

Insect and spider records from Islay in 2011 (Arachnida, Coleoptera, Hemiptera and Hymenoptera)

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This note presents records of insects and a spider from Islay, Inner Hebrides, collected while on a visit to the island in July 2011. The visit lasted a week and coincided with some of the best weather of that indifferent summer, and fieldwork was not hindered by wind or rain. Collecting effort concentrated on aquatic and semi-aquatic invertebrate species, with several collected species apparently new to the island according to published sources and maps on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) (www.nbn.org.uk). Voucher material for these records have been deposited with the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow (Entry No. 1392).

The visit was primarily to carry out an entomological assessment of two RSPB reserves: Smaull Farm and the Oa. Smaull Farm on the north-west coast contains areas of wet heath and modified bog, coastal grassland and arable ground and includes part of Loch Corr. This lake is known for its entomological interest, in particular species of water beetle. The coastal strip west of Loch Corr is drained by several short streams that flow into the Atlantic. The most interesting of these streams flows along Gleann na Muchdalaich, a short glen with interesting habitat, including an area of sedge and moss-dominated mire at Dun Bheolain. The Oa is an elevated coastal site at the south-east of the island with heath and blanket bog containing several lakes, including Loch Kinnabus, one of the largest lakes on the island. Visits were made to several other localities, including Loch Gruinart, which is a large sea loch on the northern side of the island, and Ardnave Loch, a shallow lake behind dunes.

Arachnida, Araneae

Argyroneta aquatica: Loch Corr, NR225695, 24 July 2011. No previous records have been mapped for Islay or any other Scottish island (Harvey *et al.*, 2002). It is present on Rathlin Island, Co Antrim, the nearest Irish island to the south (*pers. obs.*).

Coleoptera

Stenus cicindeloides: Dun Bheolain, NR213688, 29 July 2011. Found on mossy fen, swept from sedges and rushes. A widespread species (Lott & Anderson, 2011) but few Scottish mainland records are shown on the NBN and none from any of the other Scottish islands.

Stenus oscillator: Dun Bheolain, NR213688, 29 July 2011. Found on mossy mire/poor fen, taken with pond net. This is a rare northern species of acid mires, wet heaths and bogs (Boyce, 2004; Lott & Anderson, 2011). This appears to be the first record from Islay and the habitat would appear typical for the species. Only two mainland Scottish records are shown on the NBN. One male was dissected to confirm the identification.

Hemiptera

Hebrus ruficeps: Loch Corr, NR224694, 24 July 2011. Common on wet mosses in wet heath/poor fen by lake. Dun Bheolain, NR213688, 29 July 2011. Common on wet mosses in sedge and moss-rich mire in small glen. The habitat at both sites is typical of where it occurs in Ireland (*pers. obs.*). There are only a few Scottish mainland records and none from the islands (Huxley, 2003).

Corixa punctata: Smaull RSPB reserve, NR214674, 29 July 2011. Adults common on shallow artificial wetland; two males dissected. The distribution of *C. punctata* and the very similar *C. iberica* in Scotland are discussed and shown in Huxley (1997, 2003) and Angus (2006a, b). Huxley (1997) reported *C. iberica* on Islay and considered that old records of *C. punctata* from the island were likely to be *C. iberica*, so only that species was mapped on the atlas (Huxley, 2003). The 2011 *C. punctata* specimens from Islay may represent a recent colonisation. A similar situation has been noted on the north coast of Northern Ireland where *C. punctata* has appeared on sites on Rathlin Island that held *C. iberica* in the 1980s (Nelson, 1995; *pers. obs.*).

Micronecta poweri: Loch Kinnabus, NR301426, 25 July 2011. Adult found in shallow water on stony margins of lake. Typical habitat for the species but unaccountably only a single adult was caught. In the author's experience the species is normally present in numbers in suitable habitats. Dolling (1983) mentions the occurrence of *M. minutissima* on Islay, but this is likely to be incorrect. *Micronecta poweri* was formerly known as *M. minutissima* and old records under that name probably refer to this species. True *M. minutissima* is confined in Britain to south-east England (Huxley, 2003). Huxley (1997) lists both *M. poweri* and *M. minutissima* from Islay but indicates the *M. minutissima* record as probably incorrect. However, neither species was shown as occurring on Islay in Huxley (2003). This

record at least provides confirmation of its presence on Islay.

Chartoscirta cincta: Dun Bheolain, NR213688, 29 July 2011. Adults swept from sedge beds.

Salda littoralis: Loch Gruinart, east shore near Killinallan, NR303714, 28 July 2011. A single adult collected on upper beach of sea loch with patchy saltmarsh.

Saldula palustris: Loch Gruinart, east shore near Killinallan, NR303714, 28 July 2011. Adults common on upper beach of sea loch with patchy saltmarsh.

Saldula saltatoria: Loch Kinnabus, NR301426, 25 July 2011. Many collected on exposed stony shore of lake. Ardnave Loch, NR286728, 28 July 2011. Common on bare ground on shore of lake. Loch Gruinart, east shore near Killinallan, NR303714, 28 July 2011. Adults common on upper beach of sea loch with patchy saltmarsh.

No records of saldid bugs from Islay are shown on the NBN maps. *Salda littoralis* and *Saldula saltatoria* are the commonest species in their respective genera and their presence on Islay is not unexpected. On the basis of comments in Dolling (1983), it appears that *Chartoscirta cincta* and *Saldula palustris* are new to the Islay fauna.

Hymenoptera

Bombus pratorum: Kinnabus, NR298426, 25 July 2011. A single male collected in flowery meadow. This common bumblebee has apparently not been recorded from Islay before, although there is a record from the neighbouring island of Jura.

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