

LONGHORN BEETLES 2007

Following the success of 2006's survey I offered to collate records of longhorn beetles in 2007 and also lead a field trip on the morning of 14th June, specifically to look for longhorns in King's Wood, Heath and Reach. Although the rains relented for the day, the preceding wet weather had badly damaged most of the ride-side flowers and only seven species (*Stenocorus meridianus*, *Grammoptera ruficornis*, *Leptura quadrifasciata*, *Rutpela maculata*, *Stenurella melanura*, *Agapanthia villosiviridescens* and *Leiopus nebulosus*) were found on the day by the 14 attendees, who none-the-less seemed to enjoy beating vegetation over trays, revealing a haul of interesting invertebrates. Other longhorns noted there while reconnoitring in the preceding days were *Rhagium mordax*, *Alosterna tabacicolor*, *Pseudovadonia livida* and *Clytus arietis*.

By 31st December I was pleased to have received 212 records for 2007 from 25 observers. These were emailed to Martin Rejzek (the national *Cerambycidae* recorder) on New Year's Day for verification, who responded one hour later, expressing no concerns with the records, but reminded us to inspect the tarsi (feet) of *Arhopalus* so that they can be determined to species.

The following five species seen in 2007 were additional to those found during the 2006 survey:

LEPTURINAE

Rhagium mordax

Similar in size and shape to *R. bifasciatum* (see 2006 report) but instead the black body is covered with patches of light brown hairs, giving a speckled effect and on each elytron there is a bare patch surrounded by dense hairs, which has the appearance of an "eye". Found in West Wood on hawthorn blossom and in King's Wood, Heath and Reach on guelder rose flower heads, where it was also found inspecting freshly cut logs of oak, its larval food plant.

SPONDYLIDINAE

Asemum striatum

Rather "oval-looking" in appearance with a roughly-hexagonal pronotum, about 15mm long, coloured black or dark brown/red. These were reported from near The Lodge's gatehouse on the trees remaining between the footpath and the heathland restoration. Melissa and Andy Banthorpe found two on the afternoon of 29th April. I visited on 1st May, but after searching the tree trunks for at least an hour in late morning found none and left for the heath with a packed lunch. On returning at 13.30 for 'one last try' I immediately found one on a silver birch trunk, quickly followed by another nine on the other trees nearby (3 on a conifer, 2 on copper beech, 4 on silver birch) all within two feet of the ground. The four on one birch quickly became two pairs as wandering males found females. All the static beetles were head-down and some had a curious pose, with head to the trunk and their rear end stuck out from the tree, which Martin suggests is a way of sensing their environment, possibly through chemical signalling. I now know the species to be crepuscular, possibly resting below ground during the day, which probably explains their absence in the morning. The larvae develop in pine stumps, so should do well at The Lodge for a while.

LAMIINAE

Leiopus nebulosus

A small black beetle (about 7mm long) with a mottled pattern of light grey hairs. The slender banded antennae are very long, reaching beyond the end of the elytra. Found on freshly cut logs in Chicksands Wood and freshly cut oak in King's Wood, Heath and Reach, where it was also beaten from dead branches of oak. Its larvae develop in dead deciduous wood, the place to look for the adults.

Phytoecia cylindrica (Nationally Notable B)

Found once each in Swineshead Wood, Marston Thrift and Chicksands Wood. On each occasion it was spotted in long ride-side vegetation. It looks like a 10mm long thin dark-grey cylinder (hence the scientific name). The larvae develop in the stems of umbellifers.

Tetrops praeustus

Probably our smallest longhorn (about 4mm long) with light brown elytra tipped with black, and black head and thorax. Beaten from hawthorn in College Wood and twice spotted silhouetted on the underside of sunlit elm leaves in Swineshead Wood and Spanoak Wood. The larvae develop in *Rosaceae*. *T.starkii* is a much rarer beetle, almost identical in appearance, so all *Tetrops* should be closely inspected.

As a result of these discoveries the gallery on the BNHS website was extended to cover 23 species.

