An summary and atlas of the

Cerambycidae

of VC55

Contents

INTRODUCTION

The following two maps show the distribution of species in 2km squares and the species density in 10km squares in which longhorn beetles have been recorded in VC55 and shows a general but obvious bias to the western region. 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”. With plenty of quality woodlands, concentrated fieldwork in the eastern half of VC55 should increase records of all species, including the high possibility of finding our scarcer species, and maybe even adding new species.

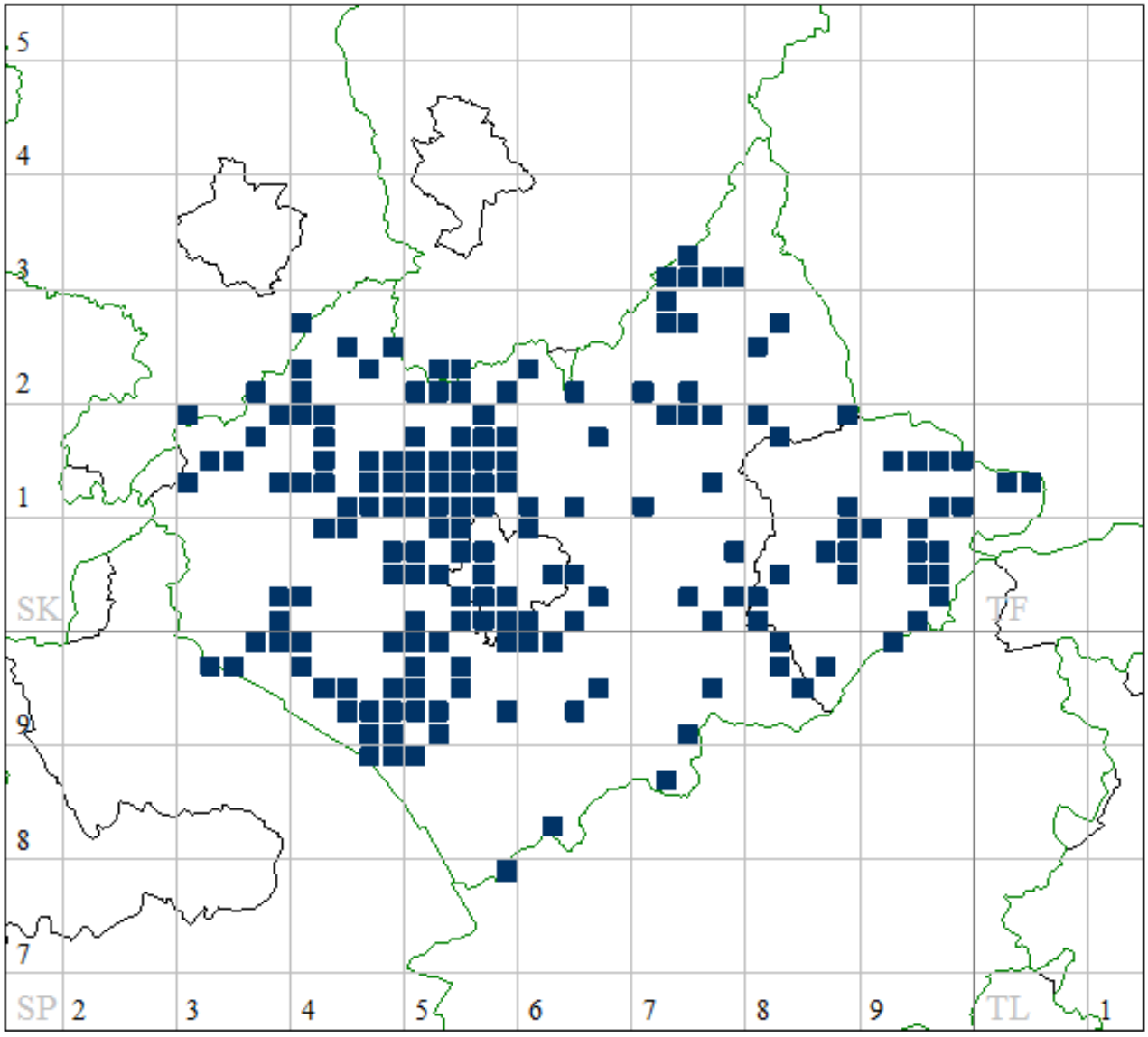
The maps also shows huge white areas where no records have been made, so there’s still plenty of scope for discoveries and records to be added. The majority of species are fairly large and brightly coloured, often in exposed situations and therefore catch the eye of not only naturalists but also anyone who spends time in the country side, it’s this reason that most records of longhorn beetles are made from casual sightings.

With that being the case you would think we would have had much more coverage than we actually have. I believe this is due to very few people taking the time and making the effort to actually make a note of what they see and where, after-all keeping accurate records is quite a discipline.

Therefore to find the less obvious individuals and so by default the least recorded, a little extra effort is needed, beating and sweeping are the two most productive methods. Knowing and searching on and around the prefered host plants for certain species will also be a help.

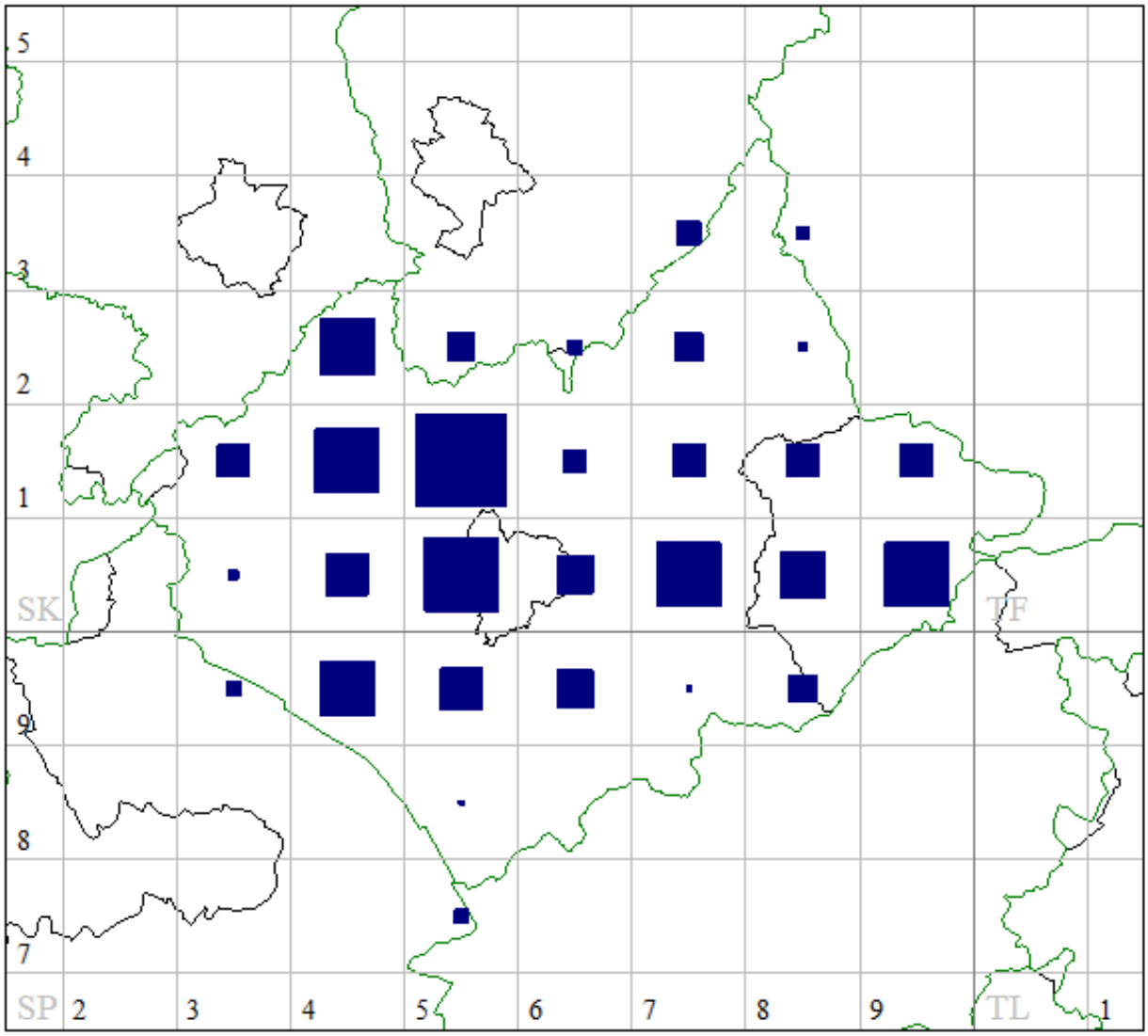
2km SPECIES DISTRIBUTION MAP

VC55 Cerambycidae Recorded 2km squares



10km SPECIES DENSITY MAP GENERAL

VC55 Cerambycidae Species Density 10km



GENERAL REFERENCES

As most species are quite large, colourful and distinctively patterned, there is no great need for a vast reference library.

