LEICESTERSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Recent records of scarce VC55 beetles (part 2)

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Rhinocyllus conicus – Graham Calow

LESOPS 34 (April 2017)

ISSN 0957 - 1019

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Introduction

Following on from LESOPS 31 (Finch, 2015), this issue updates information gathered during 2015 and 2016 when seven new species for VC55 were found: *Anotylus mutator, Philonthus spinipes, Agrilus cyanescens, Mycetochara humeralis*, *Chrysolina herbacea, Involvulus caeruleus* and *Cyanapion gyllenhalii*. Of the 94 species mentioned below, 24 had previously been listed in LESOPS 31 leaving 70 species worthy of mention since that publication. Where species have been previously discussed in LESOPS 31, the text has purposely been kept short.

A study on carabid beetles in hedgerows was not noted in LESOPS 31 which merits attention (Brown, 2003). A pitfall study was carried out on the Co-operative Wholesale Agricultural Farm at Little Stretton (SK663011) over a 20 week period between 14 July and 23 November 1999 with traps operating for seven days. A total of 1,819 individuals of 31 carabid taxa were examined with two species being of VC55 significance (*Amara lucida, Ocys quinquestriatus*). The records were somehow not integrated into Derek Lott's database (although he did check the specimens) so the records were not made easily available elsewhere. These data have now been added and the species are included in the VC55 checklist.

- ***Ocys quinquestriatus*** Gyllenhal 1810: third record for VC55. Reported as *Bembidion* by Brown
- ***Amara lucida*** Duftschmid 1812: first record for VC55

[For a more thorough Introduction see LESOPS 31 available as a free download from the NatureSpot Website (look under Groups and Links: http://www.naturespot.org.uk/home.]

Identification of beetles

It is not the intention of this paper to exhaustively describe the ways in which beetles are identified. Instead a list of relevant publications is appended which should aid in such recording.

Dytiscidae

Liopterus haemorrhoidalis Leach 1815 (6.3-7.9mm)

The latest record is from Charnwood Lodge NR (2016, GL Finch) bringing the total to six. Found in streams, ditches and debris filled ponds.

Scarodytes halensis Fabricius 1787 (3.8-4.3mm)

Although there are 31 records for this species, it has been included here as the last record was 22 years ago. This latest record came from moth trapping session at Essendine Embankment (July 2016, AP Russell).

Carabidae

Cicindella campestris Linnaeus 1758 (12-17 mm; Fig 1) VC55 **R**

More details in LESOPS 31. Included here as a new site, being well away from all previous others, the beetle was found at Bardon Hill in 2016 (GL Finch).

Ophonus ardosiacus Curtis 1829 (9.5-11.5 mm; Fig 2) VC55 **RNa (RDB1)**

This is the second VC55 record, the first being Rutland Water 2001 (J Wright). Taken at Sapcote June 2015 (G Calow; det Richard Wright). Usually found on calcareous soils in open settings, often in the ripening seeds of Wild Carrot. Attracted to MV light.

Syntomus foveatus Geoffroy in Fourcroy 1785 (3.2-3.8 mm; Fig 3)

Included here as being a species not often found in VC55 with only 11 records. Previous records are from 2003 and before that 1999. In June and October 2016 taken at Bradgate Park (GL Finch) where it was first recorded by Frederick Bates 1848-1895.

Hydrophilidae

Berosus signaticollis Charpentier 1825 (4.8-60mm; Fig 4) VC55 **RNb**

First recorded by DA Lott at Saddington Reservoir (May 1990), this species was recovered from a small well-vegetated pond on the Shenton Estate near Market Bosworth (September 2016, GL Finch). Most likely to be found in acidic pools and often in heathy areas.

Enochrus quadripunctatus Herbst 1797 (4.7-5.8mm; Fig 5)

A total of nine records, the latest coming from a MV light trap on the Essendine Embankment (July 2016, AP Russell). Although it prefers shallow water, it is now recognised that this species is attracted to light, so one to be aware of for anyone operating a moth trap.

Histeridae

Saprinus semistriatus Scriba 1790 (3.5-5.5 mm; Fig 6)

Found at Ullesthorpe (June 2015, G Calow; det Richard Wright). Again at Bradgate Park (June 2016, GL Finch) coming from a dead deer corpse, a medium this species seems to prefer. Just six records for this species.

Leiodidae

Catops coracinus Kellner 1846 (3.0-4.0 mm; Fig 7)

First recorded on two occasions by DA Lott from Ulverscroft NR (1989), the next record came from Great Merrible Wood by the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust (1994). Six additional records came from the Buddon Wood complex in 2011 (A Godfrey) with a tenth record from a Malaise trap set at Egleton Meadows, Rutland Water NR (April 2016). The habitats are damp litter piles, animal nests and carrion.

Silphidae

Oiceoptoma thoracicum Linnaeus 1758 (11.0-16.0 mm; Fig 8)

Although there are 10 records for this species there is quite a gap from the 1972 Buddon Wood record to the latest from Pickworth Great Wood (July 2015, C Mills; det Richard Wright). Seemingly quite scarce in VC55, it can be found anywhere there is carrion for it to feed on.

