

The Macro-Invertebrates of Monkwood Green by Dr Christopher J Betts PhD FBNA MRSB MIEEnvSc

Recording and listing all the macro-invertebrates found on Monkwood Green is a major task and data on many groups are sparse or completely lacking. Presently (April 2026), I only have reasonably comprehensive lists of butterflies and moths. Until more detailed surveys can be done for all the rest, I have simply prepared empty data folders for them and made a general list (below) of those species I have recorded to date.

I would be very grateful for any records anyone may have.

As for micro-invertebrates such as the myriad of microscopic soil and water organisms, ecologically important though they are, I presently have almost no records at all.
Photos © the author.

APTERYGOTA (primitive insects without wings)

ZYGENTOMA (silverfish)

Lepisma saccharina the common silverfish lives in houses around the Green.

ARCHAEOGNATHA (bristletails)

There are seven British species. I have no records at present.

PALAEOPTERA

EPHEMEROPTERA (mayflies)

There are certainly mayflies on the Green associated with the water bodies, but I have no records yet.

ODONATA (dragonflies and damselflies)

Anax imperator (emperor dragonfly)



Exuviae of *Anax imperator* collected locally.

Enallagma cyathigerum (common blue damselfly)

Libellula depressa (broad-bodied chaser)

Pyrrosoma nymphula (large red damselfly).

There are certainly others.

POLYNOPTERA

PLECOPTERA (stoneflies)

These insects are found in clean, flowing water, especially stony brooks and stream, although one or two live in lentic water bodies. The small dun brown (*Nemoura cinerea* (Retzius, 1783)) is very likely to occur on Monkwood Green, but this needs confirmation.

DERMAPTERA (earwigs)

Forficula auricularia common earwig

ORTHOPTERA (crickets, bush-crickets, grasshoppers)

Leptophyes punctatissima speckled bush cricket

Pholidoptera griseoptera dark bush-cricket (pictured below)



Omocestus viridulus common green grasshopper

Chorthippus brunneus field grasshopper

EMBIOPTERA (web spinners)

Only one species known in UK (at Wisley RHS gardens)

PHASMIDA (stick insects)

All found in UK are exotic introductions.

MANTODEA (mantids)

No UK native species. We saw them often when we lived in SE France – *Mantis religiosa* was common and I occasionally saw the strange-looking conehead (*Empusa pennata*), pictured below for interest. We are not going to find any mantids on the Green.



BLATTODEA (cockroaches)

There are three native British species, all with a southerly distribution and none are pests. I have never seen one in Worcestershire. Occasionally larger cockroaches (which are pests) are found in kitchens or bakeries where eradication is the usual procedure. I have not seen any locally.

PARANEOPTERA

PSOCODEA (lice & booklice/barklice)

I have no records but some species of barklice are likely to occur and both birds and mammals commonly carry parasitic lice.

THYSANOPTERA (thrips)

Over 100 British species. For example, *Thrips flavus* on honeysuckle, *Odontothrips ulicis* on gorse and *Haplothrips leucanthemi* on ox-eye daisy are likely on the Green but require confirmation.

HEMIPTERA (bugs)

A large group of which several species will be present on the Green. I have seen: *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*, the hawthorn shieldbug (pictured below)

Capitophorus elaeagni thistle aphid

Capsus ater black plant bug (pictured below)



Corixa punctata common water boatman

Cyphostethus tristriatus the juniper shieldbug (pictured below)



Dolycoris baccarum sloe bug

Eurydema oleracea brassica bug (on garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*)

Eurygaster testudinaria tortoise bug

Gerris lacustris common pondskater

Macrosiphum rosae rose aphid

Notonecta glauca common backswimmer

Notostira elongata elongated grass bug

Palomena prasina green shield bug (pictured below)

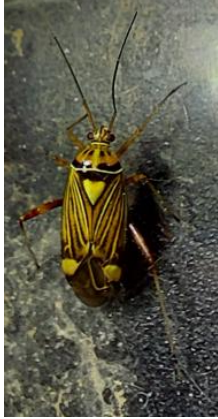


Pentatoma rufipes red-legged shieldbug (pictured below)



Philaenus spumarius meadow froghopper/spittlebug

Rhabdomiris striatellus striped oak bug (pictured below)



Stenodema holsata a grass mirid bug

Stenodema laevigata a grass mirid bug

Stenotus binotatus two-spotted grass bug

ENDOPTERYGOTA

NEUROPTERA (lacewings and antlions)

Chrysopa carnea s.l. common green lacewing

MEGALOPTERA (alderflies)

Sialis lutaria alderfly

RAPHIDOPTERA (snakeflies)

There are two of the four British species found in our area, but I have not so far recorded them.

