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The Newsletter of the British Isles Lacewing and Allies Recording Scheme

Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of the 3rd series of NeuroNews - the newsletter of the British Isles Lacewing and Allies Recording Scheme. This edition has contributions on the variation of the wing venation in *Micromus variegatus*, new records and sightings, including *Wesmaelius (Kimminsia) balticus* and *Symphorobius (Niremberge) klapaleki*, the first record of *Coniopteryx esbenpeterseni* in Wales, and a (relatively) new publication on the fauna of Hertfordshire. The recording scheme has also entered the world of social media, with a recently created Facebook page.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, it is very much appreciated. If you have anything you would like to contribute for future editions, please get in touch with me via email (LacewingRS@gmail.com) - this can be anything from sightings, faunal lists, notes on species identification, or just photographs of Lacewings or their allies.

Also, if you have gathered any new species records of Lacewings (Neuroptera), Alderflies (Megaloptera), Snakeflies (Raphidioptera) or Scorpionflies (Mecoptera) please send them into the recording scheme for addition into the database. For details on how to do this and how we can help in verification of species please see the previous issue (Issue 1, Series 3, 2021—available online at <https://lacewings.myspecies.info/newsletter>).

James E. Jepson (Editor)

Image: Paul Cools (CC BY NC ND)



Osmylus fulvicephalus

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

ISSUE 2 (3RD SERIES)

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If you have any content for the newsletter, this can be anything from articles, observations, or just a nice photograph, please send via email to the newsletter editor James E. Jepson at LacewingRS@gmail.com.

Archive editions of NeuroNews are being added to the recording schemes website:

<https://lacewings.myspecies.info/newsletter>

Are you on the mailing list for the newsletter? If not and you would like to be, please drop the editor an email, at LacewingRS@gmail.com, and you will be added to the list. Also, if you want to be removed from the mailing list, again please email the editor.

Variation in wing venation of *Micromus variegatus*

On the 24th September 2021, a Brown Lacewing was found on the author's allotment in the Chilterns (VC24). The specimen did work easily through the key of Plant (1997) and a tentative determination of *Micromus variegatus* was made. This was later confirmed via correspondence with Colin Plant.

The specimen had forewings with no recurrent humeral vein and a radial vein with two branches. The hindwings were fully developed. See *Figure 1* and *Figure 2* below. No species of *Micromus* with two branches to the radial vein is accommodated in the key, though there is a note which states ...*there are reputed to be examples of M. variegatus with only two branches.*

This is not the first example of this variation, another record was received recently (Colin Plant, pers. comm.).

I have made some modifications to my version of the key, which others may find useful in the event they encounter this variation, see below.

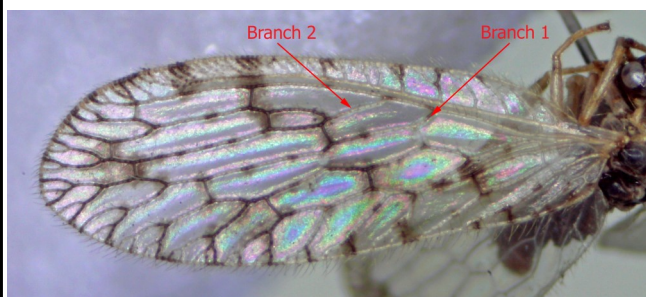


Figure 1: Forewing of *Micromus variegatus* showing only 2 branches to radial vein.

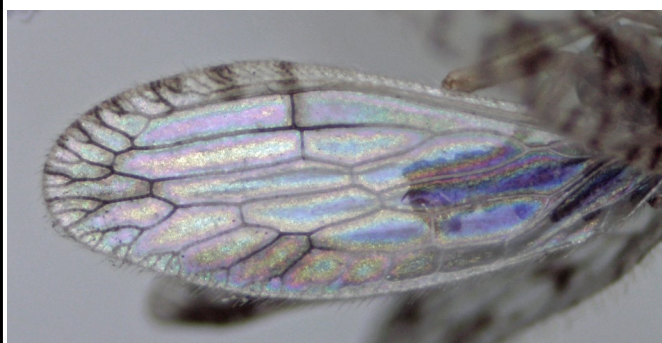


Figure 2: Hind wing of *Micromus variegatus*.

Modifications to Plant (1997) to explicitly accommodate known variations in the number of branches in the radial vein of *Micromus variegatus* and *M. paganus*.