My thanks go to the following people for submitting records before the close of the year:

C.Baker, K.Banham, A.Banthorpe, M.Banthorpe, G.Bellamy, S.Blain, S.Brooke, C.Carpenter, J.Chapman, D.Eagle, K.Fuller, H.Griffiths, J.Hanlon, G.Johnson, R.Lawrence, M.Lloyd, B.Nau, J.Pitts, J.O'Sullivan, S.Plummer, S.Raven, N.Willits, D.Withers, J.Wood

My apologies if I have inadvertently omitted anyone.

The records have been sent to the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre.

Keith Balmer

The records are summarized in the following table...

Summary of 2007's longhorn beetle records

species	Records	Adults	Earliest	Latest	1km squares
<i>Rhagium mordax</i>	4	5	06/05/07	10/06/07	SP9229 SP9230 SP9962
<i>Stenocorus meridianus</i>	10	12	22/05/07	22/07/07	SP9230 SP9762 TL0117 TL0638 TL0653 TL1040 TL1138
<i>Grammoptera ruficornis</i>	28	402	22/04/07	07/07/07	SP9229 SP9230 SP9434 SP9641 SP9658 SP9741 SP9962 TL0254 TL0452 TL0453 TL0653 TL0667 TL0749 TL0830 TL0939 TL1040 TL1043 TL1446 TL1447 TL2449
<i>Leptura quadrifasciata</i>	5	9	09/06/07	04/08/07	SP9230 TL0435 TL0536 TL0537
<i>Stictoleptura rubra</i>	2	2	15/07/07	22/07/07	TL0638 TL1640
<i>Alosterna tabacicolor</i>	3	11	12/05/07	10/06/07	SP9229 SP9230 TL0767
<i>Rutpela maculata</i>	54	188	03/06/07	16/08/07	SP9129 SP9229 SP9230 SP9741 SP9862 SP9962 TL0535 TL0537 TL0638 TL0639 TL0719 TL0739 TL0939 TL1040 TL1043 TL1138 TL1144 TL1346 TL1445 TL1446 TL1447 TL1640 TL1656 TL1948
<i>Pseudovadonia livida</i>	16	55	01/06/07	24/07/07	SP9229 TL0535 TL0536 TL0537 TL0538 TL0638 TL0649 TL0653 TL1039 TL1138 TL2049
<i>Stenurella melanura</i>	20	60	05/06/07	22/07/07	SP9229 SP9230 SP9741 TL0638 TL0739 TL0939 TL1040 TL1043 TL1446 TL1447 TL1640 TL2049
<i>Asemum striatum</i>	2	12	29/04/07	01/05/07	TL1948
<i>Arhopalus rusticus/ferus</i>	1	1	15/07/07	15/07/07	TL1847
<i>Molorchus minor</i>	2	2	17/06/07	23/06/07	TL03U TL1040
<i>Glaphyra umbellatarum</i>	1	1	01/07/07	01/07/07	TL1446
<i>Aromia moschata</i>	1	1	13/06/07	13/06/07	TL0749
<i>Clytus arietis</i>	20	31	28/04/07	16/07/07	SP9230 SP9334 SP9556 SP9741 SP9962 TL0254 TL0537 TL0719 TL0749 TL1040 TL1553 TL1654 TL1847
<i>Anaglyptus mysticus</i>	1	4	31/05/07	31/05/07	TL0749
<i>Agapanthia villosoviridescens</i>	30	45	26/04/07	27/07/07	SP9230 SP9662 SP9860 SP9962 TL0435 TL0537 TL0739 TL0925 TL1656
<i>Pogonocherus hispidus</i>	1	1	23/06/07	23/06/07	TL1040
<i>Leiopus nebulosus</i>	2	2	11/06/07	14/06/07	SP9229 TL1040
<i>Phytoecia cylindrica</i>	3	3	12/05/07	09/06/07	SP9741 TL0666 TL1040
<i>Tetrops praeustus</i>	4	5	01/05/07	12/06/07	TL0566 TL0667 TL1447