

Some recent interesting terrestrial Heteroptera records

In this brief report I note some recent interesting terrestrial Heteroptera records coming to my attention since my last article on the topic in the *Herts Naturalist*.

The latest new addition to the county list is the flower bug *Anthocoris butleri*. This was swept off low herbage by Chris Shortall on the Rothamsted Estate (TL1313) on 10 April 2013, with the record being verified by Tristan Bantock via iRecord. Interestingly, Chris noted a lack of Box (*Buxus sempervirens*), the plant that this predatory species is thought to be most associated with, in the vicinity.

Another recent addition to the county list, the Southern Green Shieldbug (*Nezara viridula*), which is a northward-spreading species first observed in 2011, returned in 2017 following an apparent absence in 2015 and 2016. George Fowler reported nymphs (*pictured*) and adults in Cheshunt (TL321046) on 26–28 August on Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), while Martin Parr observed nymphs at Maple Lodge Nature Reserve on 5 August. It will be interesting to see if the species shows up again in 2018. It is conceivable that the adults could be overlooked, given their similarity to the Common Green Shieldbug (*Palomena prasina*), but given the bug's association with favoured garden plants such as tomatoes and beans and the striking appearance of the nymphs, this bug has about as good a chance of being recorded as any in the county.

A further two interesting records were submitted by Richard Melarange. On 25 May 2017, he found the Slender-horned Leatherbug (*Ceraleptus lividus*) on a garden lawn in Bishop's Stortford (TL4821). There is only one previous record of this species in VC20 that I am aware of, from 2006. (It feeds on Red and White Clover [*Trifolium* spp.] and trefoils [*Lotus* spp.]) Then, less than a month later, on 18 June, Richard identified a single *Reduvius personatus* in a moth trap in Hoggates Wood (TL4722). The only two other VC20 records of this large, synanthropic assassin bug in the last 20 years that I know of are from the home of Trevor James (TL264394), the more recent of these being from 29 April 2017. Trevor also found, this year, the naturalised Anthocorid *Buchananiella continua* near Ashwell (TL2640), in dried-up pore structure of the fungus *Polyporus squamosus*, on 25 October. This is only the second record for the county.

Many thanks to everyone who has been submitting records for this rather under-recorded taxonomic group.

Joe Gray, VC20 County Recorder, St Albans

Please submit VC20 terrestrial Heteroptera records via iRecord or send them to Joe via:

<http://ecoforestry.uk/contact.html>