Key I: Genera of Brown Lacewings (p.232 *[p.53])

Hind wings vestigial (**very** much smaller than forewings) and radial sector of forewing with only two branches (Fig.120)*Psectra* (Micropterus form)

Hind wings fully developed (**approximately** the same size as forewings) 3

Key I: Genera of Brown Lacewings (p.233 *[p.54])

Two branches to radial vein of forewing and general venation matching Fig.124.*Psectra* (Macropterus form)

Three (Fig.125a), four (Fig.125b) or five (Fig.125c) branches to the radial vein the forewing. (Note: specimens with two branches occur rarely. If in doubt, compare the structure of the wing venation in Fig.124&125)*Micromus* (Key J, page 235 [p.56])

Key J: Species if *Micromus* (p.235 *[p.56])

Three (rarely two) branches to radial vein (Fig.130a). Forewing membrane

Four branches to the radial vein of the forewing and these wings.....

Five (occasionally four) branches to the radial vein and these wings

Neil Fletcher
neilmoths@hotmail.co.uk

*Note: Page and figure numbers refer to Plant 1997, numbers in square brackets refer to the 2013 reprint.

Below: *Micromus variegatus* with typical 3 branched of radial vein.



James E. Jepson

OBSERVATIONS AND RECORDS

Wesmaelius (Kimminsia) balticus (Tjeder, 1931) discovered at Formby National Trust, Merseyside

A total of three female *W. balticus* were found during hand searching amongst dense marram (*Figure 1*), on semi fixed dunes at Formby National Trust, Merseyside (*Figure 2*) on 26th May and 8th June 2021. Specimens were determined using the Neuroptera Aidgap key (Plant, 1997), and sent to Colin Plant for confirmation and inclusion in the National Lacewing Recording Scheme. According to the scheme's data, these records represent the first in North West England, and the first British record in 31 years since a capture in a Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap in August 1990.

Figure 1



W. balticus is a stenotopic coastal species associated with aphids specific to marram grass (Plant, 1997). It has been previously recorded from sever-

Figure 2



al large dune systems in the UK (*Figure 3*: Formby record = green dot). The veracity of what appears to be three inland sites, has not been queried by the author. *W. balticus* is only occasionally recorded, due to a combination of its small size, pale colouration, and typical habit of dropping to the ground when disturbed, along with its habitat which is both restricted and challenging to sample.

The locality of this discovery at Formby Point is in close proximity to at least three Nationally Rare and Threatened UK invertebrates with a strong affinity to mobile sand dune systems; *Rhysodromus fallax* (a Vulnerable crab spider), *Rhysothorax rufus* (an Endangered dung beetle), and *Anthicus bimaculatus* (a Vulnerable ant-like flower beetle).

Figure 3



Thanks are due to Colin Plant for checking identifications and providing records from the Lacewing Recording Scheme; Kate Martin and Justin Matthews for providing access to Formby National Trust.

Tony Hunter
National Museums Liverpool

References

Plant, C.W. (1997) A Key to the Adults of British Lacewings and their Allies. *Aidgap: Field Studies Council*, 9, 179-269

National Lacewing Recording Scheme data 2022

Symphorobius (Niremberge) klapaleki
Zeleny, 1963 (Neuroptera:
Hemerobiidae) discovered in North West
England

Between 21st May - 30th July 2021, 5 adult females of the Brown Lacewing *S. klapaleki* (Figure 1) were caught in two vane traps placed on veteran oaks growing in open parkland 150 metres apart in Tatton Park, Cheshire (VC58) (Figure 2) as part of a Tanyptera Project saproxylic invertebrate survey. This appears to be the first time *S. klapaleki* has been recorded in North West England.



No more specimens were caught in 10 other traps set across the 2000-acre National Trust estate on different tree species: Beech, Sweet Chestnut, Horse Chestnut and Alder. Simultaneously installed vane traps at Dunham Park (6km north), including nine on veteran oaks, mostly in more shaded situations, also failed to catch *S. klapaleki*. This species has only been recorded from vane



traps once before in the UK; 2 females from a veteran oak in Kingsmead Spinney, Milton Keynes in 2017. However, the usual target for vane trapping in these situations is saproxylic insects including Coleoptera, and representatives of smaller groups are often ignored.

In the UK, *S. klapaleki* was first recorded in 1994 at Silwood Park, Berkshire having been reared from a pupa found on dead oak twigs (Whittington 1998). There has since been occasional records from widely scattered sites in southern England, suggesting the species is under-recorded (Figure 3: Tatton Park = green dot) (UK Lacewing Recording Scheme 2022).



