

**LEICESTERSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**INVERTEBRATE RECORDING AT  
LAUNDE BIG WOOD SSSI - RESULTS OF THE  
LES FIELD MEETING 4TH JUNE 1995**

*by*

*Members of the LES*

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**INTRODUCTION**

Launde Big Wood SSSI is an ancient ash-maple and ash-elm woodland, largely on heavy clay soils, located east of Leicester near Loddington (SK787038). Most of the wood is dominated by ash and locally by wych elm over a shrub layer of hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn and hazel. Some areas to the north are open and here oak and birch dominate with an understorey of bracken. In this area there is abundant honeysuckle.

Invertebrate recording has been carried out intermittently over three decades, although no on-going survey work seems to have been done in recent years. Historically, the wood has been shown to contain local and uncommon species of Coleoptera several of which are old timber species characteristic of ancient woodland. In addition, several local Lepidoptera have been noted and there is a record of the local hoverfly *Portevinia maculata* (Kirby, 1987).

Overall, the Invertebrate Site Register (Kirby, 1987) considers that the existing invertebrate faunal lists are sufficient to suggest the possibility of a good ancient woodland fauna with more thorough surveying needed to establish the extent of this.

Table 1 lists species of national and local interest contained in the ISR.

**Table 1: National and local invertebrates at  
Launde Big Wood SSSI (Kirby 1987)**

<b>Notable Nb species</b>	<b>Local species</b>
<i>Orchesia minor</i> (Coleoptera)	<i>Apion subulatus</i> (Coleoptera)
<i>Platycis minuta</i> (Coleoptera)	<i>Atheta pallidicornis</i> (Coleoptera)
<i>Sitona macularius</i> (Coleoptera)	<i>Pogonocherus hispidulus</i> (Coleoptera)
<i>Bembecia scopigera</i> (Lepidoptera)	<i>Pseudotriphyllus suturalis</i> (Coleoptera)
<i>Crambus pratella</i> (Lepidoptera)	<i>Scyanus auritus</i> (Coleoptera)
	<i>Nola confusalis</i> (Lepidoptera)
	<i>Strymonidia w-album</i> (Lepidoptera)
	<i>Portevinia maculata</i> (Diptera)

## LES FIELD MEETING 4TH JUNE 1995

The possibility of Launde Big Wood SSSI, which receives some management as a county nature reserve, being available for purchase precipitated the need to gain some up-to-date invertebrate records for the site. Accordingly, members of the Leicestershire Entomological Society visited the wood on Saturday June 4th 1995 with the intention to record several groups of invertebrates. Due to inclement weather no night-time moth trapping by light was possible but, nevertheless, an interesting list of Lepidoptera was obtained during the day.

The recorders on this occasion were: Adrian Russell (AR), Maggie Frankum (MF), Roy Frankum (RF), Neil Frankum (NF) and Jon Daws (JD). Ray Morris collated this report.

The Leicestershire Entomological Society is grateful for permission to visit the site.

## PLANT GALLS

Records collected by MF & RF. Eighteen species of gall-forming insects were identified, all of which may be expected to be found in the types of habitat at Launde Big Wood. Most of the galls are common in Leicestershire (Griffiths, Jones & Leach 1990)

Field maple:	<i>Aceria erobia</i> (mite)
	<i>Eriophyes macrorhynchus</i> (mite)
Hazel:	<i>Eriophyes avellanae</i> (mite)
Hawthorn:	<i>Eriophyes goniothorax typicus</i> (mite)
Sloe:	<i>Eriophyes similis</i> (mite)
Oak:	<i>Andricus curvator</i> (cynipid wasp)
	<i>Andricus lignicola</i> (cynipid wasp)
	<i>Biorhiza pallida</i> (cynipid wasp)
	<i>Macrodiplosis dryobia</i> (midge)
	<i>Macrodiplosis volvens</i> (midge)
	<i>Neuroterus numismalis</i> (sexual) (cynipid wasp)
	<i>Neuroterus quercusbaccarum</i> (sexual) (cynipid wasp)(below)
Willow:	<i>Eriophyes tetanthrix</i> (mite)
	<i>Pontania vesicator</i> (sawfly)
	<i>Pontania viminalis</i> (sawfly)
Elm:	<i>Eriosoma ulmi</i> (aphid)
Honeysuckle:	<i>Macrolabis lonicerae</i> (midge)
Fern (?male):	<i>Chirosia betuleti</i> (gall fly)

## DIPTERA - SYRPHIDAE (HOVERFLIES)

Records by NF and MF. Previous records for the wood have been published by Kramer (1989). A total of twenty six species were recorded some of which had been previously found by Kramer.

*Platycheirus manicatus* f  
*Platycheirus peltatus* m, f  
*Platycheirus scutatus* f  
*Platycheirus tarsalis* f (also recorded by Kramer, 1989)  
*Melanostoma scalare*  
*Dasysyrphus venustus* f  
*Leucozona lucorum*  
*Cheilosia albitarsis* f  
*Cheilosia illustrata*  
*Cheilosia pagana* f (also recorded by Kramer 1989)  
*Cheilosia variabilis* f  
*Rhingia campestris* (also recorded by Kramer 1989)  
*Ferdinanda cuprea* f  
*Brachyopa scutellaris* m  
*Chrysogaster solstitialis* m  
*Neoascia tenur* m  
*Eristalis pertinax* (also recorded by Kramer 1989)  
*Helophilus pendulus* m  
*Myathropa florea*  
*Pipiza austriaca* m  
*Volucella bombylans*  
*Brachypalpoidea lenta* f, m  
*Criorhina berberina*  
*Criorhina floccosa*  
*Syrirta pipiens* (also recorded by Kramer 1989)  
*Xylota segnis*

## OTHER DIPTERA

Records by NF. Little studied groups within the county.

