

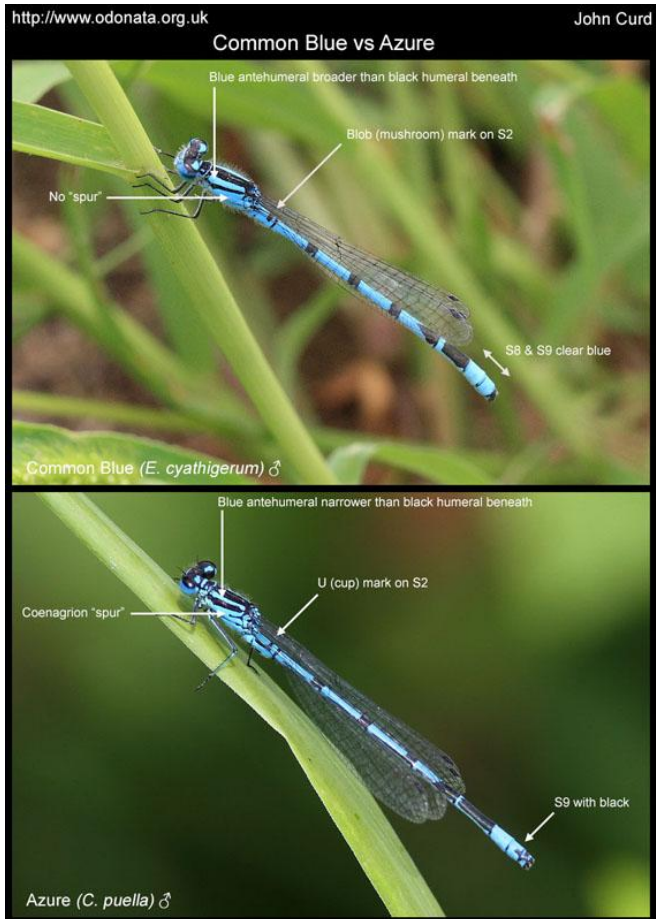


Tales from the Wildside



Messingham Quarry 3.7.26





photos john curd

Ruddy darter c/o mark



Small Copper and Ringlet c/o Jo B

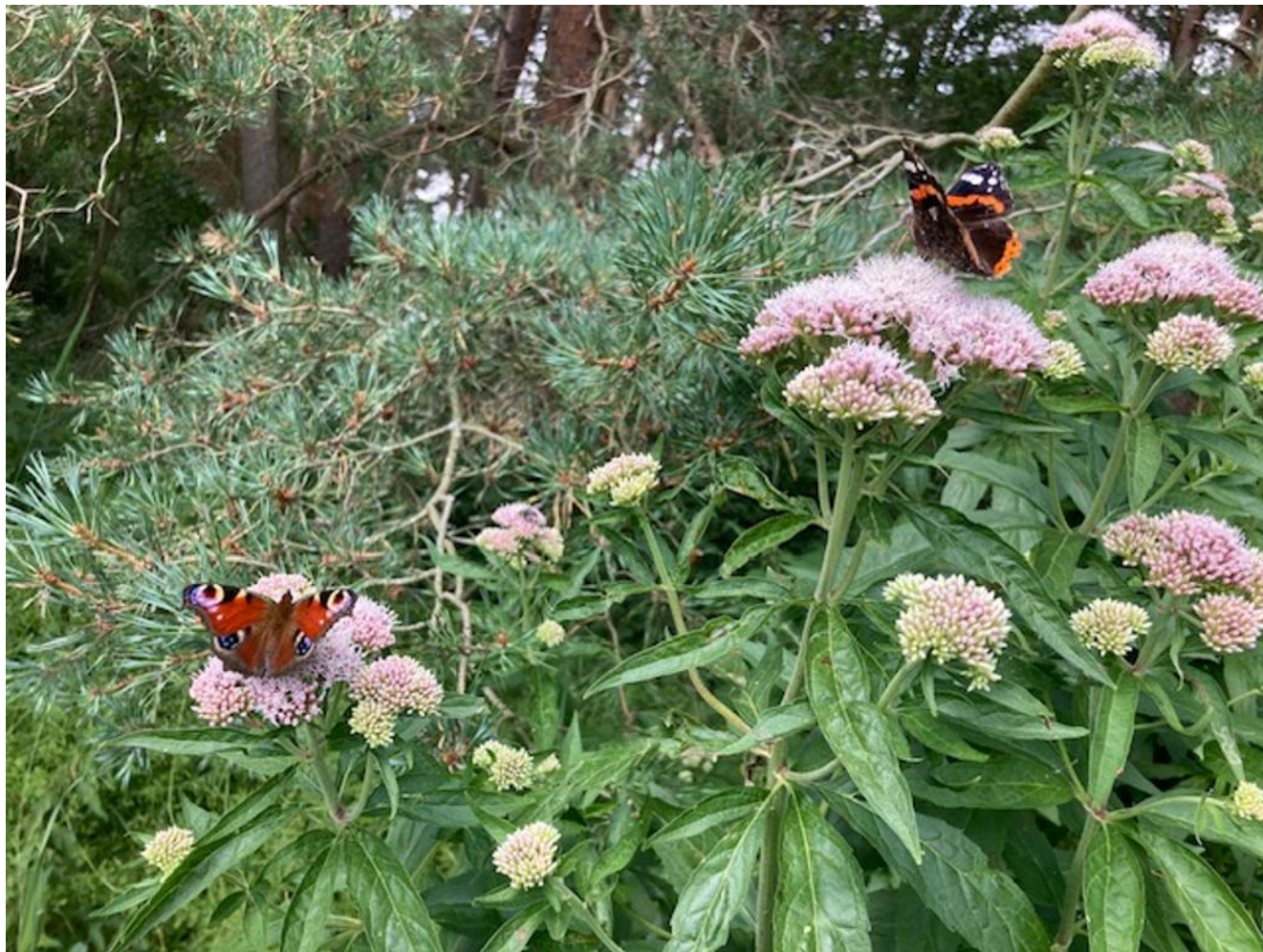


The German Scorpionfly (*Panorpa germanica*) is a harmless insect native to the UK and Europe, known for its long, beak-like snout and the male's upturned, scorpion-like tail. Despite its intimidating appearance, the tail is merely a reproductive organ. Found in hedgerows and woodland margins, it acts as a scavenger, feeding on dead insects and rotting vegetation



Alder Signaller c/o Mark

Stathmopoda pedella, another moth with a unique method of sitting, this one found on an Alder leaf, which presumably is why its common names are Alder signal or Alder signaller.



Common Red Soldier Beetle+ Flesh fly. cinnabar caterpillar c/o Jo B cinnabar moth c/o R Priestly

Butterflies seen

Painted Lady	Peacock	Red Admiral	Small White	Small Copper
Gatekeeper	Brimstone	Meadow Brown	Essex Skipper	Large Skipper
Ringlet	Speckled Wood	Green Veined White		



Spotted Longhorn Beetle c/o Mark

The adults grow up to 13–20 millimetres (0.51–0.79 in). The head and pronotum are dark-brown, while elytra are yellowish, with black dots and stripes, rough imitations of wasps, which probably gives them some protection from birds.^[3]

Biology

The species completes its [life cycle](#) in two to three years, spending most of their lives as [larvae](#).^[3] The adults can be encountered from May to August; they are short-lived, only living for two to four weeks. They are very common flower-visitors, especially [Apiaceae](#) species, feeding on pollen and the nectar. The larvae are polyphagous in the wood of deciduous trees, mainly feeding on [Corylus avellana](#), [Fagus sylvatica](#), [Castanea sativa](#) and [Ostrya carpinifolia](#), as well as on [Quercus](#), [Carpinus](#), [Salix](#), [Alnus](#), [Populus](#) and [Betula](#) species.^{[1][3]}

Some of the Birds seen or heard

Oystercatcher	Green Sandpiper	Great Egret	Shelduck	White/Pied wagtail
Buzzard	Yellow Legged Gull	Avocet	Lapwing	Blackcap
Chiffchaff				



Pied Plumehorn.

Pied Plumehorn

Pied Plumehorn

Volucella pellucens is about 13–17 mm in length, with a wing length about 10–15.5 mm

