

Heteroptera New to Oxfordshire since 1955

J. M. Campbell

Introduction

The sub-order Heteroptera, true bugs, consists of insects characterised by mouthparts which are modified into a piercing and sucking tube called a rostrum. The forewings are partly cornified, hardened like the elytra of a beetle, while the tip is membranous. The hind wings are entirely membranous.

There is considerable variation within the sub-order, some are aquatic, both surface dwellers such as the pond skaters or under-water swimmers such as the water boatmen. Most true bugs are terrestrial and plant feeders, some very specific to their host plants, whilst others are more generalised. A minority are predatory upon other invertebrates and a few specialise in feeding on the blood of vertebrates, the best known of these being the bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*. Altogether some four hundred and fifty species of true bugs have been recorded in Britain. Some are common and widespread, others are very restricted in their range and yet others have only been found once or twice.

In 1955, A. M. Masee published a list of true bugs recorded in each English and Welsh vice-county, and national lists for Ireland and Scotland. The table below summarises the data of Masee for the two Vice-counties Berkshire, VC22 and Oxfordshire VC23, as given by Masee. The Post 1955 records are for that part of Berkshire, VC22 that became part of the administrative county of Oxfordshire and the original Oxfordshire VC23. Those species mentioned under VC22 may already have been recorded in the remaining part of the county. The totals are shown in Table 1, together with the totals of species recorded since 1955.

The area covered by these records is that of the administrative county of Oxfordshire, created in 1974, formed from a large area of North West Berkshire, VC22, and the “old” Oxfordshire VC23. The Masee records cover the whole of Berkshire. Post-Masee, there are many records for VC Berkshire that are not considered here. Full details of all the post 1955 records are held by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

Table 1: Heteroptera Totals

	Species	Berks VC 22	Oxon VC 23
Masee 1955	Aquatic Species	42	43
Masee 1955	Terrestrial Species	260	253
Additional post 1955	Aquatic Species	6	9
Additional post 1955	Terrestrial Species	50	67
Total 2010	Aquatic Species	48	52
Total 2009	Terrestrial Species	310	320
Total	Heteroptera Species recorded	358	387

The species listed hereafter were not included in the Masee lists. The information included full details of the first record for each vice-county and the first dates for additional 10 km square records. Where Masee included a record for one of the two vice-counties an **M** is shown. The national 2012 status is given for species, as listed at britishbugs.org.uk, however these may be subject to change, as many species appear to be undergoing significant population shifts.

Abbreviations used

1 st CR	First County Record
RDB1	Red Data Book species, endangered
RDB3	Red Data Book species, rare
RDBK	Potential Red Data Book Species, currently insufficiently known
Na	Nationally Scarce Species (occurring in < 30, 10 km squares)
Nb	Nationally Notable species (occurring in 31-100, 10 km squares)

The abbreviations below have been used for the major recorders.

BAH	British Association Handbook 1926
BSN	Dr B. S. Nau
HEC	Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford University Museum of Natural History
JMC	J. M. Campbell
PA	Pond Action
PK	Dr P. Kirby
RR	Dr R. Ryan
TRES	Prof. Sir T. R. E. Southwood
WJleQ	Dr W. J. le Quesne
WS	Wytham Survey

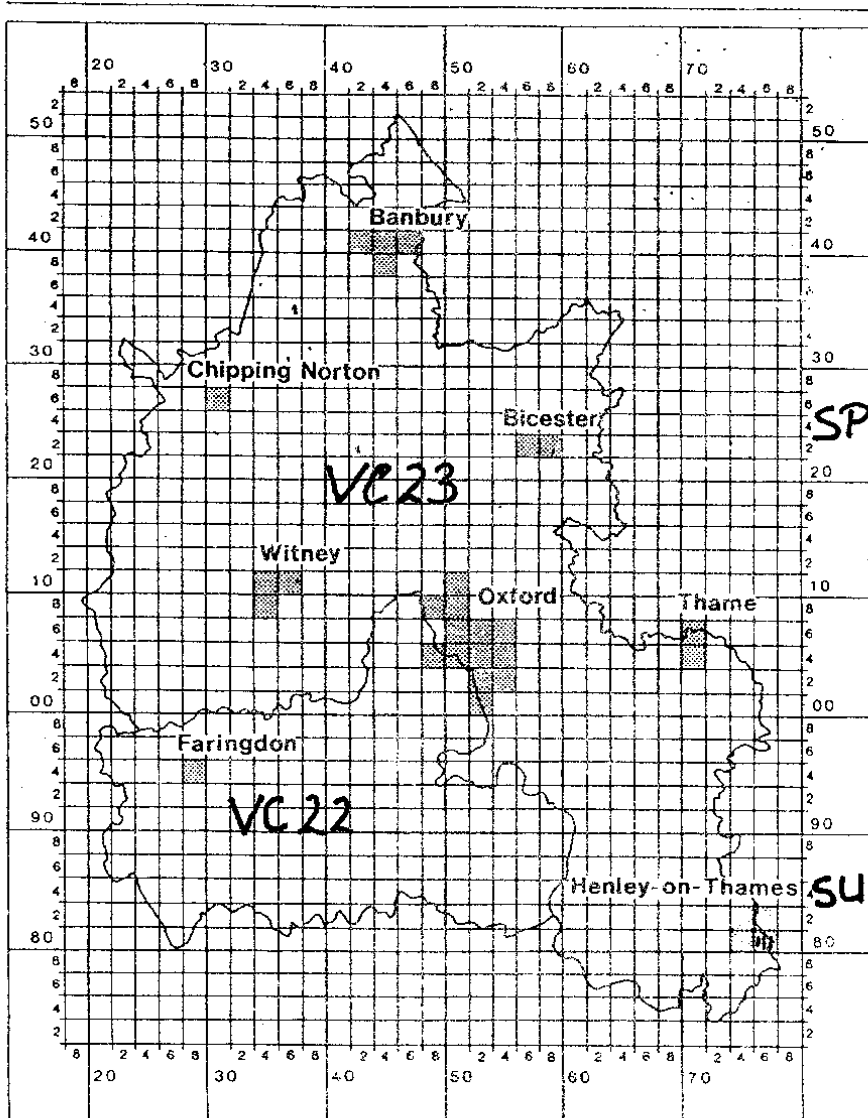


Figure 1: 10km map of Oxfordshire with main towns

AQUATIC HETEROPTERA CORIXIDAE

Micronecta minutissima [Linnaeus 1758] RDB3

1st CR - VC23: Gosford [SP51], pre 1926, J. J. Walker (BAH)

