

A summary and atlas of the

Coccinellidae

of VC55



INTRODUCTION

Most people are familiar with the ladybirds and have no problem recognising the most frequently seen half a dozen or so. However there are 55 species (47 resident) recorded for Britain and Ireland (Duff 2018) of which several are very similar, some infrequently seen and others that are very small, plain and not instantly recognised as ladybirds at all. In total, 41 species of ladybirds have been recorded in VC55 at one time or another, so we have records for well over half of the British list.

The top 6 species in descending abundance of records are **7-spot Ladybird** 2811 records, **Harlequin Ladybird** 2169 records, **2-spot Ladybird** 998 records, **14-spot Ladybird** 960 records, **22-spot Ladybird** 519 records and **10-spot Ladybird** 439. These are the species we all see almost everytime we go out, even if we are not specifically looking for them.

Interestingly, ***Coccidula rufa*** is quite well up in the abundance stakes with 434 records, a high total for a supposedly “inconspicuous” species, but this tells us that it is one of the easiest of the so called difficult group to find. Peeling back the dead outer sheaths of Typha and other reeds can sometimes reveal numerous individuals in a single stem. A wetland species easily found throughout the winter, also **Water Ladybird** is often found when looking for this species as both can be found together.

Another high ranking species, although also classed as one of the “inconspicuous” ladybirds, is ***Rhyzobius litura*** with 176 records, maybe the reason for such a high score is that it is easily found by generally sweeping low vegetation including nettle patches. It's also found fairly regularly throughout the winter months as many coleopterists spend a lot of time sieving grass tussocks, a favourite overwintering site of this species.

Orange Ladybird has a high total of 433 records and this is possibly as much to do with this species being highly attracted to light, in particularly moth traps. Being a fairly scarce species up until the early 1980's, but has since dramatically increased. From 2003 to 2005 records of this species were almost totally restricted to visitors to moth traps. Daytime records slightly increased over the next few years and then from 2014 to present it has become one of the most regularly reported species.



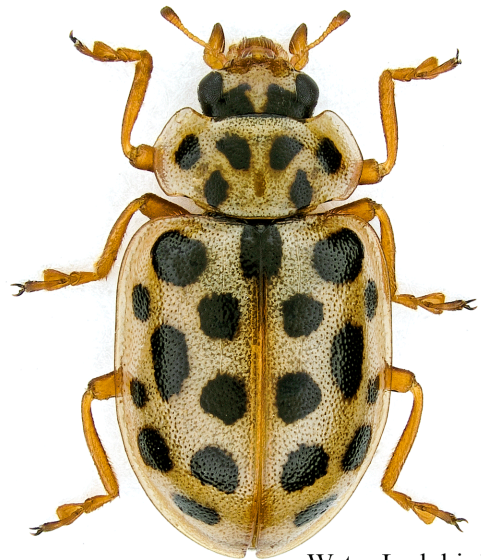
Rhyzobius litura

Cream-spot Ladybird has 288 records, another high total but there is always a chance that this species could be confused with the previous species. There is a trend to suggest that this species is thought to be decreasing nationally.

Pine Ladybird with 483 records, this is not at all restricted to pines, but can be found equally as common in deciduous woodland. Belonging to a group of small black ladybirds with red markings, that have the potential to cause identification problems.

The last three species of the regularly seen "typical" ladybirds are **Water Ladybird**, 152 records, **16-spot Ladybird** 230 records and **Kidney-spot Ladybird** 161 records, and all of these have similar looking species to get confused with.

We now see that even some of the common species have the potential to be confused with other species, so all of a sudden we are beginning to make the ladybirds a little more of a challenge.



Water Ladybird

That roughly deals with the top 14 recorded species, from here on the number of records for the rest drops considerably, the next highest being **Eyed Ladybird** with a mere 73 records. Then there are 11 species which break into double figures although some only just so and another 11 species that only manage single figures. The ladybirds can be quite a challenging group, but there are several ways we can increase our chances of finding them. As many species overwinter as adults, it's surprising how many can be found by sieving leaf litter, or sieving accumulations of Beech nuts, good for **Cream-spot Ladybird** and **10-spot Ladybird** or litter under Gorse or pines for **Hieroglyphic Ladybird**, a species we do not have many records for. General searching of tree trunks, especially various pines for the conifer dwelling species.

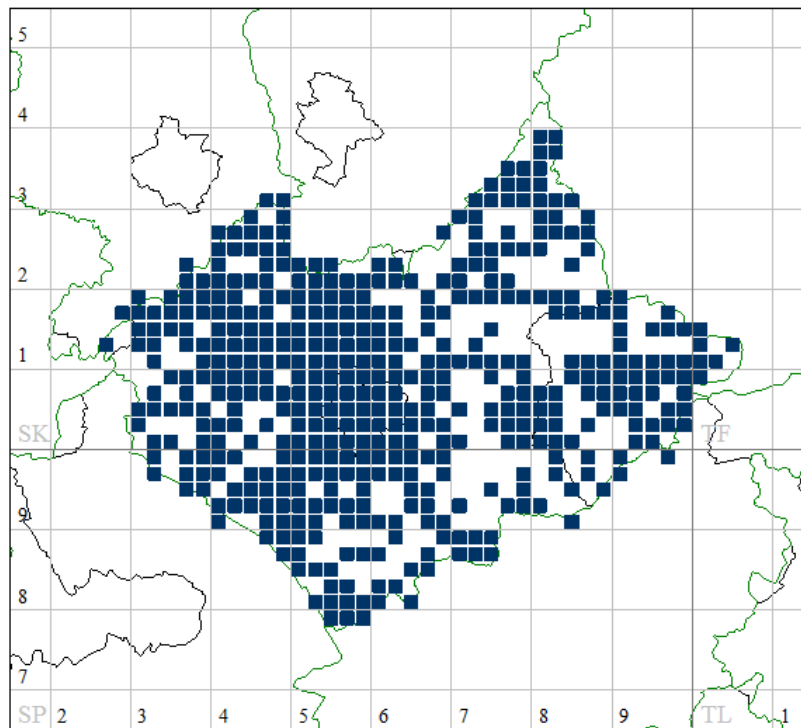
There's a lot that can be done throughout the winter months when other beetle activity is minimal. During the rest of the year to give yourself an extra chance of finding the "inconspicuous" species as they are referred to, extra tactics are needed, this is where beating and/or sweeping come into their own. Both of these methods are just as productive in finding the larger species too, beating especially so in conifer woodlands.

The map below shows the distribution of 2km squares in which ladybirds have been recorded in VC55 and shows a general but obvious bias to the western half. The paucity of records from the east is interesting, particularly for Rutland, as many new and scarce beetles have been recorded "over in the east". It seems inevitable that increased field work over in this half of VC55 is bound to produce more records and a high possibility of new species.

The second map shows the where the most species have been found, although this will coincide with where the most field work has been undertaken.

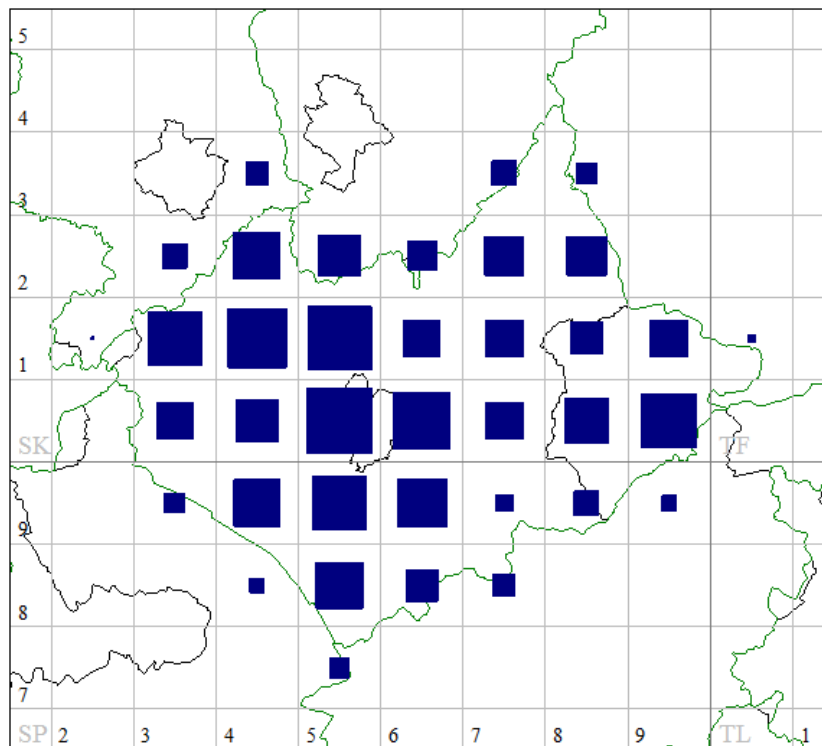
2km DISTRIBUTION MAP

VC55 Coccinellidae Recorded 2km squares



10km SPECIES DENSITY MAP

VC55 Coccinellidae Species Density 10km



CHECKLIST

The following is a complete upto date checklist to the ladybird beetles of the British Isles, following the order of the recent Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, third edition edited by Andrew G. Duff 2018. The red **X**'s in the right hand column shows this particular species has **NOT** been recorded for VC55, whereas the cells with numbers indicate how many records there are for this species. The number of records given for each species "should" be an indicator of which species are likely to be recorded in VC55.