COLEOPTERA (beetles)

A very large group of insects with over 4000 British species. A few I have seen on the Green are listed below. Major survey needed! Many very small beetles found by sweeping vegetation have not been identified.

Abax parallelepipedus parallel-bordered harp ground beetle

Adalia bipunctata two-spot ladybird

Byturus tomentosus raspberry beetle

Brassicogethes aeneus common pollen beetle

Cantharis livida variable soldier beetle

Cantharis rufa red soldier beetle

Cantharis rustica rustic soldier beetle

Coccinella septempunctata 7-spot ladybird

Dytiscus marginalis great water beetle

Eusphalerum sp. (a rove beetle)

Grammoptera ruficornis common gramoptera longhorn

Harmonia axyridis harlequin ladybird

Harpalus rufipes strawberry seed beetle (pictured below)



Lampyris noctiluca glow-worm (good population on the Green, photo of larva below)



Lochmaea caprea willow leaf beetle

Malachius bipustulatus common malachite beetle

Melolontha melolontha cockchafer

Micraspis sedecimpunctata 16 spot ladybird

Nebria brevicollis short-collared gazelle beetle (pictured below)



Nicrophorus vespilloides common sexton beetle

Ocyptus olens devil's coach horse

Oedemera lurida a false blister beetle

Oedemera nobilis swollen-thighed beetle (pictured below)



Olibrus aeneus a pollen beetle

Oxystoma pomonae a seed weevil associated with vetches

Paederus littoralis a staphylinid rove beetle

Prionychus ater shadow wanderer

Propylea quattuordecimpunctata 14-spotted ladybird

Pyrochroa coccinea black-headed cardinal beetle (pictured below)



Sitona suturalis a broad-nosed weevil

Subcoccinella vigintiquatuorpunctata 24-spot ladybird``

Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata 16-spot ladybird

Xanthogaleruca [luteola] (hairy yellow willow beetle – a chrysomelid, taxonomy obscure)

STREPSIPTERA (stylops – twisted-winged parasites)

These are internal parasites of aculeate Hymenoptera. There are ten British species but I have no records.

DIPTERA (flies)

Another very large group which requires full survey (there are >7000 British species. I have only occasional records for Monkwood Green:

Bibio marci St. Mark's or hawthorn fly. Common. (Other bibionids also but not identified.)

Bombylius major dark-edged bee-fly (parasitic bee mimic) (specimen from my collection, pictured below)



Calliphora vicina common bluebottle

Cheilosia grossa black-horned spring blacklet hoverfly

Chironomus plumosus buzzer midge (comes to light commonly)

Culiseta annulata banded mosquito (pictured below)



Dolichopid sp. long-legged fly

Empis tessellata tessellated dance fly

Episyrphus balteatus marmalade hoverfly

Eristalis arbustorum plain-faced dronefly

Eupeodes luniger (a common hoverfly)

Fannia canicularis lesser house fly

Machimus [atricapillus] [kite-tailed] robberfly

Muscid house flies – various species incl. *Helina* (identification difficult)

Nematoceran flies – attracted to light in large numbers. Work required to identify species.

Phytomyza ilicis holly leaf miner

Platycheirus clypeatus marsh boxer hoverfly

Psychodid moth flies or owl midges. Difficult to identify but come to yellow insect traps.