This is a very small water boatman found in scattered localities throughout the UK where it can appear or disappear over short periods of time. Its preferred habitat is shallow, slow water with some emergent vegetation.

VC23: SP40 [2002], SP42 [1957].

Cymatia bonsdorfi [C.R.Sahlberg 1819] Local

1st CR-VC22: Bourton Pond [SU28], 1988, PA

1st CR-VC23: Oxford [SP50], 1975, PK

This small predatory boatman prefers still waters which tend to be slightly acidic with extensive submerged vegetation. It occurs more commonly in the North and West of the country.

VC22: SU59 [1989]

VC23: SP31 [1988], SP51 [1998].

Cymatia coleopratus [Fabricius 1777] Local

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Blenheim Park [SP31], 1957, Specimen in the HEC

This is a small predatory water bug most frequently found in southern England and Wales. It prefers still or slow flowing water with thick masses of submerged vegetation.

VC23: SU69 [1990], SP40 [1988], SP50 [1981], SP60 [1988], SP51 [2000].

Arctocorisa germari [Fieber 1848] Local

1st CR-VC22: Ashbury [SU28], 1988, PA

1st CR-VC23: Swinbrook [SP21], 1988, PA

Although a widespread species, it is uncommon in the midlands and south east England. Its preferred habitat is still water with little vegetation

VC22: SP40 [1990]

VC 23: SP51 [1989].

Corixa affinis [Leach 1817] Local

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49] 1932, specimen in HEC

This species is mostly confined to the south and east coasts of England where it favours brackish pools and ditches. This record appears to show it on the northern extremity of its European range.

Corixa panzeri [Fieber 1848] Widely Scattered

1st CR-VC22: Letcombe Regis [SU38], 1988, JMC

VC23 **M**

A Water Boatman that prefers deep, still or slow flowing, alkaline water with plenty of vegetation.

VC22: SU28 [1988], SU49 [1988], SU59 [1989], SP40 [1992].

Hespercorixa castanea [Thomson 1869] Local

1st CR-VC23: Oxford Canal [SP40], 1940, A. MacFayden

This is primarily a northern and western species of neutral or slightly acidic, still, shallow waters which encompass plenty of emergent vegetation. There are only two records for VC 23, both from A. MacFayden, the second from ponds at Water Eaton.

VC23: SP51 [1940].

Paracorixa cocinna [Fieber 1848] Widely Scattered

1st CR-VC22: Ashbury [SU28], 1988, PA

1st CR-VC23: Ascott - under - Wychwood [SP21], 1981, JMC

A widespread, but uncommon, Lesser Water Boatman found in still waters, it is a rapid coloniser of newly formed pools.

VC22: SU49 [2001], SP40 [1990]

VC23: SP20 [1990], SP41 [1989], SP51 [1998].

Sigara scotti [Douglas & Scott 1868] Local

1st CR-VC 23: Wychwood Forest [SP31], 1968, WS

A north western species which prefers water which ranges from neutral to acidic, it has spread into south east England, to Berkshire, 1945, Herefordshire, 1953, and Surrey, 1957.

VC23: SP40 [1985], SP51 [1987].

MESOVELIIDAE

Mesovelia furcata [Mulsant & Rey 1852] Widely scattered

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Wychwood Forest [SP31], 1976, WS

This small, surface dwelling, predatory bug which lives amongst floating and emergent vegetation is a south eastern species.

VC23: SP21 [1991], SP41 [1988], SP44 [1981].

GERRIDAE

Gerris lateralis [Schummel 1832] Local

1st CR-VC22: Bagley Wood [SP50], 1983, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Wendlebury Meads [SP51], 1981, JMC

This pond skater is predominantly northern with only a scattering of records from the midlands and southern England. It prefers still, neutral or slightly acidic, waters rich in humus.

TERRESTRIAL HETEROPTERA

SALDIDAE

Salda littoralis [Linnaeus 1758] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Rushy Lock [SP30], 2003, JMC

1st CR-VC23: South Stoke [SU58], 1997, JMC

This is a shore bug of salt marshes in southern England, but further north it is found beside freshwater lakes and rivers. Both of the Oxfordshire records are from beside the River Thames.

MICROPHYSIDAE

Myrmedobia exilis [Fallen 1807] Local

1st CR-VC22: Bagley Wood [SP50], 1980s, Dr W. Wint

This is the only Oxfordshire record of this minute bug which lives amongst moss, whilst the adults will climb tree trunks.

MIRIDAE

Bryocoris pteridis [Fallen 1807] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Badbury Forest [SU29], 1986, JMC

VC23 **M**

This small bug is common and widespread on a variety of ferns though rarely found on bracken.

VC22: SU28 [1997], SU49 [1998], SP40 [2000].

Dicyphus annulatus [Wolff 1804] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Buckland [SU39], 1994, JMC

VC23 **M**

A small distinctive bug found throughout Britain on Restharrow.

VC22: SU49 [1997], SU59 [1995].

Dicyphus constrictus [Boheman 1852] Local

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Widley Copse, [SP21], 1981, JMC

A predatory bug associated with plants that have secretory hairs, such as Hedge Woundwort and White Campion, it is widespread in Britain, but more common in the north and west.

