

WHITEHEAD, P.F. 1996b. *Eucnemis capucina* Ahrens 1812 (Col., Eucnemidae) at three sites in Worcestershire with a remarkable beetle fauna on *Quercus cerris* L. at one site. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **132**: 187-196.

The first record of *Ochthebius (Enicocerus) exsculptus* Germar (Hydraenidae) in Hampshire

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On 5 May 2021, during routine monitoring of watercress farm outflows on behalf of The Watercress Company, a single female *Ochthebius exsculptus* Germar was found in a standard three-minute kick sample from Drayton Farm, Alresford, Hampshire (SU59353327, VC 12).

A second single female was taken on 19 May at Manor Farm, Alresford, Hampshire (SU58533351) close by but in a separate header stream to the River Alre. Both sites were chalk streams with cobble and gravel substrate below outflows from watercress farms. Neither site had in-channel vegetation and both had few marginal plants because of steep mossy earth banks which had been undercut by the current. Depth was 0.05-0.5 m and flow was strong.

The recent atlas (Foster *et al.*, 2020) gives no records for Hampshire, which was confirmed by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC). The most recent record for southern England appears to be from North Devon by Dave Bilton in 2002, otherwise most of the southern records date to pre-1980.

The question raised by these finds is whether the beetle has been present continuously or has recently colonised; these sites have been monitored for four years without a record. However, it seems unlikely that climate change has favoured these animals in the south as they are reasonably widespread in the north of England and Scotland. The streams are fed by borehole water at a constant temperature of 10 °C with little variation in flow throughout the year which inclines me to the former suggestion.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to Garth Foster for confirming the identification.

Reference

FOSTER, G.N., BILTON, D.T., HAMMOND, M. & NELSON, B.H. 2020. *Atlas of Water Beetles of Britain and Ireland – smaller families of Polyphaga*. Telford: FSC Publications.