### Stratiomyidae (Soldier flies)

*Beris chalybeata* f  
*Sargus ?cuprarius/iridatus*

### Tachinidae (Parasite flies)

*Tachina fera*

### Tipulidae (Crane flies)

*Tipula maxima*

## COLEOPTERA

Records by JD, MF and NF. Only the easily identified ladybirds were recorded during this visit to Launde Wood.

*Coccinella 7-punctata* (7-spot ladybird)  
*Propylea 14-punctata* (14-spot ladybird)  
*Exochomus 4-pustulatus* (Pine ladybird)  
*Adalia 10-punctata* (10-spot ladybird)

*Calvia 14-guttata* (Cream spot ladybird)  
*Micraspis 16-punctata* (16-spot ladybird)

## HYMENOPTERA

Records by MF and NF. A little studied group in the county.

*Bombus pratorum* m (on yellow archangel)  
*Bombus pascuorum*

## ODONATA

Record by MF and NF.

*Coenagrion puella* (Azure damselfly; a fairly common and widespread species in the county being found a a variety of habitats; Grover & Ikin 1994).

## LEPIDOPTERA

Records by AR and MF. Day-time records only - it is likely that light-trapping will produce a substantial list for the wood. Whilst breeding of two species was proven by the finding of larvae on appropriate foodplants (purple hairstreak and *Ypsolopha nemorella*) the highlight was the finding of *Lampronia luzella* sitting on a leaf. This very attractive small moth is similar in general appearance to the much more commonly recorded *Incurvaria masculella* but has dark purplish wings with bright yellow triangular markings. In MBGBI (Heath, 1976) the species is described as "very local, usually in woodland" and is not listed for Leicestershire in either MBGBI or the county's provisional atlas of microlepidoptera (McPhail, 1993). Similarly, *Stigmella hybnerrella* is not listed in the atlas but according to MBGBI has been recorded from the county. *Ypsolopha nemorella* also seems to be a new addition to the county's list as it is not listed in the atlas.

- 0016 *Hepialus hecta* (Gold swift; frequent)
- 0099 *Stigmella hybnerella* (mines on hawthorn; previous record in MBGBI only)
- 0135 *Lampronia luzella* (first county record)
- 0286 *Caloptilia alchimiella* (few previous county records)
- 0385 *Anthophila fabriciana* (fairly common; under-recorded in county)
- 0452 *Ypsolopha nemorella* (larva on honeysuckle; new county record)
- 0986 *Syndemis musculana* (probably more common than records suggest)
- 1000 *Ptycholoma lecheana* (possibly the fourth county record)
- 1011 *Pseudargyrotoza conwagana* (fairly common but in southern half of county)
- 1015 *Eulia ministrana* (possibly under-recorded; known from three sites in county)
- 1174 *Epiblema cynosbatella* (fairly common and widespread in county)
- 1288 *Alucita hexadactyla* (Twenty plume; most records come from around Leicester - probably under-recorded in county)
- 1549 *Pieris brassicae* (Large white; common)
- 1551 *Pieris napi* (Green-veined white; common)
- 1557 *Quercusia quercus* (Purple hairstreak; larva on Turkey oak; usually a western distribution in the county)
- 1614 *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled wood; common)

- 1727 *Xanthorhoe montanata* (Silver-ground carpet; common)  
 1875 *Asthena albulata* (Small white wave; often over-looked)  
 1887 *Lomaspilis marginata* (Clouded border; fairly common)  
 1902 *Pterophora chlorosata* (Brown silver-line; frequent)

## ARACHNIDA - SPIDERS

Records by JD. This group is actively being recorded by a few workers in the county and a county atlas is due for publication in 1996.

- Clubonia compta*  
*Clubonia lutescens*  
*Clubonia reclusa*  
*Zora spinimana*  
*Anyphaena accentuata* (good woodland species)  
*Xysticus cristatus*  
*Xysticus ulmi* (local species, found along ditch)  
*Philodromus aureolus*  
*Tibellus oblongus* (damp places, found along ditch)  
*Neon reticulatus* (woodland species)  
*Pardosa amentata*  
*Pardosa lugubris* (woodland species)  
*Pardosa prativaga*  
*Pirata hygrophilus* (damp woodland species)  
*Anelosimus vittatus*  
*Theridion bimaculatum*  
*Theridion pallens*  
*Theridion sisyphium*  
*Tetragnatha extensa*  
*Tetragnatha montana*  
*Pachygnatha degeeri*  
*Pachygnatha listeri* (good woodland species)  
*Meta mengei*  
*Araneus diadematus*  
*Araniella cucurbitina*  
*Araniella opistographa*  
*Gongylidium rufipes*  
*Maso sundevalli*  
*Pocadicnemis pumila*  
*Porrhomma microphalmum*  
*Agyneta conigera*  
*Saariotoa firma* (good woodland species; first record for county outside Charnwood)  
*Bathyphantes gracilis*  
*Bathyphantes parvulus*  
*Kaesteria dorsalis*  
*Diplostyla concolor*  
*Lepthyphantes obscurus*  
*Lepthyphantes pallidus*  
*Lepthyphantes tenuis*  
*Lepthyphantes zimmermanni*  
*Linyphia hortensis*  
*Neriene clathrata*  
*Neriene peltata*

## MOLLUSCA

*Discus rotundatus*

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