You could get by using the new Field Studies Council fold out chart for basic identification for most species, although this deals with just 42 species.

Andrew Duff's Vol. 4 of the Beetles of Britain and Ireland handbook is, by far the most comprehensive to date. This volume covers all the Chrysomelidae and Curculionidae, just under 1000 species are covered and represents excellent value for money.

Although long since out of print, if the two volumes of British Wildlife are located anywhere, they would be well worth making the effort to obtain.

The provisional atlas should be available as a free pdf if you Google the title. Although a little out of date it contains good a introduction, national distribution maps and brief notes on species.

Fauna Ent. Scandinavica is not necessary, but includes a European key, detailed biology and is in English. Fairly expensive but excellent quality and still available, it can sometimes be found in second hand book shops for a reasonable price.

The illustrated key by Ulrich Bense, again in English contains good descriptions and figures, can be advertised on line for horrendous prices, but this is another book that can be found by searching various book dealers.

If I had to decide on a single guide I would say Luff is the best bet, illustrating 52 out of the 72 species, but the key covers them all, but as British Wildlife (out of print, can still be found with a little effort) and the Field Studies guide (readily available) have superb illustrations of all the species either or both of these would be more than adequate.

Field Studies Council, Guide to Longhorn Beetles of Britain - 2018

Beetles of Britain and Ireland. Vol 4: Cerambycidae to Curculionidae. Andrew G. Duff - 2016

British Wildlife, August 2007 Volume 18 Number 6: Part 1 - 2007

British Wildlife, August 2007 Volume 19 Number 1: Part 2 - 2007

Provisional atlas of the longhorn beetles (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) of Britain. P.F.G. Twinn and P.T. Harding - 1999

Fauna Entomological Scandinavica, Vol 22: Longhorn Beetles (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. S. Bily & O. Mehl - 1989

Longhorn Beetles, Illustrated Key to the Cerambycidae and Vesperidae of Europe. Ulrich Bense - 1995

CHECKLIST

The following table is a complete up to date checklist to the Longhorns beetles of the British Isles, following the order of the most 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 indicates that 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 found in VC55.

PRIONUS	*coriarius*	Linnaeus 1758	X
RHAGIUM	*bifasciatum*	Fabricius 1775	17
	mordax	De Geer 1775	49
	inquistor	Linnaeus 1758	X
STENOCORUS	*meridianus*	Linnaeus 1758	34
DINOPTERA	*collaris*	Linnaeus 1758	1
GRAMMOPTERA	*abdominalis*	Stephens 1831	2
	ruficornis	Fabricius 1881	180
	ustulata	Schaller 1783	X
PEDOSTRANGALIA	*revestita*	Linnaeus 1767	X
LEPTUROBOSCA	*virens*	Linnaeus 1758	X
LEPTURA	*aurulenta*	Fabricius 1792	X
	quadrifasciata	Linnaeus 1758	Unconfirmed
ANASTRANGALIA	*sanguinolenta*	Linnaeus 1760	X
STICTOLEPTURA	*rubra*	Linnaeus 1758	4
	scutellata	Fabricius 1881	X
	cordigera	Fuessly 1775	X
PARACORYMBIA	*fulva*	De Geer 1775	8
ANOPLODERA	*sexguttata*	Fabricius 1775	X
JUDOLIA	*sexmaculata*	Linnaeus 1758	X
PACHYTODES	*cerambyciformes*	Schrank 1781	1
ALOSTERNA	*tabacicolor*	De Geer 1775	15
PSEUDOVADONIA	*livida*	Fabricius 1777	Mathews
STRANGALIA	*attenuata*	Linnaeus 1758	X
RUTPELA	*maculata*	Herbst 1784	117
STENURELLA	*nigra*	Linnaeus 1758	Mathews
	melanura	Linnaeus 1758	12
ASEMUM	*striatum*	Linnaeus 1758	1
TETROPIUM	*castaneum*	Linnaeus 1758	1
	fuscum	Fabricius 1787	X
	gabrielli	Weise 1905	11
ARHOPALUS	*ferus*	Mulsant 1839	X
	rusticus	Linnaeus 1758	5

TRINOPHYLUM	*cribratum*	Bates 1878	X
CERAMBYX	*cerdo*	Linnaeus 1758	X
	scopolii	Fuessly 1775	X
GRACILIA	*minuta*	Fabricius 1781	1
OBRIUM	*brunneum*	Fabricius 1792	X
	cantharinum	Linnaeus 1767	X
NATHRIUS	*brevipennis*	Mulsant 1839	7
MOLORCHUS	*minor*	Linnaeus 1758	9
GLAPHYRA	*umbellatarum*	Schreber 1759	2
AROMIA	*moschata*	Linnaeus 1758	18
HYLOTRUPES	*bajulus*	Linnaeus 1758	X
SEMANOTUS	*russicus*	Fabricius 1777	X
CALLIDIUM	*violaceum*	Fabricius 1775	10
PYRRHIDIUM	*sanguineum*	Linnaeus 1758	X
PHYMATODES	*testaceus*	Linnaeus 1758	26
POECILIUM	*alni*	Linnaeus 1767	X
	lividum	Rossi 1794	X
CLYTUS	*arietis*	Linnaeus 1758	139
PLAGIONOTUS	*arcuatus*	Linnaeus 1758	2
ANAGLYPTUS	*mysticus*	Linnaeus 1758	49
MESOSA	*nebulosa*	Fabricius 1781	X
XYLOTOLES	*griseus*	Fabricius 1775	X
AGAPANTHIA	*villosoviridescens*	De Geer 1775	58
LAMIA	*textor*	Linnaeus 1758	X
POGONOCHERUS	*caroli*	Mulsant 1863	X
	hispidulus	Pillar & Mitterpacher 1783	27
	hispidus	Linnaeus 1758	24
	fasiculatus	De Geer 1775	1
ACANTHOCINUS	*aedilis*	Linnaeus 1758	3
LEIOPUS	*linnei*	Wallin, Nylander & Kvamme 2009	X
	nebulosus	Linnaeus 1758	69
SAPERDA	*populnea*	Linnaeus 1758	6
	scalaris	Linnaeus 1758	X
	carcharias	Linnaeus 1758	X
STENOSTOLA	*dubia*	Laicharting 1784	3
PHYTOECIA	*cylindrica*	Linnaeus 1758	6
OBEREA	*oculata*	Linnaeus 1758	X
TETROPS	*praeustus*	Linnaeus 1758	31
	starkii	Chevrolat 1859	X

SPECIES PAIRS

Rather than trying to illustrate every species, as there are plenty of excellent photographs etc in books and on the internet, I thought it might be more worthwhile to include illustrations showing certain characters that allow separation of similar species pairs.

Rhagium bifasciatum and ***R. mordax.***

These two should be straightforward on the elytral patterning, but in the case of worn or non-typical specimens the pronotal side marginal teeth should offer extra help. In ***R. bifasciatum*** the teeth are slightly longer and appear sharper.

Rhagium bifasciatum

Rhagium mordax

Grammoptera abdominalis and ***G. ruficornis.***

G. ruficornis is the most frequently recorded of the family and I doubt, due to the often abundance of this species any of us actually take the time to look closely at the length of the second antennal segment. ***G. abdominalis*** has quite a short second antennal segment, barely longer than wide, whereas on ***G. ruficornis*** this segment appears at least twice as long as wide. We all ought to take that extra bit of time to check, particularly on any specimens that show uniformly dark antennae. It is recorded in counties just below and to the east of us, and with our early record from the Leighfield Forest plus a fairly recent one from Buddon Wood 2013, should be enough encouragement.