COCCIDULA	<i>rufa</i>	Kugelann in Illiger 1798	434
	<i>scutellata</i>	Herbst 1783	33
RHYZوبيUS	<i>chrysomeloides</i>	Herbst 1782	13
	<i>forestieri</i>	Mulsant 1853	1
	<i>litura</i>	Fabricius 1787	180
	<i>lophanthae</i>	Blaisdell 1892	2
CRYPTOLAEMUS	<i>montrouzieri</i>	Mulsant 1853	X
HYPERASPIS	<i>pseudopustulata</i>	Mulsant 1853	2
CLITOSTETHUS	<i>arcuatus</i>	Rossi 1794	4
NEPHUS	<i>bisignatus</i>	Boheman 1850	X
	<i>limonii</i>	Donisthorpe 1903	X
	<i>quadrimaculatus</i>	Herbst 1783	8
	<i>redtenbacheri</i>	Mulsant 1846	14
SCYMNUS	<i>haemorrhoidalis</i>	Herbst 1797	15
	<i>limbatus</i>	Stephens 1832	X
	<i>auritus</i>	Thunberg 1795	9
	<i>suturalis</i>	Thunberg 1795	10
	<i>femoralis</i>	Gyllenhal 1827	7
	<i>frontalis</i>	Fabricius 1787	16
	<i>interruptus</i>	Goeze 1777	3
	<i>jakowlewii</i>	Weise 1892	X
	<i>nigrinus</i>	Kugelann 1794	3
	<i>rubromaculatus</i>	Goeze 1777	X
	<i>schmidtii</i>	Fursch 1958	1
STETHORUS	<i>pusillus</i>	Herbst 1797	2

CHILOCORUS	<i>bipustulatus</i>	Linnaeus 1758	5
	<i>renipustulatus</i>	Scriba 1791	161
EXOCHOMUS	<i>quadripustulatus</i>	Linnaeus 1758	483
PLATYNASPIS	<i>luteorubra</i>	Goeze 1777	X
RODOLIA	<i>cardinalis</i>	Mulsant 1850	X
HALYZIA	<i>sedecimguttata</i>	Mulsant 1846	443
PSYLLOBORA	<i>vigintiduopunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	519
VIBIDIA	<i>duodecimguttata</i>	Poda von Neuhaus 1761	X
ANISOSTICTA	<i>novemdecimpunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	171
COCCINULA	<i>quattuordecimpustulata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	X
TYTTHASPIS	<i>sedecimpunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1760	235
HIPPODAMIA	<i>tredecimpunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	X
	<i>variegata</i>	Goeze 1777	73
APHIDECTA	<i>obliterata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	71
ADALIA	<i>bipunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	998
	<i>decempunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	439
COCCINELLA	<i>heiroglyphica</i>	Linnaeus 1758	11
	<i>magnifica</i>	Redtenbacher 1843	X
	<i>quinquepunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	X
	<i>septempunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	2811
	<i>undecimpunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	54
HARMONIA	<i>axyridis</i>	Pallas 1773	2169
	<i>quadripunctata</i>	Pontoppidan 1763	63
PROPYLEA	<i>quattuordecimpunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	960
ANATIS	<i>ocellata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	73
MYRRHA	<i>octodecimguttata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	26
CALVIA	<i>quattuordecimguttata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	300
MYZIA	<i>oblongoguttata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	6
HENOSELPILACHNA	<i>argus</i>	Geoffroy in Fourcroy 1762	X
SUBCOCINELLA	<i>vigintiquattuorpunctata</i>	Linnaeus 1758	85

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Several of our ladybirds are quite large, colourful and tend to sit out in the open, these are the species that get noticed and reported the most, consequently most modern records of the above are made from casual observers. However to find others, a little extra effort is needed, beating and sweeping are two of the most productive methods. Knowing and searching on and around the host plants for certain species will also provide opportunities for finding adults. The species accounts include a very brief note on host plant, general distribution nationally and whether or not it is likely to be found in VC55. While this will hold-true for most species, there is always a chance that the unexpected could happen. A number of species are sitting on the edge of our recording area just outside the county boundaries, and it's possible they could eventually cross the border and even set up colonies. Even the most unlikely species can turn up anywhere, so certain species require more than just a glancing look. For any species suspected of belonging in the above category, it would be preferable that a specimen is kept, failing that, a series of photographs which show the required character/s that are necessary for confirmation will be needed. The same should be stated for any species that are classed as rare, especially those that have not been mapped.

Only the vernacular names that have been in use for some time have been included, but for the small inconspicuous species, vernacular names have not been used as these have been introduced fairly recently and will be less well known and may not have been used in other reference material.

Coccidula rufa Kugellan in Illiger

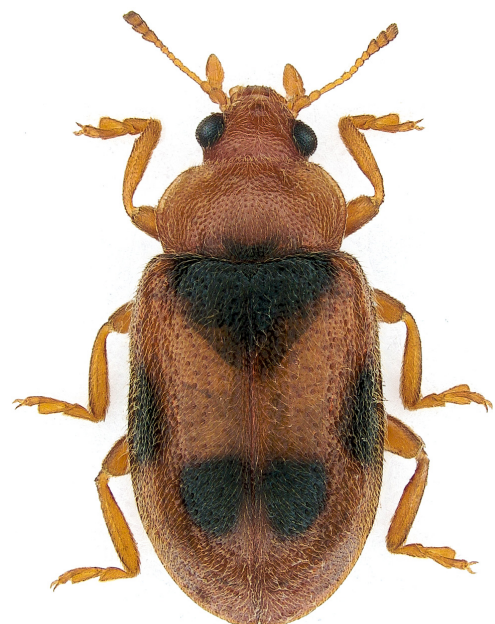
434 records (416 mapped)

Stated nationally as being widespread throughout Britain, and this situation is similar with VC55. A species of wetlands and easily found by sweeping reeds or grasses besides water bodies, but also by peeling back the dead outer stem coverings of Reed Mace. It's the sort of species you actually have to make an effort to find but is usually found easily by those that do.

Coccinella scutellata Herbst

33 records (33 mapped)

Stated as widespread in England but slightly more restricted than **C. rufa**, preferring wetland areas, pond, riverside, lake, and marsh edges, wherever Typha is found, where it is often recorded in winter beneath the dead outer sheaths.

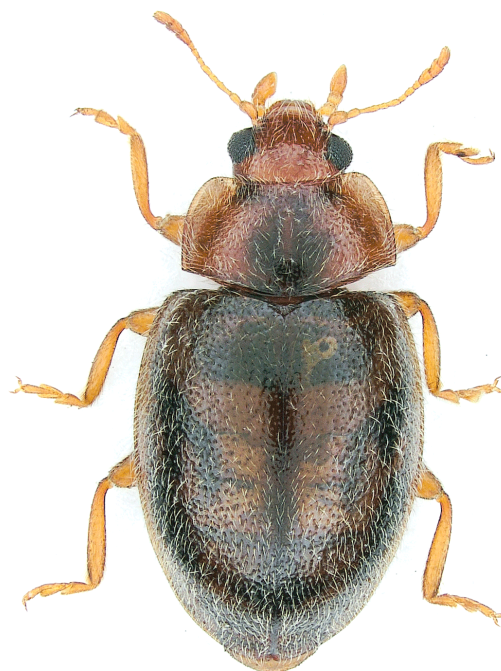


Coccidula scutellata

Rhyzobius chrysomeloides Herbst

13 records (13 mapped)

First found at Barkby Thorpe by Mark Telfer in 2010, but recently found at Slash Lane, Barrow on Soar by GL Finch December 2018. Latest record was from beating an old roadside hedgerow overgrown with old Ivy, at least 37 were counted. This species is now apparently spreading and now recorded from Oxfordshire, Worcestershire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. First found in Britain as recently as 1996. Because this species is extremely similar to ***R. litura*** it will require very careful examination, particularly of the undersides.



Rhyzobius chrysomeloides

Rhyzobius forestieri Mullsant

A specimen sent to me from a Shearsby garden in August, turned out to be our first record of ***Rhyzobius forestieri***. This is not included in the main text of Roy, Brown and Lewington's Field Guide, but is the last species mentioned as "Potential New Species" at the back of the book! Any of the small all black species need to be flipped on to their backs to check if the last few segments of the abdomen are reddish/orange. An adventive species native of Australia. A scattering of records from Hertfordshire, otherwise odd records from London and Tilbury.

Rhyzobius litura Fabricius

180 records (180 mapped)

Stated as widespread nationally and being fairly widespread in VC55. Most likely to be swept from various grassland and meadows, especially with Thistles. Can be confused with ***C. chrysomeloides*** but habitat should provide a clue, as the latter prefers woodland particularly Pines.

Rhyzobius lophanthae Blaisdell

The only two records we have for this species for VC55 are both in March 2019, both about a week apart. The first were 2 specimens beaten from conifers in the Botanic Gardens in Leicester, quickly followed by a single specimen from an Anstey garden. A native of Australia first found in Britain in Surrey 1999, also records from Sussex, and London. Another adventive that is spreading with recent records from as far north as Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. A predatory species feeding on scale insects and although now known to



Rhyzobius lophanthae

overwinter, sites are still quite vague.

Stethorus pusillus Herbst

This is one of the smallest 1.3-1.5mm, of the “inconspicuous” ladybird species, so it’s hardly surprising we have only 2 records, even though it can be found in a variety of habitats, usually feeding on spider mites and/or very small aphids. Stated to overwinter between the fissures of bark, beating being the preferred method of locating this species.

Cryptolemus montrouzieri Mulsant

Not recorded from VC55, but there are records from Nottinghamshire, another adventive from Australia and released in New Zealand to help control mealybugs and scale insects. Doesn’t seem to like cool winters, so any records for Great Britain look likely to be one-offs.

Hyperaspis pseudopustulata Mulsant

Not recorded from VC55 and probably not likely to be, apparently given as widespread in England and Wales, but with very few recent records. A wide range of habitats but usually coastal.

Clitostethus arcuatus Rossi

4 records (4 mapped)

There was just a single historic record of this species from Market Bosworth 1872 Thomas Vernon Wollaston. Interestingly the latest record of this species was found on Shenton estates and probably a few hundred yards from Wollaston’s original record. However 2 specimens were found by a diligent recorder whilst beating Ivy on a fence in Sapcote, April 2020, whilst in the process of looking for *Nephus quadrimaculatus*. An additional record from Bagworth, this time from beating holly. This is an extremely small species 1.2-1.5mm only, so could very easily be overlooked. Apparently prefers a warm Mediterranean climate but possibly increasing it’s range with the onset of global warming. Suggested beating Ivy on trees maybe the best way to locate this species.



Nephus bisignatus Boheman

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be. Known from just a single record and possibly two other known localities in Kent.

Nephus quadrimaculatus Herbst **JNCC - Vulnerable**

Added to the VC5 list in 2020, when several specimens were beaten in March from a section of Ivy in Knighton churchyard, Leicester. Hot on the heels of this discovery, several individuals were swept from an Ivy covered fence in Sapcote, plus several from a different area of Knighton, beat from Ivy growing on Hornbeam, and the latest from a Whetstone garden. Predatory on scale insects and particularly fond of Ivy, although not restricted to it. *N. quadrimaculatus* has also been found on Alder and Sycamore and not always with Ivy. Anyone with an Ivy covered fence, wall or possibly trees with Ivy growing on are encouraged to search for this species, as it must be more widespread than these recent records suggest.



Nephus limonii Herbst

Not recorded from VC55. I'm a little confused over this species as most of the literature seem to treat it as a synonym for ***N. redtenbacheri***. Both species are listed in Duff 2018 as separate species, but I can't find anything on ***N. limonii*** but plenty on ***N. redtenbacheri***. The new Field Guide to the Ladybirds of Great Britain and Ireland, Roy, Brown and Lewington 2018, states Duff 2018, adds ***N. limonii*** as a reinstated species; it is thought to be a cryptic sibling of ***N. redtenbacheri***. Both species being difficult to separate on morphological characters, and that ***N. limonii*** seems to be strongly associated with Sea Lavender. So I guess that this makes it very doubtful of being found in VC55.

Nephus redtenbacheri Mulsant

14 records (12 mapped)

Stated as being nationally widespread, a predatory ladybird that feeds on mealybugs. Although very few records for VC55, there seems to be two distinct areas for this species with the records divided fairly equally at both.