Staphylinidae

Cilea silphoides Linnaeus 1767 (3.0-4.0 mm Fig 9)

The two previous records for this species are Leicestershire 1894-1896 (JH Woolley) and the Victoria County History for Leicester (Bouskell, 1907). This is a very small beetle with a preference for horse dung, manure heaps or other decaying matter; found when sieving horse dung from a field near Saddington Reservoir (2016, GL Finch).

Tachinus proximus Kraatz 1855 (6.0-8.0 mm)

DA Lott recorded this species at Swithland Wood (1986) and Groby (1988) with a further record from Quorn (2011, A Godfrey). Taken at Bradgate Park by the author (2016).

Aleochara intricata Mannerheim 1830 (3.0-5.5 mm)

First recorded in Bradgate Park by F Bates 1895 and then by CE Tottenham 1947 (location as Leicestershire). A further two records were made by DA Lott from Rutland (1985) followed by a Barrow upon Soar record in 1992 (DA Lott). The latest record comes from Bradgate Park April 2015 (SA Lane).

Philhygra britteni Joy 1913 (2.2-2.5mm)

The initial record for this species came from Bishops Meadow, Loughborough 1996 when taken by S Mousley (det DA Lott) where it was found again in 2015 by M Telfer at three different locations on this classic site. Although the first record states Bishops Meadow the grid reference puts the observation at the far north-west area of the "Big Meadows". These four records makes the site the sole location for this very restricted beetle.

Lomechusa emarginata Paykull 1789 (4.3mm; Fig 10)

Having only previously been known from Ketton Quarry NR (1994) and twice from Buddon Wood (2011), SF Woodward and H Ikin recorded the beetle at Cottesmore in May 2016 in the nest of *Myrmica rubra*. Females live in the nests of *Formica* ants where the larvae feed and develop; adults then leave to find nests of *Myrmica* ants. Once the beetles are accepted by the ants they get carried into the nest. *Myrmica* ants have overwintering larvae and provide the beetles with an abundant food supply. The following spring the beetles leave the *Myrmica* nests to find *Formica* nests.

Anotylus mutator Lohse 1963 (3.5-4.5mm)

Added new to VC55 by SA Lane when found at Bradgate Park in 2015. Added to the British list by Hammond in 1968, it is widespread and found on dung, carrion and marsh litter.

Bledius gallicus Gravenhorst 1806 (4.0-5.0mm) VC55 **R**

Only three VC55 records the first coming from Quorn May 1992 followed by Loughborough Big Meadows in May 2006 both by DA Lott. Taken at a Malaise trap at Egleton Meadows, Rutland Water NR in July 2015 (GL Finch).

Lobrathium multipunctum Gravenhorst 1802 (6.0-7.0mm)

All but one of the five VC55 records for this beetle come from the Charnwood Forest (three state Bradgate Park). The records are Charnwood Forest 1844 (HW Bates; this could well be Bradgate Park), Bradgate Park 1848-1895 (F Bates), Bradgate Park 1980 (H Broughton), Farley Way Pond, Quorn and the latest, from Bradgate Park 2015 (SA Lane).

Gabrius appendiculatus Sharp 1910 (4.0-5.0mm)

DA Lott accounted for seven of the nine records for this species (1982 to 1994). In 2000 it was found in a Malaise trap in a Leicester garden (det DA Lott) but then not again until Loughborough Big Meadows in March 2015 (M Telfer). A species of wetter areas such as the flood meadows of the Soar Valley, Loughborough Big Meadows NR being classic.

Philonthus addendus Sharp 1867 (9.5-11.0mm)

SA Lane added the sixth record for this species which came from Bradgate Park in April 2015. Infrequently recorded and found in litter piles, dung and fungi.

Philonthus jurgans Tottenham 1937 (6.5-8.0mm)

Two 2016 records (Loughborough Big Meadows, March; Welford Road Cemetery Leicester, May) by GL Finch increased the VC55 total to seven. Preferred habitat is stated as being litter piles, especially compost heaps and piles of grass cuttings.

Philonthus longicornis Stephens 1832 (6.5-8.5mm)

Having only four previous records, this species was found at Brown's Hay in June 2015 GL Finch.

Philonthus parvicornis Gravenhorst 1802 (6.0-7.0mm)

Previously only known from Leicester records (1944, 1947) by CE Tottenham, it has only recently been recorded again - Bradgate Park in April 2015 by SA Lane. The habitat for this species is stated as "uncertain" and must be considered a genuinely scarce species.

Philonthus spinipes Sharp 1874 (13.0mm)

A new species added to the VC55 list when taken at Bradgate Park in April 2015 by SA Lane. This is the largest species of *Philonthus* with reddish elytra, found on compost heaps and dung heaps. This record was associated with a Red Deer corpse.

Scarabaeiodea

Aphodius pedellus De Geer 1774 (5.5-8.2mm; Fig 11)

Sapcote provided the first two records for this beetle in 2012 with a further record from the neighbouring Fosse Meadows Nature Park in 2015 (all G Calow). Further records came from the Charnwood Forest in 2015 and 2016 (GL Finch), Holwell, near Melton Mowbray in 2016 (AJ Cann) with a seventh VC55 record being from Charnwood Lodge NR in July 2016 (GL Finch).