VC23: SU68 [1995], SU79 [1986], SP50 [2006], SP31 [1986], SP41 [1982], SP32 [1983].

Macrolophus rubi [Woodroffe 1957] Widely Scattered

1st CR-VC22: Cothill [SU49], 1988, Dr K. Porter

1st CR-VC23: Bladon Heath [SP41], 1950, WJleQ

This is widespread and common in southern England and found on Blackberry. First recognised as occurring in Britain in 1957 and already becoming less common as far north as Oxfordshire.

VC23: SU78 [1995], SU59 [1993], SP21 [1985], SP51 [2007], SP22 [1985].

Tupiocoris rhododendri [Dolling 1972] Naturalised

1st CR-VC22: Bagley Wood [SP50], 1992, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Eynsham Hall Park [SP31], 1985, JMC

A fairly recent arrival from North America which has become naturalised on Rhododendrons.

Deraeocoris flavilinea [Costa 1862] Vagrant

1st CR-VC22: Gozzards Ford [SU49], 2005, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Cottisford [SP53], 2004, JMC

A recent arrival and first recorded in Britain in 1996 (Miller 2001), this species is colonising southern England and is usually found on Sycamore and Field Maple. It is a Mediterranean species that has spread northwards across Europe, partly by human transportation and partly by natural means (Rabitsch 2008).

VC23: SP50 [2008], SP31 [2007].

Alleotomus gothicus [Fallen 1807] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Frilford Heath [SU49], 1987, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Fairspear [SP31], 1986, JMC

A fairly recent arrival, first recorded in 1951, (Leston 1952), this bug has spread rapidly northwards from southern England. It is found on Scots Pine, on isolated trees as well as in plantations.

VC22: SU38 [1988], SU58 [1990], SU29 [1990], SU39 [2003], SU59 [1990]

VC23: SU68 [1987], SP20 [1994], SP50 [1988], SP60 [1988], SP21 [1990], SP32 [1992], SP23 [1988], SP33 [1999].

Calocoris alpestris [MeyerDur 1843] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC23: Hanwell [SP44], 1994, JMC

A northern and western species which appears to be on the edge of its range in Oxfordshire, it is found on Common Nettle in shady woodland where there is high humidity.

VC23: SP20 [2009], SP21 [2002], SP32 [1994].

Dichrooscytus gustavi [Josifor 1981] Nb

1st CR-VC22: Aston Upthorpe Downs [SU58], 1968, L. Ward

1st CR-VC23: Nuffield Common [SU68], 1968, L. Ward

A Mediterranean species restricted to southern England where it is found on Juniper. Surprisingly, two specimens were found on an Oak tree in SU28.

VC22: SU28 [1997]

VC23: SU69 [1981], SU79 [1983].

Neolygus populi [Leston 1957] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Frilford Heath [SU49], 2005, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Clifton Heath [SU59], 1993, BSN

A bug first collected in England in 1951 but not described until 1957 (Leston 1957), it has spread steadily across southern and central England where its habitat is normally restricted to White and Grey Poplar.

VC23: SP20 [1994], SP40 [2002].

Neolygus viridis [Fallen1807] Common

1st CR-VC22: Bagley Wood [SP50], 1942, WS

VC23 **M**

A common and widespread bug that feeds on the flowers and fruits of trees and shrubs especially Alder and Oak.

VC22: SU28 [1994], SU58 [1994], SU29 [1993], SU49 [2001], SU59 [1982], SP40 [2000], SP50 [1982].

Lygus maritimus [Wagner 1949] Local

1st CR-VC22: Knollend [SU48], 1995, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Caversham [SU77], 1990, JMC

A bug found both in coastal habitats and inland, usually in ruderal communities, where it is associated with a variety of plants including Scentsless Mayweed, Fat Hen, Sorrel, Gorse and Clovers.

VC22: SU49 [1998], SP40 [1997]

VC23: SU68 [2006], SU59 [2007], SU79 [2006], SP50 [2006], SP60 [2006], SP31 [2006], SP51 [1998], SP33 [2000], SP34 [1994].

Megacoleum beckeri [Fieber 1870] Local

1st CR-VC22: Sutton Courtenay [SU59], 1982, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Hook Norton [SP33], 1982, JMC

Restricted to south east England where it is found on Scots Pine trees, it is thought to be predatory on aphids.

VC22: SU58 [1992]

VC23: SP40 [2004], SP60 [1983], SP22 [1994], SP63 [1983].

Orthops basilis [A. Costa 1853] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 2003, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Lambs' Pool [SP33], 1988, JMC

A bug only recently recognised in England which will probably prove to be widespread and common, it is found on various Umbellifers where it feeds on the flowers.

VC23: SP20 [2004], SP50 [2000], SP21 [2006], SP53 [1992], SP63 [1992].

Phytocoris dimidiatus [Kirschbaum 1856] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Wytham [SP40], 1980, TRES

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR, [SU79], 1947, WS

A predatory bug that is found on a variety of trees, but especially Oak.

VC22: SU28 [1997], SU68 [1986], SU29 [2002], SP50 [1980]

VC23: SU68 [1992], SU78 [1994], SP30 [1992], SP40 [1988], SP50 [1984], SP60 [1990], SP70 [1994], SP21 [1985].

Polymerus palustris [Reuter 1907] Local

1st CR-VC22: Cholsey Marsh [SU68], 1986, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Blackthorn [SP62], 1981, JMC

A southern species found in marshes and wet meadows where it feeds on Marsh Bedstraw.

VC22: SU49 [2009]

VC23: SP30 [1994], SP31 [1985], SP51 [1986], SP52 [2001].

Myrmecoris gracilis [Sahlberg 1848] RDB3

1st CR-VC23: Oxford [SP50], 1999, D. Mann

This rare predatory bug is an ant mimic and is found in dry grassy places.