Scymnus haemorrhoidalis Herbst

15 records (11 mapped)

Stated as widespread in southern England but very few recent records. Living low down in marshes, bogs, water margins and undisturbed grassland, predatory feeding on aphids.

Shows a definite western bias in VC55. Sweeping sites like Misterton Marsh and areas in the Soar and Trent valleys could help to find this species.

Scymnus limbatus Stephens

Not recorded from VC55. Usually found on deciduous trees in marshy habitats, it's predatory feeding on aphids and scale insects. Coventry and Birmingham seem to be the closest records to us, and widespread in Cambridgeshire. I suppose there is a slim chance of finding this species in VC55, especially in areas such as Misterton Marsh and in the River Soar Valley.

Scymnus auritus Thunberg

9 records (9 mapped)

Stated nationally as very local and dependant on prey outbreaks can vary from year to year. Prey is Phylloxeridae, plant-parasitic hemipterans which are closely related to aphids. Most records are from the 1980's and 1990's with the latest records from Stanford Park 2002.

Scymnus suturalis Thunberg

10 records (9 mapped)

Stated nationally as having a broad distribution, records are scattered throughout Britain. Prefers coniferous woodland plus habitats with conifers. Found on needled conifers, particularly Scots Pine and Douglas Fir, predatory, feeding on aphids and adelgids (aphid like insects that suck sap from conifers).



Scymnus haemorrhoidalis

Scymnus suturalis



Scymnus femoralis Gyllenhal

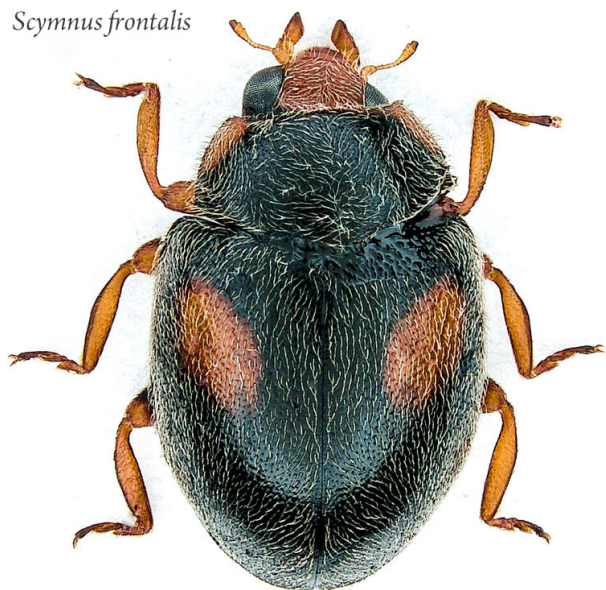
7 records (3 mapped)

Stated nationally as limited distribution, but likely to be under-recorded, found on heathland and other dry habitats, especially on chalky and sandy soils. Two of our records are from the Charnwood Forest and the third The Drift, east of Kroxton Kerrial on the county boundary.

Scymnus frontalis Fabricius

16 records (10 mapped)

Stated as widely distributed in England and Wales, absent from Scotland. Preference for bare ground and sandy soils backed up by the abundant coastal records. VC55 records are scattered in a central band across both counties.



Scymnus interruptus Goeze

Added recently in April 2020 from 2 sites some distance apart Broughton Astley and Braunstone. Feeding on scale insects and mealybugs. Another species that can be found in various habitats, but particularly on Ivy covered hedgerows in gardens. Interesting to note that the Braunstone individual was found by brushing variegated Holly foliage in the garden. It is stated that it may overwinter on Privet, although very little information is known about its overwintering habits.

Scymnus jakowlewi Weise

Not recorded from VC55, and not likely to be. A mystery, I can find very little about this species, other than stated as being an occasional adventive (UK Beetle Recording). Also there is a paper "Beetle species new to Estonia, by Juha Siitonen & Juha Salokannel 2015". The paper contains a brief description of a single individual, caught in a pitfall trap on a sun-exposed sandy heath May/June. This paper also states the species is generally rare and has a northeastern distribution in Europe. The Coleopterist (magazine) Volume 24 Part 1. April 2015, includes this species in a British Scymnus key, stating this is a northern species and the only British specimen was of a single female collected from moss on a Scottish mountain.

Scymnus nigrinus Kugelann

3 records (3 mapped)

Previously scattered throughout Britain but very few recent records. Prefers coniferous woodland and other habitats with coniferous trees, especially Scots Pine and also Gorse.

Feeding on aphids and adelgids. This is another of the small inconspicuous ladybirds that necessitate the beating of Pines.

Scymnus rubromaculatus Goeze

Not recorded from VC55, and not likely to be. Added to the British list in 2000. Several individuals being swept off dry canal-side vegetation, Stratford, London. Since 2000 additional records are from Isle of Sheppey 2006, Surrey 2010, South Essex 2013. Since then M. G Telfer collected specimens from the Borough of Newham, London 2013, by tapping Mugwort over a beating tray. Additional sightings have been made since, and this species is thought to be almost certainly an established non-native species. An excellent and very detailed article can be found in The Coleopterist (magazine) Volume 24 Part 1. April 2015. This article includes a key to the British species of *Scymnus* accompanied with several colour photographs and details on differentiating from ***Scymnus interruptus***, the species it is most likely to be confused with.

Scymnus schmidtii Fursch

1 record (1 mapped)

Rarely recorded outside of southern and central England, very few records and most from the coast. Our single record comes from Moira in the North west in 1992. A predatory ladybird that feeds on aphids.

Stethornus pusillus Herbst

1 record (mapped)

Stated as very local but very under-recorded due to the extremely small size. Stated to be found in a wide range of habitats, deciduous woodland, gardens, hedgerows orchards and grassland. Feeding on spider mites and small aphids. Our single record is from Ketton Quarry 1999.

Chilocorus bipustulatus: Heather Ladybird Linnaeus

5 records (1 mapped)

Stated to be commonly found on heathland, there are recent records from Scotland so this would suggest a northward spread. Mainly associated with Heather, but can be found on Bracken, Bramble and Gorse. This makes the Charnwood Forest a prime area for further survey, also Newfields Colliery, as this site has been proven to hold other heathland specialities. Strangely our only record for this species comes from Welford Road Cemetery in the city 2005. The VC55 data for this species again is very vague, therefore it is difficult to determine the exact number of records, I suspect there are just three records, the other two being duplicates.

Chilocorus renipustulatus: Kidney-spot Ladybird Scriba

161 records (138 mapped)

Widespread throughout England and Wales, found in most deciduous woodland, grassland and scrub close to deciduous woodland, predatory on scale insects. Widespread in VC55.

Exochomus quadripustulatus: Pine Ladybird Linnaeus

483 records (463 mapped)

Stated as widespread throughout England and Wales but local in Scotland, reflecting the distribution in VC55, except for a mysterious blank 10km square around Rearsby/Thrussington area. Despite it's name this species is found in a diverse variety of habitats including both deciduous and coniferous woodland, grassland, heathland and marshy sites. A predatory species on scale insects, adelgids and wooly aphids.

Platynaspis luteorubra Goeze

Not recorded from VC55, and probably not likely to be, although there are records for Peterborough. Just maybe this could turn up in Rutland, any dry sandy sites with plenty of *Lasius* ant species would be worth study. Stated as being largely restricted to south eastern England and very local. A species of dry sandy habitats and a strong association with ants.

Rudolia cardinalis Mulsant

Not recorded from VC55, and probably not likely to be. A native of Australia introduced to New Zealand as a control of Cottony Cushion Scale *Icerya purchasi*. Subsequently sent to many parts of the world and used as a successful biological control.

Halysia sedecimguttata: Orange Ladybird Linnaeus

443 records (414 mapped)

Stated as very widespread throughout. First recorded from VC55 in 2001 and has spread extremely rapidly through both counties. Feeding on the powdery white mildew on the leaves of trees, is often found randomly during the day. This species is probably the most frequent ladybird visiting moth traps and also found attracted to house lights.

Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata: 22-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

519 records (500 mapped)

Stated as widespread throughout and this is reflected in VC55 distribution. Occasionally found in woodland but prefers grassland habitats, including field edges and roadsides and particularly found on umbellifers. Feeds on mildew on the upper surfaces of various umbellifers, but also other herbaceous plants and young trees.

Vibidia duodecimguttata Poda von Neuhaus

Not recorded from VC55, and unlikely to be so. Most records date from the early twentieth century and the few recent records need verification. Stated to be most likely seen as an occasional migrant. Very similar to Orange Ladybird but smaller.

Anisosticta novemdecimpunctata: Water Ladybird Linnaeus

171 records (171 mapped)

Widespread throughout England and Wales with just a few recent records from Scotland, widespread in VC55. Habitat specialists, occupying reed-beds and grasslands in marshy areas. Often found on emergent vegetation along water courses, feeds on aphids. Regularly found between the sheaths of dead reedmace, when they are a buff colour. Upon spring they disperse searching for aphids and develop a bright orange/red warning colours. This is the only British ladybird that changes it's colour from winter to spring.



Water Ladybird

Coccinula quattuordecimpustulata Stephens

Not recorded from VC55 and probably not likely to be. I am struggling to find anything out about this species, other than it has been recorded in Britain.

Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata: 16-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

235 records (235 mapped)

Stated as widespread in England also in VC55, where very different from most other ladybirds it feeds on pollen, nectar and fungi. Most likely to be found in grassland and scrub and usually found on grasses and other low growing plants.

16-spot Ladybird



Hippodamia tredecimpunctata: 13-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and probably unlikely to be. Most of the British records are from marshy lowland habitats such as fens, marshes and river banks. A predatory ladybird feeding on aphids.

Hippodamia variegata: Adonis Ladybird Goeze JNCC - **Nationally scarce**

73 records (73 mapped)

Fairly widespread in south eastern and central England, apparently on the north western edge of it's range. Originally a coastal species but spreading inland possibly due to climate change, preferring areas with dry soil, shingle and waste ground. In VC55 being quite

widespread. There are a few records for the late 1800's and early 1900's, but then we had to wait until 1990 onwards for the next sightings, from then on there have been a steady number of records for most years, with 2015 being a particularly good year.

Aphidecta oblitterata: Larch Ladybird Linnaeus

71 records (71 mapped)

Stated as widespread throughout Britain and Ireland and fairly widespread in VC55. This is a conifer specialist, found in coniferous and mixed woodland, with most records from Larch, but also Norway Spruce, Douglas Fir and occasionally Scots Pine.

Adalia bipunctata: 2-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

998 records (752 mapped)

Widespread throughout the UK and VC55, with just five 10km squares in VC55 where there are no records. This is an extremely variable species in colouration and markings, and because of this it can be the one species that causes the most confusion.

Adalia decempunctata: 10-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

439 records (at least 439 mapped)

Widespread throughout the UK in a variety of habitats which is mirrored for VC55, a predatory ladybird on aphids. This species is a most variable of ladybirds and thus causes problems with identification.