Grammoptera abdominalis

Grammoptera ruficornis

Arhopalus ferus and ***A. rusticus***

Arhopalus ferus is mainly recorded from the south of England but there are also multi records from the Coventry area plus a single from Nottinghamshire this is another species we ought to be on the lookout for. Both species are attracted to artificial light, so with the amount of moth recording undertaken in VC55 using a variety of light sources, this surely increases our chances of adding a few more records. The differences are quite subtle and may be difficult to see with just a hand lens, ideally all Arhopalus specimens should be kept for closer inspection, as you need to look carefully at the third tarsomere on the hind tarsi. In ***A. ferus*** this will be less deeply bilobed, approx. halfway, whereas in ***A. rusticus*** it is bilobed almost to the base, also the eyes of ***A. rusticus*** are hairy but plain on ***A. ferus***.

Arhopalus ferus

Arhopalus rusticus

Pogonocherus hispidulus and ***P. hispidus***

These two species can cause a little confusion, probably as only odd ones are recorded yearly, so you do not get the chance to become that familiar with either of them. Size comparison, with ***P. hispidus*** being the smallest is not much help as they are usually only found in singletons. The two main features to look for are the colour of the scutellum, all black on ***P. hispidus*** and black with a white central stripe on ***P. hispidulus***, also the shape of the elytral apices offer a good character, ***P. hispidulus*** much more sinuate.

Pogonocherus hispidulus

Pogonocherus hispidus

Notes on ***Leiopus nebulosus***

Two sibling species of Leiopus Audinet-Serville, 1835
(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Europe:
L. nebulosus (Linnaeus, 1758) and L. linnei sp. nov.

HENRIK WALLIN, ULF NYLANDER & TORSTEIN KVAMME

Basicaly ***Leiopus nebulosus*** Linnaeus 1758, has been split into two sibling species, the new species being ***Leiopus linnei*** **sp. nov.** based on DNA sampling with genitalia in males and females providing strong support for this separation. The new species is stated to be probably local in C & S England, but very likely to be under-recorded.

Volume 4: Beetles of Britain and Ireland, Cerambycidae to Curculionidae 2016, Andrew G. Duff provide a key with details on separating the two species. There is also a full pdf paper by the authors available on the internet, complete with habitus photographs for both species showing external character differences, plus male and female genitalia photographs.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

The following 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. The prolific movement of timber of all kinds from around the U.K. and from abroad, means it's possible, even the most unlikely species can turn up anywhere. For any species suspected new to VC55 it would be preferable that a specimen is kept, failing that, a series of photographs which show clearly the required character/s that are necessary for a positive identification will ne needed. The same should be stated for any species that are classed as rare, especially those that have not been mapped.

Prionus coriarius
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55, stated as very local in central and eastern England, found in woods, pasture woodland usually on broad-leaved trees, sometimes coming to light. Nearest confirmed records are from Coventry and Birmingham. As this species is most active at dusk, anyone operating moth traps in the vicinity of broadleaved woodland in the west of the county could be lucky enough to find this species.

Rhagium bifasciatum
Linnaeus

17 records (16 mapped)

A woodland species particularly found on coniferous trees. Widespread throughout Britain, but in VC55 showing a distinct preference for the Charnwood Forest in VC55.

Rhagium mordax
De Geer

49 records (49 mapped)

Widespread in woodland throughout Britain, fairly frequently found in VC55. Looking at the distribution map, there are two distinct areas of records, the northwest plus Rutland and borders.

Rhagium inquisitor
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55, and not likely to be as it is confined to the Caledonian Pine forests of central and northern Scotland favouring Scots Pine.

Stenocorus meridianus
Linnaeus

34 records (34 mapped)

Widespread in broad-leaved woodland, fond of visiting flowers especially umbellifers. Thinly scattered throughout VC55. Colouration can be quite variable with this species ranging from yellow/brown elytra to almost completely black.

Dinoptera collaris
Linnaeus

(Not mapped)

There is just a single historic record of this species with vague data “Leicestershire, 1904-1944 A Ford”. There is a record on the NBN atlas near Gumley, this could be the above mentioned record or maybe from the Rev. A. Mathews. Stated to be very local and rare in central and southern England, last seen from Kent 1949 and now presumed possibly extinct in Britain.

Grammoptera abdominalis
Stephens

2 records (1 mapped)

The earliest record, again with fairly vague data “SL70: Leighfield Forest, 1929-1950 KJB Clark”. Stated to be local in broad-leaved woodland in England and south Wales, particularly associated with Oaks that are affected with the fungus ***Vuilleminia comedens***. Tilton on the Hill falls roughly in the centre of SK70, with remaining quality woodland less than 6 miles away to the east, Tilton, Skeffington, Tugby, Launde and Owston Woods plus Loddington Reddish. Interestingly a single specimen was found in Buddon Wood 2013, adding weight to the fact that this species may be around. This means that every single ***Grammoptera ruficornis*** ought to be checked just incase ***G. abdominalis*** is being overlooked. Considering how abundant ***G. ruficornis*** can be, this would be quite a daunting task. The closest cinfirmed records are from the Huntingdon area and Coventry, there seems to be an old unconfirmed record from Nottinghamshire.

Grammoptera ruficornis
Fabricius

180 records (178 mapped)

This species is by far the commonest and most widespread, often encountered by the dozen on a single umbellifer flower head, can also be abundant at flowering Hawthorn. The map shows an obvious central and western bias, but otherwise found throughout VC55.

Grammoptera ustulata
Schaller

Not recorded and unlikely to be found in VC55, stated to be local in south central England.

Pedostrangalia revisita
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55, stated as very local and rare in central and southeast England. A species most likely to be netted in flight on hot summer days and apparently never found at rest on flowering plants.

Lepturobosca virens
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, known only from 2 19C records from the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, no further records and is now presumed extinct in England.

Leptura aurulenta
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55, and not likely to be, very local in southwest and south central England.

Leptura quadrifasciata
Linnaeus

There is an unconfirmed record for this species from the Hick's Lodge area, but details are extremely vague and are proving very difficult to trace. There doesn't seem to be any reason this species can't be found in VC55, with confirmed records from Coventry, Nottinghamshire and Peterborough. A woodland species but can be found in damp places including flood litter.

Anastrangalia sanguinolenta
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, very local in the ancient Caledonian pine forests of central Scotland, with a couple of possibly adventive records from southern and central England.

Stictoleptura rubra
Linnaeus

4 records (3 mapped)

The records for VC55 are all relatively recent, the oldest from Whetstone 2009, followed by a singleton attracted to MV light in Loughborough (no date). Bloody Oaks Quarry produced the next 2015, and the latest 2017 from Market Harborough. In coniferous woodland often on ***Pinus spp.*** or visiting nearby flowers. This seems to be a species that is obviously spreading, another species to be aware of when operating moth traps.

Stictoleptura scutellata
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55, very local in broad-leaved woodland and pasture woodland in southern England, old records for central England and south Wales.

Stictoleptura cordigera
Fuessly

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, first recorded from Middlesex 2007. Favours dead wood of broad-leaved trees especially Oak and visiting flowers nearby.

Paracorymbia fulva
De Geer

9 records (9 mapped)

A new species to VC55 in 2009 from Sapcote, in fact all 9 records are from this area, except for a record from Whetstone, the latest being from Stoney Stanton 2016. This would seem to suggest there may be a breeding colony in the vicinity. There's a high possibility this species is spreading and could become more of a regular sighting for us. Larval habitat is unknown, but thought to be dead or decaying branches and tree stumps.

Anoplodera sexguttata
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55 and fairly unlikely to be, very local in ancient broad-leaved woodland in eastern and southern England, possibly declining. Often found on flowering umbellifers and hawthorn in shaded clearings of woodland.

Judolia sexmaculata
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, very local in coniferous forests of central Scotland.

Pachytodes cerambyciformes
Schrank

(not mapped)

Known only from a single record with vague data "Leics, -1947 RRU Kaufmann". Widespread in Wales, southwest England and Sussex area and with a few around the Cheadle area of Staffordshire and Shefield, then very local in eastern England and Scotland.

Alosterna tabacicolor
De Geer

15 records (11 mapped)

First recorded mid 1800's and has been infrequently recorded to the present, with the latest from Rutland Water 2013. This is another species likely to be found visiting flowers in woodland glades and clearings.

Pseudovadonia livida
Fabricius

(not mapped)

Only record is by the Rev. A. Mathews SP69: Gumley. This species is widespread in south eastern England but very local elswhere, and exclusivley coastal in south west England. In woodland on heaths and grassland, can be found visiting flowers. Although records for the midlands are few and far between, surely this is a species we could well get. Larvae live in soil invaded by the mycelia of the fungus ***Marismius oreades***.