Aphodius granarius De Geer 1767 (3.5mm)

The Bradgate Park record in April 2015 by SA Lane brings the total to nine VC55 records. The previous record came from Sapcote (2013) but the nearest one to that is 1993, so quite a gap between the latest modern records.

Aphodius borealis Gyllenhal 1827 (3.5-5.0mm)

Up until 2015 the latest record for this species was 1985 (DA Lott); since then another three have been added bringing the VC55 total to nine, all from Bradgate Park including one from national expert D Mann.

Hoplia philanthus Fuessly 1775 (8.0-9.0mm; Fig 12)

The Ulverscroft record from June 2016 by K Nightingale brings the total up to just seven records. It is difficult to know where to look for this species - I guess it's just down to luck.

Omaloplia ruricola Schonherr 1817 (5.0-7.5mm; Fig 13)

Added new to the county list from Bloody Oaks Quarry in July 2015 by D Nicholls. The beetle flies both day and night, so there is potential for this species to be recorded at MV light traps operated particularly in calcareous areas.

Amphimallon solstitiale Linnaeus 1758 (15.0-20.0mm)

The only previous reliable record for this species is from Saddington (Bouskell, 1907) so the appearance of five individuals to MV light at Ketton Quarry NR July 2015 (GL Finch) was quite a result.

Phyllopertha horticola Linnaeus 1758 (7.0-12.0mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. There are now 10 records for this species first noted by F Bates (1848-1895). Not seen again until Hugglescote in early June 2014 (SA Lane) and then regularly recorded through June in a Quorn garden (PH Gamble). Remarkably the next records came from a different garden and also the Cricket ground both in Quorn and lastly from the original Quorn garden on two occasions. So apart from the Hugglescote record, Quorn really has the monopoly on this species. It will be interesting to see if this continues to spread in the Quorn area and also whether it begins to get found in other sites.

Scirtidae

Elodes minuta Linnaeus 1767 (4.5-6/0mm; Fig 14)

Four individuals were swept from low vegetation in a marshy field on a private site in the Ulverscroft Valley July 2016 (GL Finch). First recorded in Stamford Park by F Bates 1848-1895 this latest record brings the total to just eight records. This species was also found at Misterton Marsh in 2015 (GL Finch). A concentrated effort to sweep similar marshy grassland areas would surely add to the records. The larvae are in streams and the adults can be found on vegetation close to the waters edge.

Odeles marginata Fabricius 1798 (4.5-5.3mm; Fig 15)

Although there are 10 records for this species, those from Rutland Water NR and Brown's Hay (Charnwood Forest) in 2016 are the first for 10 years. Can be swept from marshy places and should be found in areas such as Narborough Bog, Misterton Marsh and the flood meadows of the Soar Valley.

Cyphon palustris Thomson CG 1855 (1.5-2.0mm)

This species was last recorded from the River Soar at Normanton in 1991 by DA Lott until Sapcote in June 2016 (G Calow; det Richard Wright) bringing the VC55 total to six. The beetle can be found under grass beside small ponds, streams and other marshy places.

Buprestidae

Agrilus cyanescens Ratzeburg 1837 (4.5-7.0mm; Fig 16)

First recorded in Britain in 2008, extra records suggested this may be the beginning of a colonisation. Photographs of an *Agrilus* species discovered in a Leicester garden by S Bennett (June 2015) were passed on to GL Finch for a possible identification. Fortunately the specimen was kept and identified by the author as *A. cyanescens* later being confirmed by SA Lane. This is a new record for VC55 and is in keeping with the current trend of continuing appearances of *Agrilus* species. Stated to be particularly fond of Honeysuckle.

Agrilus sinuatus Olivier 1790 (5.0-10.0mm; Fig 17)

First recorded in 1999 by P Kirby at two sites in Rutland. M Higgott found and photographed a specimen on the nature reserve area at County Hall, Glenfield in September 2016 giving a total of three records. A species of mature Hawthorns where its presence is given away by the characteristic D-shaped holes in the branches and trunks.

Elateridae

Actenicerus sjaelandicus de Bonvouloir 1859 (10.0-16.0mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. This stunning "click" beetle was found at Lea Meadows in May 2015 by D Nicholls. First recorded in VC55 by HW Bates (1843, River Soar) and then at Seaton Meadow (JT Daws, 1994). It was not until 2013 before SA Lane found it at Narborough Bog NR.

Lycidae

Platycis minuta Fabricius 1787 (5.0-8.0mm) VC55 **RNb**

Added to the VC55 list as recently as 1984, the next two records were 1990 and 1998. It was August 2014 when a single was attracted to MV light at Rutland Water NR (AP Russell). Two more records came from the Gorse Close Malaise trap at Rutland Water NR in August 2014 with the most recent from Charnwood Lodge in July 2016 (K Nightingale) making a total of seven records. Associated with ancient woodland and woodland pastures and often found on Beech and Birch.

Cleridae

Necrobia rufipes De Geer 1775 (3.5-7.0mm; Fig 18)

This species continues to be found in Bradgate Park (2016, GL Finch) but usually as singletons. The habitat for this and the next species is old bones and skins etc although, apparently, it can also be found on flowers. As the adults can fly rapidly, dispersal to new sources of food is easy.

