



CHURCHYARD INSECTS

Martin Greenland

May – July 2026

Toadflax Brocade [Gaywood]

INSECTS FROM 31 CHURCH- YARDS

See separate sheet for **Mulbarton**

Belaugh

Deraeocoris flavilinea

– a tree-dwelling bug.

First seen in 1996, it has
now colonised England.





Bradfield

Scaeva pyrastris laying eggs. This white-marked hoverfly arrives as a migrant in variable numbers.



Blofield

Callomyia speciosa – a flat-footed fly. Seemingly uncommon, its larvae feed on fungi in rotting wood.



Also from decaying wood at **Blofield**, if this is ***Palloptera bimaculata*** then it's a poorly-known continental species previously unrecorded in Britain!



Clippesby

Malachite Beetle courtship. The male exudes an enticing chemical from enlarged antennal segments.



Edingthorpe

Atlantopsocus adustus – a barkfly (*Psocoptera*). One of several barkflies whose distribution is uncertain.



Elsing

***Thereva plebeja* Crochet-hooked Stiletto Fly.** Bare ground is valuable: this female is laying her eggs.



**Gaywood
Hornet Hoverfly
Volucella zonaria.**

The female enters a wasp nest to lay her eggs, where the larvae will feed on detritus.



Gressenhall

Issus coleoptratus nymph (adult right).

The strange tail filaments caught my attention.



Hemblington
Red-and-black Froghopper *Cercopis vulnerata*.
Unmistakeable. The only UK member of its family.



Horsey

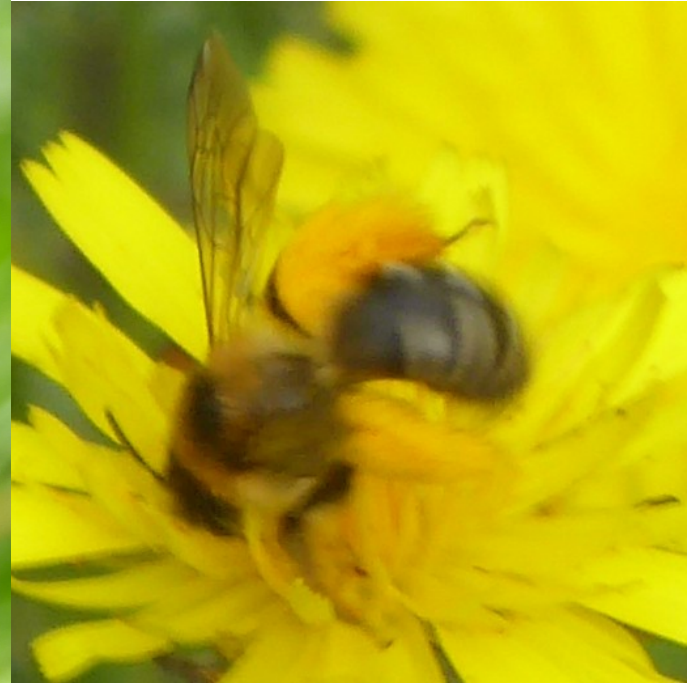
Acorn Weevil *Curculio glandium*.

Bores holes in acorns with its rostrum for its eggs.



**Horstead
Rhombic Leatherbug.**

Scarcer than the more familiar Dock Bug.



Knapton

Pantaloen Bee *Dasypoda hirtipes* – male (female right).
Females' 'baggy trousers' carry daisy-family pollen.



Lessingham
Arge melanochra – a sawfly.
The larvae feed on Hawthorn.



Limpenhoe
Cochylimorpha straminea Common Straw moth.
Requires Common Knapweed.



Little Massingham
Hairy Shieldbug nymph (adult right).
On Mullein: one of its favourite plants.



Martham
Rhinocyllus conicus – a weevil.
An increasing, hairy species on thistles.



Newton Flotman

24-spot Ladybird larva, pupa & adult. It clearly likes Mullein (as do I!): these were all on the same plant.



**Paston
Red-tailed Bumblebee.**

One of the 'Big 7' wide-ranging bumblebee species.



Reedham
Large Marsh Horsefly *Tabanus autumnalis*.
A male – and therefore not after your blood!



**Reepham
Welsh Chafer.**

It occurs across most of England as well.



Repps
Platystoma seminationis – a picture-winged fly.
The first time I've seen this.

Ridlington
Splayed Deerfly
***Chrysops caecutiens*.**
Beautiful, but beware:
she may bite!