Acetropis gimmerthalii [Flor 1860] Widely scattered

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Blenheim Park, [SP41], 1992, JMC

A species with a southern distribution, this bug is associated with dry grassland, waste ground and also marshes.

VC23: SP50 [2006], SP60 [2006]

Teratocoris antennatus [Boheman 1852] Local

1st CR-VC22: Cholsey Marsh [SU68], 1986, JMC

VC23 **M**

A bug found mostly in coastal localities where it feeds upon Sea Club-rush. Inland it feeds on Floating Sweet-grass and Grey Club-rush.

VC22: SU49 [2009], SP30 [2002].

Teratocoris saundersi [Douglas & Scott 1869] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Shrivenham [SU28], 1993, BSN

VC23 **M**

A widely distributed bug found throughout the British Isles in marshy places where it feeds on a variety of grasses and rushes.

VC22: SU49 [2003].

Trigonotylus caelestialum [Kirkaldy 1902] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Frilford Heath [SU49], 1997, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Burford [SP21], 1992, JMC

A species found on grasses in drier situations, it has only been recognised recently in Britain as distinct from *Trigonotylus ruficornis*.

VC22: SU39 [2004]

VC23: SP20 [1995], SP50 [2007], SP41 [2003], SP51 [2003], SP33 [1999], SP34 [2000].

Malacocoris chlorizans [Panzer 1794] Common

1st CR-VC22: Wytham Woods [SP40], 1956, WS

VC23 **M**

A widespread and common bug found on trees and shrubs.

VC22: SU28 [1999], SU38 [1988], SU29 [1985], SU49 [1998], SU59 [1995].

Mecomma dispar [Boheman 1852] Local

1st CR-VC23: Burford [SP21], 1986, JMC

A northern and western species associated with leguminous plants growing amongst grasses.

Orthotylus tenellus [Fallen 1807] Widely scattered

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Wychwood Forest [SP31], 1965, G.E. Woodroffe

Common throughout Britain on a variety of trees and shrubs.

VC23: SU67 [1997], SU77 [1992], SU68 [1993], SU59 [1998], SU69 [1989], SP20 [1995], SP30 [1989], SP50 [1993], SP60 [1998], SP21 [1994], SP41 [1989], SP51 [1987], SP61 [1983], SP22 [1990], SP32 [1990], SP42 [1998], SP52 [1991], SP33 [1990], SP43 [1999], SP63 [1994], SP34 [1994], SP44 [1994], SP45 [1990].

Orthotylus viridinervis [Kirschbaum 1856] Widely scattered

1st CR- VC22: Marcham [SU49], 1998, J.S. Denton

1st CR-VC23: Hartslock [SU67], 1950, TRES

A common species in southern England found on various trees, but especially Wych Elm.

VC23: SP30 [1989], SP40 [2002], SP50 [1956], SP21 [1992], SP31 [1982], SP41[2002].

Orthotylus adenocarpi [Perris 1857] Common

1st CR-VC22: Tubney [SU49], 1992, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Clifton Heath [SU59], 1997, JMC

Widespread on Broom.

VC23: SP50 [1999], SP41 [2001], SP33 [2000], SP51 [2008].

Orthotylus bilineatus [Fallen 1867] Widely scattered

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Spartum Fen [SP60], 1988, JMC

A species found on members of the Poplar family, particularly Aspen.

VC23: SU68 [1995], SU78 [1995], SP50 [1988].

Orthotylus flavosparus [Sahlberg 1841] Common

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: SP44, 1983, BSN

A common and often numerous bug distributed throughout England on various species of Chenopodiaceae.

VC23: SU77 [1994], SU59 [1990], SU69 [1989], SP20 [1994], SP30 [1989], SP50 [1989], SP60 [2004], SP21 [1990], SP31 [1991], SP51 [1998], SP52 [1990], SP33 [2001], SP63 [1990], SP34 [1996].

Parapachylops caprai [Wagner 1955] Naturalised

1st CR-VC23: Oxford [SP50], 2006, RR

Found on Redwood trees in the University Parks, to date the only known UK site (Ryan 2008). This is a Mediterranean species that has spread northwards across Europe (Rabitsch 2010).

Pilophorus cinnamopterus [Kirschbaum 1856] Widely scattered

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Thame Park [SP60], 1988, JMC

This species is confined to southern England where it occurs on Scots Pine.

VC23: SP50 [2006], SP31 [2006], SP51 [1995].

Halodapus montandoni [Reuter 1895] RDB3

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR, [SU79], 1986, S. Judd

An ant mimic, closely associated with the ant *Myrmica scabrinoidis*, which is confined to southern England where it is found in areas of short grass and bare earth.

Halodapus rufescens [Burmeister 1835] Uncommon

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR, [SU79], 1956, WJleQ

Another ant mimic found throughout Britain on heaths and amongst leaf litter.

Amblytylus brevicollis [Fieber 1858] Nb

1st CR-VC23: Wychwood Forest, [SP31], 1986, WJleQ

This northern and eastern species feeds on grasses in dry conditions.

Asciodema obsoleta [Fieber 1864] Common

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Shirburn Hill, [SU79], 1986, JMC

Common and widely distributed, it feeds upon Gorse and Broom.

VC23: SU68 [1995], SU77 [1992], SU59 [1993], SP21 [2003], SP41 [1987], SP63 [1993], SP33 [2001].

Brachyarthrum limitatum [Fieber 1858] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC23: Spartum Fen [SP60], 1987, JMC

With a southern and eastern distribution, this bug is restricted to Aspen.

VC23: SU68 [1996], SU59 [1997].

Campylomma annulicorne [Signoret 1865] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC23: Lower Windrush Gravel Pits [SP40], 1985, JMC

A relatively recent addition to the British Isles' list, this bug is spreading across southern and eastern England. It is associated with various willows, especially Osier.