Strangalia attenuata
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, only known from 19C records.

Rutpela maculata
Herbst

117 records (115 mapped)

A widespread and well known species found in most woodlands where there are plenty of flowering plants to visit, especially umbellifers.

Stenurella nigra
Linnaeus

(not mapped)

The second species recorded by A. Mathews only, plus there is a record from New Parks on the NBN that I have no data for. Records north of London are very thinly scattered, if true our New Parks could be the northern most record. Stated to be very local in central and southern england and Wales.

Stenurella melanura
Linnaeus

12 records (9 mapped)

The earliest three records are 1894-1898 and 1907 stated as “Leics.” and the 1848-1895 record states Ulverscroft. All the other records are from Rutland, with Bloody Oaks Quarry holding 4 and Ketton Quarry 2 records., the latter having the latest in 2017. Stated as being widespread in woodland in southern England becoming local in central parts and scarcer further north. With 5 records in 2015 and the Ketton record in 2017, the possibility of finding this species seems to be increasing.

Asemum striatum
Linnaeus

(not mapped)

Known from a single record stated “Leicestershire, 1947 RRU Kaufmann”. A coniferous woodland species the distribution on the NBN atlas shows it to be widespread but thinly

scattered. Native to northern Scotland, but has now spread to conifer plantations throughout England.

Tetropium castaneum
Linnaeus

(1 mapped)

Known only from a single record from SK40 Market Bosworth 1904 by Hubert Barrow. Found in coniferous woodland especially with Spruce, very local in central and southern England and central Scotland.

Tetropium fuscum
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, being very local in Wiltshire, Perthshire and Midlothianshire. Found in coniferous woods under the bark of Norway Spruce.

Tetropium gabrielli
Weise

11 records 11 mapped)

Found in coniferous woodland almost exclusively on Larch, but occasionally on ***Pinus***. Stated as being local in England (except the southwest), Wales and central Scotland. The NBN shows it to be widespread from York southwards. The latest record seems to be from Ketton Quarry 2016, the rest are all from 1972 going back to 1902. Only injured or recently felled trees are attacked.

Arhopalus ferus
Mulsant

Not recorded from VC55, stated as being very local in central and southern England, there is a record from Nottinghamshire and records from Coventry, so it's not really too far away from us. It is another coniferous woodland species and particularly attracted to burnt trees after fire.

Arhopalus rusticus
Linnaeus

5 records (5 mapped)

Widespread in eastern central and south east England local elsewhere, in VC55 it seems to have a western bias. Found in association with coniferous woods and frequently at light, a record from Martinshaw Wood was attracted to MV light trap.

Trinophylum cribratum
Bates

Not recorded from VC55 and probably unlikely to be, apparently an introduction from the Oriental region now established, but very local and rare in central and southern England. usually found in timber stores and wood yards and is attracted to light.

Cerambyx cerdo
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and probably unlikely to be, stated to be very local in central and southern England and Wales, usually as adventives, sometimes as possibly temporary established colonies.

Cerambyx scopolii
Fuessly

Not recorded from VC55 and probably unlikely to be, stated to be very local in central and southern England and presumed native only from 19C records from Cambridgeshire and the London area.

Gracilia minuta
Fabricius

(not mapped)

Known only from a single record “Leicestershire, 1926 D Tozer”. One time local in England now much in decline and very local in southern England and south Wales. Found in woodland and scrub on dead branches of broad-leaved trees and shrubs.

Obrium brunneum
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, very local in south central and southeast England, possibly slowly spreading but still very rare.

Obrium cantharinum
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, used to be very local in south Essex, but not recorded since 1929 in south Devon, probably now extinct in Britain.

Nathrius brevipennis
Mulsant

7 records (1 mapped)

All of the records for this species in VC55 are extremely vague, now probably only established in southern England. It’s difficult to comment on the validity of our VC55 records. The “SK60: Leicester, 1946 D. Tozer” may be the only valid record for this species.

Molorchus minor
Linnaeus

9 records (8 mapped)

All the previous records are from 1972 and before, the latest is from Sharnford, 2018. A small but quite spectacular looking species, hopefully this last record might be an encouraging sign for future sightings. Found in various woodland but favours Spruce and also found visiting flowers.

Glaphyra umbellatarum
Schreber

2 records (0 mapped)

The two records both with scant data just state “SK: 1892 and 1913 and unknown recorder”, so again difficult to comment on validity. Stated as being very local in central and southeastern England and southeast Wales. On various trees and shrubs, but often on various fruit trees and Roses, also fond of flowering umbellifers.

Aromia moschata
Linnaeus

18 records (18 mapped)

This really is a spectacular beetle, large bright metallic green or blue or even coppery, rarely blackish. First recorded in 1782-1790 in the Vale of Belvoir by G. Crabbe, and not seen since the last record 1985, Pilings Lock near Barrow upon soar by Derek Lott, with over half the records from the River Soar valley. On broad-leaved trees but usually Willows and Sallows in wetland situations or by rivers, often-encountered visiting flowers especially umbellifers. This is to be looked for along the Soar valley, as surely it must still be there, it’s big and striking so will not go un-noticed if it is still with us. Widespread in the Cambridgeshire Fens but local elsewhere.

Hylotrupes bajulus
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, stated as very local in southeast England and south Wales. Usually found on coniferous timber in buildings but rarely on coniferous stumps.

Semanotus russicus
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, stated as very local in Berkshire only, apparently an established introduction from southern Europe.

Callidium violaceum
Fabricius

10 records (6 mapped)

A naturalised introduction and formerly local in England and Wales, probably now only ever recorded as adventives. Although we have 10 records, the data that is with them makes it ambiguous as to whether some are in fact duplicates, especially the Gumley and Kirby Muxloe records.

Phymatodes testaceus
Linnaeus

26 records (25 mapped)

The earliest records for this species are 1898 and 1907, then nothing until the mid 1940's, another gap until being found at Sapcote 2013. Since then there has been a handful of records each year with a maximum 5 records for 2017. This could be another species that is spreading and one to be mindful of. Stated to prefer ancient woodland and pasture woodlands, where the larvae feed in dead wood of various trees for 1-2 years.

Pyrrhidium sanguineum
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, widespread in central and southern Wales and western England but very local elsewhere. On various broad-leaved trees but favours Oaks in woods and pasture woodland.

Poecilium alni
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 local in central and southeast England becoming scarcer further north. Broad-leaved trees especially Oaks and Alder in woodland. This is a species we could well already have or one that might be with us soon.

Poecilium lividum
Rossi

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, very local Berkshire only, British records seem to be on timber of imported brandy and wine barrels from France.

Clytus arietis
Linnaeus

139 records (125 mapped)

Another well recognised species being widespread throughout. Found in and around most wooded areas and is particularly fond of visiting flowering umbellifers.

Plagionotus arcuatus
Linnaeus

2 records (2 mapped)

First record is "SK83: Vale of Belvoir, 1782-1790 G Crabbe", second "SK550067: County Hall, Glenfield 1966 (certain import)". Presumed to be extinct in Britain

Anaglyptus mysticus
Linnaeus

49 records (49 mapped)

Stated as widespread in central and southern England but local elsewhere, in VC55 it seems fairly widespread but with very few records each year, 2014 had the most records per year with just 4.

Mesosa nebulosa
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55 and probably unlikely to be, stated as very local in central and southeast England and possibly declining further north. Found in woodland and pasture woodland usually on Oaks.

Xylotoles griseus
Fabricius

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, found in Devon 2013 from a felled dead Fig tree, in 2016 the beetles were found to be well established near and around Westwood Hoe, the species is originally from New Zealand.

Agapanthia villosovirdescens
De Geer

58 records (57 mapped)

Found in most habitats throughout although less likely to be in woodland, prefers areas with Thistle spp. and Hogweed and other perennial herbaceous plants.

Lamia textor
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, a species in decline and now only recorded from Wicken Fen.

Pogonocherus caroli
Mulsant

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be.

Pogonocherus hispidulus
Pillar & Mitterpacher

27 records (25 mapped)

Fairly widespread in VC55 with half the records coming from the Charnwood Forest, last recorded at Leicester Botanical Gardens 2017. Found on various broad-leaved trees and shrubs, but usually in singletons.

