

OTHER INSECTS and ARACHNIDS

A small sample of the farm's other insects and arachnids:

ELDER APHIDS

Aphis sambuci

Seen extensively on all Elders on the farm from early April. Aphids suck the sap from plants, excreting the excess as sticky 'honeydew', which ends up covering all plants they live on.



DARK PERIPHYLLUS APHID

Periphyllus obscurus

Seen in May on Field Maple, being 'farmed' by ants, who 'milk' them for their honeydew in return for fighting off predators such as ladybirds and various insect larvae which feed on aphids.



Species of GREEN LEAFHOPPER:

Empoasca species

Seen on Elders by forge and in orchard in April. Leafhoppers also feed on plant sap, and can be a pest to vegetable crops. Though they have wings, they tend to jump rather than fly.



Species of GREEN LACEWING:

(Most likely to be *Chrysoperla carnea*)

Found on sycamore trunk by the Forge; sycamores tend to be popular with aphids, which Lacewings and their larvae feed on, which may explain this specimen's presence on this tree.



HAWTHORN SHIELD BUG

Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale

Found on a sycamore trunk next to the Midland Hawthorn.

A large shield bug; feeds on leaves and berries of Hawthorn and other trees.



Species of CAPSID BUG:

Neolygus species

Several specimens found on plants and tree trunks alongside paddocks in May and June.

Note the distinct green heart shape of its scutellum, especially in the image on the right.



Species of MITE:

Balaustium species - probably *murorum*. (Mites are classified as arachnids rather than insects).

Several found on brick river wall in May and June – these often swarm over walls in the summer months probably in search of pollen and places to lay eggs.

The larvae are known to parasitise aphids, feed on pollen and prey on spider mites, while the nymphs and adults are free-living pollen-feeders and predators of small arthropods, in many habitats – from plants and tree-trunks, to stone walls, under stones, or free-living on soil and on dung. They sometimes also enter buildings in summer, and have been reported to give a bite which can cause irritation to some individuals.