Southwood

Swollen-thighed Beetle *Oedemera nobilis*. The common but striking flower beetle, here on Pignut.



Stokesby
Norfolk Hawker. Reflecting the Broadland location
and presence of prey.



Swannington
Loensia fasciata – a barkfly (*Psocoptera*).
On a headstone, feeding on lichen.



Thorpe Market
Wheat Stem Borer *Cephus pygmeus*.
A narrow-bodied sawfly, often on yellow flowers.



Trunch

Remains of **House Windowfly** *Scenopinus fenestralis*.
Usually found indoors (its larvae eat Carpet Beetle).



Walcot

Celery Fly *Euleia heraclei*. The larvae mine the leaves of Hogweed, Parsnip and similar umbellifers.



**West Somerton
Bishop's Mitre.**

A common grassland shieldbug.



Whittington

Rhamphomyia pilifer – a dagger fly (from its mouthparts).
One of few flies I managed to identify in the field.



Wretton

2-spot Ladybird. Has declined since the arrival of the alien Harlequin Ladybird.

MARVELLOUS MULBARTON

Heterotoma planicornis
nymph. A bug with
distinctive antennae,
even as a nymph. Here
on White Bryony.





Eurydema oleracea
Cabbage or Brassica
Shieldbug.
Also available
in yellow.



Eupeodes luniger.

A resident hoverfly which also arrives as a migrant.
There are other species similar in appearance.



Chrysotoxum bicinctum.

The only churchyard where I saw this hoverfly.



Priocnemis perturbator – a spider-hunting wasp.
Doing as it says on the tin.
There are other similar species.



***Empis albinervis*(?) female** – a dagger fly.
Probable identification: I certainly saw the male
(right) feeding similarly in other churchyards.



14-spot Ladybird larva
(adult above).



Scymnus interruptus
– a ‘micro’ ladybird.

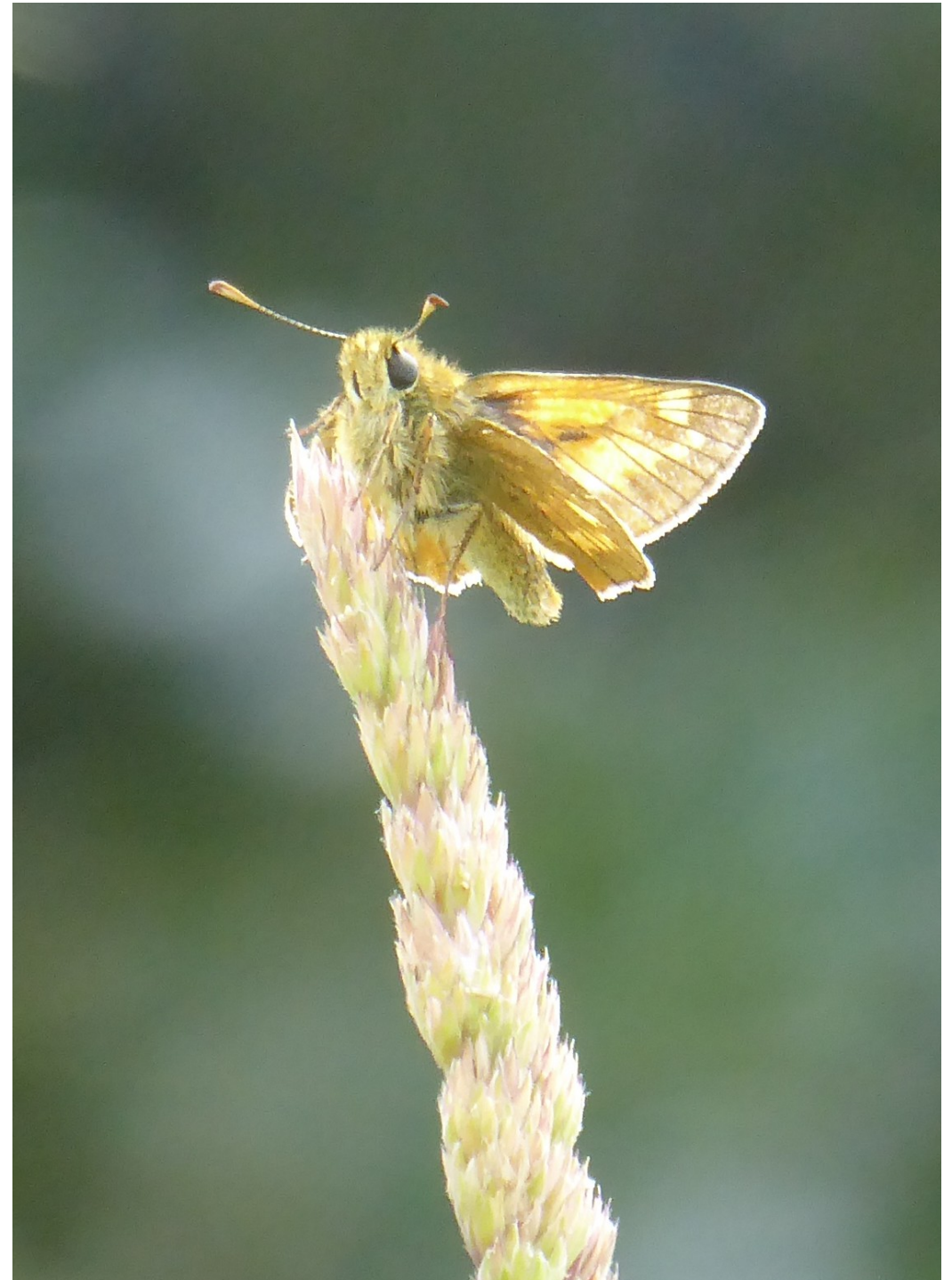
Usually on woody
plants, unlike this nettle.
An increasing species.

