

The Macro-Invertebrates of Monkwood Green

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Recording and listing all the macro-invertebrates found on Monkwood Green is a major task and data on many groups are sparse or completely lacking. Presently (April 2026), I only have reasonably comprehensive lists of butterflies and moths. Until more detailed surveys can be done for all the rest, I have simply prepared empty data folders for them and made a general list (below) of those species I have recorded to date.

I would be very grateful for any records anyone may have.

As for micro-invertebrates such as the myriad of microscopic soil and water organisms, ecologically important though they are, I presently have almost no records at all.

Photos © the author.

APTERYGOTA (primitive insects without wings)

ZYGENTOMA (silverfish)

Lepisma saccharina the common silverfish lives in houses around the Green.

ARCHAEOGNATHA (bristletails)

There are seven British species. I have no records at present.

PALAEOPTERA

EPHEMEROPTERA (mayflies)

There are certainly mayflies on the Green associated with the water bodies, but I have no records yet.

ODONATA (dragonflies and damselflies)

I have recorded *Libellula depressa* (broad-bodied chaser), *Anax imperator* (emperor dragonfly) and *Pyrrosoma nymphula* (large red damselfly). There are certainly others.



Exuviae of *Anax imperator* collected locally.

POLYNOPTERA

PLECOPTERA (stoneflies)

These insects are found in clean, flowing water, especially stony brooks and stream, although one or two live in lentic water bodies. The small dun brown (*Nemoura cinerea* (Retzius, 1783)) is very likely to occur on Monkwood Green, but this needs confirmation.

DERMAPTERA (earwigs)

Forficula auricularia common earwig

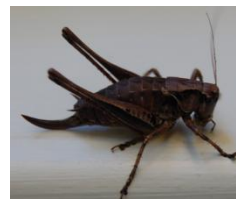
ORTHOPTERA (crickets, bush-crickets, grasshoppers)

Leptophyes punctatissima speckled bush cricket

Pholidoptera griseoptera dark bush-cricket (pictured)

Omocestus viridulus common green grasshopper

Chorthippus brunneus field grasshopper



EMBIOPTERA (web spinners)

Only one species known in UK (at Wisley RHS gardens)

PHASMIDA (stick insects)

All found in UK are exotic introductions.

MANTODEA (mantids)

No UK native species. We saw them often when we lived in SE France – *Mantis religiosa* was common and I occasionally saw the strange-looking conehead (*Empusa pennata*), pictured below for interest. We are not going to find any mantids on the Green.



BLATTODEA (cockroaches)

There are three native British species, all with a southerly distribution and none are pests. I have never seen one in Worcestershire. Occasionally larger cockroaches (which are pests) are found in kitchens or bakeries where eradication is the usual procedure.

PARANEOPTERA

PSOCODEA (lice & booklice/barklice)

I have no records but some species of barklice are likely to occur and both birds and mammals commonly carry parasitic lice.

THYSANOPTERA (thrips)

Over 100 British species. For example, *Thrips flavus* on honeysuckle, *Odontothrips ulicis* on gorse and *Haplothrips leucanthemi* on ox-eye daisy are likely on the Green but require confirmation.

HEMIPTERA (bugs)

A large group of which several species will be present on the Green. I have seen:

Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale, the hawthorn shieldbug

Notostira elongata elongated grass bug

Cyphostethus tristriatus the juniper shieldbug (pictured below)



Pentatoma rufipes red-legged shieldbug (also pictured below)



Corixa punctata common water boatman
Gerris lacustris common pondskater
Notonecta glauca common backswimmer

ENDOPTERYGOTA

NEUROPTERA (lacewings and antlions)

Chrysopa carnea s.l. common green lacewing

MEGALOPTERA (alderflies)

Sialis lutaria alderfly

RAPHIDOPTERA (snakeflies)

There are two of the four British species found in our area, but I have not recorded them.

COLEOPTERA (beetles)

A very large group of insects with over 4000 British species. A few I have seen on the Green are listed below. Major survey needed!

Cantharis rufa red soldier beetle

Cantharis rustica rustic soldier beetle

Coccinella septempunctata 7-spot ladybird

Dytiscus marginalis great water beetle

Harmonia axyridis harlequin ladybird

Lampyris noctiluca glow-worm (good population on the Green)

Melolontha melolontha cockchafer

Nicrophorus vespilloides common sexton beetle

Ocyopus olens devil's coach horse

Prionychus ater shadow wanderer

Pyrochroa coccinea black-headed cardinal beetle (pictured)



STREPSIPTERA (stylops – twisted-winged parasites)

These are internal parasites of aculeate Hymenoptera. There are ten British species but I have no records.

DIPTERA (flies)

Another very large group which requires full survey (there are >7000 British species. I have only occasional records for Monkwood Green:

Bombylius major dark-edged bee-fly (parasitic bee mimic, pictured)



Episyrphus balteatus marmalade hoverfly

Platycheirus clypeatus marsh boxer hoverfly

Tabanus bromius band-eyed brown horsefly

Tipula oleracea marsh crane fly

Tipula paludosa daddy long legs

Volucella pellucens pellucid fly

MECOPTERA (scorpionflies)

Panorpa communis common scorpionfly (pictured)



SIPHONAPTERA (fleas)

TRICHOPTERA (caddisflies)

No identified species yet although we see adults in the light trap.

LEPIDOPTERA (butterflies & moths)

see separate list.

HYMENOPTERA (ants, wasps, bees, etc.)

Ancistrocerus gazella European potter wasp

Apis mellifera honeybee

Bombus lucorum white-tailed bumblebee

Bombus pascuorum common carder bee

Bombus pratorum early bumblebee

Chelostoma campanularum harebell carpenter bee

Lasius flavus yellow meadow ant. Large area of anthills made by this species on the Green.

Vespa crabro hornet. Common – local nests including in Green's hollow pollarded willow.

Vespula germanica German wasp

Vespula vulgaris common wasp