Pogonocherus hispidus
Linnaeus

24 records (23 mapped)

A similar situation as the previous species, but with less of a presence on the Charnwood Forest. There may be some identification problems with these two species which could ultimately affect the number of records. Similar habitat as previous species.

Pogonocherus fasiculatus
De Geer

1 record (1 mapped)

Just a single historical record for “SK70: Owston Wood, 1896 F Bouskell. In woods often on Scots Pine, local in Scotland otherwise very local in England.

Acanthocinus aedilis
Linnaeus

3 records (3 mapped)

All three records are accompanied with scant data making it difficult to vallidate these records. The two entries for 1909 could well relate to the same record. In coniferous woodland usually on Scots Pine. Local in Scotland and very local elsewhere, possibly only as adventives.

Leiopus linnei
Wallin, Nylander & Kvamme

Not recorded from VC55 very local in England, status poorly known only separated in 2009.

Leiopus nebulosus
Linnaeus

61 records (55 mapped)

Possibly fairly widespread throughout VC55, but sporadically recorded.
Note: specimens in collections and old records of this and the previous species need to be closely examined. As the previous species has only recently been described there may be erroneous identifications lying amongst them.

Saperda populnea
Linnaeus

6 records (6 mapped)

Stated as widespread in central and southeastern England but very local elswhere. In woodland of various broad-leaved trees, preferring Aspen but sometimes other Poplar spp.

Saperda scalaris
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC5, several records from Burton on Trent, Derby and Nottinghamshire so it's just above us and could well be found in wooded areas of the north of VC55.

Saperda carcharias
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55, recorded from Nottinghamshire and Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire but very local elsewhere. Found on various broad-leaved trees but usually Poplars and Willows. A species to be on the look-out for.

Stenostola dubia
Laicharting

3 records (1 mapped)

The ambiguity of the records in the database, may well mean that all three references could well relate to the same record. Stated to be local in England and very local in Wales. In woodland and parkland and particularly fond of Lime trees.

Phytoecia cylindrica
Linnaeus

6 records (6 mapped)

Out of our five records, two may well be duplicates. Stated as widespread in central and southern England very local elsewhere. Differing from most of other Cerambycids by using umbellifers as host plants.

Obera oculata
Linnaeus

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, very local in the Cambridgeshire Fens and rare.

Tetrops praeustus
Linnaeus

28 records (28 mapped)

Widespread in central and southeastern England local elsewhere, in various broad-leaved woodland. Thinly scattered in VC55 and last recorded in 2015 from Melton.

Tetrops starkii
Chevrolat

Not recorded from VC55 and not likely to be, extremely local in southeast England, in various broad-leaved woodland and sometimes found on flowering Hawthorn.

MAPS

All the maps are taken from MapMate, so when interpreting the distribution maps, it needs to be kept in mind that it has not been possible to plot all the records that are included in the main database. Some, particularly the historical records are very vague on locational details, many just giving SK, SP, SK70, Leics, Leicester, Ashby Canal etc. Even so, I think the maps show a reasonably true picture of what we know to date of the distribution for each species.

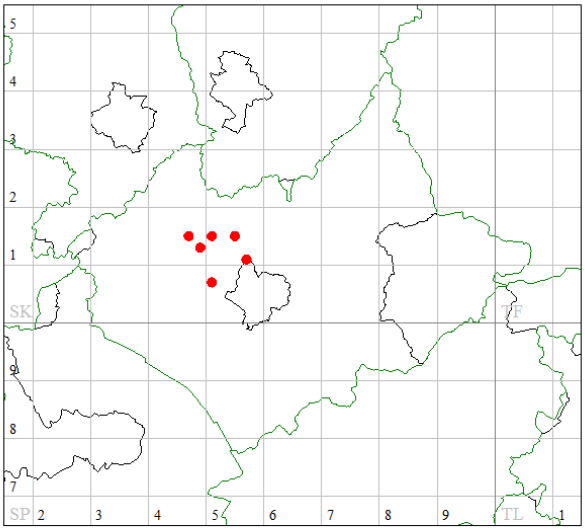
The number of records that do have sufficient data to be used in the maps are given in brackets beside the total number of records in the species accounts.

A total of 36 species have been reliably recorded for VC55 plus a further 3 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 26 species.

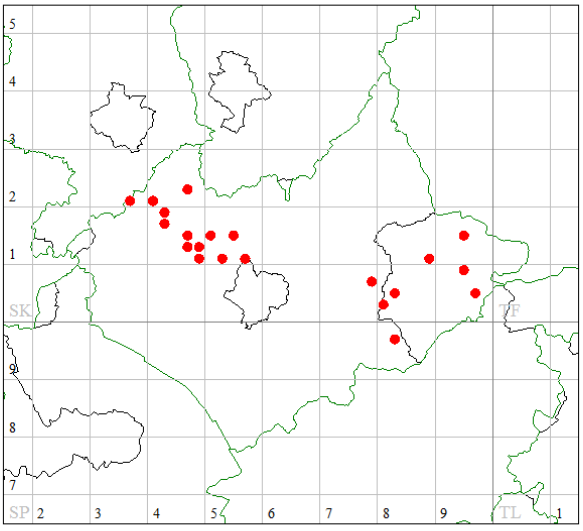
Grammoptera ruficornis is by far the most abundant and regularly recorded species and almost mirrors the coverage on the 2km distribution map. Both maps show that there is plenty of room for improvement

The maps themselves are a result of collating over 200 years of recording in VC55 to the present date. The great 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, albeit on a more casual basis. Online recording schemes are now a permanent feature and supply an abundance of records, these records are great to have but due to various verification procedures imposed by the different recording schemes, this can cause problems for reliable records to be included into the database. Although as strict a means as possible have been used to try and make a true representation of our longhorn beetle fauna, no doubt there will be room for improvement.