This hoverfly has a broad, mainly black body, but the front part of the abdomen has a broad, yellow band, giving it the appearance of a [bee](#) or [wasp](#). The two wings are transparent, as with most [flies](#), but the leading edge is amber, with a brown patch on each wing.

The mimicry of bees or wasps in shape and colouration is shown by other hoverflies, which is thought to protect against falling prey to birds and other [insectivores](#) that avoid eating true wasps because of their stings. However, the difference between hoverflies and wasps or bees is hoverflies have two wings, and the [Hymenoptera](#) species have four.

Biology

Adults live on [nectar](#) and [pollen](#), as with most hoverflies, and visits a large range of flowers from May to October,^{[4][3][5]} showing a distinct preference for white flowers, such as [Sambucus](#), [Cornus](#), [Ligustrum](#), [Rubus idaeus](#), and [bramble](#) and [Apiaceae](#), but they also feed on [Asteraceae](#), [Valeriana officinalis](#), [Succisa pratensis](#), [Chamerion angustifolium](#), and [Urtica dioica](#).^{[3][4]} It typically flies at head height.

The female enters the underground paper nests of the common wasp, [Vespula vulgaris](#), or the [German wasp](#), *V. germanica*, and lays her eggs. Despite the conspicuous nature of the intruder, the hosts do not appear to register her presence as she makes her way into the otherwise well-guarded nest entrance. The *V. pellucens* larvae then feed on the hosts' young and dead adults.

When the eggs hatch, the larvae drop to the bottom of the nest chamber, where they feed as scavengers on debris. This may include dead wasp grubs and adults, remains of food brought into the nest by the wasps, and other insects living there. Mature larvae are sometimes on the combs and have been recorded feeding on dead or moribund wasp larvae and pupae that were left in the combs when the nest was abandoned by the wasps in the autumn. Fully grown larvae leave the nest and [pupate](#) in the soil below. If the host nest is in the roof or walls of a house, then the larvae may end up crawling about in the dwelling space.

Adult hoverflies emerge the following year from about mid-May to June.

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Previous visits 5.8.22 black legged stilts, 15.9.23 6.9.24 toadlets lots of no 2025
