

Species	1995-1997	1992-1994	MBGBI imago
2157 <i>Lacanobia w-latinum</i> (Hufn.)	21 May 95	25 May 93	May-Jul
2173 <i>Hadena bicruris</i> (Hufn.)	21 May 95	27 May 93	May-Jul
1778 <i>Hydriomena impluviata</i> (D.&S.)	22 May 97	23 Jun 94	May-Jul
2278 <i>Acronicta megacephala</i> (D.&S.)	22 May 97	22 May 93	May-Jul
1279 <i>Dichrorampha acuminatana</i> (Lien. & Zell.)	23 May 95	15 May 94	May, Jun
1392 <i>Udea olivalis</i> (D.&S)	23 May 95	29 May 92	Jun, Jul
2000 <i>Notodonta dromedarius</i> (Linn.)	23 May 95	9 May 93	May, Jun
2302 <i>Rusina ferruginea</i> (Esp.)	24 May 95	8 Jun 93	Jun, Jul
1652 <i>Thyatira batis</i> (Linn.)	25 May 95	9 Jun 93	May-Jul
1681 <i>Cyclophora linearia</i> (Hb.)	25 May 95	8 Jun 94	May-Jul
2123 <i>Diarsia rubi</i> (View.)	25 May 95	21 May 94	May, Jun
1457 <i>Hypochalcia ahenella</i> (D.&S.)	26 May 97	8 Jul 94	Jun, Aug
2120 <i>Diarsia mendica mendica</i> (Fabr.)	26 May 97	26 May 93	Jun-Aug
2339 <i>Oligia latruncula</i> (D.&S.)	26 May 97	6 Jun 94	May-Jul
2382 <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i> (D.&S.)	26 May 95, 97	10 Jun 93	Jun-Aug
2410 <i>Protodeltote pygarga</i> (Hufn.)	26 May 97	9 Jun 93	May-Jul

– ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

The recent occurrence of *Anthocoris minki* Dohrn (Hem.: Cimicidae) in London

An invertebrate survey of Forster Memorial Park, Catford (grid reference TQ 385723), in the south-east London borough of Lewisham produced a surprising species list, with several ancient woodland indicator species, supporting the notion that the park sits on the site of a double assart – an assart being a clearing made inside a woodland for agricultural use, leaving boundaries of wooded strips rather than hedgerows.

The boundary of one of the assarts has apparently been destroyed, and is replaced by a modern (probably middle 20th century) row of Lombardy poplars. It was here that one of the most unusual finds was discovered – the small “flower” bug *Anthocoris minki*. This very local bug is accorded “nationally rare” status (Red Data

Book category 3) by Kirby (1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Hemiptera of Great Britain*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee). At the time of that review it was recorded only from the Thames tow-path at Kew, and Three Locks, Soulbury, Buckinghamshire. Previous confusion over the identity of species in this difficult genus means that records before Jessop (1993. The British species of *Anthocoris* (Hem: Anthocoridae) *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 119: 221-223), who confirmed the bug as British, are probably referable to *A. simulans* Reuter.

There are many small (3-4 mm) chequered brown and yellow bugs in this genus. They are variously predators of aphids, psocids or other small insects. *Anthocoris minki* is unusual in that it lives inside the peculiar spiral plant galls made by its aphid prey in the leaf petioles of Lombardy poplar. The aphid which creates these characteristic galls, *Pemphigus spirothecae* (Passerini), is a common and widespread species, but the bug is apparently very rare.

Even when this close association was first recorded in Britain, by Jessop, the disparity between the aphid's widespread abundance and the bug's national scarcity was commented upon. Despite searches of apparently suitable sites, Kirby reports that the bug was not found elsewhere. The occurrence rate quoted for Kew was of the order of 2%, two of approximately 100 galls contained 5th instar *Anthocoris*, seven of which were reared to adulthood.

In Forster Memorial Park, *Anthocoris minki* was very common in the *Pemphigus* galls and seemingly in much greater abundance than at any of the other recorded sites. Although I did not make a detailed count, I probably examined less than 50 galls and yet found eight examples of the bug, an "infestation" rate of at least 16%.

Strangely, this was not the first time I had come across the bug. On 5 July 1998 I swept an *Anthocoris* in Morden Cemetery (TQ 233673) in south-west London. It seemed to work to *A. minki*, and it occurred near a row of *Pemphigus*-galled Lombardy poplars, but I was not completely confident of the determination and a return visit, perhaps too late in the season, failed to find any specimens in the spiral galls. Comparison with the bugs from Forster Memorial Park, however, confirms the identification.

But even before this, I had come across a prior reference to the bug in another survey, of London's Battersea Park. An unpublished report by Sorenson *et al.* (1993 *Battersea Park nature areas. The nature reserve and wilderness*) lists *A. minki* with only a brief comment on its rarity and no mention of its ecology in a creditable list of 140 insects and 40 other invertebrates. Nothing is known about those carrying out the survey, but judging from the bibliography which accompanies their report, they concentrated on the more characteristic groups and had limited access to authoritative identification guides. They found two noteworthy species, the hoverfly *Volucella zonaria* Poda (found again in 1998, and in fact quite common in London) and *Anthocoris minki*. At the time I read their report I was sceptical about the *A. minki* record, but now I have doubts about my doubts and it seems quite possible that the bug is established in Battersea Park also. – RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ. (bugmanjones@hotmail.com).



Jones, Richard. 2000. "The recent occurrence of *Anthocoris minki* Dohrn (Hem.: Cimicidae) in London." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 112, 185–186.

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