Coccinella heiroglyphica: Hieroglyphic Ladybird Linnaeus

11 records (10 mapped)

Widespread but can be local, seems to have a slightly south and western distribution in VC55. As well as feeding on the Heather Aphid, this species preys on various Chrysomelid beetle larvae within the Altica and Galerucella genera, particularly the Heather Leaf Beetle.

Coccinella magnifica Redtenbacher

Not recorded from VC55 and doubtfully ever will be. Largely restricted to south east England, but with several more northerly records recently. This species is found in habitats close to (although never inside) wood ants nests. It's seems a little surprising that we do not have records for this species from the early 1900's. As this is when Claude Henderson was a regular at Buddon Wood, which held significant populations of wood ant at the time. I'm sure if this species was there Claude would have found it. One assumes **C. magnifica** has always been restricted to southern England.

Coccinella quinquepunctata: 5-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

Not reliably recorded from VC55. Stated as being very local in Britain, specifically found only on unstable river shingle, reported on Nettle, Thistles, Bitter-cress and Docks but also on Broom.

Coccinella septempunctata: 7-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

2811 records (2811 mapped)

Totally widespread throughout and the most numerous ladybird found in VC55 with close to 3000 records.

Coccinella undecimpunctata: 11-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

54 records (54 mapped)

Stated as widely distributed across Britain and Ireland. Some noticeable large blank gaps for the Melton, North West Leicestershire and the Hinckley and Bosworth areas. A predatory ladybird feeding on aphids and found in many habitats.

Harmonia axyridis: Harlequin Ladybird Pallas

2169 records (2169 mapped)

After arriving in the UK in 2003, this species is now widespread throughout England and Wales, and now well into Scotland and Ireland. Considering the short time this species has been here the spread has been incredibly rapid. With quite a wide range in diet including aphids, other insects, soft fruits, pollen and nectar plus occupying an equally wide range of habitats. First recorded in VC55 2005 and now ubiquitous across both counties.

Harmonia quadripunctata: Cream-streaked Ladybird Pontoppidan

63 records (63 mapped)

Widespread in England and Wales but only a few records for southern Scotland, first recorded in Britain 1937 from Suffolk and continued to spread slowly north and westward. This species has been recorded from heathland, scrub and grassland, but is a conifer specialist. An aphid feeder usually found on Scots Pine, but also Douglas Fir and Norway Spruce, also occasionally found on herbaceous plants. The earliest record for VC55 is 1991 from Donington Park.

Propylea quattuordecimpunctata: 14-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

960 records (960 mapped)

Few Scottish records, otherwise widespread throughout, feeding on aphids and found in many habitats, ubiquitous in VC55.

Anatis ocellata: Eyed Ladybird Linnaeus

73 records (73 mapped)

Stated as being widespread throughout and most often found in coniferous plantations but also mixed woodland, preferring Scots Pine, a predatory ladybird feeding on aphids. Widespread in VC55 but with blanks for Melton, Harborough and Hinckley and Bosworth areas.

Myrrha octodecimguttata: 18-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

26 records (23 mapped)

Stated as local, and looks thinly widespread over much of England and Wales. A conifer specialist, most often found on Scots Pine, but also on heathland and grassland where conifers are present, a predatory ladybird feeding on aphids.

Calvia quattuordecimguttata: Cream-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

300 records (300 mapped)

Stated as being widespread throughout, mainly found in woodland, but also other areas with deciduous trees, a predatory ladybird feeding on aphids and psyllids. Widespread in VC55.

Myzia oblongoguttata: Striped Ladybird Linnaeus

6 records (4 mapped)

Widespread over England and Scotland with few records for Wales and Ireland. Virtually restricted to areas of Scots Pine with just a few records from Larch, feeding on aphids. Almost restricted to the Charnwood Forest except for a record from Donington Park, and last recorded 2001, plus the latest record from Martinshaw Wood also 2001.

Henosepilachna argus: Bryony Ladybird Geoffroy in Fourcroy

Not recorded from VC55 and probably not likely to be, after establishing itself in London in the 1990's has slowly spread out since then, being found in Oxfordshire in 2010. Feeding on White Bryony and other members of the cucumber family.

Subcoccinella vigintiquattuorpunktata: 24-spot Ladybird Linnaeus

85 records (85 mapped)

Widely distributed in England and Wales but limited from Scotland, a plant feeding species preferring Red Campion, but also found on False Oat-grass in Surrey. Widespread from the Charnwood Forest eastwards, with just a single unconfirmed record from Ashby de la Zouch.



24-spot Ladybird

DISTRIBUTION MAPS

Cautionary note:-

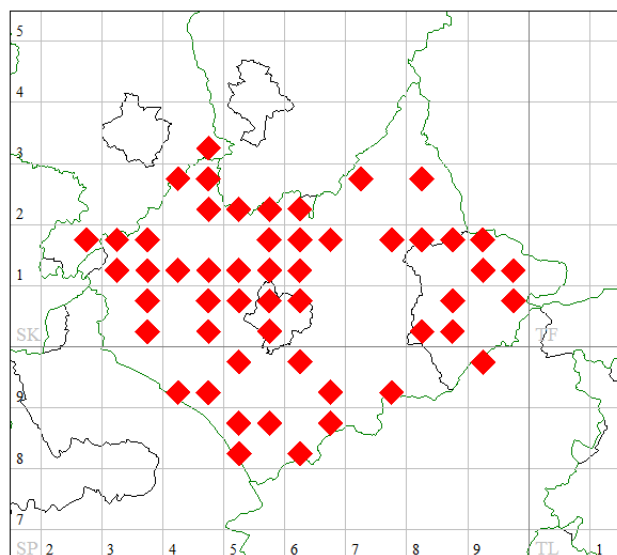
When interpreting the distribution maps, it needs to be kept in mind that it has not been possible to plot all the records from the main database. The older historical records are very vague on location details many just giving SK, SP, Leics, Leicester, Ashby Canal etc. The number of records that do have sufficient data to be used in MapMate are given in brackets beside the total number of records in the above species accounts. Even so, the maps show a reasonably true picture of what we know to date of the distribution for each species.

The number of records that do have sufficient data to be used in the maps, are given in brackets beside the total number of records in the species accounts.

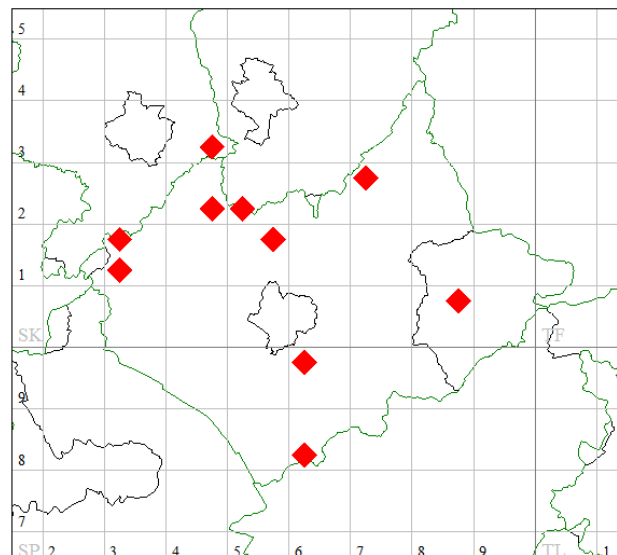
A total of 36 species have been reliably recorded for VC55 plus another 1 species with insufficient data. As described in the above note on location details, at least a 4 figure grid reference is needed, therefore it has only been possible to map 36 species.

The maps themselves are a result of collating over 200 years of recording in VC55 to the present date. The majority of this work, up to 2011 was done by Derek Lott, however the recording scheme has continued and has given us another 7 years worth of records to include. When Derek was active the amount of fieldworkers may have been few but they were very thorough, at present the number of recorders has significantly increased. Online recording schemes are now a permanent feature and supply an abundance of records, great to have but this can cause verification problems.

