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A first occurrence of Adonis' ladybird *Hippodamia variegata* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) in Glasgow, Scotland

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Adonis' ladybird (*Hippodamia variegata* (Goeze, 1777)) is native to the U.K. but has been recorded rarely from Scotland (NBN, 2024). An adventitious (i.e. arriving from outwith the U.K.) specimen was reported from Dumbarton, Scotland (as *Adonia variegata*) by Futter (2000) and was thought at the time to be the first Scottish record. However, the National Biodiversity Network Atlas (NBN, 2024) now shows a 1992 sighting in Morar, north-west Scotland which, like the Dumbarton specimen, was found on imported grapes. We now have a sighting in west central Scotland which is surely not adventitious. On 17th September 2024, a single specimen was swept from a patch of creeping thistles (*Cirsium arvense*) at Hamiltonhill Claypits, Glasgow (NS58526722) by the author.

In addition, there have been several sightings in the Lothians, Scotland in recent years, and one in the Scottish Borders (NBN, 2024). The first of the Lothians records was found in 2018 by Dorothy Lyle by the Water of Leith near Murrayfield, Edinburgh (Fig. 1). Later that year, David Horsfield found another in the grounds of Astley Ainsley Hospital in Edinburgh. Further records elsewhere in Edinburgh and East Lothian were added to the NBN Atlas by the U.K. Ladybird Survey and, together with the Glasgow and earlier Edinburgh records, seem to indicate a natural extension of the range of this species northwards into Scotland, though it has not yet been recorded in south-east Scotland (Mark Pollitt, South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre, pers. comm.).

Though the species is often associated with coastal dune habitats (Roy, 2018), only two of the Lothians records are from the coast of the Firth of Forth, and even there the habitat seems more akin to the "inland" preferences listed by Roy: vegetation adjacent to bare areas of sand, shingle or shale. The location of the Glasgow specimen was indeed adjacent to bare ground which had been cleared in recent years. Duff (2016) describes it as "very local" in northern England and southern Scotland.

The Glasgow specimen was donated to the Hunterian Museum, and the record will be submitted to the NBN



Fig. 1. Adonis' ladybird (*Hippodamia variegata*), length ca. 5 mm, Water of Leith, Edinburgh, 16th July 2018. (Photo: Dorothy Lyle)

Atlas along with other recent records of Coccinellidae in due course.

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