riparius* (Elateridae)

Cryptorhynchus lapathi (Curculionidae) Withy Weevil. Nationally Notable B. No records in WFdb.

Cychnus rostratus now *Cychnus caraboides* ssp *rostratus* (Carabidae)

Dasytes plumbeo-niger now *Dasytes niger* (Dasytidae) .Nationally Notable A. No records in WFdb.

Deleaster dichrous (Staphylinidae). Nationally Notable B.

Dermestes murinus (Dermestidae). No records in WFdb.

Dianous coeruleus (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.

Dinarda Markeli now *Dinarda maerkeli* (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.

Donacia bidens (Chrysomelidae) now *Donacia versicolore*

Donacia typhi now *Donacia vulgaris* (Chrysomelidae). No records in WFdb.

Dyschirius globosus (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.

Dyschirius politus (Carabidae)

Elaphrus cupreus (Carabidae)

Elaphrus riparius (Carabidae)

Georyssus pygmaeus now *Georissus crenulatus* (Georissidae). No records in WFdb.

Gonioctena litura (Chrysomelidae). Species name not traced.

Gonioctena rufipes now *Gonioctena decemnotata* (Chrysomelidae). Nationally Notable B.

Gonioctena viminalis (Chrysomelidae)

Grammoptera ruficornis (Cerambycidae)

Grammoptera tabacicolor now *Alosterna tabacicolor* (Cerambycidae)

Hedobia imperialis (Anobiidae). Nationally Notable B. No records in WFdb.

Hoplia philanthus (Rutelidae) Welsh Chafer

Lacon murinus now *Agrypnus murinus* (Elateridae)

Lampyrus noctiluca (Lampyridae) Glow worm

Lema puncticollis now *Lema cyanella* (Chrysomelidae)

Leptura livida now *Pseudovadonia livida* (Cerambycidae). No records in WFdb.

Limonium cylindricus now *Cidnopus aeruginosus* (Elateridae). No records in WFdb.



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Limonium minutus now *Kibunea minuta* (Elateridae)
Liopus nebulosus now *Leiopus nebulosus* (Cerambycidae)
Lucanus cervus (Lucanidae) Stag beetle. BAP species.
Megacronus inclinans now *Parabolitobius inclinans* (Staphylinidae)
Mniophila muscorum (Chrysomelidae) Moss Flea Beetle. Nationally Notable B.
Monotoma angusticollis (Monotomidae). Rare. No records in WFdb.
Myrmedonia canaliculata now *Drusilla canaliculata* (Staphylinidae)
Myrmedonia humeralis now *Pella humeralis* (Staphylinidae)
Myrmetes piceus now *Myrmetes paykulli* (Histeridae). Nationally Notable B. No records in WFdb.
Necrophorus humator now *Nicrophorus humator* (Silphidae) Black Sexton Beetle
Necrophorus mortuorum now *Nicrophorus vespilloides* (Silphidae)
Necrophorus vespillo now *Nicrophilus vespillo* (Silphidae) Common Burying Beetle
Nitidula bipustulata now *Nitidula bipunctata* (Nitidulidae) Two-spotted Carrion Beetle. No records in WFdb.
Notoxus monoceros (Anthicidae) Monoceros Beetle
Oedemera lurida (Oedemeridae)
Omosita colon (Nitidulidae). No records in WFdb.
Omosita discoidea (Nitidulidae). No records in WFdb.
Orectochilus villosus (Gyrinidae) Hairy Whirligig Beetle
Orobitis cyaneus (Curculionidae). Violet Weevil
Oxypoda formicetorum (Staphylinidae) Species not traced. Perhaps *Oxypoda formiceticola*, *Stenus formicetorum* or *Eutheia formicetorum*.
Pachyta collaris now *Dinoptera collaris* (Cerambycidae) Endangered. No records in WFdb.
Pachyta octomaculata now *Leptura quadrifasciata* (Cerambycidae)
Parnus prolifericornis now *Dryops luridus* (Dryopidae). No records in WFdb.
Phyllobius calcaratus now *Phyllobius glaucus* (Curculionidae)
Podagrica fuscipes (Chrysomelidae). Mallow Flea Beetle. Nationally Notable A. No records in WFdb.
Potamnius substriatus now *Pomatinus substriatus* (Dryopidae) Vulnerable. No records in WFdb.
Pselaphus Heisei now *Pselaphus heisei* (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.
Psylliodes chrysocephala (Chrysomelidae) Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle. No records in WFdb.
Rhagium bifasciatum (Cerambycidae)
Rhagium inquisitor (Cerambycidae)
Rhynchites pubescens now *Lasioryhynchites cavifrons* (Rhynchitidae). Nationally Notable B.
Saperda populnea (Cerambycidae)
Scydmaenus Godarti now *Stenichnus godarti* (Staphylinidae). Rare. No records in WFdb.
Silpha littoralis now *Necrodes littoralis* (Silphidae) Shore Sexton Beetle