BUTTERFLIES

23 species recorded

Large Skipper.

Males seek vantage points on Bramble or taller vegetation.
[Lessingham]





Common Blue.

Holly Blue is more frequent in churchyards: this species tends to fly much closer to the ground. [Reedham]



Essex Skipper. This species will be down in the grass; the ‘dipped in ink’ antennae distinguish it from Small Skipper. [Ridlington]



Ringlet.

Will fly in cloudy conditions or even light rain; often takes ages to settle. [Metton]



Comma.

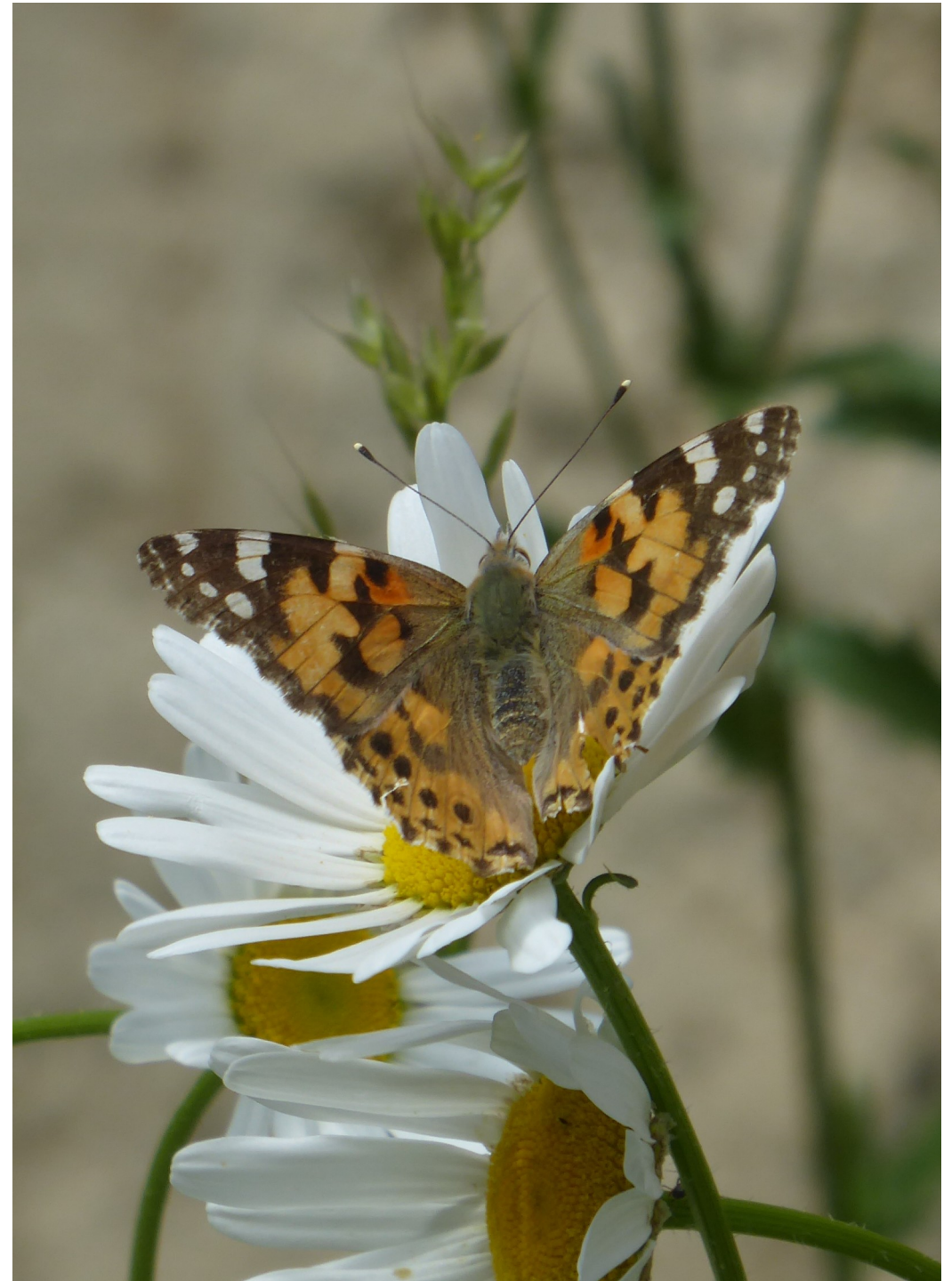
The dried-leaf effect helps conceal the butterfly overnight or in hibernation. [Paston]