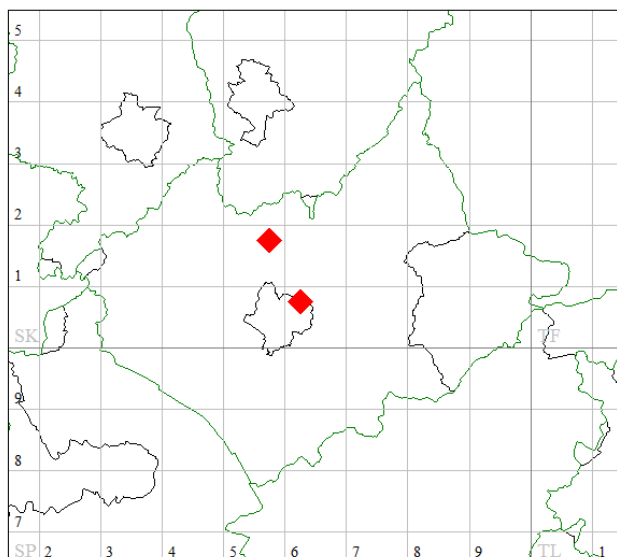
Coccidula rufa



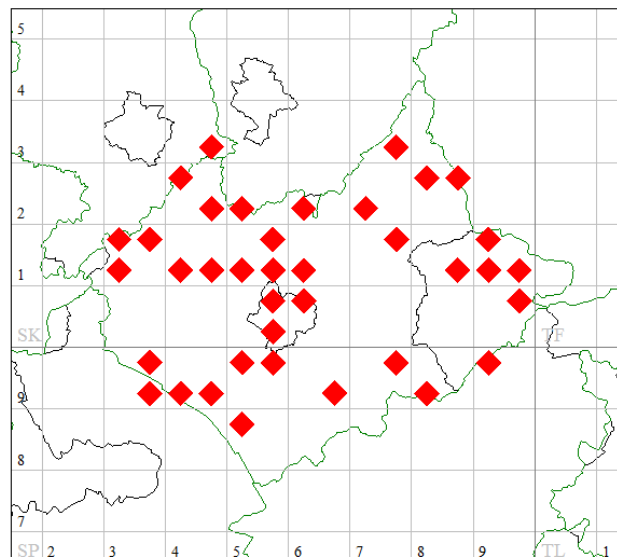
Coccidula scutellata



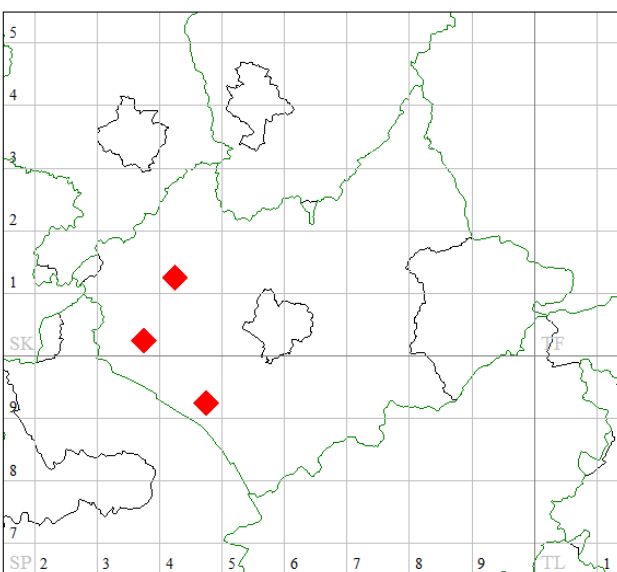
Rhyzobius chrysomeloides



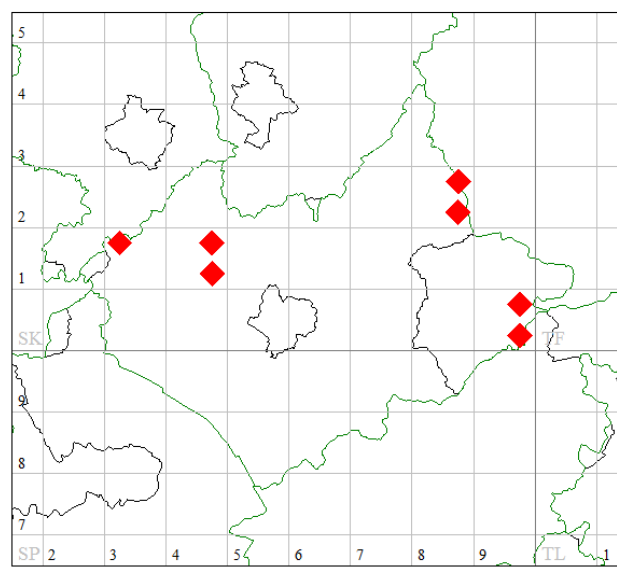
Rhyzobius litura



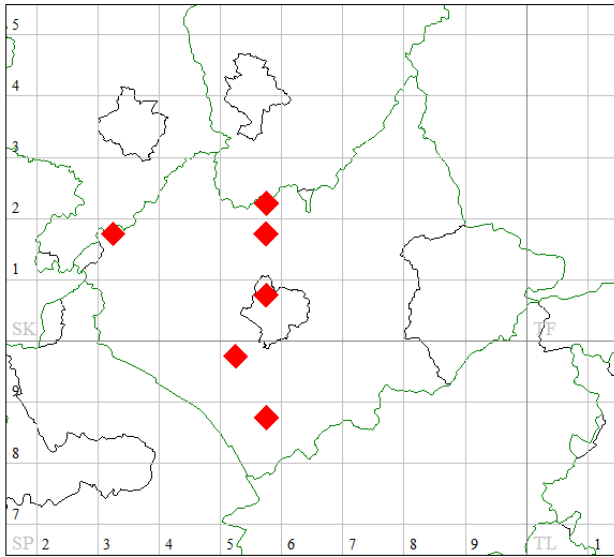
2768 *Clitostethus arcuatus*



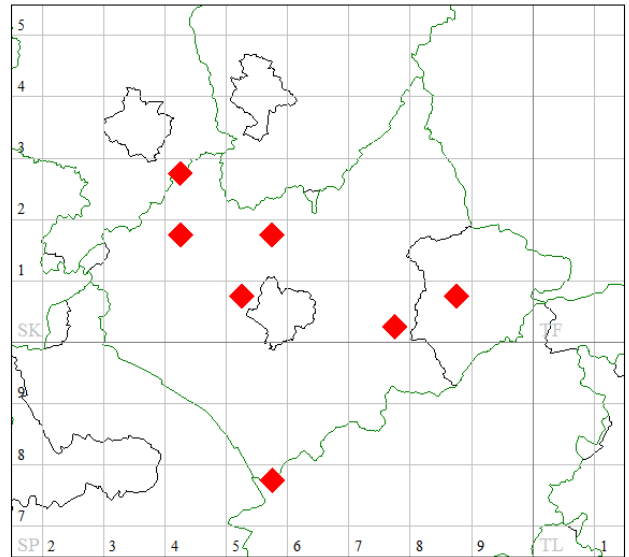
Nephus redtenbacheri



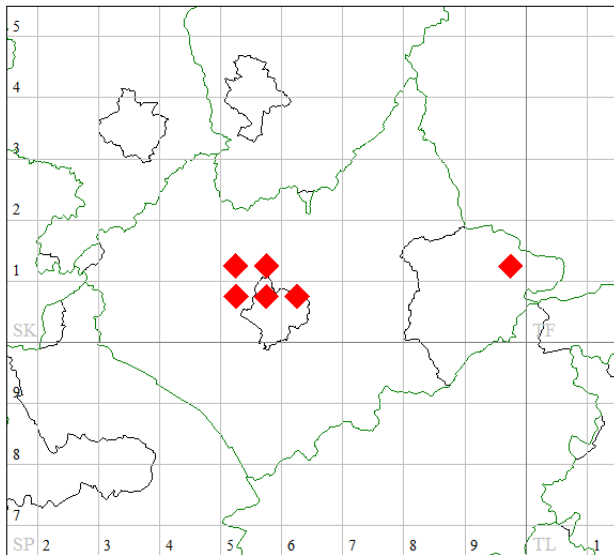
Scymnus haemorrhoidalis



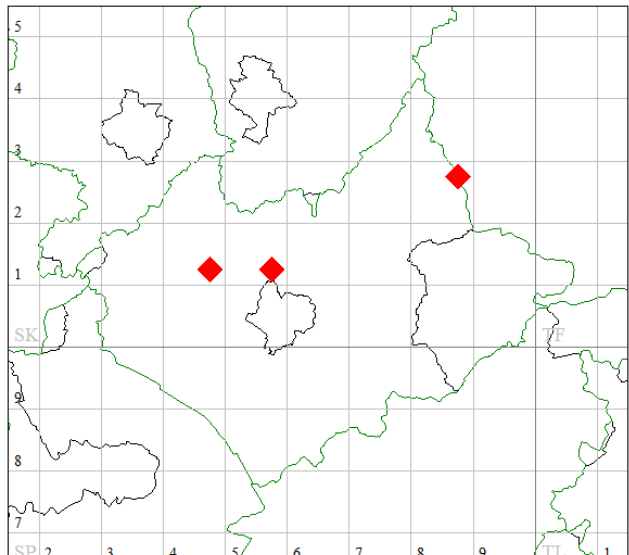
Scymnus auritus



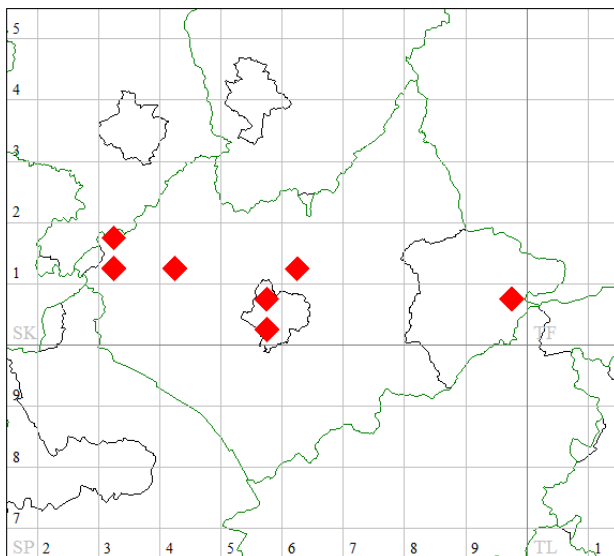
Scymnus suturalis



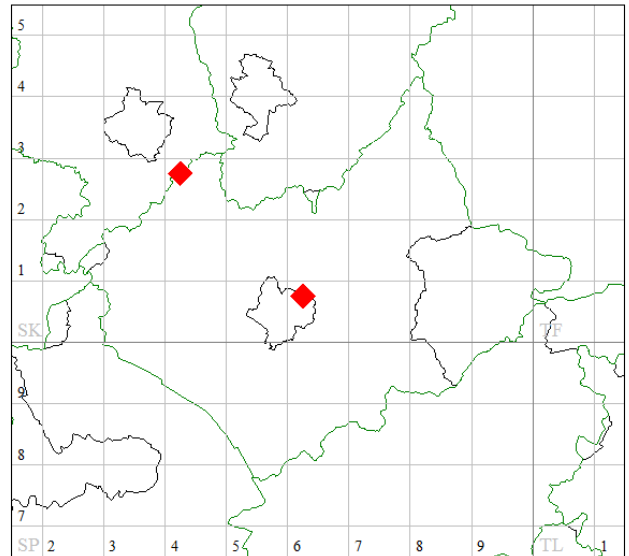
Scymnus femoralis



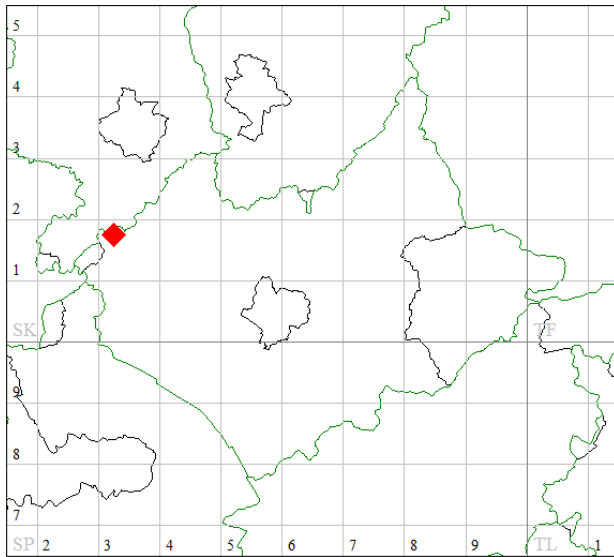
Scymnus frontalis



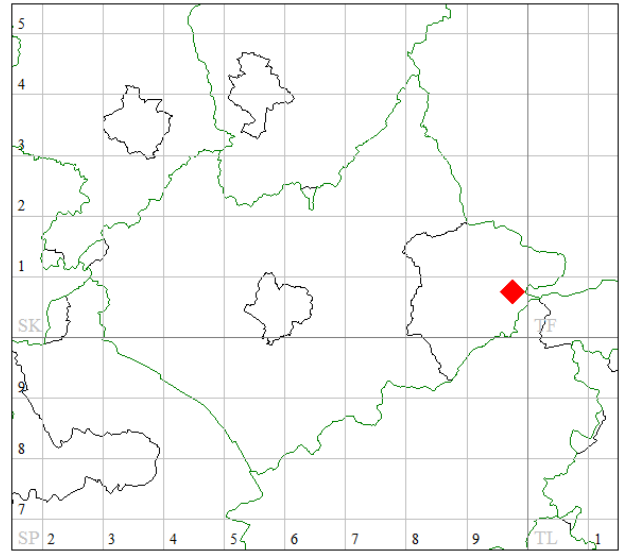
Scymnus nigrinus



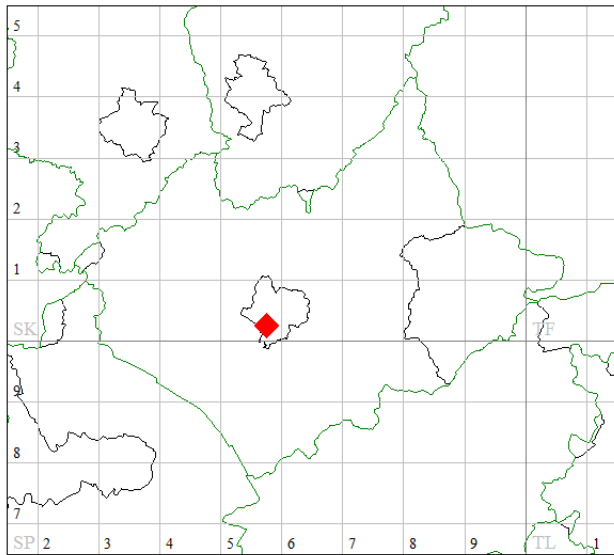