Necrobia violacea Linnaeus 1758 (3.5-4.5mm; Fig 19)

This species continues to be found, often in double figures, at Bradgate Park (GL Finch). Another species, *N. ruficollis,* has been recorded from Bradgate Park in the past by F Bates (1848-1895) the same time as he recorded *N. violacea*. Hopefully it's only a matter of time before *violacea* is recorded here again meaning all three *Necrobia* species will have been found at this one location. The three species are a bright metallic blue, with *rufipes* having yellowish legs, *violacea* blackish legs and *ruficollis* with reddish orange pronotum, base of elytra and legs.

Malachiidae

Axinotarsus marginalis Laporte 1840 (2.2-3.0mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. This was added to the VC55 list in 2014 with two records from Bradgate Park with a third in 2015 (GL Finch).

Cordylepherus viridis Fabricius 1787 (4.0-5.0mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. Two additional records have been added to the previous four when recognised at Ketton Quarry NR (May 2015) and Groby Pool (June 2015) both GL Finch.

Sphindidae

Aspidiphorus orbiculatus Gyllenhal 1808 (1.3-1.5mm)

The latest record for this species comes from Rutland Water NR May 2016 (GL Finch) bringing the total to eight, the previous record having been Misterton in 1999 (DA Lott). Found associated with powdery fungi on tree stumps.

Nitidulidae

Epuraea biguttata Thunberg 1784 (2.0-3.0mm)

Last recorded at Donington Park in 1988 by DA Lott, this species was found by M Telfer at Barkby Thorpe (July 2010). Since that time GL Finch recorded the species at Loughborough Big Meadows NR in April 2016. Can be found at sap runs, under bark and in fungi.

Pria dulcamarae Scopuli 1763 (1.5-2.0mm)

Amazingly a similar situation for this species as the last, where the previous records were from Nevill Holt Quarry (1984, DA Lott) and then again M Telfer at Barkby Thorpe (August 2010). Five records originated from Rutland Water NR (July and August 2014 and 2015, GL Finch). Can be beaten from the host plant Bittersweet.

Nitidula bipunctata Linnaeus 1758 (3.0-5.0mm; Fig 20)

A solitary individual was beaten from a bracket fungus in Cloud Wood in July 2016 by GL Finch bringing the VC55 total to four records. Previously known from Bradgate Park (1848-1895, F Bates), Kirby Muxloe (1922-1972, CW Henderson) and Buddon Wood (1990, DA Lott). Usually found on bones, skins and dry carcasses, but can also be found on flowers.

Omosita colon Linnaeus 1758 (2.0-3.2mm; Fig 21)

First recorded from Kirby Muxloe (1848-1895, F Bates) then Bradgate Park (1848-1895, F Bates) and Bardon Hill (1894, Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society). It was well over 100 years until recorded once again this time on two occasions at Bradgate Park in July 2015 by GL Finch bringing the VC55 total to five.

Omosita discoidea Fabricius 1775 (2.0-3.2mm; Fig 22)

There are 12 records for this species and it had not been seen since1988 when DA Lott found it at Donington Park. The beetle was found at Bradgate Park by GL Finch where it occurs with smaller numbers of *O. colon*. All three *Omosita* species are carrion feeders chiefly on dry old bones probably explaining the paucity of records.

Laemophloeidae

Cryptolestes ferrugineus Stephens 1831 (1.5-2.3mm)

A large pile of what looked like small animal bedding of sawdust, coarse wood chippings and left-over animal food dumped in a field near Melton Mowbray (May 2015, GL Finch) was infested with this species. Well over 50 individuals were sieved out and counted - this brings the VC55 total to nine records. Infests grain and can be a common pest of stored wheat being also found in flour stores.

Phalacridae

Olibrus corticalis Panzer 1796 (2.5-2.9mm)

First recorded in 1890-1906 at Kibworth by an unknown recorder and not again until two more records in July and August 1992. Found at Sapcote in May 2016 by G Calow (det R Wright). A regular visitor to MV light but also found in rough grassy areas with Dandelion, Coltsfoot and Tansey, tapping or shaking the flower heads of these into a white tray may be a good way to find it.

Erotylidae

Tritoma bipustulata Fabricius 1775 (3.0-4.0mm; Fig 23 & 24)

CW Henderson provided the first record of this species in VC55 at Bradgate Park in 1972. It was 2105 when found again this time at Ketton Quarry NR in 2015 by GL Finch. The beetle can be recovered by tapping fungi, especially *Trametes* species, on standing dead wood.

Endomychidae

Endomychus coccineus Linnaeus 1758 (4.5-5.0mm; Fig 25)

This is a bright red and black, fairly large beetle which would be expected to be found quite easily. However, there are only eight records for VC55 suggesting that it may be something of a rarity. The latest record came from Ibstock Churchyard in June 2016 when found by H Ikin and SF Woodward having previously been recorded in 1990. A beetle especially fond of Beech and Elm.