Wall Brown. Sadly has disappeared from many inland counties; thankfully a Norfolk churchyard is a good place to look out for them. [West Somerton]

Painted Lady.

Arrives as a migrant in
varying numbers and
then breeds.
[Swannington]





Peacock larvae.
Nettle patches don't
always attract the desired
butterflies, but this one
did. [Newton Flotman]

MOTHS

34 species recorded

Silver Y.

Arrives each year as a migrant, then breeds.
Seen in several churchyards. [Martham]





Cinnabar. Keep your Ragwort [as above at Newton Flotman] and you might get a lovely adult [in the porch at Knapton].



Twin-barred Knot-horn

***Homoeosoma sinuella*.**

Its caterpillar feeds on Plantain. [Thorpe Market]



Yarrow Plume.

Again, encourage the plant and you might get the moth. [Repps]



***Chrysoteuchia culmella* Garden Grass-veneer.** One of several grass moths: you see them fly, but when land on a stem they vanish. [Blofield]



Yellow-tail caterpillar.
Feeding here on Oak.
[Elsing]



Luffia lapidella.

Inside the case is a caterpillar (a ‘bagworm’) which grazes lichen: look for them on memorials. [Walcott]



Currant Clearwing. A churchyard surprise!
Yes, it is a moth; perhaps from fruit bushes in a
neighbouring garden? [Mulbarton]

CRICKETS & GRASSHOPPERS

10 species recorded

Dark Bush-cricket nymph.

Bush-crickets have long antennae and need taller vegetation: a hedge or Bramble for this one.
[Swannington]





Roesel's Bush-cricket nymph (left). Long-winged forms (like the above female) assist dispersal. [Lessingham; West Somerton].



Long-winged Conehead.

Usually in long grass. A species on the increase here due to climate change. [West Somerton]



Southern Oak Bush-cricket – young female.
A recent arrival in the country (2001) and county
(2017). [Horstead; identified by David Williams]



Common Green Grasshopper. Grasshoppers have short antennae. This species has curved keels on the prothorax behind the head. [West Somerton]



Field Grasshopper nymph. The keels are angled. Probably the commonest churchyard species, tolerant of drier conditions. [Hemblington]



Meadow Grasshopper.

Slightly curved keels. Most females of this species are short-winged. [Horstead]



Lesser Marsh Grasshopper pair.

Almost parallel keels; the smaller male is stridulating (chirruping) to the female. [West Somerton]

FLIES

c.115 species recorded

Broad Centurion female.

A common, metallic
'soldierfly'. The male
abdomen is golden and
narrower. [Hemblington]





Two further frequent soldierflies:-

Pachygaster atra.

The wings and legs are partly darkened.

[Mulbarton]



Pachygaster leachii.

Clear wings and almost completely pale legs.

[Blofield]



Drone Fly *Eristalis tenax*. *Eristalis* hoverflies have a looped vein at the wing tip. This species has a vertical hair band on its eyes. [Swannington]



Greater Bulb-fly *Merodon equestris*.

A bumblebee mimic, with robust, black legs. This is one of many colour forms. [Horstead]



Batman Hoverfly *Myathropa florea*.