Scymnus schmidtii



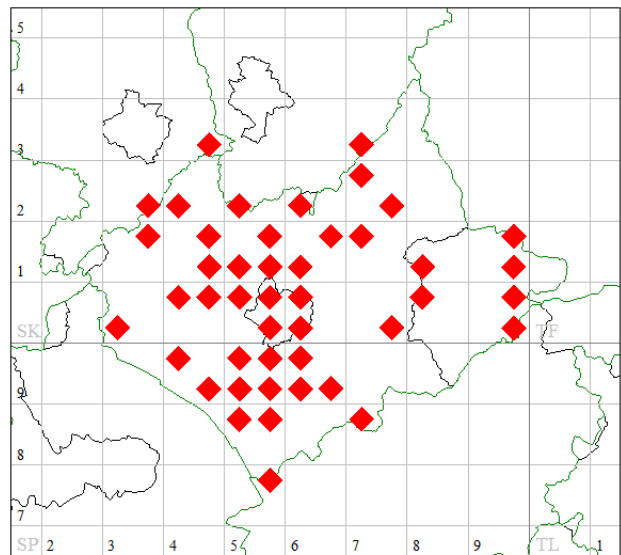
Stethorus punctillum



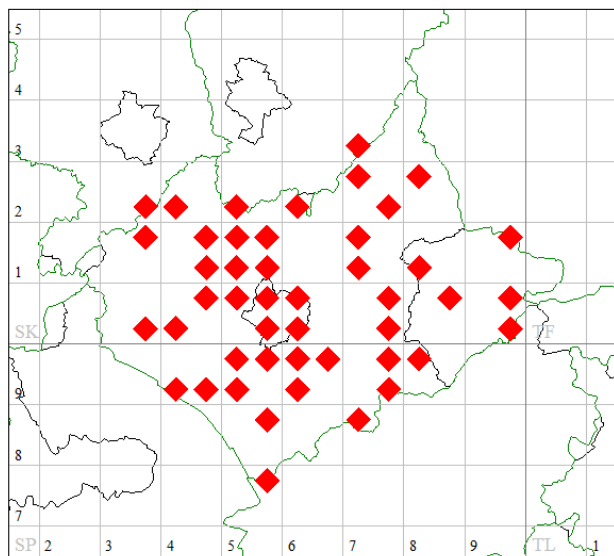
Chilocorus bipustulatus (Heather Ladybird)



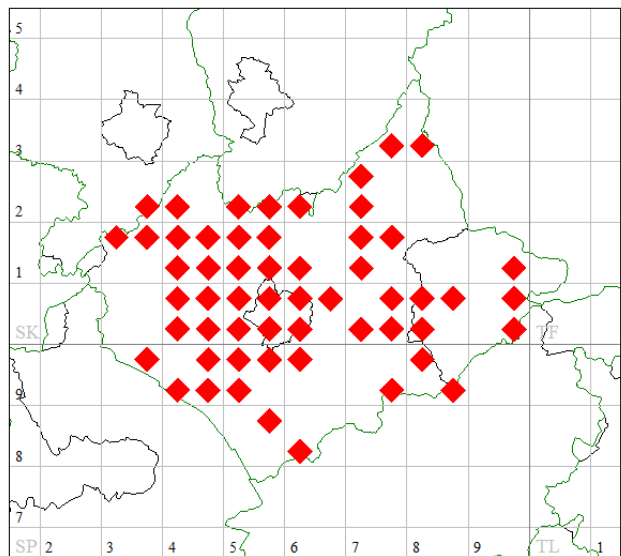
Chilocorus renipustulatus (Kidney-spot Ladybird)



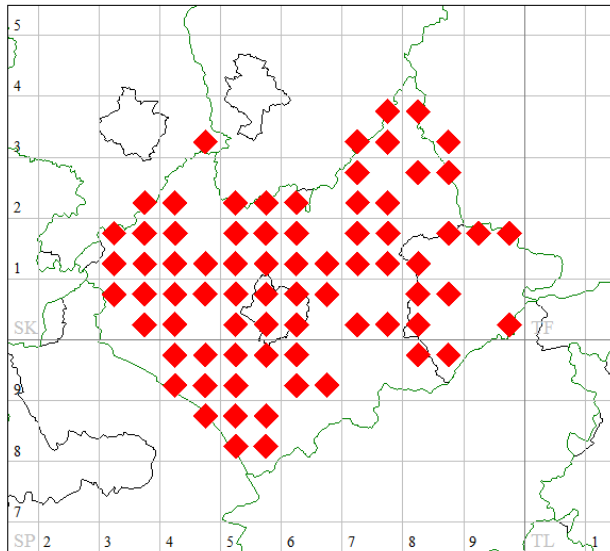
Exochomus quadripustulatus (Pine Ladybird)



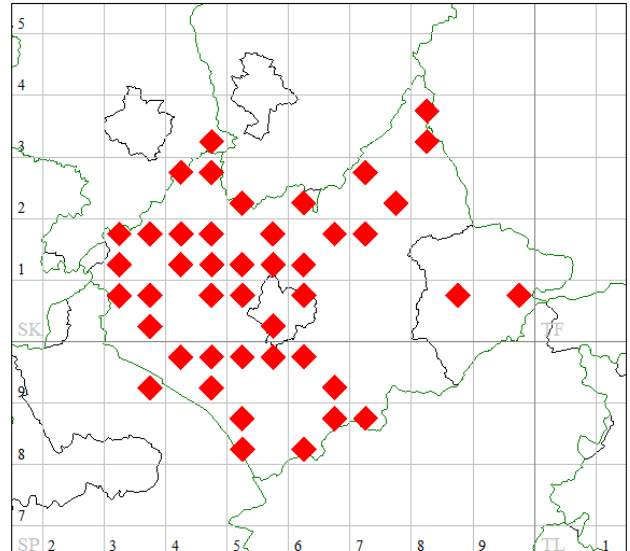
Halyzia sedecimguttata (Orange Ladybird)



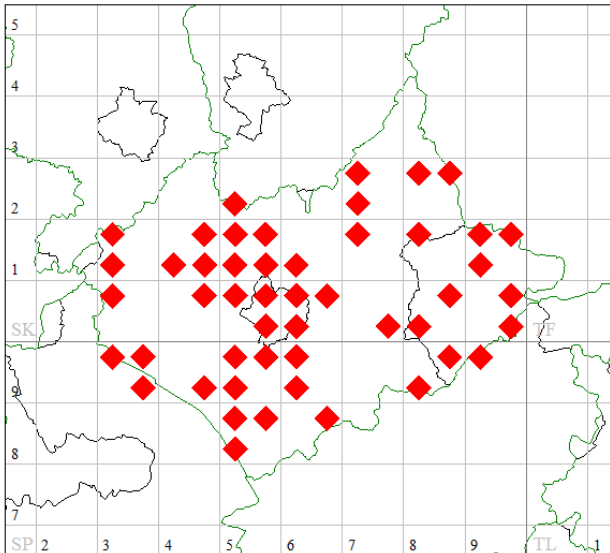
Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata (22-spot Ladybird)



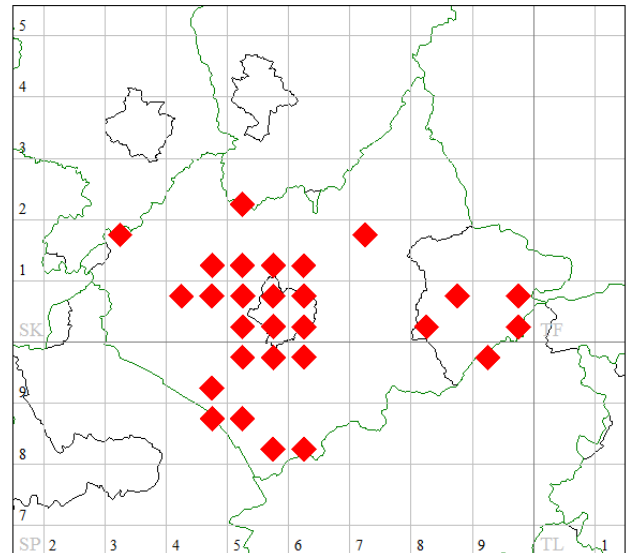
Anisosticta novemdecimpunctata (Water Ladybird)



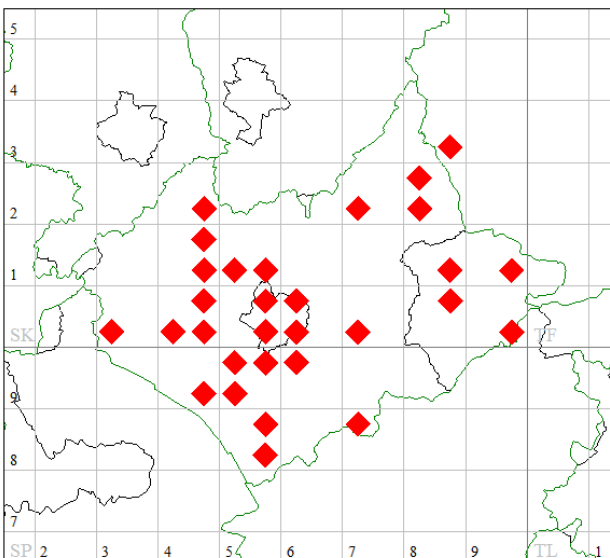
Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata (16-spot Ladybird)