VC23: SU59 [1993], SP41 [2005].

Megalocoleus tanaceti [Fallen 1807] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Tubney [SU49], 1982, JMC

VC23 **M**

This bug feeds on the buds, flowers and fruit of Tansy and less commonly other species of Compositae.

VC22: SU28 [1997], SU48 [1995], SU29 [2006].

Monosynamma sabulicola [Wagner 1947] Nb

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 1998, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Lower Windrush Gravel Pits [SP40], 1988, JMC

It is most commonly found on Creeping Willow growing in coastal dune slacks, but it can occur on inland sites on other species of low growing willows.

Oncotylus viridiflavus [Goeze 1778] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Kingston Bagpuize [SU39], 2008, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Nethercott [SP42], 2002, JMC

Although widely distributed in southern England it is surprisingly local, feeding on Knapweeds. It seems unlikely that this bug has been overlooked in the past.

VC22: SU49 [2008]

VC23: SU68 [2003], SU79 [2000], SP20 [2003], SP40 [2004], SP50 [2006], SP21 [2007], SP31 [2007], SP32 [2007].

Placochilus seladonicus [Fallen 1807] RDBK

VC22: SU39 Buckland [SU39] 1993, BSN

VC23: SU68 Wood House Farm [SU68] 1986, R.D. Hawkins

First recorded in Britain in 1997 from Bedfordshire, this distinctive blue bug is spreading. It feeds on Field Scabious.

VC22: SU58 [1999], SU49 [2004]

VC23: SU67 [2007], SP20 [1995], SP31 [1996], SP41 [1998].

Plesiodema pinetella [Zetterstedt 1828] Local

1st CR-VC22: Tubney [SU49], 1995, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Heythrop Park [SP33], 1998, JMC

Prior to the mid-1930s, this bug found on Scots Pine had a northern distribution, but since then has spread southwards.

VC22: SU28 [1996]

VC23: SP44 [1995].

Psallus wagneri [Ossiannilsson 1953] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Buscot Park [SU29], 1988, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1956, WJleQ

A widespread bug found mostly on Oak and to a lesser extent on Hawthorn.

VC22: SU48 [1991], SU49 [1998], SP40 [1980], SP50 [1980]

VC23: SP30 [1989], SP50 [1993], SP21 [1994], SP31 [1989], SP41 [1988], SP51 [1988], SP22 [1989], SP32 [1990], SP62 [2002], SP44 [1994].

Psallus albicinctus [Kirschbaum 1856] Nb

1st CR-VC22: Wytham Wood [SP40], 1960, WS

1st CR-VC23: Goddington [SP62], 2002, JMC

First found in Surrey and since 1954 this Oak-feeding bug has spread to several counties in southern England.

VC22: SP50 [1980]

VC23: SP31 [2006].

Psallus mollis [Mulsant & Rey 1852] Local

1st CR-VC22: Bagley Wood [SP50], 1980, TRES

VC23 **M**

Another Oak feeder thought to be more common in the north and west.

VC22: SU38 [1989], SU29 [1988], SU39 [2005], SU49 [1990], SU59 1990], SP40 [1981].

Psallus falleni [Reuter 1883] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Cothill [SU49], 1906, HEC

VC23 **M**

This bug found on Birch is common and widely distributed throughout Britain.

VC22: SU28 [1992], SU38 [1989], SU48 [1995], SU29 [1994], SU39 [2003], SU59 [1986], SP40 [1995], SP50 [2000].

Psallus flavellus [Stichel 1933] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Ashbury [SU28], 1986, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1956, WJleQ

This bug is adult for a short period of time only, during mid-July. It is widely distributed on Ash and to a lesser extent on other trees.

VC22: SU38 [1993], SU29 [2006], SU49 [2002], SU59 [1996], SP40 [1997]

VC23: SU69 [1989], SU77 [1992], SP20 [1995], SP30 [1991], SP50 [1993], SP60 [1988], SP31 [1987], SP41 [1995], SP51 [2002], SP22 [1987], SP42 [2003], SP53 [1998], SP44 [1983], SP45 [1989].

Salicarus roseri [Herrich-Schaffer 1838] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Farmoor [SP40], 1983, BSN

VC23 **M**

A southern bug found on various species of Willow.

VC22: SU48 [1990], SU49 [1998], SP50 [2006].

Tythus pygmaeus [Zetterstedt 1838] Local

1st CR-VC23: Wolvercote [SP40], 1956, G.G.E. Scudder

Widespread throughout England in damp situations often amongst clumps of rushes.

VC23: SU77 [1987], SU68 [1993], SP21 [1997], SP41 [1998].

Brachynotocoris puncticornis [Reuter 1880] RDBK

1st CR-VC23: Barton [SP50], 2006, RR

A recent colonist, found on Ash trees, first in Hertfordshire in 2002 and then Bedfordshire in 2005 (Brooke and Nau 2006).

NABIDAE

Himacerus boops [Schiodte 1870] Local

1st CR-VC22: Tubney [SU49], 1915, HEC

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1956, WJleQ

A damsel bug found in southern England in dry grassy places, it keeps to the soil surface and is difficult to find.

VC22: SP40 [1948]

VC23: SP31 [1965].

ANTHOCORIDAE

Anthocoris butleri [Le Quesne 1958] Common

1st CR-VC22: Marcham [SU49], 1995, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Brize Norton [SP20], 1984, JMC

Separated from *Anthocoris nemoralis* in 1957, this is a predatory flower bug normally found on Box. It is thought to be no more than a sub-species by some taxonomists.

VC22: SU28 [1997], SU59 [2009], SP40 [2000]

VC23: SP21 [2009].

Anthocoris limbatus [Fieber 1836] Local

1st CR-VC22: Kennington Pool [SP50], 1991, JMC

VC23 **M**

Most records are from central and eastern England where it is found on Willows.