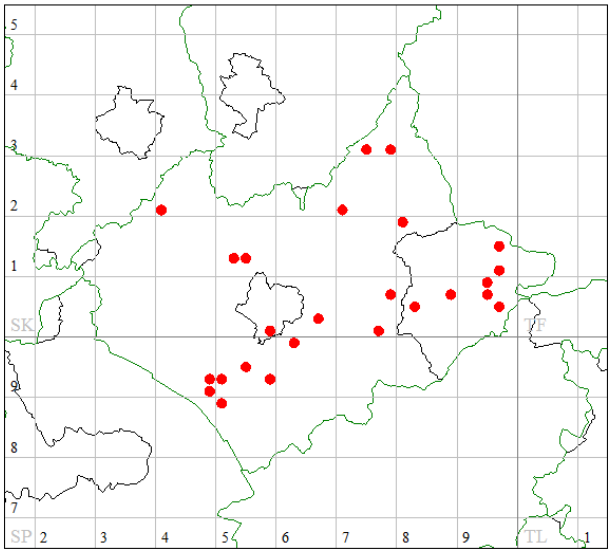
3076 Rhagium bifasciatum



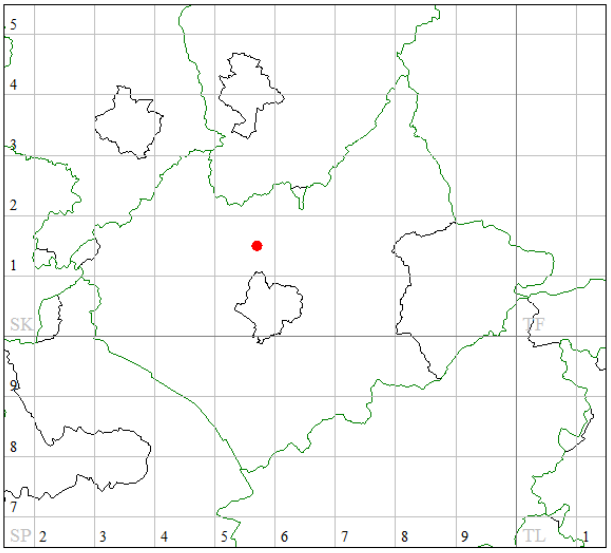
3078 Rhagium mordax



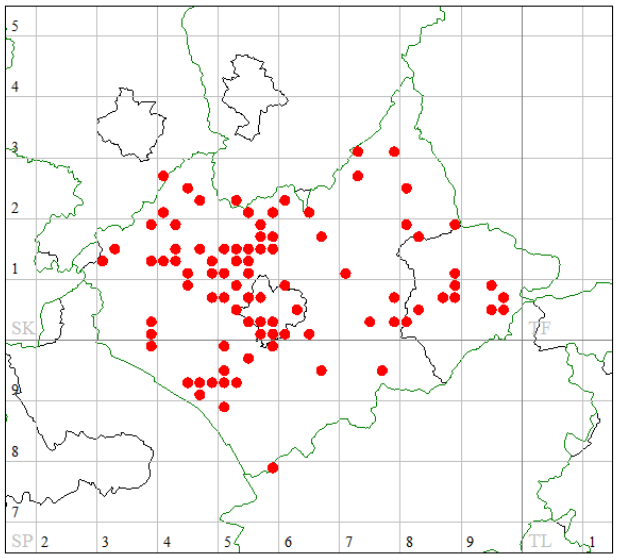
3079 Stenocorus meridianus



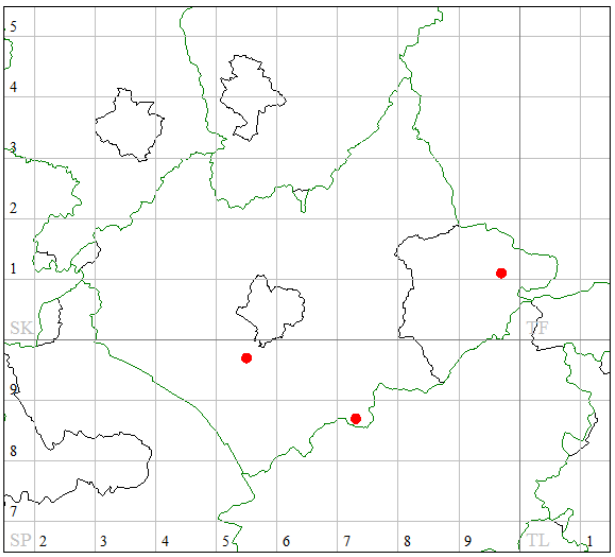
3081 Grammoptera abdominalis



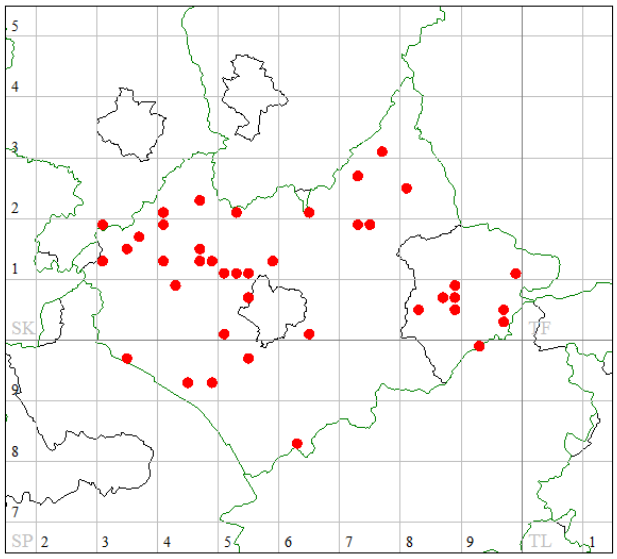
3082 Grammoptera ruficornis



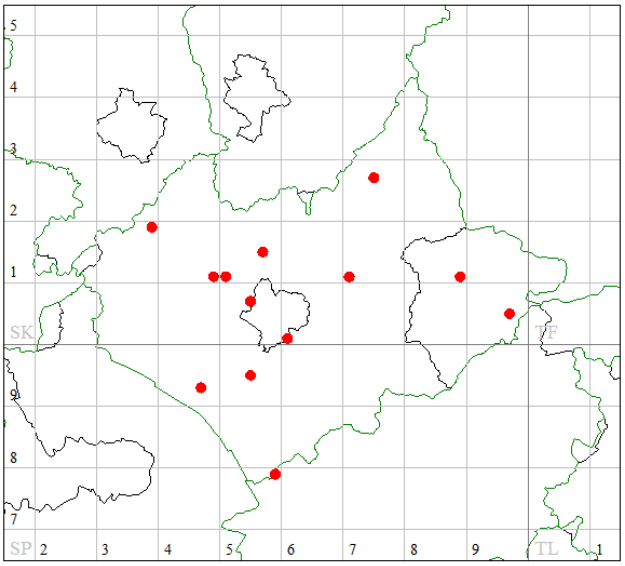
3093 Stictoleptura rubra



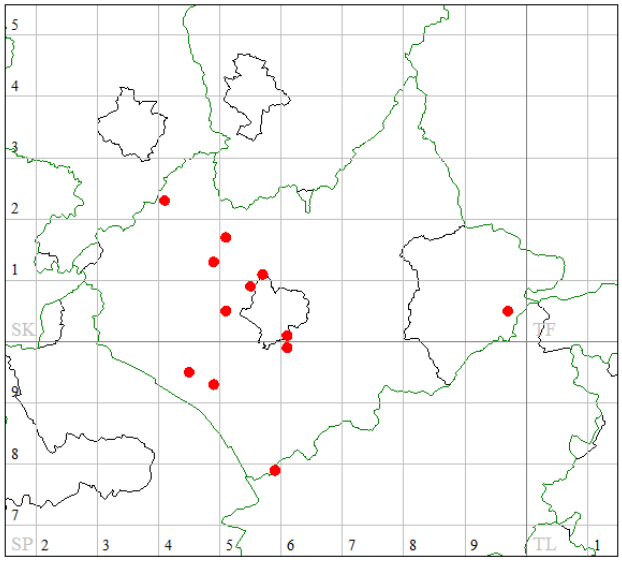
3137 Agapanthia villosoviridescens



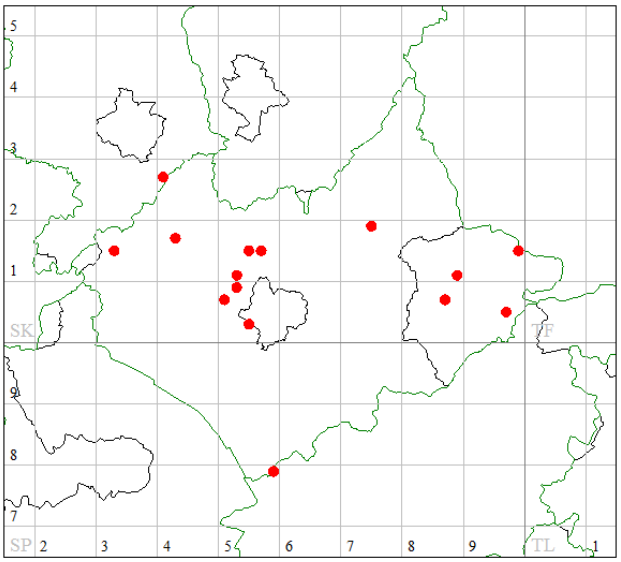
3126 Pogonocherus hispidulus



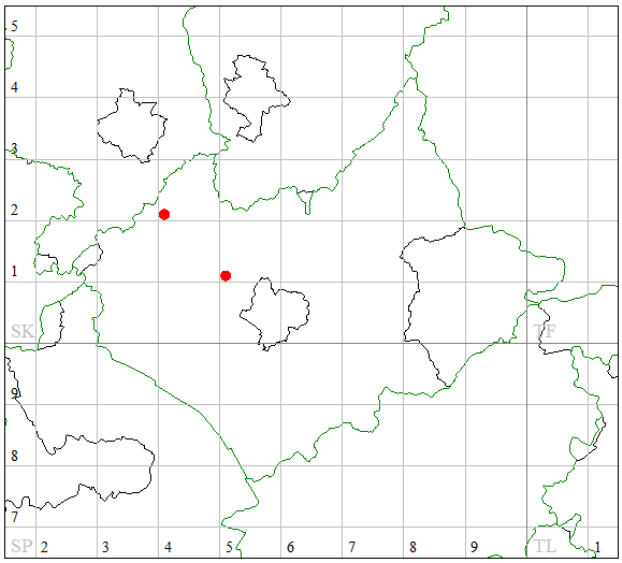
3127 Pogonocherus hispidus



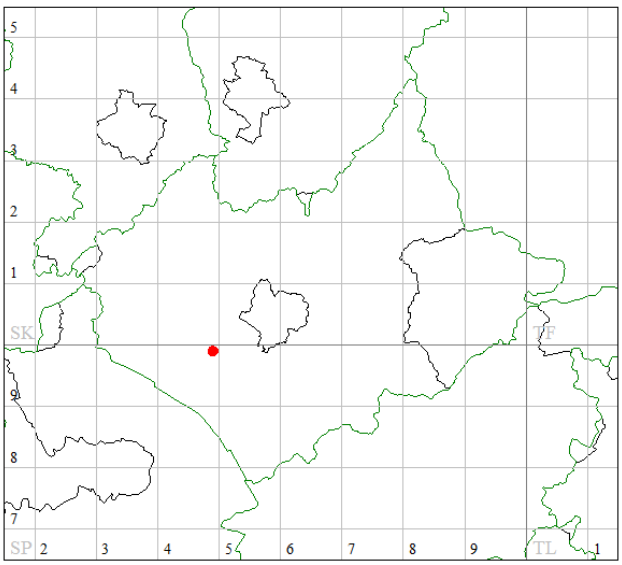
3130.2 Leiopus nebulosus



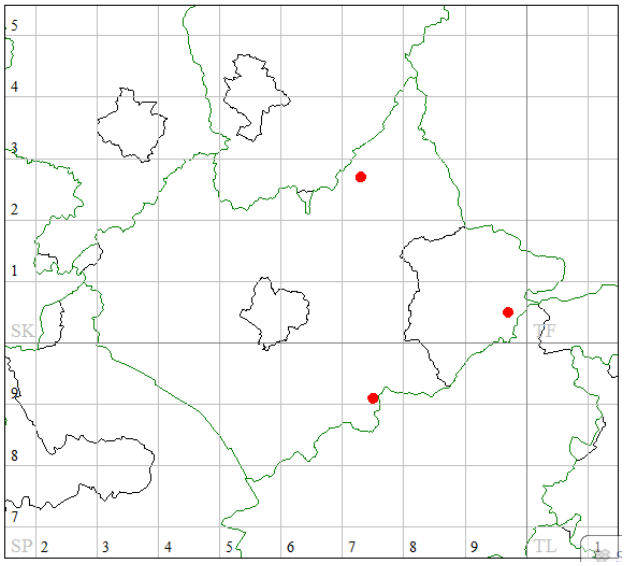
3132 Saperda populnea (Small Poplar Borer)