The ecology of *S. klapaleki* is poorly understood, but at least 7 out of 11 British records have been associated with oak. Published records from the continent also usually associate *S. klapaleki* with oak trees, including recent first national records from Belgium and Denmark from English Oak *Quercus robur* (Nielsen 2014; Lock 2018). In Spain, *S. klapaleki* has also been associated with Portuguese Oak *Quercus faginea* and Pyrenean oak *Quercus pyrenaica* (Díaz-Aranda et al. 1986). However, a study in Turkey found 3 females associated with *Pinus nigra* (2004 – 2007), also the first records for the country.

A 1989 study in Berlin suggested *S. klapaleki* is probably found in the tree canopy of oaks, when it was one of two dominant lacewings caught in traps set on Oaks at 15m, with 75% fewer in traps set at 5m (Saure & Kielhorn 1993). However, this could depend upon the situation of the trees. A study in Switzerland (Duelli et al., 2002) found more Neuropterans (species and individuals) higher in the canopy within forest interior vs forest edge. The three trees related to the Tatton Park and Milton Keynes records were woodland edge and parkland trees with traps set below the canopy.

Thanks are due to Colin Plant for checking identifications and providing records from the Lacewing Recording Scheme; Mark Sills (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and colleagues for allowing access to Tatton Park.

Gary Hedges and Tony Hunter
National Museums Liverpool

References

Diaz-Aranda, LM, Monserrat, VJ & Marin, F., 1986b. Contribution to the knowledge of the Neuroptera of Guadalajara (Insecta, Neuropteroidea). *Proceedings VIII Conference of the Spanish Association of Entomology, Seville*, 1131-1141

Duelli, P., Obrist, MK & Flückiger, PF, 2002. Forest edges are biodiversity hotspots – also for Neuroptera. *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, 48 (Suppl. 2), 75-87

Hackett, D (2000) *Symphorobius klapaleki* Zeleny (Neur.: Hemerobiidae): a second British record - from South Essex. *Entomologists Record and Journal of Variation*, 112,129-130

Lock, K., (2018) *Symphorobius (Niremberge) klapaleki* Zeleny, 1963 new to Belgium (Neuroptera: Hemerobiidae). *Bulletin de la Société Royale Belge d'Entomologie* 2018, 154(1),17-19

Plant, C.W. (1997) A Key to the Adults of British Lacewings and their Allies. *Aidgap: Field Studies Council*, 9, 179-269

Popov, A. Neuropterida of northern Europe. . *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, 2002, 48, 281-291

Saure, C. & Kielhorn, K.-H., 1993: Netzflügler als Bewohner der Kronenregion von Eiche und Kiefer (Neuroptera: Coniopterygidae, Hemerobiidae, Chrysopidae). *Faunistisch-Ökologische Mitteilungen*, 6(9/10), 391-402

Telfer, M. 2017. Rare Lacewing discovered in Milton Keynes. *Milton Keynes Natural History Society*; online: <https://mknhs.org.uk/rare-lacewing-discovered-in-milton-keynes/>

Whittington, A. E., 1998. *Symphorobius klapaleki* Zeleny (Neur.: Hemerobiidae) new to Britain. *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*, 110, 288-289

First record of *Coniopteryx esbenpeterseni* in Wales

I take interest in recording all sorts of insects in my garden in Denbighshire VC 50 at SJ351549. On June 1st 2021, I swept a Wax Fly (Coniopterygidae) from the lower branches of my garden Oak tree. Luckily it was a male, and I used the the 'Aidgap' key to British Lacewings' by Colin W. Plant for the identification. It keyed easily to *Coniopteryx (Metaconiopteryx) esbenpeterseni* a species new to me. On checking the available distribution maps, it appeared to be the first record for Wales, which was confirmed as correct by Colin Plant. This species is possibly not uncommon in North East Wales, and it is one to look out for by other recorders.

Bryan Formstone



Alderfly from Denbighshire

Image from Bryan Formstone of an Alderfly (*Sialis lutaria*) found on the 15th of April, 2022 at Gresford Flash in Denbighshire VC50 (SJ347536).

Hertfordshire Lacewings and their Allies

An interesting article by Revd. Tom Gladwin was published on the Scorpionflies, Snakeflies, Alderflies and Lacewings of Hertfordshire. The article lists the fauna (55 species) with species accounts, plus a history of Lacewing and allies recording in Hertfordshire.