Sciarid and other fungus gnats (difficult to identify to species – needs work)

Tabanus bromius band-eyed brown horsefly

Tachina fera common tachinid (pictured below)



Tipula oleracea marsh crane fly

Tipula paludosa daddy long legs

Volucella pellucens pellucid fly

MECOPTERA (scorpionflies)

Panorpa communis common scorpionfly (pictured below)



SIPHONAPTERA (fleas)

No records yet

TRICHOPTERA (caddisflies)

No identified species yet although we see adults in the light trap.

LEPIDOPTERA (butterflies & moths)

see separate list.

HYMENOPTERA (ants, wasps, bees, *etc.* – frequent/common unless otherwise stated)

Alomya debellator an ichneumon wasp of meadows (on umbellifers in May)

Ancistrocerus gazella European potter wasp

Andrena cineraria ashy mining bee

Anthophora furcata fork-tailed flower bee

Apis mellifera honeybee

Arachnospila anceps spider wasp

Biorhiza pallida oak apple gall wasp

Bombus lapidarius red-tailed bumblebee

Bombus lucorum white-tailed bumblebee

Bombus pascuorum common carder bee

Bombus pratorum early bumblebee

Chelostoma campanularum harebell carpenter bee

Cimbex connatus large alder sawfly. (On road near the Green pictured below.)



Ctenopelmatine ichneumon wasp (ID uncertain, probable koinobiont sawfly endoparasitoid)

Diplazontine ichneumon wasp (ID uncertain)

Ichneumonidae generally: these wasps are frequently observed on the Green and several spp come to light. Even with the RES handbook¹ which I have, identification is a challenge.

Lasioglossum calceatum common furrow bee

Lasius flavus yellow meadow ant. Large area of anthills made by this species on the Green.

Lasius niger common black ant

Nomada flava flavous nomad bee

Nomada ruficornis common bee wasp (pictured)



Ophion minutus an ichneumon wasp (in light trap)

Phymatocera aterrima Solomon's seal sawfly (adjacent gardens)

Tenthredopsis [nassata] sawfly

Vespa crabro hornet. Nests, including in Green's hollow pollarded willow.

Vespula germanica German wasp

Vespula vulgaris common wasp

¹ **Broad, G.R., Shaw, M.R. & Fitton, M.G. (2018).** *Ichneumonid Wasps (HYMENOPTERA: Ichneumonidae): their Classification and Biology.* Royal Entomological Society Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, 7 (12). Field Studies Council, Telford, UK.

Other groups

CHILOPODA

Cryptos parisi/anomalans centipede (the one I found was too quick to capture or photograph clearly which is required to tell them apart.)

Lithobius forficatus common centipede (frequent under logs/stones, etc.)

CLITELLATA

Lumbricus terrestris lob worm (common in soil)

Allolobophora, *Aporrectodea*, spp (green/pale earthworm, etc.). Lumbricid taxonomy is complex and under current research.

CRUSTACEA

A few aquatic crustaceans occur associated with the green's ponds:

Crangonyx pseudogracilis Introduced but now widespread non-native amphipod

Asellus aquaticus freshwater hoglouse

Likely others when ponds sampled fully.

DIPLOPODA

Tachypodoiulus niger white-legged snake millipede (common under logs, stones, etc.)

MALACOSTRACA

Oniscus asellus common shiny woodlouse (abundant – dead wood, under logs & stones, etc.)

Porcellio scaber common rough woodlouse

ARANEAE and OPILIONES (spiders and harvestmen)

There are many spiders I have not identified at time of writing.

Anypaena accentuata buzzing spider

Araniella cucurbitina cucumber green spider (pictured below, greatly enlarged)



Cheiracanthium erraticum two-clawed hunting spider

Metellina segmentata common orb weaver

Opilio parietinus a harvestman

Pholcus phalangioides long-bodied barn spider (in buildings)

Scotophaeus blackwallii mouse spider

Tetragnatha [montana] long-jawed orb weaver

Theridion varians a small cobweb spider

Xysticus cristatus common crab spider

In early summer mornings there are hundreds of money spider (**Linyphiidae**) sheet webs visible across the Green. The linyphiids are a very large family and I have not identified species at time of writing. Pictures follow:



Every white spot in the line stretching across this photo of a part of Monkwood Green taken on May 24th 2026 is a money spider web.



Typical money spider sheet web.