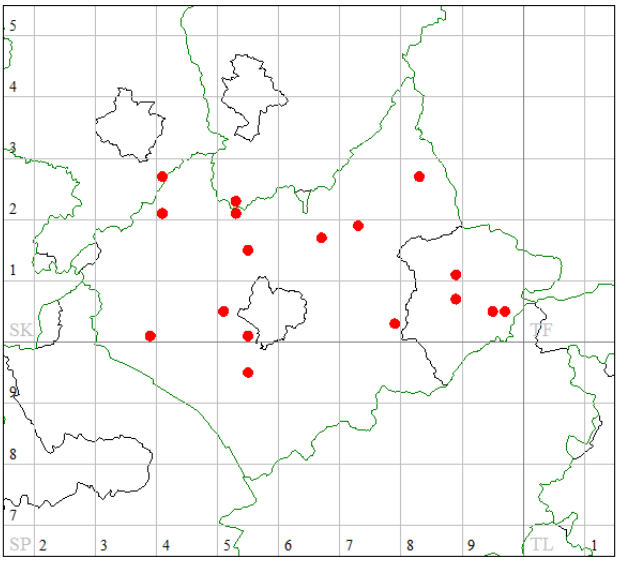
3134 Stenostola dubia



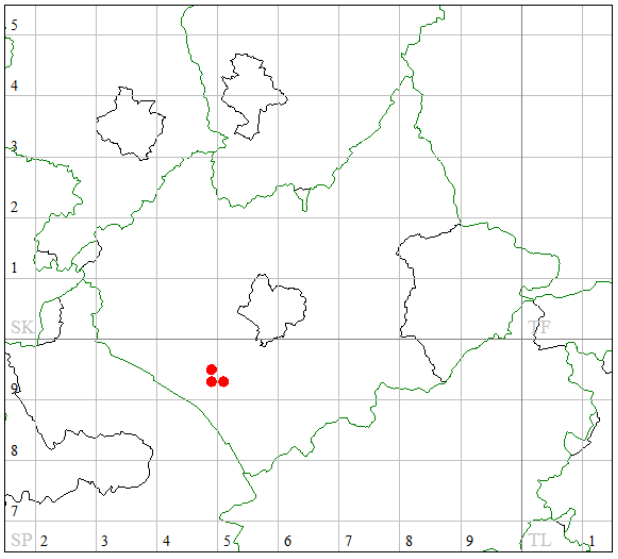
3136 Phytoecia cylindrica



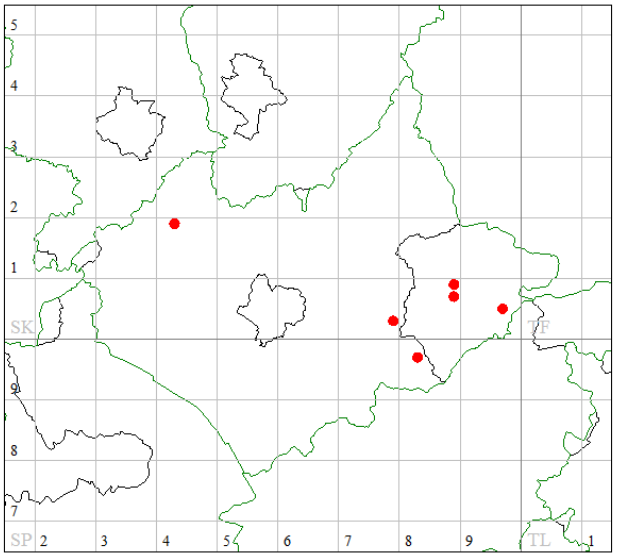
3138 Tetrops praeustus



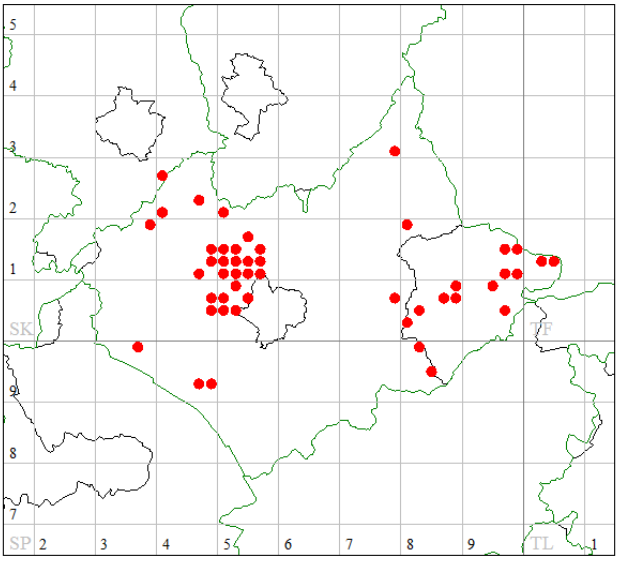
3092 Paracorymbia fulva



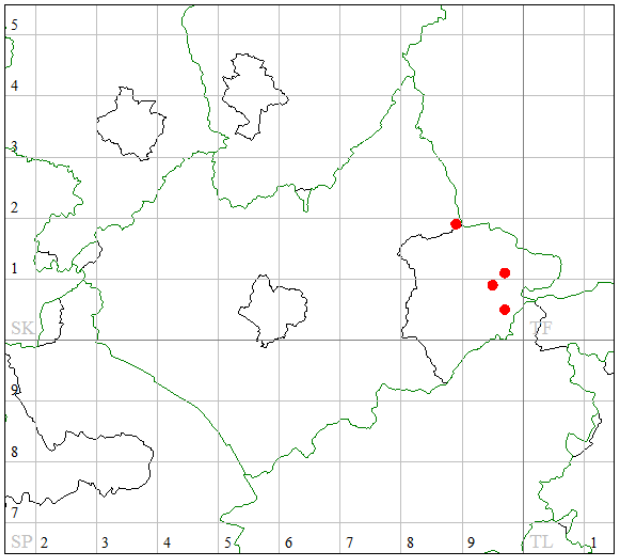
3084 Alosterna tabacicolor



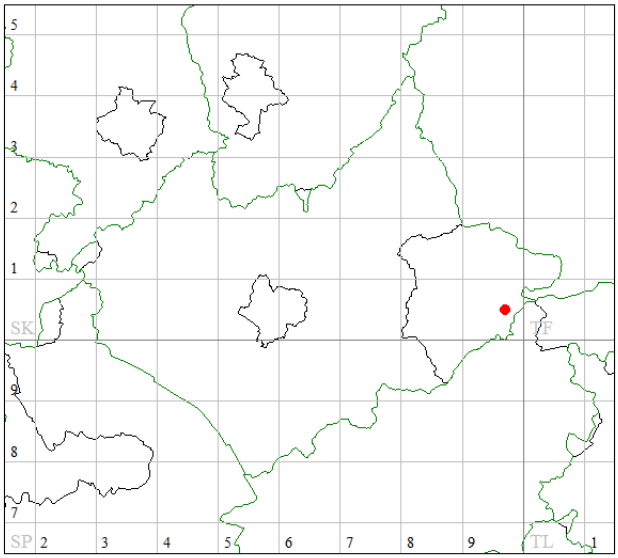
3096 Rutpela maculata



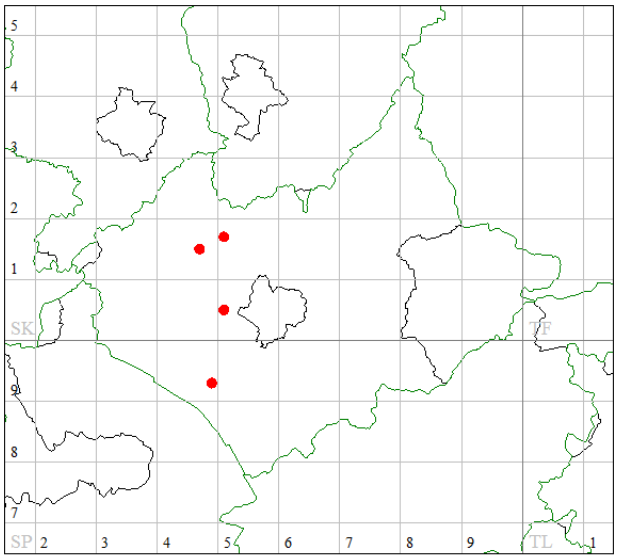
3098 Stenurella melanura



