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The 5 spot ladybird in Warwickshire

I wish to put on record the capture of a rare ladybird in Warwickshire. On the afternoon of 22nd July 1989 a male 5 spot ladybird (*Coccinella 5-punctata* L.) was netted in flight, in the north-western corner of Sutton Park (OS ref. SP089984), which lies just north of Birmingham between Streetly and Sutton Coldfield. The ladybird was of an orange red colour. For most species of this genus such a coloration is characteristic of young adults which have only recently emerged from pupae, and have yet to pass through a winter.

Both the geographical location, and the habitat where this ladybird was taken are unusual for the species. Majerus and Fowles (in press) give the distribution of this species as a disjunct one including five principal regions, southern Devon and Cornwall, south Dorset, west Wales, Cumbria and Northumbria, and the Spey Valley in Scotland. However, it should be noted that there have been no records for Dorset, Devon or

Cornwall since 1941 (Muggleton pers. comm.).

As regards habitat, Majerus and Fowles state that the species is found on, or close to, unstable river shingles, where it is occasionally locally common in Wales. The site where the Sutton Park ladybird was netted was on the edge of a small area of deciduous woodland, close to the route of the Roman Road, Ryknild Street. There was no river shingle, or indeed river, in the immediate vicinity, the only water being a series of small pools on the common (the nearest being Bracebridge pool) which are connected by streams that then drain into Plants Brook. The only shingle nearby was imported shingle in a railway cutting.

Intensive searches of the park following the initial capture on 22nd July, and on two subsequent days in August failed to reveal any more individuals of this species. I therefore suggest tentatively that this ladybird, the first Warwickshire record for the species, was a vagrant, possibly having flown with the assistance of a westerly tail wind, from Wales. Reference: Majerus, M.E.N. and Fowles, A.P. (in press). The rediscovery of the 5 spot ladybird (*Coccinella 5-punctata*) L. in Britain. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*— M.E.N. MAJERUS, Department of Genetics, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EH.

Record of *Gyrinus minutus* Fabricius (Col.: Gyrinidae) from Cumbria.

While searching for corixids in High Nook Tarn, Cumbria (NGR NY124.199) on 21st February, 1988 I netted five specimens of this beetle which were actively swimming in and out of some partly submerged plants of Bogbean in a small area of shallow water. The tarn lies at an altitude of nearly 725 feet and is situated in a depression at the foot of Carling Knott Fell to the south of Holme Wood, Loweswater. *G. minutus* is regarded as being of rare occurrence in Britain and is now classified by the Nature Conservancy Council as a notable "B" species. It is mainly confined to northern and western districts in this country, but it is also known from a few southern counties as well. The beetle is associated with various aquatic habitats which include lakes, ponds, drains but more especially upland peat pools. *G. minutus* has previously been recorded from Cumbria which includes v.c.70, and F.H. Day in his list of Coleoptera from Cumberland (1909, *Trans. Carlisle nat. Hist. Soc.*, vols. 1-4) records it from Newton Reigny Moss (NGR NY47.30) and Styhead Tarn, Scafell (NGR NY21.07). It has also been found at Tarn Dubs (NGR NY11.47) by David Bilton (1984, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **120**: 251).

I wish to thank Andrew Foster for very kindly identifying the specimens of *G. minutus* for me and to Dr Roger Key (Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough) for additional information regarding the status of the beetle in this country.— R.W.J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8RF.



Majerus, M E N. 1990. "The 5 spot ladybird in Warwickshire." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 102, 63–64.

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