Mordellidae

Mordellistena neuwaldeggiana Panzer 1796 (4.0-5.5mm)

The Rutland Water NR Malaise traps at Egleton Meadows and Heron Bay in 2015 produced an extra three records for this species bringing the VC55 total to six. Mainly a woodland species and found by beating trees and shrubs. It is suggested the best way to find them is to look on umbels of Hogweed etc in the summer. M Telfer has excellent notes on this and other similar species on his website (http://www.markgtelfer.co.uk).

Ripiphoridae

Metoecus paradoxus Linnaeus 1761 (10.0-12.0mm)

Seven records (erroneously given as eight) were in LESOPS 31 with records from the Leicester University Botanic Gardens and Sapcote (both 2009) being the last to be included. It was August 2016 before AP Russell took the beetle at a light trap in his garden to the east of Leicester followed by another from a Cropston garden a month later by P Smith.

Tenebrionidae

Corticeus unicolor Pillar & Mitterpacher 1783 (4.9-7.0mm; Fig 26)

Being new to VC55 in 2012 (see LESOPS 31), it was satisfying to find additional sites for this species. A total of eight individuals were found on the same reserve, Cloud Wood NR, as the original record but in a totally different area. Also remarkably at least 80 individuals were beat from a series of bracket fungi in Grace Dieu Wood in July 2016 (GL Finch), a new site for this species.

Prionychus ater Fabricius 1798 (10.0-16.0mm) VC55 **Nb**

Added to the VC55 list when recorded by H Mendel from East Norton in 1976 with three more records during the 1980's. In 2001 AB Drane found the beetle at Stanford Park 2001 but then it was not until 2016 that it was again recorded when found at MV operated at Essendine Embankment by AP Russell. Larvae can be found in hollow trees with wood mould, so collecting samples of this could be a way to find this species as well as the reality of it turning up at MV light.

Pseudocistela ceramboides Linnaeus 1758 (9.0-12.0mm)

It was first recorded for the county in 2014 (see LESOPS 31 for more details), since when K Alexander has bred two individuals from red rotten wood mould retained from a visit to Bradgate Park in March 2015. Also three individuals were attracted to MV light at Ketton Quarry NR July 2015 (AP Russell). So we have four records from three sites by dissimilar methods - attracted to MV light, a chance daytime observation and bred from the collection of wood mould. The repeated occurrence in Bradgate Park is encouraging as it is planned to operate MV light traps in areas of ancient Oaks here when possible: hopefully this and other saproxylic species will be found.

Mycetochara humeralis Fabricius 1787 (4.5-5.5mm; Fig 27)

Two individuals of this distinctive species, beaten from a dead Oak branch lying on the ground in Bradgate Park June 2016 (GL Finch) added the beetle to the VC55 list. The NBN shows this to be fairly thinly scattered from the south east to just beyond the Midlands. Beating dead and/or rotten wood seems to be the best way to find this species.

Scraptiidae

Anaspis thoracica Linnaeus 1758 (2.4-3.4mm)

Up until 1990 there were just three records for this species but the installation of a Malaise trap at Rutland Water NR has doubled the records attracting individuals through July and August 2015. Also another three records were obtained by beating and sweeping a variety of flowering plants and shrubs in June and July 2016 (GL Finch) bringing the total to nine records.

Cerambycidae

Stictoleptura rubra Linnaeus 1758 (12.0-20.0mm)

The first record for this species came from Whetstone (2009) confirmed by M Rejzek followed by a singleton attracted to MV light in Loughborough (M Hall). The third record is of an individual found during the daytime at Bloody Oaks Quarry NR in August 2015 by A Harrop. As it is a Pine species, it should be present in coniferous woods, especially with areas of adjacent flowers where adults can be found feeding in the daytime.

Paracorymbia fulva Miroshnikov 1998 (9.0-14mm; Fig 28)

More details in LESOPS 31. The latest record is from Stoney Stanton (July 2016, A Watson) not far from its previously only known site at Sapcote.

Chrysomelidae

Bruchidius villosus Fabricius 1792 (2.4-3.2mm; Fig 29)

The record of three individuals beaten off Broom at Swithland Railway Sidings in May 2016 (GL Finch) is the sixth for VC55. Given that Broom is such a widespread shrub, concentrated effort could add significantly to the records.

Oulema rufocyanea Suffrain 1847 (4.0-4.8mm)

The *rufocyanea/melanopus* pair are only reliably separable on dissection but, even then, it is awkward (for more information on separating these two species see Cox. 1995). Extra details can be found in Hubble (2012) and more up to date in Duff (2016). There are five reliable records for VC55 having been first identified by DA Lott from a Leicester garden Malaise (1999). M Telfer supplied the second record from Barkby Thorpe in 2010 with two further from Sapcote (G Calow det R Wright) in 2012 and 2015. The fifth record for VC55 came from Carlton in 2016 (GL Finch). Note: *Oulema rufocyanea* is now called *Oulema duftschmidi* in Duff 2016 and will be in future publications.

Cryptocephalus aureolus Suffrain 1847 (5.7-7.5mm; Fig 30) VC55 **RNb**

More details in LESOPS 31. Several individuals were found on yellow composite flower heads at Ketton Quarry NR in May 2016 by SF Woodward with a second observation from Bloody Oaks Quarry NR also in May 2016 this being the only observation of this species away from Ketton Quarry NR.

