



‘Powdermill Trust Nature Reserve, Rotherfield’

**Insect Survey Report No. 3
(for survey on 7th July 2012)**

by
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1. Introduction

The day chosen for this survey was typical for summer 2012 and was mainly overcast with light showers, so flying insects were hard to find. However, the wet herbage suited a number of beetle species that are usually rather hard to discover and the species list obtained, although not containing many rarities, added significantly to the list recorded on my previous visit to the reserve in June 1997.

Table 1: Summary of species recorded

| Insect Order | No. of species 1997 | RDB + Notable 1997 | No. of species 2012 | RDB + Notable 2012 | All additions 2012 | RDB + Notable 1997-2012 | Total Species 1997-2012 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Coleoptera (Beetles) | 59 | 3 | 43 | 1 | 26 | 5 | 85 |
| Dermaptera (Earwigs) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Diptera (Flies) | 23 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 31 |
| Hemiptera-Heteroptera (Bugs) | 9 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 22 |
| Hemiptera-Homoptera (Bugs) | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Etc.) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Lepidoptera (Butterflies) | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Lepidoptera (Moths) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Mecoptera (Scorpion Flies) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Neuroptera (Lacewings) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Odonata (Dragonflies) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Orthoptera (Grasshoppers & Crickets) | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| TOTAL SPECIES | 98 | 3 | 94 | 2 | 62 | 5 | 161 |

2. Species Lists

All species were recorded on 7th July 2012

Additions to previous lists are prefixed @

COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| APIONIDAE) (Weevils) | |
| @ <i>Ischnopterapion modestum</i> | Common on Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil <i>Lotus uliginosus</i> |
| <i>Perapion curtirostre</i> | Common on species of dock <i>Rumex</i> |
| @ <i>Perapion violaceum</i> | Common on species of dock <i>Rumex</i> |
| @ <i>Synapion ebeninum</i> | Local on Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil <i>Lotus uliginosus</i> |
| BYTURIDAE (Raspberry beetles) | |
| <i>Byturus tomentosus</i> | Common on flowers of Rosaceae |
| CANTHARIDAE (Soldier beetles) | |
| @ <i>Cantharis nigricans</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Malthinus flaveolus</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Malthodes marginatus</i> | Common |
| <i>Malthodes minimus</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Rhagonycha fulva</i> | Common |
| <i>Rhagonycha limbata</i> | Common |
| <i>Rhagonycha testacea</i> | Common in wetland habitats |
| CARABIDAE (Ground beetles) | |
| @ <i>Abax parallelopipedus</i> | Common in woodland habitats |
| @ <i>Curtonotus aulicus</i> | Common on flowers where it feeds on the seeds |
| CERAMBYCIDAE (Longhorn beetles) | |
| @ <i>Rutpela maculata</i> | Common, breeds in dead wood |
| CHRYSOMELIDAE (Leaf beetles) | |
| @ <i>Crepidodera aurea</i> | Common on willow |
| COCCINELLIDAE (Ladybirds) | |
| <i>Propylea quattuordecimpunctata</i> | Common |
| <i>Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata</i> | Common |
| CURCULIONIDAE (Weevils) | |
| @ <i>Archarius pyrrhoceras</i> | Common on oak <i>Quercus</i> |
| @ <i>Barypeithes pellucidus</i> | Common |
| <i>Mecinus pascuorum</i> | Common on Ribwort Plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> |
| <i>Nedus quadrimaculatus</i> | Common on Stinging Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> |
| @ <i>Orchestes signifer</i> | Common on oak <i>Quercus</i> |
| <i>Rhinoncus pericarpus</i> | Common on dock <i>Rumex</i> |
| @ <i>Sciaphilus asperatus</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Sitona cambricus</i> | Local on Fabaceae |
| DASYTIDAE | |
| @ <i>Dasytes aeratus</i> | Common |
| ELATERIDAE (Click beetles) | |
| @ <i>Agriotes obscurus</i> | Common in grassland habitats |
| <i>Agriotes pallidulus</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Agriotes sputator</i> | Common in grassland habitats |
| @ <i>Athous bicolor</i> | Common in grassland habitats |
| @ <i>Athous campyloides</i> | Nationally Scarce (Nb) – see separate notes |