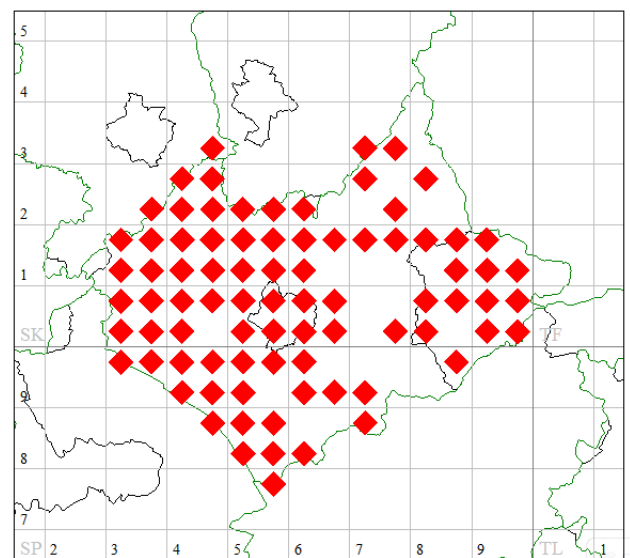
Hippodamia variegata (Adonis' Ladybird)



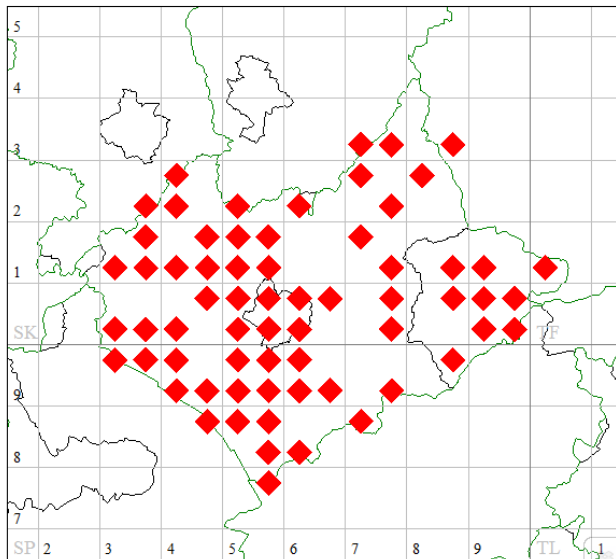
Aphidecta oblitterata (Larch Ladybird)



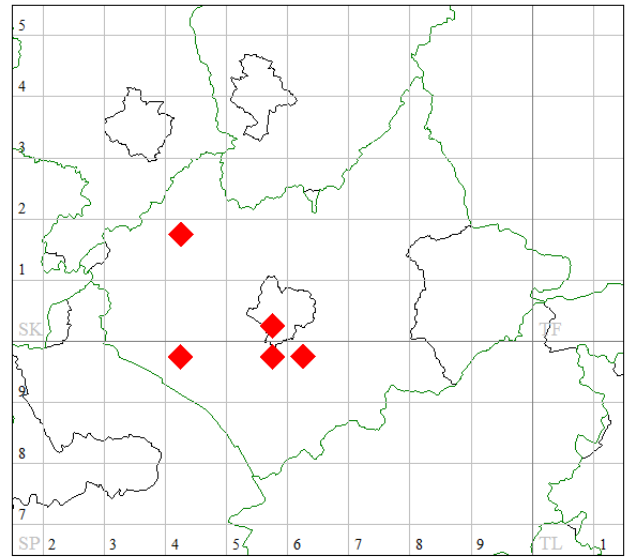
Adalia bipunctata (2-spot Ladybird)



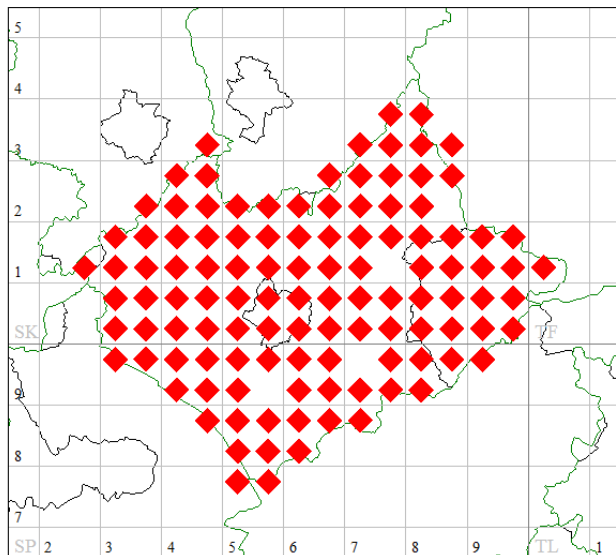
Adalia decempunctata (10-spot Ladybird)



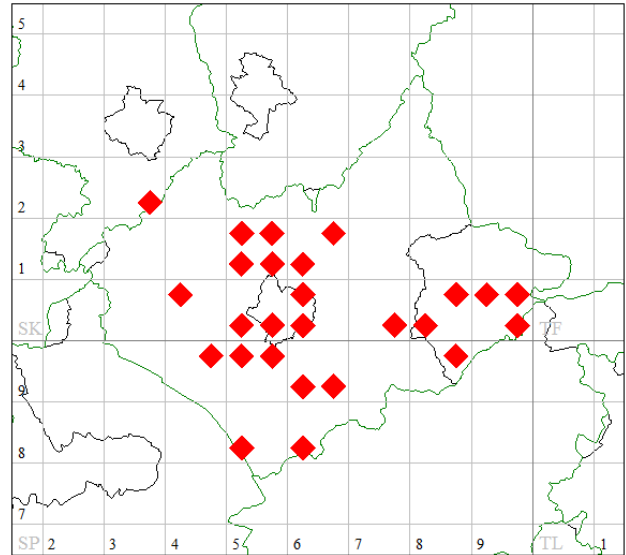
Coccinella hieroglyphica (Hieroglyphic Ladybird)



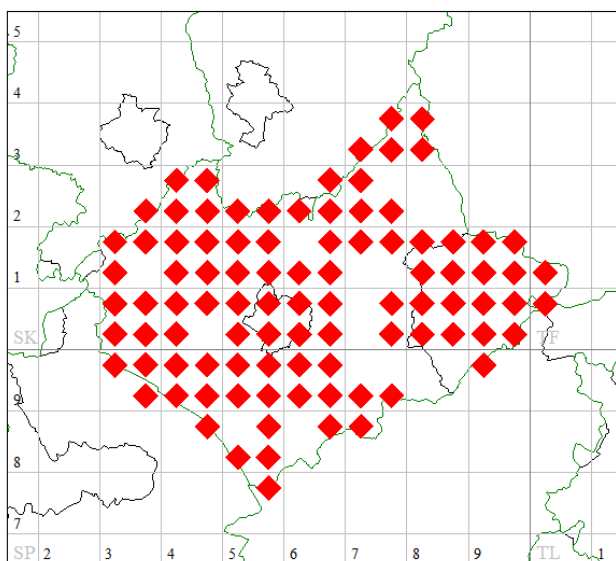
Coccinella septempunctata (7-spot Ladybird)



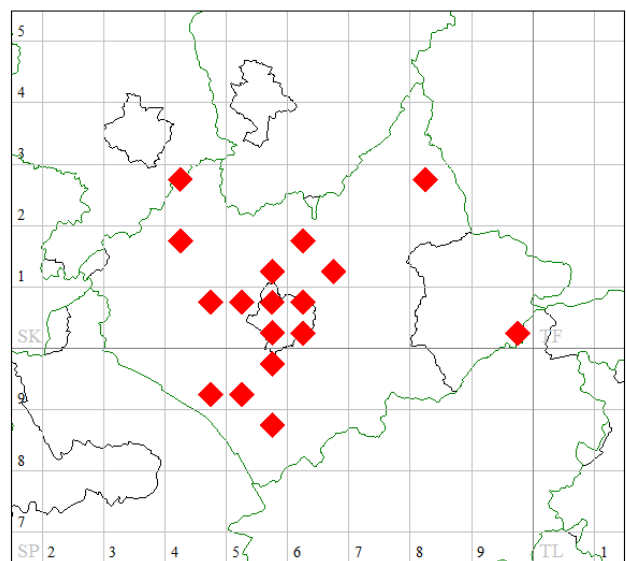
Coccinella undecimpunctata (11-spot Ladybird)



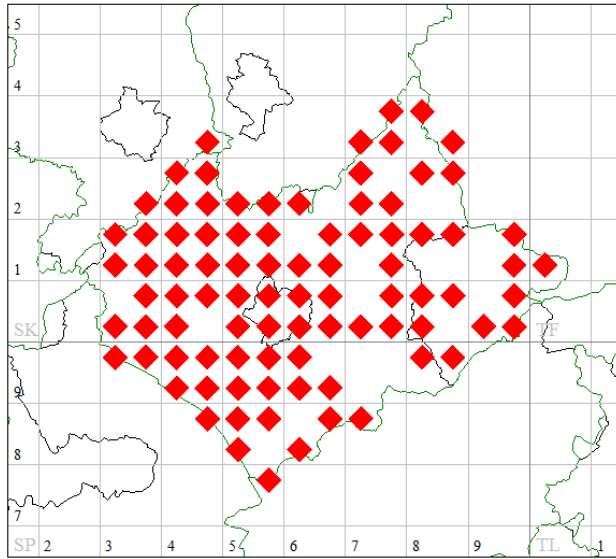
Harmonia axyridis (Harlequin Ladybird)



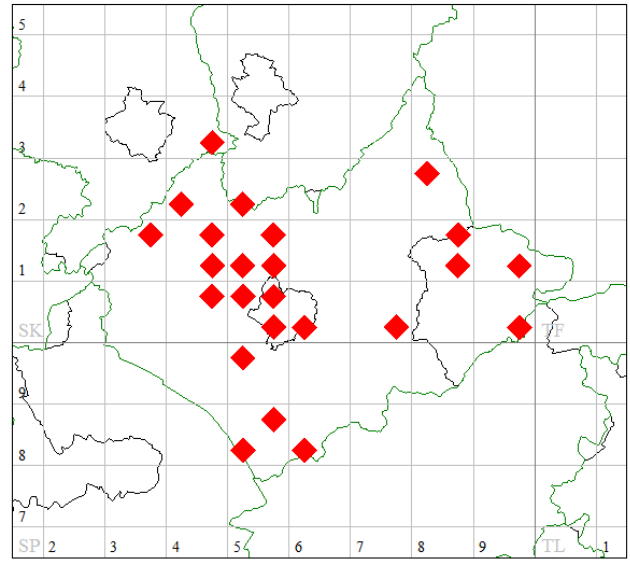
Harmonia quadripunctata (Cream-streaked Ladybird)



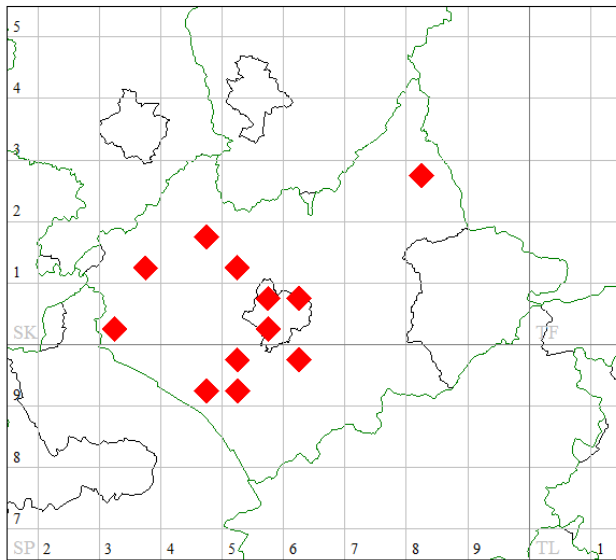
Propylea quattuordecimpunctata (14-spot Ladybird)