Gladwin, T. 2018. The scorpion flies (Mecoptera), snake flies (Raphidioptera), alder flies (Megaloptera) and lacewings (Neuroptera) of Hertfordshire. *Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 50 (1), 24-36.

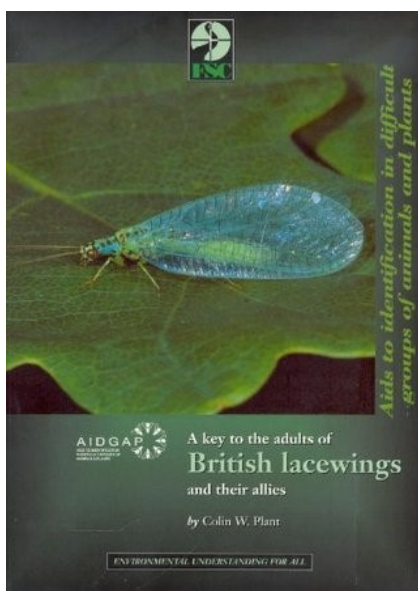
James E. Jepson

A note on the editions of the British Lacewings and Allies Key

Recently some minor confusion has occurred in correspondence about species identification and the Lacewings and Allies key. The confusion was over page numbers.

There are currently two editions of the key.:

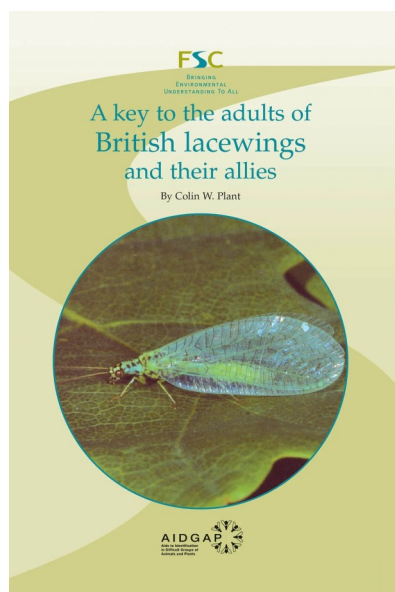
The original:



Plant, C. W. 1997. A key to the adults of British lacewings and their allies (Neuroptera, Megaloptera, Raphidioptera and Mecoptera). Field Studies 9(1):179-269.

Page numbers: 179-269

The 2013 Reprinted edition:



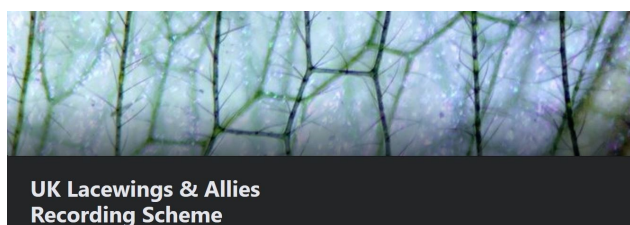
Plant, C. W. 2013. A key to the adults of British lacewings and their allies (Neuroptera, Megaloptera, Raphidioptera and Mecoptera). AIDGAP Publication. Field Studies Council, Shrewsbury, United Kingdom. 90pp.

Page numbers: 1-90

If you are corresponding with me or Colin and you quote page or figure numbers, it would be great if you could say which edition of the key you are using, as this will cut down on any confusion. We will also state which key we are using, when quoting page numbers, in correspondence to you, again to cut down on any confusion, as a general rule Colin uses the original, and I have both.

James E. Jepson

Lacewings on Facebook



This spring we have set up a new Facebook group with the imaginative name of UK Lacewings & Allies Recording Scheme. It can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/474979723814884/> and currently has 31 members. Please use it for discussion about the groups, or for questions about identifications. We hope that we can raise the activity levels in recording these under-studies Orders.

We decided to keep the group private for postings, though anyone can find the group and can request to join. The administration and moderation is shared between me, James E. Jepson and Melissa Banthorpe.