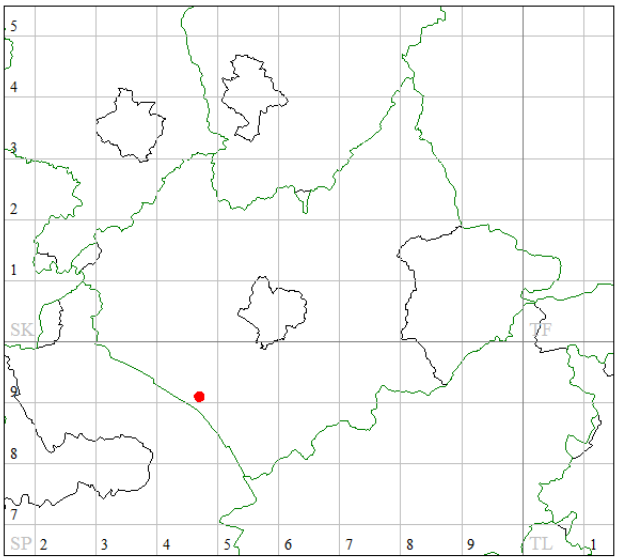
3105 Tetropium gabrieli (Larch Longhorn)



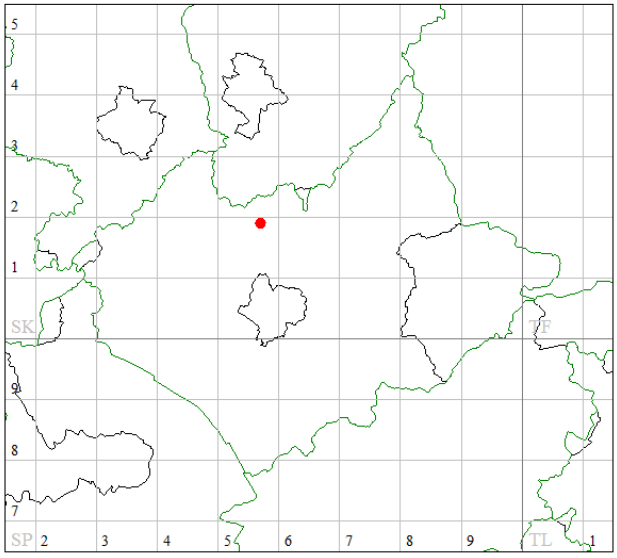
3102 Arhopalus rusticus



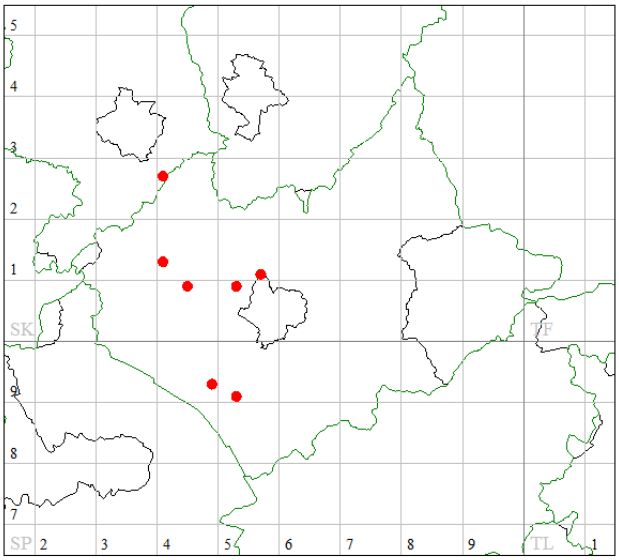
3109 Molorchus minor



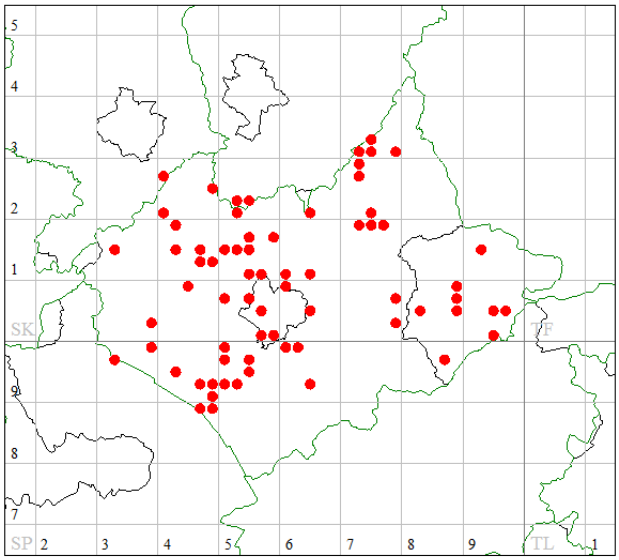
3115 Aromia moschata (Musk Beetle)



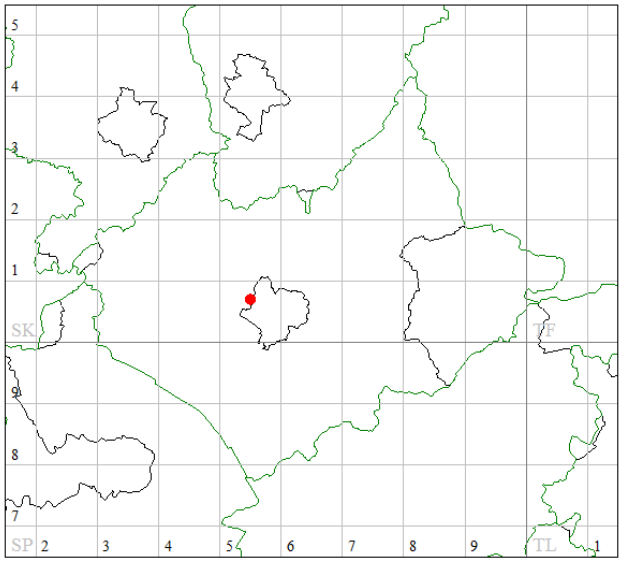
3119 Phymatodes testaceus (Tanbark Borer)



3121 Clytus arietis (Wasp Beetle)



3122 Plagionotus arcuatus



3123 Anaglyptus mysticus