Cryptocephalus bipunctatus Linnaeus 1758 (4.4-6.0mm) VC55 **RNb**

Previously, the last record for this beetle came from Geeston Quarry in May 1987 (HJ Mousley det DA Lott). It has now been seen at Ketton Quarry NR in May 2015 by M Skevington. Found on various broad-leaved trees, preferably Birch, but also in dry heathland areas e.g. Newfields Quarry.

Chrysolina americana Linnaeus 1758 (6.7-8.1mm; Fig 31)

More details in LESOPS 31. There are now eight VC55 records with the latest two coming from Whetstone (May 2016, M Skevington) and Thurlaston (October 2016, T Gaten).

Chrysolina herbacea Duftschmid 1825 (6.8-10.2mm; Fig 32 & 33)

First found at Charnwood Lodge NR by K Nightingale (06/08/2015, Fig 33), a single individual was found on Water Mint growing in the outflow channel at Colony Reservoir at Charnwood Lodge NR in June 2016 (GL Finch). This colony was active until well into the autumn as photographs of larvae (Fig 32) and adults were taken by A Smith on several occasions. Altogether VC55 has six records for this species albeit all from the same colony. It is puzzling why this species has gone for so long undetected as it is quite an eye-catching beetle and this is a poplar site for many naturalists; if it is a recent coloniser, where did it come from?

Altica oleracea Linnaeus 1758 (3.0-4.2mm)

There are only four VC55 records for this species. These are Vale of Belvoir (1782-1790, G Crabbe), Buddon Wood (1922-1972, CW Henderson), Swithland Wood (2014, GL Finch) and Keyham (2016, GL Finch). This is another species that is best determined by dissection and, as there are several small blue/green similar species, it is likely to be under-recorded. Stated to be polyphagous and widespread, maybe more effort should be made to find this species.

Epitrix atropae Foudras 1860 (1.5-2.1 mm) VC55 **RNb**

More details in LESOPS 31. All nine records for this species come from Rutland. It was recorded in Clipsham Quarry on three occasions in 1994 but has not been seen since, no doubt due to lack of time spent searching (a task to be put right in 2017). Ketton Quarry NR seems to be the most reliable site and provides the most recent record (May 2015, GL Finch). Encouragingly, it was found in Bloody Oaks Quarry in April 2015 (GL Finch), a new site and some distance from the main locations.

Psylliodes dulcamarae Koch JDW 1803 (3.1-4.0mm)

Just four records for this species with the first reliable record coming from Market Bosworth in 2011 (R Wright). Two further records came from Saddington Reservoir (2012) and Hugglescote (2014) both SA Lane. The latest record is from the Rutland Water Malaise trap 2015 GL Finch. Can be found by beating areas of Bittersweet; also said to be found hibernating in reed litter.

Psylliodes laticollis Kutschera 1860 (2.7-3.6mm)

Last recorded from Burbage in 2007 (DA Lott) the latest record now comes from the Rutland Water NR Heron Bay Malaise trap June 2015 (GL Finch) bringing the total VC55 records to eight. Found mainly on Water-cress and occasionally on Garlic Mustard and Brooklime; sweeping waterside areas where these plants are found should generate more records.

Psylliodes picina Marsham 1802 (2.0-2.9mm)

P Kirby last recorded this beetle from Loughborough Big Meadows NR in 1993. Since then M Telfer found it at the same site in March 2015 making this our prime site with nine records in total. Being found on *Phragmites,* Reed Canary-grass, Oak, Birch, Hazel and Willows, this species ought to be found more widely.

Anthribidae

Platystomos albinus Linnaeus 1758 (7.0-10.0 mm; Fig 34)

More details in LESOPS 31. The latest sighting from Cribb's Meadow in May 2015 (L Chirico) brings the VC55 total to six records and adds a new site. All the previous records are from Ketton Quarry NR.

Bruchela rufipes Olivier 1790 (2.0-2.8mm; Fig 35)

This distinctive beetle was first found by J Plant prior to 1871 (no location details were given). A surprise find at Asfordby Mineral Works in August 2015 by GL Finch gave the second record 144 years since it was added to the VC55 list. Tapping the flower heads of Wild Mignonette into a white tray produced several specimens; repeating this method where ever this plant grows might provide additional records of this species.

Rhynchitidae

Involvulus caeruleus De Geer 1775 (2.5-2.4mm)

The only reliable record of this striking bright metallic blue species came from Newfields Colliery in 2015 when recorded by R Wright. Even though found on various Rosaceous trees and shrubs, in VC55 it seems to be close to its northern limits apart from a few records in the Lincolnshire and Liverpool area.

Attelabidae

Apoderus coryli Linnaeus 1758 (5.9-8.0mm)

There is quite a gap between records for this species, the first by F Bates (1848-1895, Leicestershire) and then Leighfield Forest by KJB Clark (1929-1950). In July 2012 it was located at Fosse Meadows NP (D Nicholls and G Calow) and again in May 2016 from the same site by R Gibbs. Found in or close to woods on Hazel and very rarely on Alder, especially in coppiced woodlands.