Steve Garland

Checklist of British Isles Lacewings and their Allies

NEUROPTERA Linnaeus, 1758

CONIOPTERYGIDAE Burmeister, 1839

Image: Kjell Magne Olsen (CC BY 4.0)



CONIOPTERYGINAE Burmeister, 1839

CONWENTZIA Enderlein, 1905

Conwentzia pineticola Enderlein, 1905

Conwentzia psociformis (Curtis, 1834)

CONIOPTERYX Curtis, 1834

Subgenus *Coniopteryx* Curtis, 1834

Coniopteryx borealis Tjeder, 1930

Coniopteryx tineiformis Curtis, 1834

Coniopteryx pygmaea Enderlein, 1906

Synonym: *Coniopteryx parthenia* (Navás & Marcet, 1910)

Subgenus *Metaconiopteryx* Kis, Nadler & Mandru, 1979

Coniopteryx esbenpeterseni Tjeder, 1930

Coniopteryx lentiae Aspöck & Aspöck, 1964

SEMIDALIS Enderlein, 1905

Semidalis aleyrodiformis (Stephens, 1836)

Semidalis pseudouncinata Meinander, 1963

PARASEMIDALIS Enderlein, 1905

Parasemidalis fuscipennis (Reuter, 1894)

ALEUROPTERYGINAE Enderlein, 1905

ALEUROPTERYX Enderlein, 1905

Aleuropteryx juniperi Ohm, 1968

HELICOCONIS Enderlein, 1905

Helicoconis hirtinervis Tjeder, 1960

CHRYSOPIDAE Schneider, 1851



Image: Ole Fogh Nielsen (CC BY 4.0)

CHRYSOPINAE Schneider, 1851

CHRYSOPA Leach, 1815

Chrysopa abbreviata Curtis 1834

Chrysopa commata Kis & Újhelyi, 1965

Chrysopa dorsalis Burmeister, 1839

Chrysopa pallens (Rambur, 1838)

Chrysopa perla (Linnaeus, 1758) nec Stephens, 1836,
nec Evans, 1848

Chrysopa phyllochoma Wesmael, 1841

CHRYSOPERLA Steinmann, 1964

Chrysoperla carnea (Stephens, 1836)

Chrysoperla lucasina (Lacroix, 1912)

Chrysoperla pallida Henry, Brooks, Duelli, & Johnson, 2002

CHRYSOPIDIA Navás, 1910

Chrysopidia ciliata (Wesmael, 1842)

CUNCTOCHRYSA Hölzel, 1970

Cunctochrysa albolineata (Killington, 1935)

Cunctochrysa cosmia (Navás, 1918)

Synonym: *Cunctochrysa bellifontensis* Leraut, 1988

APERTOCHRYSA Tjeder, 1966

Apertochrysa flavifrons (Brauer, 1850)

Synonym: *Mallada flavifrons* (Brauer, 1850)

Synonym: *Dichochrysa flavifrons* (Brauer, 1850)

Synonym: *Pseudomallada flavifrons* (Brauer, 1850)

Apertochrysa prasina (Burmeister, 1839)

Synonym: *Mallada prasina* (Burmeister, 1839)

Synonym: *Dichochrysa prasina* (Burmeister, 1839)

Synonym: *Pseudomallada prasinus* (Burmeister, 1839)

Apertochrysa ventralis (Curtis, 1834)

Synonym: *Mallada ventralis* (Curtis, 1834)

Synonym: *Dichochrysa ventralis* (Curtis, 1834)

Synonym: *Pseudomallada ventralis* (Curtis, 1834)

NINETA Navás, 1912

Nineta flava (Scopoli, 1793)

Nineta vittata (Wesmael, 1841)

Nineta inpunctata (Reuter, 1894)

Nineta pallida (Schneider, 1846)

NOTHOCHRYSINAE Navás, 1910

NOTHOCHRYSA McLachlan, 1868

Nothochrysa capitata (Fabricius, 1793)

Nothochrysa fulviceps (Stephens, 1836)

PEYERIMHOFFINA Lacroix, 1920

Peyerimhoffina gracilis (Schneider, 1851)

OSMYLIDAE Leach, 1815

Image: Ole Fogh Nielsen (CC BY 4.0)



OSMYLUS Latreille, 1802

Osmylus fulvicephalus (Scopoli, 1793)

SISYRIDAE Handlirsch, 1908

Image: Ole Fogh Nielsen (CC BY 4.0)



SISYRA Burmeister, 1839

Sisyra dalii McLachlan, 1866

Sisyra nigra (Retzius, 1783)

Synonym: *Sisyra fuscata* (Fabricius, 1793)

Sisyra terminalis Curtis, 1854

MYRMELEONTIDAE Latreille, 1803

Image: Gilles San Martin (CC BY 4.0)