VC22: SU68 [1994], SU49 [1999].

Anthocoris simulans [Reuter 1884] Common

1st CR-VC22: Marcham [SU49], 2009, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Cropedy [SP44], 1983, BSN

Mostly found in southern England where it is confined to Ash trees.

VC23: SU78 [1987], SP30 [1990], SP21 [1988], SP31 [1986], SP23 [1994].

Anthocoris amplicollis [Horvath 1893] RDB3

1st CR-VC23: Wychwood Forest [SP31], 2009, JMC

A recent colonist recorded from West Yorkshire and on a single occasion from Surrey and once from Northamptonshire which to date has only been found on Ash trees.

Elatophilus nigricornis [Zetterstedt 1838] Common

1st CR-VC22: Shrivenham [SU28], 1997, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Oxford [SP50], 1990, JMC

Until 1938 this bug was confined to Scotland, but has since spread to much of England. It is found on Scots Pine.

VC23: SP21 [1994], SP41 [1997], SP33 [1994].

Temnostethus gracilis [Horvath 1907] Local

1st CR-VC22: Wytham Wood [SP40], 1953, WS

1st CR-VC23: Wychwood Forest [SP31], 1963, G.E. Woodroffe

This species was not separated from the very similar *Temnostethus pusillus* until 1955. The Wytham Wood specimen was not identified until well after this date. It is widely distributed in England and occurs on the trunks and branches of broad leaved trees.

VC22: SU39 [2003], SU49 [1998], SP50 [1980]

VC23: SP30 [1994], SP21 [1991], SP41 [1999], SP51 [2008], SP33 [2000].

Orius laticollis [Reuter 1884] Local

1st CR-VC22: Sutton Courtenay [SU59], 1992, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Cropedy [SP44], 1984, BSN

Only recently recognised in Britain, it is expected to become widespread and common.

VC22: SU28 [2004], SU39 [2004], SU49 [2001], SU59 [1992]

VC23: SU77 [1990], SU68 [2003], SP50 [1989], SP60 [1989], SP21 [1992], SP41 [2005], SP51 [1999], SP61 [1989], SP42 [1999], SP62 [2002], SP33 [1999].

Cardiastethus fasciventris [Garbiglietti 1869] Local

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Boze Down [SU67], 1994, JMC

Usually found on Gorse and to a lesser extent on Scots Pine and Norway Spruce, this small bug is restricted to southern England.

VC23: SU58 [1996], SU68 [2003], SU59 [2007], SU79 [2003], SP20 [2009], SP50 [2000], SP31 [1998], SP41 [2007], SP42 [2002], SP62 [2002].

LYGAEIDAE

Nysius senecionis [Schilling 1829] Widely scattered

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 2004, JMC

First recorded from Sussex in 1992, this bug has become widely scattered across southern England and is particularly associated with Ragworts and Common Fleabane.

Orthillis depressus [Dallas 1852] Naturalised

1st CR-VC23: Oxford [SP50], 2006, RR

This seed bug of Mediterranean origin was first recorded from Surrey in the mid-1980s. Lawson's Cypress is the host species in England.

Cymus melanocephalus [Fieber 1861] Common

1st CR-VC22: Wytham Wood [SP40], 1956, WS

A southern species found in damp places among rushes.

VC22: SU28 [1993], SU38 [1991], SU48 [1995], SU58 [1994], SU 29 [1994], SU39 [2003], SU49 [1984], SU59 [1985].

Heterogaster artemisiae [Schilling 1829] Nb

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1957, G.G.E. Scudder

This ground bug is largely confined to the coastal regions of south west England. Its food plant is *Thymus praecox* which grows on sand dunes and chalk hills.

VC23: SU69 [1999].

Metapoplax dimitoides [Costa 1847] Vagrant

1st CR-VC22: Shrivenham [SU29], 1992, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Barton [SP50], 2006, RR

A western Mediterranean bug which spread to Jersey, the Netherlands, Germany and England during the period 1948 – 1953. The first English record comes from Hounslow Heath in Middlesex. It now appears to be well established and is especially associated with Scentless Mayweed.

Drymus latus [Douglas & Scott 1871] Nb

1st CR-VC22: Tubney [SU49], 1915, BAH

1st CR-VC23: Enslow [SP41], pre 1938, Victoria County History

Recorded from mossy grassland in southern and eastern England.

VC23: SU79 [1986], SP20 [2003], SP21 [1995], SP51 [2000].

Eremocoris podagricus [Fabricius 1775] Local

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 2005, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Cleeve [SU68], 2001, M. Townsend

This ground bug is found in dry places especially on chalk and the sandy heathlands of southern Britain.

VC23: SP51 [2004].

Gastrodes abietum [Bergroth 1914] Local

1st CR-VC22: Marcham [SU49], 2006, JMC

VC23 **M**

This species is found on the cones of the Norway Spruce. It is difficult to find as the cones are usually very high on the tree. The Norway Spruce is not native to Britain and it is suggested that the bug colonised after the introduction of the tree (Southwood and Leston 1959).

Taphropeltus hamulatus [Thomson 1870] Nb

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1956, G.G.E. Scudder

Known only from chalk grasslands in southern England, this ground bug has only recently been recognised in Britain.

Trapezonotus dispar [Stal 1873] Local

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1957, WJleQ

An uncommon ground bug of woodland rides in the south of England.

VC23: SU67 [1961], SP60 [1957].

Trapezonotus desertus [Seidenstucker 1951] Common

1st CR- VC22: Tubney [SU49], 1995, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Nettlebed [SU78], 1996, JMC

Only separated from *Trapezonotus arenarius* in 1951, this species is found in dry places on sandy heathland.

VC22: SP40 [1995]

VC23: SU68 [1996].