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| HELOPHORIDAE (Water beetles) | |
| <i>Helophorus brevipalpis</i> | Common in wetland habitats |
| HYDROPHILIDAE (Water beetles) | |
| @ <i>Anacaena globulus</i> | Common in wetland habitats |
| KATERETIDAE | |
| @ <i>Brachypterus urticae</i> | Common on Stinging Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> |
| MELYRIDAE | |
| <i>Malachius bipustulatus</i> | Common on flowers |
| NITIDULIDAE (Pollen beetles, etc) | |
| @ <i>Epuraea aestiva</i> | Common on flowers |
| <i>Meligethes aeneus</i> | Common on flowers |
| @ <i>Meligethes persicus</i> | Common, on flowers of Hedge Woundwort <i>Stachys officinalis</i> |
| OEDEMERIDAE | |
| <i>Oedemera lurida</i> | Common on flowers |
| @ <i>Oedemera nobilis</i> | Common on flowers |
| STAPHYLINIDAE (Rove beetles) | |
| <i>Stenus flavipes</i> | Common |
| <i>Stenus picipes</i> | Common |
| DERMATERA (Earwigs) | |
| FORFICULIDAE | |
| <i>Forficula auricularia</i> (Common Earwig) | Common |
| DIPTERA (Flies) | |
| DOLICHOPODIDAE (Long-legged flies) | |
| <i>Poecilobothrus nobiletatus</i> | Common |
| <i>Sciapus platypterus</i> | Common in woodland habitats |
| EMPIDIDAE (Dance flies) | |
| <i>Rhamphomyia longipes</i> | Common |
| MUSCIDAE | |
| @ <i>Mesembrina meridiana</i> | Common |
| RHAGIONIDAE (Snipe flies) | |
| <i>Chrysopilus cristatus</i> | Common in wetland habitats |
| @ <i>Rhagio tringarius</i> | Common |
| STRATIOMYIDAE (Soldier flies) | |
| @ <i>Beris vallata</i> | Common |
| <i>Chloromyia formosa</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Chorisops tibialis</i> | Common |
| SYRPHIDAE (Hover-flies) | |
| @ <i>Chrysotoxum bicinctum</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Episyrphus balteatus</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Volucella pellucens</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Xylota sylvarum</i> | Common in woodland habitats |
| TEPHRITIDAE (Picture-winged flies) | |
| <i>Chaetostomella cylindrica</i> | Common on Hardheads <i>Centaurea nigra</i> |
| <i>Urophora jaceana</i> | Common on Hardheads <i>Centaurea nigra</i> |
| HEMIPTERA-HETEROPTERA (Bugs) | |
| LYGAEIDAE (Ground bugs) | |
| <i>Scolopostethus thomsoni</i> | Common, often associated with Stinging Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> |

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| MIRIDAE (Capsid bugs) | |
| @ <i>Acetropis gimmerthalii</i> | Common on grasses |
| @ <i>Atractotomus mali</i> | Common on hawthorn |
| @ <i>Bryocoris pteridis</i> | Common on ferns in shaded woodland |
| @ <i>Capsus ater</i> | Common on grasses |
| @ <i>Closterotomus norwegicus</i> | Common on herbaceous plants |
| @ <i>Heterotoma planicornis</i> | Common in woodland edge habitats |
| <i>Leptoterna dolobrata</i> | Common on grasses |
| @ <i>Monalocoris filicis</i> | Common on Bracken |
| @ <i>Phylus betulae</i> | Common on Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> |
| @ <i>Phylus melanocephalus</i> | Common on oak <i>Quercus</i> |
| @ <i>Pithanus maerkelii</i> | Common in grassland habitats |
| <i>Plagiognathus arbustorum</i> | Common on herbaceous plants |
| <i>Plagiognathus chrysanthemii</i> | Common on herbaceous plants |
| @ <i>Stenodema calcarata</i> | Common on grasses |
| @ <i>Stenotus binotatus</i> | Common on grasses |
| PENTATOMIDAE (Shield bugs) | |
| @ <i>Pentatoma rufipes</i> | Common, on foliage of trees in woodland habitats |
| HEMIPTERA-HOMOPTERA (Bugs) | |
| CERCOPIDAE | |
| <i>Aphrophora alni</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Cercopis vulneratus</i> | Common |
| @ <i>Philaenus spumarius</i> | Common |
| HYMENOPTERA (Bees, wasps, ants, etc) | |
| APIDAE (Bees) | |
| @ <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> | Common |
| ABIIDAE (Sawflies) | |
| @ <i>Abia sericea</i> | Local, on scabious <i>Knautia</i> and <i>Succisa</i> |
| SPHECIDAE (Solitary wasps) | |
| @ <i>Argogorytes mystaceus</i> | Common |
| LEPIDOPTERA (Butterflies) | |
| HESPERIIDAE | |
| @ <i>Ochlodes venata</i> (Large Skipper) | Common, larvae on grasses |
| @ <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i> (Small Skipper) | Common, larvae on grasses |
| NYMPHALIDAE | |
| @ <i>Polygonia c-album</i> (The Comma) | Common, larvae on nettle, currents, elm, hop and willow |
| SATYRIDAE | |
| @ <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i> (The Ringlet) | Common, larvae on Bird's-foot Trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> |
| @ <i>Maniola jurtina</i> (Meadow Brown) | Common, larvae on grasses |
| LEPIDOPTERA (Moths) | |
| CHOREUTIDAE | |
| @ <i>Anthophila fabriciana</i> (Nettle-tap) | Common, larvae on Stinging Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> |
| ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers & crickets) | |
| ACRIDIDAE (Grasshoppers) | |
| @ <i>Chorthippus brunneus</i> (Field Grasshopper) | Common [recorded by Ralph Hobbs] |
| @ <i>Chorthippus parallelus</i> (Meadow Grasshopper) | Common |
| @ <i>Omocestes viridulus</i> (Common Green Grasshopper) | Common |
| TETTIGONIIDAE (Bush-crickets) | |
| <i>Meconema thalassinum</i> (Oak Bush-cricket) | Common on trees, especially oak |
| @ <i>Metrioptera roeselii</i> (Roesel's Bush-Cricket) | Nationally Scarce (Nb) – see separate notes |
| @ <i>Pholidoptera griseoptera</i> (Dark Bush-cricket) | Common |

3. Notable Species

COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

ELATERIDAE (Click beetles)

Nb *Athous campyloides*

Most records for this local click beetle are for South-east England. Adults are active at dusk for a short period in June and July. The "wireworm" larvae feed on plant roots. The species appears to be spreading in Britain.

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers & crickets)

TETTIGONIIDAE (Bush-crickets)

Nb *Metrioptera roeselii* (ROESEL'S BUSH-CRICKET)

Formerly restricted to a few coastal districts in eastern England, this species has extended its range and is now much more widespread in southern England. It is a species of ungrazed grassland and is frequently found on motorway verges.

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