Like *Eristalis*, its larvae inhabit liquid detritus, breathing through a tube. [Newton Flotman]



Sphaerophoria scripta.

An elongate hoverfly (there are less common, shorter-bodied, similar species). [Thorpe Market]



Eriothrix rufomaculata.

A bristly, red-flanked parasitic fly commonly seen on flowers. [Little Massingham]



Phania funesta.

Believed to parasitise shieldbugs.
[Lessingham]

ROBBERFLIES

*A predatory fly family
well-represented in the
churchyards*

***Leptogaster
cylindrica.***

A slender species.
[Lessingham]





Dysmachus trigonus
male (left), female
(above).

A very bristly species.
[Horstead]



Neoitamus cyanurus.

Generally a woodland species.
[Edingthorpe]



Possibly the last
thing its prey will
see!

Kite-tailed Robberfly *Machimus atricapillus*.

English name from the male's rear, downward-pointing forked tab. Open habitats. [Horstead]



Eutolmus rufibarbis.

Well-recorded in Norfolk, but restricted in its national distribution. [Newton Flotman]



Dioctria atricapilla with wasp prey.
The green-eyed females and blue-eyed males are a frequent sight in longer grass. [Reedham]



Common Red-legged Robberfly
***Dioctria rufipes*.**

Another grassland species. [Horstead]



Dioctria baumhaueri (left) and ***linearis*** (right).
Typically a higher-level and a woodland species,
respectively. [Edingthorpe; Blofield]

BEEETLES

40 species recorded

Red-headed Cardinal Beetle.

Both adults and larvae are predators, the latter under bark. [Reedham]





Lagria hirta.

A distinctive species: *hirta* means hairy.
[Ridlington]

Rutpela maculata

– a longhorn beetle.

The larvae of longhorns feed on wood; many of the adults frequent flowers. [Repps]





Plum Beetle.

A small longhorn, on
deciduous trees.
[Wretton]



Wasp Beetle.

Another longhorn, named from its colouration and pattern. [Repps]



Grammoptera ruficornis.

Another small longhorn of early summer. Recorded in six churchyards; here on Oak. [Elsing]



Apple Fruit Weevil.

An easily recognisable species, mainly on Hawthorn and Blackthorn. [Wretton]



Orange, 16-spot & Oak Ladybirds. Displaying a range of colours and sizes: 5, 3 & 2mm. [Horstead, West Somerton, Elsing]

FAMILIAR FRIENDS

*Not necessarily the
commonest, but frequent
and worth looking out for*

Pseudovadonia livida
– a longhorn beetle.
Frequently seen on
flowers. [Trunch]





Red-legged Shieldbug *Pentatoma rufipes*
(nymph). Overwinters as a nymph, so around from
early on; mainly on deciduous trees. [Southwood]



Swollen-thighed Beetle *Oedemera nobilis*.
Frequent on flowers; the female lacks the swollen
hind femora. [Hemblington]



Speckled Bush-cricket. Nymphs are easier to find than adults; both are heavily speckled.
[Mulbarton]



***Bombus vestalis* Southern or Vestal Cuckoo Bee.** The commonest cuckoo bumblebee; on bramble, thistles, etc. [Swannington]



Orange-tip Butterfly. After appearing as an adult in the spring, can be found on Garlic Mustard seedpods as an egg or caterpillar. [Elsing/Martham]



Cassida rubiginosa – a tortoise beetle.
On Knapweed or thistles, either as an adult
[Mulbarton / Limpenhoe] ...



... or as larvae, which pile their own droppings on their backs for protection (other *Cassida* species may be similar). [Hemblington]

PLANT- FEEDERS

Cauchas fibulella (Speedwells)

The adult moth visits the flowers and the caterpillars feed on the plant. [Thorpe Market]





Toadflax Brocade

There were also caterpillars at Reepham; but good to see the adult moth. [Gaywood]



Pammene aurana (Hogweed).

Again, both adults and caterpillars use the plant.
[Hemblington]



***Goniglossum
wiedemanni***
(White Bryony).
Most 'picture-winged
flies' develop within or
on specific plants.
[Reepham]



Cionus longicollis (Great Mullein).

There are similar weevils, but Breckland is the UK stronghold of this species. [Little Massingham]



Hollyhock Seed Weevil.

