

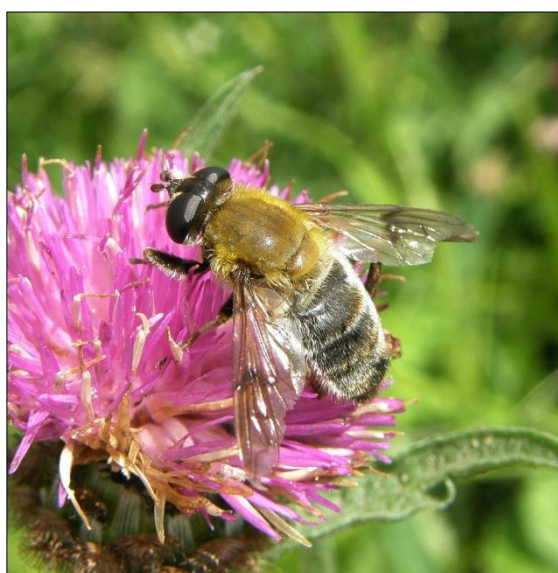
Invertebrates of The Hollies woodland – Haughmond Hill

During 2015 a survey of Diptera (true-flies) and other insects was undertaken at Haughmond Hill, focussing on The Hollies woodland, an area of ancient woodland containing many old and decaying trees - a valuable and scarce resource for many scarce and rare insects. Records of insects from the survey, together with previous records, strongly indicate that The Hollies could be a regionally important site for saproxylic (associated with decaying wood) and other insects associated with old woodland.

Around 600 invertebrate species have now been recorded from The Hollies. These include an impressive array of scarce and rare species.

Important Diptera – true-flies:

Rare species known from less than 16 British hectads	
<i>Macrocera longibrachiata</i> - a rare species, now known from only three British records in the last 89 years.	
<i>Seri obscuripennis</i> - IUCN* “Near Threatened” status.	
<i>Cheilosia semifasciata</i> - “Near Threatened” status. This is one of the strongest populations in Shropshire and possibly in Britain. This species is dependent on semi-shaded wall pennywort <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> plants.	
<i>Hilara medeteriformis</i> - “Near Threatened” status. A very infrequently recorded fly in Britain.	
<i>Syntormon macula</i> - “Near Threatened” status.	
<i>Paraclusia tigrina</i> - IUCN “Vulnerable” status. This species has been extending its range in recent years, but it still remains a scarce species of old woodland.	
Nationally Scarce species known from less than 100 British hectads.	
<i>Brachyopa bicolor</i> - associated with sap runs	<i>Ferinandea ruficornis</i> - associated with sap runs
<i>Brachyopa pilosa</i> - associated with sap runs	<i>Hilara albitarsis</i> - a very scarce species
<i>Callicera rufa</i> – associated with dead pine. Shropshire is the most important area for this species outside Scotland.	<i>Lasiambia baliola</i> – a very infrequently recorded fly of old woodlands
<i>Dioctria oelandica</i> – a large dark winged robberfly.	<i>Lonchaea ultima</i> – associated with dead timber
<i>Docosia flavicoxa</i> – a species that is spreading in recent years	<i>Mallota cimbiciformis</i> – associated with rot holes in trees
<i>Fannia gotlandica</i> – an infrequently recorded fly of old woodlands	<i>Periscelis annulata</i> - probably associated with sap runs



Above left: The very scarce hoverfly *Mallota cimbiciformis*. It has been recorded on two occasions in The Hollies woodland (SJ Falk). Above right: The scarce druid-fly *Paraclusia tigrina* is strongly associated with dead beech (NP Jones).

In addition to the rare and scarce flies a number of noteworthy species that are largely confined to old woodlands were also discovered. Along with the above species, these can be considered as good ancient woodland indicator species (axiozoans):

<i>Agathomyia cinerea</i> - woodland fungi	<i>Eccoptomera obscura</i> - woodland fungi
<i>Brachyopa scutellaris</i> - associated with sap runs	<i>Ferdinandea cuprea</i> - associated with sap runs
<i>Choreades marginatus</i> – associated with old woods	<i>Paraplatypeza bicinctum</i> - woodland fungi
<i>Criorhina berberina</i> – associated with rot holes	<i>Tanyptera atrata</i> - associated with rotting timber
<i>Criorhina floccosa</i> – associated with rot holes	<i>Xylophagus ater</i> - associated with rotting timber
<i>Ctenophora pectinicornis</i> – associated with rotting timber	

Important Coleoptera – beetles. A brief one day survey was undertaken in September and casual records were collated from the rest of the season. Coleoptera records indicate that the site might well be important for saproxylic beetles. Saproxylic species recorded include:

<i>Diplocoelus fagi</i>	<i>Phloeophagus lignarius</i>
<i>Enicmus brevicornis</i>	<i>Platycis minutus</i>
<i>Hylecoetus dermestoides</i>	<i>Pseudocistela ceramboides</i>
<i>Mycetophagus atomarius</i>	<i>Xestobium rufovillosum</i>



Above: *Platycis minutus* walking over dead beech in The Hollies woodland (NP Jones).

Recommendation: to maintain the important range of old woodland insects, all standing and fallen dead timber should be retained on site. Wherever possible standing dead wood should be left to decay and fall naturally. Further survey to discover more about saproxylic beetles would also be valuable in establishing the site's value for insects.

*International Union for Conservation: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.