Megalonotus emarginatris [Rey 1888] Local

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 1997, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Caversham [SU77], 1990, JMC

A ground bug of sandy habitats.

VC22: SU39 [2004].

Peretrichus nubilis [Fallen 1807] Local

1st CR-VC22: Hitchcapse Pit [SU49], 2001, D. Paret

1st CR-VC23: Caversham [SU77], 1986, JMC

This ground bug is found in a wide range of habitats in south and eastern England, more commonly in coastal regions. Inland it appears to favour sandy ruderal areas.

VC23: SU78 [1996].

Lasiomus enervis [Herrich-Schaffer 1841] Nb

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Ascott under Wychwood [SP21], 1981, JMC

A southern ground bug found in dry litter and moss.

VC23: SU69 [1994], SP 40 [1991].

PIESMATIDAE

Parapiesma quadratum [Fieber 1844] Common

1st CR-VC22: Wytham Farm [SP40], 1988, WildCru

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1957, WJleQ

Mostly found in coastal and ruderal sites, this small lace bug feeds on members of the Chenopodiaceae.

VC22: SU29 [1994], SU49 [1996].

BERYTINIDAE

Berytinus crassipes [Herrich-Schaffer 1835] Local

VC22 **M**

1st CR-VC23: Aston Rowant NNR [SU79], 1957, WJleQ

Mostly found in south east England this stilt bug feeds on Mouse-ears which grow in sparsely vegetated sites.

VC23: SP33 [2000].

COREIDAE

Gonoceros acuteangulatus [Goeze 1778] RDB1

1st CR-VC22: Marcham [SU49], 2007, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Burford [SP21], 2009, JMC

Long known from Box Hill, this bug has suddenly started to spread. It feeds on Box, but in 2009 was found breeding on Buckthorn in Bedfordshire (B. Nau, pers. comm. 2010).

VC22: SU39 [2008].

Spathocera dalmanii [Schilling 1892] Na

1st CR-VC22 : Tubney [SU49], 2003, JMC

Another bug of southern England associated with Sheep's Sorrel which is growing in dry, sparsely vegetated places.

Bathysolen nubilis [Fallen 1807] Nb

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 2008, JMC

A squash bug that has expanded its range in south east England since 1945, which feeds on Black Medick and other Leguminosae growing in dry, sandy situations.

Ceraleptus lividis [Stein 1858] Local

1st CR-VC22: Little Wittenham [SU59], 1985, T. Godfrey

1st CR-VC23: Culham [SU59], 1997, JMC

Yet another south eastern seed bug which feeds on Leguminosae growing in dry situations.

VC22: SU49 [1997]

VC23: SP21 [2009].

RHOPALIDAE

Corizus hyoscami [Linnaeus 1758] Local

1st CR-VC22: Marcham [SU49], 2006, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Burford [SP21], 2007, JMC

This striking red and black bug is found around the English coast from Sussex to Lancashire where it feeds on Stork's-bill. The Oxfordshire records are from the national influx which occurred in 2006 and which already appears to be waning.

VC23: SP50 [2008], SP60 [2007].

Brachycarenum tigrinus [Schilling 1829] Naturalised

1st CR-VC23: Oxford [SP50], 2006, RR

First recognised at Battersea in 2003, this bug is spreading across southern England.

Stictopleurus abutilons [Rossi 1790] Vagrant/Accidental

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 2005, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Barton [SP50], 2006, RR

This species was known only from a scattering of old records before the 1900s from southern England, and until recently was thought to be extinct. However, from 2005 to date there have been many records from across England, perhaps indicating a re-colonisation event. It feeds on the seeds of Compositae.

VC23: SP68 [2006], SP51 [2008].

Stictopleurus punctatonervosus [Goeze 1778] Vagrant/Accidental

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 2009, JMC

1st CR-VC23: Sydlings Copse [SP50], 2006, RR

There are old records from Surrey and Sussex, but this bug was thought to have become extinct. As with *Stictopleurus abutilons*, there has been a recent proliferation of records and it too feeds on the seeds of various Compositae.

VC23: SU68 [2006], SP60 [2006], SP51 [2008].

Liorhyssus hyalinus [Fabricus 1794] RDBK

1st CR-VC22: Frilford [SU49], 2009, JMC

This bug is thought to be an occasional vagrant to Britain, as records are thinly scattered over a wide area. It is possible that it is now established in south west England. Three males were found together at Frilford. On the mainland of Europe Sowthistle is the main host plant.

CYDNIDAE

Canthophorus impressus [Horvath 1871] Nb

1st CR-VC23: Hartslock [SU67], 1985, C. Hambler

A chalk down land shield bug which feeds on Bastard Toadflax and possibly Marjoram.

Comments

As can be seen, the species recorded since Masee's list of 1955 fall into a variety of categories:

1. The presence of some species was missed by Masee in his compilation, for example; *Corixa affinis*, *Micronecta minutissima*, *Macrolophus rubi* and *Drymus latus*.
2. Some species are so common and widespread that it is almost certain that they were present, but for some reason went unrecorded. Often they were present in either VC22 or VC23. Such species include *Malacocoris chlorizans*, *Orthotylus tenellus*, *Cymus melanocephalus* and *Dicyphus annulatus*.
3. Taxonomic changes since 1955 have resulted in some species being divided into two or even three discrete new species. These new species obviously were not available to Masee. The changes include *Orthops campestris*, now split into *Orthops campestris* and *O. basalis*; *Atractotoruis marginatus* split into *A. magnicornis* and *A. parvulus*; and *Temnostethus pusillus* into *T. pusillus* and *T. gracilis*.
4. Some native British species which previously had a restricted range have, since 1955, expanded their range into Oxfordshire and Berkshire. *Plesiodema pinetella*, *Elatophilus nigricornis* and *Gonoceros acuteangulatus* are all examples.