The first time I'd seen this spreading species.
[Reephram]

Rosemary Beetle
(also on Lavender).
Some churchyards
feature herbs: this
attractive, but somewhat
destructive
Mediterranean species
may arrive as a result.
[Newton Flotman]





***Liposthenes
glechomae*** gall
(Ground Ivy).

Gall-causers (in this case
a wasp) induce a plant to
produce a growth, within
which they then feed.
[Swannington]

DEADNETTLES, THISTLES & OAK

Some plants attract
several insect species

Wool Carder Bee.
The female strips the
down from hairy plants
to line her nest-cells. The
male defends a patch and
hopes to mate. [Reephram]





Woundwort Shieldbug (also on White Deadnettle).

A small, attractive, metallic species. [Mulbarton]



Pied Shieldbug

(White Deadnettle / Black Horehound).

Often at ground level, out of sight. [Ridlington]



Xyphosia miliaria (Thistles).

A 'picture-winged' fly.

[Repps]



Painted Lady (Thistles and some other plants).
Numbers of this migrant fluctuate: there were plenty
in 2026. [Gaywood; Swannington]



Rhabdomiris striatellus.

One of several bugs and other insects on this churchyard Oak. [Elsing]



***Cyllecoris histrionius* (Oak).**

A distinctive, humbug nymph, rather different from the adult bug. [Elsing; Swannington]



Currant Gall.

One of many wasp-induced galls on Oak.
[Elsing]

PREDATORS

A **spider-hunting wasp** ascends [Belaugh] church tower with prey: not for itself, but on which it will lay an egg.





Ant Beetle.

This was hanging around a log pile, waiting to pounce on visiting bark beetles. [Blofield]



Platypalpus minutus – a dance fly.

There are many such species, running around on tree trunks, memorials, etc. in pursuit of prey. [Walcott]



Common Blue Damselfly.

More dainty than a dragonfly, but still a predator.
This is a female. [Repps]



Tenthredo mesomela – a sawfly.

Sawfly larvae are vegetarian; but some of the larger adults, like this, are partly predatory. [Repps]



(Southern?) **Oak Bush-cricket** nymph.
Similarly, while grasshoppers and many crickets eat plants, this is an arboreal predator. [Belaugh]



Empicoris vagabundus – a thread-legged bug. Although its limbs are slender, the raptorial forelegs hint at its carnivorous diet. [West Somerton]



Red Bug *Deraeocoris ruber*. Another predatory bug. [nymph: Hemblington; Lessingham]



APHID- FEEDERS

Pipiza hoverfly.
The larvae of many
hoverflies eat aphids:
this female is laying eggs
on Blackthorn in
anticipation. [Walcott]





***Syrphus*(?)** hoverfly
laying eggs in an aphid
colony. [Martham]





Marmalade Hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*.

An easily-identifiable and widespread migrant.

[Repps]



Xanthogramma pedissequum.

Associated with aphids in ant nests, above which an adult male hovers. [Martham]



Pine Ladybird.

Most ladybirds eat aphids: this one on deciduous trees as well as evergreens. [Swannington]



10-spot Ladybird larva.

I tapped this out of a tree, but it wasn't going to let go of its lunch. [Martham]



Lacewings ***Hemerobius micans* & *lutescens***.
These species are associated with deciduous trees.
[Blofield; Repps]



Campyloneura virgula.

Aphids are also on the menu for this small, attractive, predatory bug. [Reepham]

PARASITES



Phyto melanocephala – a woodlouse fly. As the English family name suggests, larvae of this species develop as parasitoids in woodlice. [Walcott]



‘Bee-grabber’ ***Sicus ferrugineus***. The female fly will grab a passing bee and, in flight, insert an egg under an abdominal plate. [Horstead]



An **Ichneumon** species drilling into a log to lay an egg on a (beetle?) larva tunnelling inside.
[Blofield]



Gasteruption sp. A ‘cleptoparasite’ which injects its eggs into solitary bee nests, where the wasp larva will consume the host larva and food store. [Repps]



Sphecodes gibbus. A cleptoparasitic bee: red-girdled *Sphecodes* break into nests of other members their bee family to lay their eggs. [Swannington]



(Clockwise) **Variable, Painted & Fabricius' Nomad Bees.** Search out nests of their host mining bees to lay their eggs. [Paston; Lessingham; Mulbarton]



***Bombus sylvestris* Forest or 4-coloured Cuckoo Bee.** Takes over an Early Bumblebee colony for that to raise its offspring. [Edingthorpe]



A live **7-spot Ladybird** guarding a ***Dinocampus coccinellae*** cocoon. The wasp larva developed inside the 'zombie' ladybird! [Thorpe Market]