Apionidae

Cyanapion gyllenhalii Kirby 1808 (2.3-2.9mm)

As there were two suspicious records of this species from the late 1800's, it is excellent to receive this recent record from Priory Water July 2014 by AB Drane. With a very sparse UK distribution this constitutes the first confirmed record for VC55. Found on various Vetch species but especially Tufted Vetch where the larvae form galls in the stems.

Oxystoma cerdo Gerstaecker 1854 (2.4-3.0 mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. There are only four VC55 records for this species first noted as recently as July 2003 when DA Lott found it at Wigston. It was then noted by SA Lane at Hugglescote (May 2014), Priory Water in July 2014 (AB Drane) and most recently Martin's Wood (Charnwood Forest) in June 2015 (GL Finch).

Oxystoma subulatum Kirby 1808 (2.4-3.0 mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. An additional record came from Bardon Hill when found by GL Finch (August 2015) bringing the VC55 total to seven.

Curculionidae

Cionus hortulanus Fourcroy 1785 (3.8-4.6mm)

Only six records for this species. The last previous record was 1982 (DG Goddard) with the most recent coming from Cloud Wood NR in 2016 (GL Finch). Mainly found on Figworts, occasionally Mulleins and also *Buddleja*; any *Cionus* species with black central patch should be carefully examined.

Cionus tuberculosus Scopoli 1763 (3.4-4.2mm; Fig 36)

Superficially similar to the previous species but usually with distinct peachy/orange sides to the pronotum, SA Lane found it at Ellistown June 2014. In May 2016 two records came from Gilmorton (P Wiles) followed by two individuals taken at Cloud Wood NR (GL Finch) bringing the VC55 total to eight records for this species. All *Cionus* species found on Figwort need to be looked at closely as this and other species, all with an evident black circular/oval patch in the centre of the elytra, could well be being overlooked or misidentified.

Dorytomus dejeani Faust 1882 (3.7-5.0mm)

There are only five VC55 records for this species with the last previous record being Priors Coppice in 1990 (DA Lott). AB Drane added the the most recent sighting when the beetle was found at Priory Water in July 2014. Beating stands of *Aspen* ought to produce extra records for this species.

Gymnetron melanarium Germar 1821 (1.4-2.4mm)

The most recent record of this species came from Asfordby Mineral Works in August 2015 when found by GL Finch the first since DA Lott noted it at King Luds Entrenchment in July 1983. VC55 now has five records with Germander Speedwell (and possibly other Speedwells), often on waste or disturbed places particularly brownfield sites, being favoured preferences.

Gymnetron villosulum Gyllenhal 1838 (2.1-2.9mm; Fig 37 galls) VC55 **RNb**

This species was first recorded at Quorn (River Soar, July 1994) and again at Cossington Meadows in April 2008, on both occasions by DA Lott. The River Soar at Glen Parva produced the next record (September 2015, D Gould) and the most recent came from Cosby in June 2016 (G Calow det R Wright). Locating the hosts, Blue and also Pink Water-speedwells is the best way to find this small inconspicuous species.

Isochnus sequensi Stierlin 1894 (2.2-2.6 mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. After being added to the county list with three fairly close records in 2014, an additional record came from Carlton in 2016 when collected by GL Finch.

Mogulones geographicus Goeze 1777 (3.2-5.0mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. This species is still present at its only known site Ketton Quarry NR with the latest record coming in August 2015 (AJ Cann).

Trichosirocalus barnevillei Grenier 1866 (2.2-2.7mm; Fig 38) VC55 **RNb**

At least five individuals were found on Yarrow at the Great Central Railway sidings in Quorn in April 2016 by GL Finch. The six previous records for this species are widely spread throughout VC55 so it does not seem to be restricted to any particular locality. The NBN shows it to be here on the extreme western edge of its range. As Yarrow is the main host plant and, considering how common this plant is, a dedicated search should add more records.

Graptus triguttatus Fabricius 1775 (5.4-7.2 mm; Fig 39)

More details in LESOPS 31. Two individuals were attracted to MV light in Market Bosworth 2016 (D & M Penton) bringing the VC55 total to 10 records. The host plant (Ribwort Plantain) is extremely common so sweeping should add more records. Found in grassy places at the base of plants.

Otiorhynchus ligneus Olivier 1807 (4.2-6.6mm)

First recorded at Newtown Linford in 1845 by TB Kirby it was then noted by F Bates near Anstey and Bradgate Park (1848-1895) although these two records could well be the same. More recent records are from Big Pits (August 1987, P Kirby) with the most recent being Asfordby Mineral Works in August 2015 (GL Finch). More often found at the base of plants or under stones.

Pachyrhinus lethierryi Desbrochers 1875 (3.6-4.5 mm; Fig 40 & 41)

More details in LESOPS 31. This species is still recorded at Sapcote with records for May and June 2015. However, in 2016 records came from Knighton in May (AJ Cann) and Braunstone in June (D Gould). Associated with parks and gardens with Cypress trees and rapidly spreading.

Polydrusus formosus Mayer 1779 (5.5-7.0 mm)

More details in LESOPS 31. After being added to the VC55 list in 2014 by SA Lane there have been two more records for this species - Ratby in June 2014 (D Nicholls) and Fosse Meadows NP in July 2014 (G Calow). An arboreal species found in woodland on various broad-leaved trees.