5. Recent colonists, post 1955, include *Tupiocorus rhododendri* from North America, which must have been introduced accidentally. However, most are of European origin, and may have arrived due to an expansion of their range and or by introductions due to the horticultural trade (Rabitsch 2008). A considerable number of such species have become established in recent years including *Placochilus seladonicus*, *Dereacoris flavilinea*, *Orthillus depressus* and *Alleotomus gothicus*.

The presence of the post-Massee species gives some idea of habitat richness. Some heteroptera are host specific, which can limit their distribution. *Brachyarthrum limitatum* is restricted to Aspen, *Canthophorus impressus* to Bastard Toadflax and *Orthotyllus adenocarpi* to Broom. None of these host plants is widespread in Oxfordshire. Others, such as Oak, Scots Pine and Willow are common and in some case the associated bugs are equally widespread or randomly spread.

Other Heteroptera are associated with habitats rather than with specific plants. Water gives a wide variety. Such factors as still water or flowing water, of differing speeds, its pH, depth, substrate and vegetation types whether emergent or submerged all create a great number of differing possible habitats.

Woodlands and wetlands also add variety to the range of habitats favoured by different bugs. Chalk downland and limestone grassland are usually dry and warm with a wide range of flowering plants and insects. The presence of the ant *Myrmica scabrinodis*, which favours the short grass of downland, is essential for the occurrence of the ant mimic bug, *Hallodapus montandori*.

In Oxfordshire, the largest number of Heteroptera species is found on the sands of the Corallian Ridge, which provide conditions similar to those of the East Anglian Brecklands. The sands are free draining, warm, vary in pH from alkaline to slightly acid and are poor in nutrients. A considerable variety of plants thrive in these conditions including many members of the Papilionaceae. Ideally there needs to be plenty, as much as 30%, of bare sand between the plants.

Table 2: This shows the 10 km squares with the highest numbers of post-Massee species. Only those squares where 5 or more post-Massee species have been recorded are listed. The species totals are divided into those recorded in 3 or fewer squares as rare, and those recorded in 4 to 8 squares as less rare. Columns 5 and 6 give the totals of post-Massee species recorded in each of the 10 km squares.

10km squares	1-3 Aquatic	1-3 Terrestrial	4-8 Aquatic	4-8 Terrestrial	1-8 Aquatic	1-8 Terrestrial
SU49	1	10	1	16	2	26
SP50	1	8	1	8	2	16
SP40	3	2	2	8	5	10
SP21	0	2	2	10	2	12
SP51	4	0	3	6	7	6
SP31	1	5	1	5	2	10
SU79	0	6	0	3	0	9
SU68	0	2	0	6	0	8
SU28	0	0	3	4	3	4
SP20	0	0	1	6	1	6
SP41	0	1	1	5	1	6

In addition there are 24, 10 km squares with 1- 4 post-Massee species recorded that occur in only 1 to 8 squares. A total of 35 out of 39 10 km squares, or part squares that cover Oxfordshire have at least one post-Massee species. This probably reflects those species associated with widespread hosts such as Oak and Scots Pine.

SU49 is by far the most notable square, containing a variety of woodlands such as those at Tubney and nationally important wetlands such as Cothill Fen SAC. However, most significant for Heteroptera are the areas of Corallian sands, including the exposures at Hitchcopse Pit and Dry Sandford BBOWT reserves. There has been intensive recording in the square over the past ten years or so, which along with the habitat richness, has resulted in the highest total of species.

SP50 can be described as the “Oxford” square with Bagley Wood in the west and the mixture of habitats on Shotover Hill to the east. In the north lies Sydlings Copse BBOWT reserve and further Corallian sands similar to those described in SU49. In addition there are the valleys of the rivers Thames and Cherwell. This rich mixture of habitats has also been subjected to intensive recording and study over recent years.

SP40 contains the gravel pits of the Lower Windrush, Cassington and the River Thames flood plain, including Port Meadow. In the east is Wytham Wood SSSI where there has been intensive research by University staff.

SP21 is a typical Cotswold square with woods, river valleys and limestone grasslands. It is probably due to some twenty five years of continuous recording in the square that it reveals such a high number of species.

SP51 is dominated by Otmoor with its mixture of aquatic and wetland habitats. The rivers Cherwell and Ray and the Oxford Canal all contribute to the variety of aquatic habitats which, in part, accounts for the high number of water bugs.

SP31 is another Cotswold square dominated by Wychwood Forest NNR and Cornbury Park, with their series of lakes and areas of limestone grassland. In addition there are the valleys of the rivers Evenlode and Windrush, limestone grasslands and many small woods. Wychwood has been well recorded over the years since 1955.

SU79 is typical Chiltern escarpment country with Aston Rowant NNR as its real gem. Again this is a square which has been well surveyed over many years.

SU68 is another Chiltern square with superb chalk downland as at Swyncombe SSSI. In addition it contains some good wetlands habitats along the river Thames.

SU28 in the extreme south west of Oxfordshire has Wessex Downland, woods and ponds providing a rich mosaic of habitats.

SP20 changes gradually from the Cotswolds in the north to the flood plain of the river Thames in the south. Woodlands and limestone grasslands occur as well as wet meadows.

SP41 contains Blenheim Park with its ancient Oak trees, lakes and limestone grasslands. Beyond the park boundaries are other woodlands and areas of limestone grassland.

One of the most important factors would certainly seem to be the intensity of recording in each square, but the presence of a variety of good quality habitats is obviously paramount. In conclusion, no doubt there are further records of which I am unaware, and I would welcome past, present and future records of bugs found in Oxfordshire. Since this paper was first prepared a number of species new to Oxfordshire have been found.

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Further reading

for those who want to learn more about this group:

<http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/> Many photographs and up-to-date information.

<http://www.hetnews.org.uk/> The newsletter of the Heteropterists Recording Scheme.

J. M. Campbell
17, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxfordshire, OX18 4PA