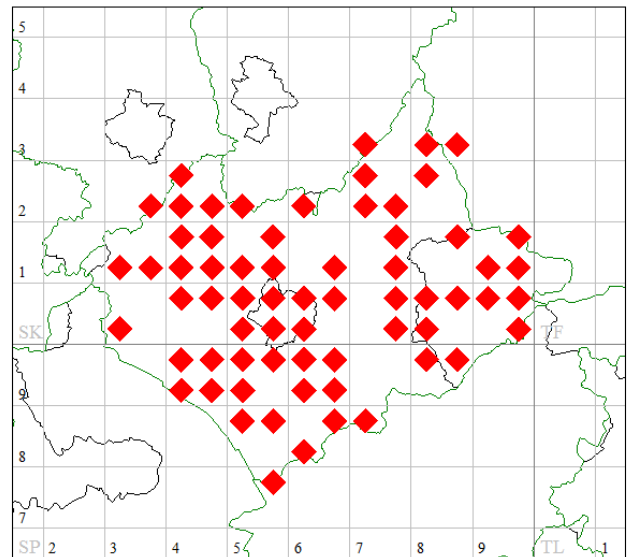
Anatis ocellata (Eyed Ladybird)



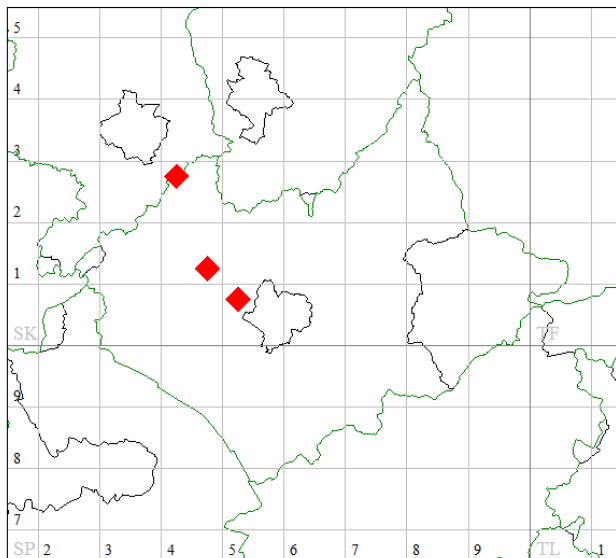
Myrrha octodecimguttata (18-spot Ladybird)



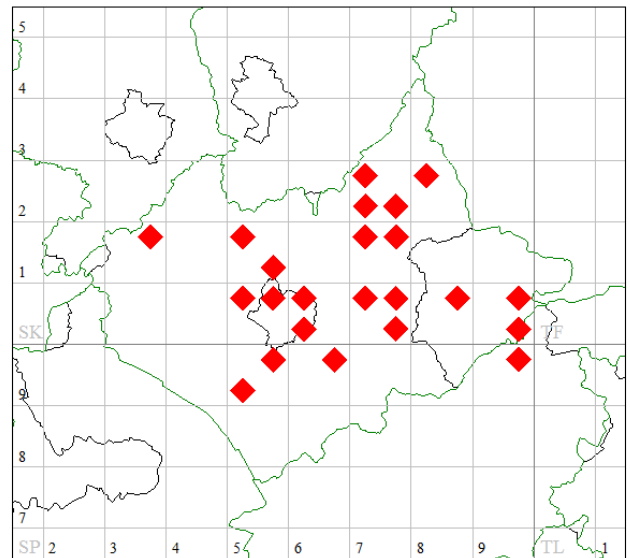
Calvia quattuordecimguttata (Cream-spot Ladybird)



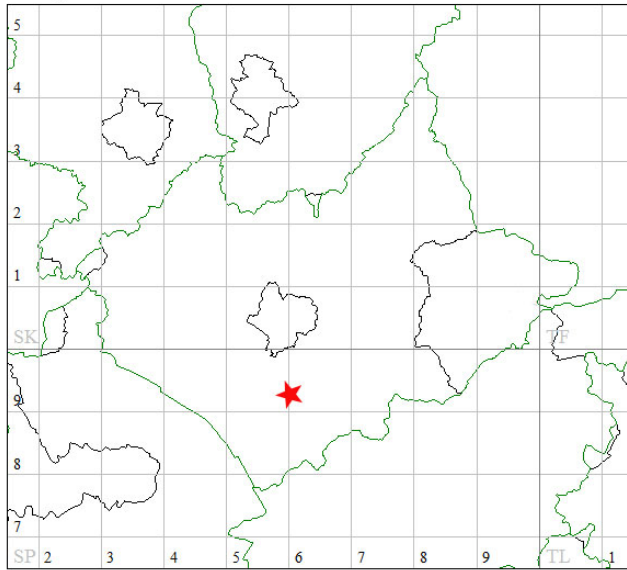
Myzia oblongoguttata (Striped Ladybird)



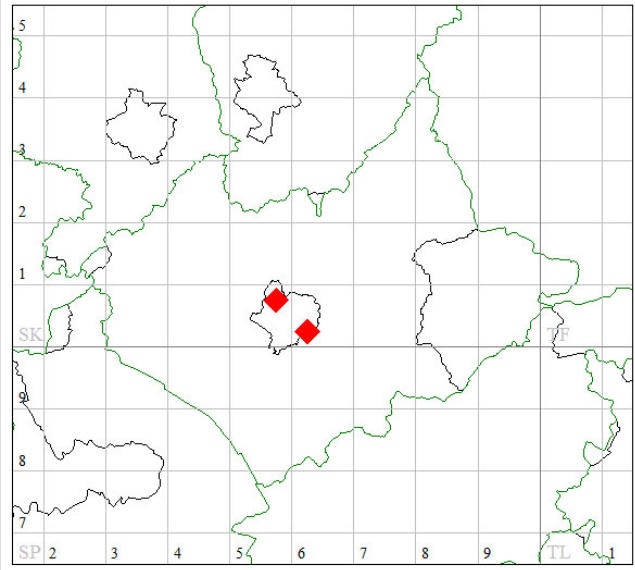
Subcoccinella vigintiquatuorpuntata (24-spot Ladybird)



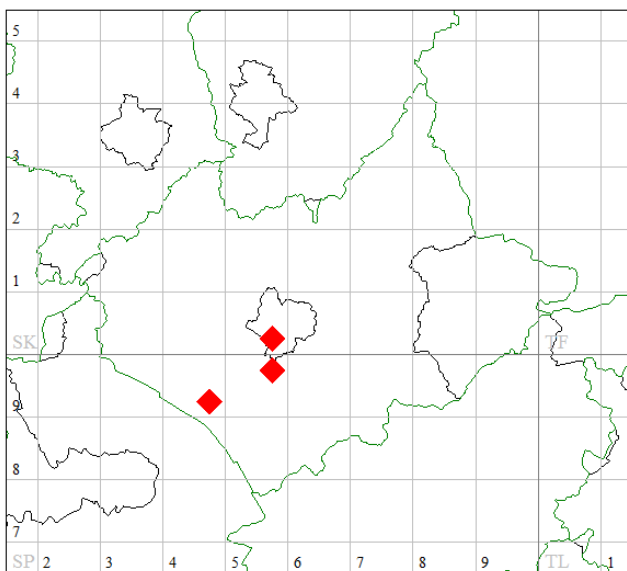
Rhyzobius forestieri



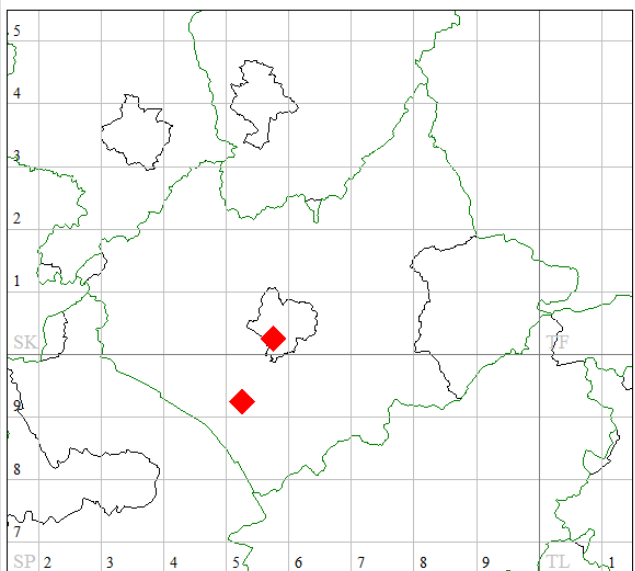
2760.1 *Rhyzobius lophanthae*



2765 *Nephus quadrimaculatus*



2770.1 *Scymnus interruptus*



Identification of *Rhyzobius forestieri* - from above all black with pale pubescence, undersides black with abdomen reddish/orange, legs black. A little care needs to be taken with any similar small black ladybirds and the underside should be looked at.

GENERAL REFERENCES

The new (2018) field guide ought to be the first choice, everything is in there and right up to date. We know Richard Lewingtons illustrations (and there are plenty of them) will be second to none and it's also pocket sized, so very portable. The two fold-out charts from the Field Studies Council are excellent and can be easily kept in a ruc-sac for reference in the field. The Coccinellidae of Britain and Ireland is very similar to the field guide, but with photographs instead of Richard's artwork and a slightly larger format. The 1989 Ladybirds is in the Naturalist's Handbook series, a well proven series and full of information on all aspects of ladybirds. The Coleopterist is a subscription based society, publishing material about the Coleoptera and Strepsiptera recorded from, or likely to be recorded from the British Isles. Three issues per year, for a bargain sum of £10 (and that includes postage) makes this a must for anyone interested in Coleoptera.

Beetles of Britain and Ireland, volume 3 Geotrupidae to Scraptidae, Andrew G. Duff. 2020

Field Guide to the Ladybirds of Great Britain and Ireland. Helen Roy and Peter Brown illustrated by Richard Lewington. 2018

Guide to the Ladybirds of the British Isles. A fold-out chart, Field Studies Council, 2006

Guide to the Ladybird Larvae of the British Isles. A fold-out chart, Field Studies Council, 2012

Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) of Britain and Ireland. Helen Roy, Peter Brown, Robert Frost and Remy poland. 2012

Ladybirds. Helen Roy, Peter Brown, Richard Comont, Remy Poland and John Sloggett. 1989

The Coleopterist (magazine) Volume 24 Part 1. April 2015