Sitona striatellus Gyllenhal 1834 (3.6-5.0 mm)

The VC55 records of this species come from Scraptoft Lane, Leicester (1982, J Owen), Acresford Sandpit (July 1989, DA Lott), twice from Hugglescote in May 2014 (SA Lane), Newfields Colliery in September 2015 (GL Finch) and Charnwood Lodge NR in October 2015 (GL Finch). The beetle prefers dry places such as disturbed land, old quarries and roadsides where Ribbed Melilot (*Melilotus officianale*) and White Melilot (*Melilotus alba*) grow. Eggs are laid in the spring with larvae developing in early summer, adults emerging in late-summer onwards.

Hypera meles Fabricius 1792 (5.3-5.8 mm; Fig 42)

More details in LESOPS 31. Since the first 2013 record, GL Finch has reported two further records - Cloud Wood NR 2015 and Long Whatton 2015. Found on Clover, more often on Red Clover.

Rhinocyllus conicus Germar 1817 (4.2-6.7mm; Cover)

New to the county list in 2014, three additional records came in 2015 from Wykin (G Calow), Knighton (G Burton) and Ratby (D Nicholls). In 2016 the beetle was recorded in May at Broughton Astley (R Stevens) and County Hall, Glenfield where M Higgott noted it on two occasions (May and July). Found on Thistles, formerly coastal, but quickly spreading inland.

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Publications aiding beetle identification

Many of the keys are part of the Royal Entomological Society (RES) (sometimes in partnership with the Field Studies Council) series *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects.* Many are available as free downloads in pdf format from the internet although some may take a little searching for.

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Photo credits

My thanks go, once again, to all those who allowed use of their photographs (figure reference in brackets). They are: S Bennett (16); G Calow (Cover, 2, 11, 37, 40); T Gaten (31); D Gould (37); M Higgott (17); K Nightingale (12, 33); C Mills (8): D Nicholls (13); M Skevington (1); A Smith (32); A Watson (28). All others are by the author.

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Fig 1: *Cicindella campestris*

Fig 2: *Ophonus ardosiacus*

Fig 3: *Syntomus foveatus*

Fig 4: *Berosus signaticollis*

Fig 5: *Enochrus quadripunctatus*

Fig 6: *Saprinus semistriatus*

Fig 7: *Catops coracinus*

Fig 8: *Oiceoptoma thoracicum*

Fig 9: *Cilea silphoides*

Fig 10: *Lomechusa emarginata*

Fig 11: *Aphodius pedellus*

Fig 12: *Hoplia philanthus*

Fig 13: *Omalophila ruricola*

Fig 14: *Elodes minuta*

Fig 15: *Odeles marginata*

Fig 16: *Agrilus cyanescens*

Fig 17: *Agrilus sinuatus*

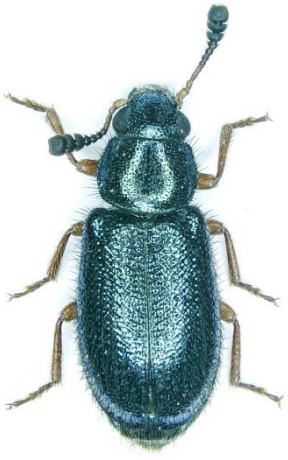

Fig 18: *Necrobia rufipes*

Fig 19: *Necrobia violacea*

Fig 20: *Nitidula bipunctata*

Fig 21: *Omosita colon*

Fig 22: *Osmosita discoidea*

Fig 23: *Triforma bipustulata* - habitat

Fig 24: *Triforma bipustulata*

Fig 25: *Endomychus coccineus*

Fig 26: *Corticeus unicolor*

Fig 27: *Mycetochara humeralis*

Fig 28: *Paracorymbia fulva*

Fig 29: *Bruchidius villosus*

Fig 30: *Cryptocephalus aureolus*

Fig 31: *Chrysolina americana*

Fig 32: *Chrysolina herbacea* - larva

Fig 33: *Chrysolina herbacea*

Fig 34: *Platystomos albinus*

Fig 35: *Bruchela rufipes*

Fig 36: *Cionus tuberculosus*

Fig 37: *Gymnetron villosulum* - galls

Fig 38: *Trichosirocalus barnevillei*

Fig 39: *Graptus triguttatus*

Fig 40: *Pachyrhinus lethierryi*

Fig 41: *Pachyrhinus lethierryi*

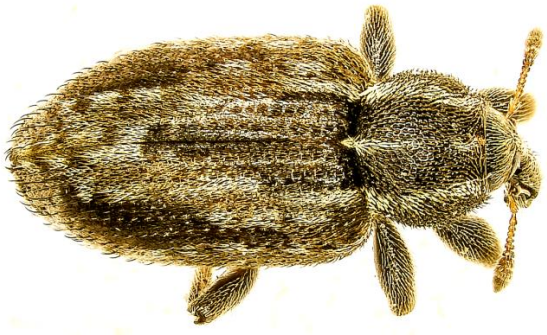

Fig 42: *Hypera meles*