Silpha sinuate now *Thanatophilus sinuatus* (Silphidae). No records in WFdb.
Silpha thoracica now *Oiceoptoma thoracicum* (Silphidae)
Stenus biguttatus (Staphylinidae)
Stenus bimaculatus (Staphylinidae)
Stenus bipunctatus now *Stenus comma* (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.
Stenus guttula (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.
Stenus Juno (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.
Stomis pumicatus (Carabidae). No records in WFdb.
Strangalia armata now *Rutpela maculata* (Cerambycidae)
Strangalia melanura now *Stenurella melanura* (Cerambycidae)
Strangalia nigra now *Stenurella nigra* (Cerambycidae). Nationally Notable A.
Strangalia quadrifasciata now *Leptura quadrifasciata* (Cerambycidae)
Tachyusa constricta (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.
Thiasophila angulate (Staphylinidae). No records in WFdb.
Toxotus meridianus now *Stenocorus meridianus* (Cerambycidae)
Trechus discus now *Blemus discus* (Carabidae). Nationally Notable B.
Trox sabulosus (Trogidae). Nationally Notable A. No records in WFdb.
Zeugophora subspinosa (Megalopodidae). No records in WFdb.

Spiders

Epeira bicornis now *Gibbaranea gibbosa* (Araneidae)
Epeira conica now *Cyclosa conica* (Araneidae)

Molluscs

Helix aspersa now *Cornu aspersum* (Helicidae)
Helix nemoralis now *Cepaea nemoralis* (Helicidae)

Notes on the Coleoptera mentioned in Entomological Rambles in the Midlands by W. G. Blatch by John Bingham

Blatch's visit to Wyre Forest was certainly rewarding if the language used in the report is rather vivid and hardly in keeping with modern day nature conservation ethics. The list included some interesting species that the Wyre Forest Study Group (WFGS) has discussed and often wondered if they were still in the forest today. Here are a few to consider;

Ctenicera pectinicornis (Elateridae) is a large black click beetle that thankfully is still occasionally recorded in the forest today. Records are rather few, so the click beetle is worth noting if discovered.

Lucanus cervus, (Lucanidae), the stag beetle. A possible record, as a larvae, of this BAP species was found a few years ago at Newalls meadows by John Mекlejohn, but no records of adult beetle have been seen for decades.



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It would be a great discovery for the WFSG to re-find it. Recent records of the beetle do occur in south Worcestershire. (see PTES).

Chrysolina graminis (Chrysomelidae), Tansy Beetle. A large, iridescent green leaf beetle. Now a conservation priority species in England and restricted to just on area along the banks of the river Ouse near York. (Buglife).

Dasytes niger (Dasytidae). A small, black, soft-winged flower beetle. Now restricted to south-central England and no recent records from the Wyre Forest area. Typically seen on various flowers in spring and summer.

Pseudovadonia livida (Cerambycidae), this longhorn beetle has larvae that feed on the mycelium of the fungus *Marasmius oreades* (fairy ring champignon). No recent records have been made from Wyre Forest but it has been recorded recently from Wenlock Edge. Look for it on umbellifers such as hogweed or carrot in June.

Stenurella nigra (Cerambycidae). This black longhorn was recorded by Norman Hickin in the 1970's and Colin Plant in the 1990's but has not been seen recently. It's a species we have been looking out for but so far it has eluded us! It is said to feed on wood spurge flowers in May. (Hickin 1975)

Dinoptera collaris (Cerambycidae). Another target longhorn species for the WFSG but so far no luck. It is a dark blue colour but with a red thorax and feeds on flowers in May and June, it should be obvious but we have yet to find it.

Rhagium inquisitor, (Cerambycidae). Finally a longhorn

that is a species of ancient pine woodland in Scotland, it could have been introduced to Wyre Forest with the conifer planting. We have no confirmed records although John Mekilejohn did record a specimen at Hawkbatch a few years ago. Unfortunately we don't have any photograph or specimen to confirm his find.

References

www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/tansy-beetle#sthash.6b1kObvu.dpuf

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PTES Stag Beetle Fact Sheet http://www.ptes.org/files/728_stag-beetle_factsheet.pdf



Stag Beetles found by Blatch labelled Rope Walk, Bewdley (From the Blatch collection in Birmingham Museum's Trust, with permission).

Photo Mike Bloxham



Modern entomologists in action, from left Rosemary Hill, Joe Botting, Jane Scott, Frances Finch, Brett Westwood (kneeling), Ron Boyce (in front), John Cox, Roy Finch, Matthew Lissimore. Dave Scott, Susan Limbrey, Mick Blythe.

Rosemary Winnall