MYRMELEONTINAE Latreille, 1803

EUROLEON Esben-Petersen, 1918

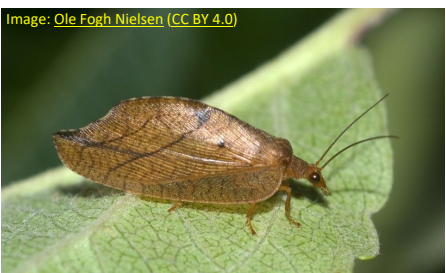
Euroleon nostras (Fourcroy, 1785)

MYRMELEON Linnaeus, 1767

Myrmeleon formicarius Linnaeus, 1767

HEMEROBIIDAE Latreille, 1802

Image: Ole Fogh Nielsen (CC BY 4.0)



PSECTRA Hagen, 1866

Psectra diptera (Burmeister, 1839)

MICROMUS Rambur, 1842

Micromus variegatus (Fabricius, 1793)

Micromus angulatus (Stephens, 1836)

Micromus paganus (Linnaeus, 1767)

DREPANEPTERYX Leach, 1815

Drepanepteryx phalaenoides (Linnaeus, 1758)

HEMEROBIUS Linnaeus, 1758

Hemerobius humulinus Linnaeus, 1761

Hemerobius perelegans Stephens, 1836

Hemerobius simulans Walker, 1853

Hemerobius stigma Stephens, 1836

Hemerobius atrifrons McLachlan, 1868

Hemerobius pini Stephens, 1836, nec Leach

Hemerobius contumax Tjeder, 1932

Hemerobius striatus Nakahara, 1915

Synonym: *Hemerobius fenestratus* Tjeder, 1932

Hemerobius nitidulus Fabricius, 1777

Hemerobius micans Olivier, 1792

Hemerobius lutescens Fabricius, 1793, nec auctt.

Hemerobius marginatus Stephens, 1836

Hemerobius handschini Tjeder, 1957

WESMAELIUS Krüger, 1922

Subgenus *Kimminsia* Killington, 1937

Wesmaelius malladai (Navás, 1925)

Wesmaelius mortoni (McLachlan, 1899)

Wesmaelius ravus (Withycombe, 1923)

Wesmaelius balticus (Strøm, 1788)

Wesmaelius nervosus (Fabricius, 1793)

Wesmaelius subnebulosus (Stephens, 1836)

Subgenus *Wesmaelius* Krüger, 1922

Wesmaelius concinnus (Stephens, 1836)

Wesmaelius quadrifasciatus (Reuter, 1894)

SYMPHEROBIUS Banks, 1904

Symphorobius elegans (Stephens, 1836)

Symphorobius pygmaeus (Rambur, 1842)

Symphorobius pellucidus (Walker, 1853)

Symphorobius fuscescens (Wallengren, 1863)

Symphorobius klapaleki Zelený, 1963

MEGALOMUS Rambur, 1842

Megalomus hirtus (Linnaeus, 1761)

RAPHIDOPTERA Handlirsch, 1908



RAPHIDIIDAE Latreille, 1810

SUBILLA Navás, 1916

Subilla confinis (Stephens, 1836)

XANTHOSTIGMA Navás, 1909

Xanthostigma xanthostigma (Schummel, 1832)

ATLANTORAPHIDIA Aspöck & Aspöck, 1968

Atlantoraphidia maculicollis (Stephens, 1836)

PHAEOSTIGMA Navás, 1909

Phaeostigma notata (Fabricius, 1781)

[note: some authors list as *Phaeostigma notatum*]

MEGALOPTERA Latreille, 1802

Image: Ole Fogh Nielsen (CC BY 4.0)



SIALIDAE Leach, 1815

SIALIS Latreille, 1803

Sialis fuliginosa F.J. Pictet, 1836

Sialis lutaria (Linnaeus, 1758)

Sialis nigripes A.E. Pictet, 1865

MECOPTERA Packard, 1886

BOREIDAE McLachlan 1868



BOREUS Latreille, 1825

Boreus hyemalis (Linnaeus, 1767)

PANORPIDAE Leach, 1815

Image: Richard Bartz (CC BY SA 2.5)



PANORPA Linnaeus, 1758

Panorpa cognata Rambur, 1842

Panorpa communis Linnaeus, 1758

Panorpa germanica Linnaeus, 1758

The current total count of British Isles lacewings and their allies is 10 families, 32 genera, and 83 species.

Neuroptera: 6 families, 25 genera, and 72 species

Raphidioptera: 1 family, 4 genera, and 4 species

Megaloptera: 1 family, 1 genus, and 3 species

Mecoptera: 2 families, 2 genera, and 4 species