

# PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST OF THE COLEOPTERA OF WATSONIAN YORKSHIRE

## Introduction and historical notes

This checklist of Yorkshire beetles is based on the Coleoptera records held in the database of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union by R J Marsh and M L Denton.

Watsonian Yorkshire, under a system devised in Watson (1883) and subsequently documented by Dandy (1969), Britain was divided into convenient recording areas of roughly equal physical size. Thus Yorkshire was divided into "vice-counties", numbered 61 to 65, and notwithstanding historically recent county boundary reorganisations and changes, the vice-county system remains a convenient one for recording purposes.

Until 1990 all Coleoptera records were held and maintained by John Flint using a system originally begun by W.J.Fordham and continued by E.G.Bayford, G.B.Walsh, W. O.Steel and others. The records were kept on loose sheets on a species-by-species basis, and, owing to the increasing volume of and detail within the records this methodology clearly could not be maintained especially when site information was required. After 1990, the entire body of the records was transferred to a computerised database system, completed in 1994, and employing the Recorder 3 program, developed by Dr Stuart Ball of JNCC. This site-based system allowed an extensive range of rapid information retrieval, of which the old 'paper' system was totally incapable. The more advanced Recorder 6 is now the database in which the Yorkshire Coleoptera records are held.

The original paper records are now archived at the YNU's document store at North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre, at their York office.

In the latest Yorkshire checklist updated to 2020, species status is no longer included. National status designations for many coleopteran taxa are in many cases long overdue for reappraisal and presently many are not accurate. This latest edition of the

Yorkshire Coleoptera checklist is based on nomenclature contained in Duff (2018).

### **Aims of the checklist**

For some time coleopterists in Yorkshire, and nationally, have been requesting a working checklist of species so far known to have occurred in the county. The checklist may be viewed as a plea for Yorkshire records of species which do not appear in this checklist and so it is hoped that Coleoptera workers in other parts of Britain and in organisations other than the YNU will inform the author of Yorkshire beetle records in their possession, so that these may be added to our database and checklist. The checklist will serve to highlight areas of the fauna which are underworked, and it will serve to demonstrate those underworked areas of the county, particularly VC65. As time goes by, new species will hopefully be added to the County list and this checklist will be updated periodically.

### **Progress since the previous checklist of 2017**

Since the last edition of the checklist which was posted on this website in 2017, there have been many additions, deletions and clarifications of species for the five vice-counties. I have been assisted in this by YNU entomologists including Mike Denton, Roy Crossley, Peter Kendall, Bill Dolling, the late Frank Kenington, Bill Ely, Eric Smith, Derek Whiteley, John Hancox and Derek Bateson, who have kindly submitted their records. I also thank all contributors to the Coleoptera database since 2017.

With a total number of species a little more than 3000, there is always scope for errors and omissions to occur. Responsibility for these rests entirely with R Marsh, but please contact either of the recorders to report any anomalies or suspicious entries in the checklist.

## References

Dandy J.E. 1969. *Watsonian Vice-counties of Great Britain*. The Ray Society, London

Duff, A.G., 2018. *Checklist of the Beetles of the British Isles*. 3rd edition. Ed. A.G.Duff. Pemberley Books.

Watson, H.C. 1883. 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. *Topographical Botany*. Quaritch, London.

## Recorders

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**R.J.Marsh, 13 March 2020**