

## North Lancashire Naturalists Group

Invertebrate survey for the Fairfield Association, Lancaster, summer 2012

The Fairfield Association is a group of residents who run two areas of Lancaster as a community space and nature reserve. The nature reserve is called FAUNA (GR SD470610 ) and a group of NLNG members set about an initial invertebrate survey of the 'Hay Meadow'. The aim was to instruct local volunteers in the techniques of invertebrate surveying and to support them in their identification.

On a Sunday morning in late July (29 July 2012) five NLNG members met with a further six volunteers from the Fairfield Association to carry out the initial survey. The meadow was very wet, but the rain held off for most of the time spent at the site. Sweep netting, beating, hand searching the sward and butterfly netting were demonstrated. No quantitative sampling was undertaken. The meadow habitat and wet meadow verging towards both still and running water were sampled. All results were grouped together.

There were no surprising specimens or any particularly rare. However there was a healthy population of Figwort beetles on the Figwort near the watercourse of Lucy Brook, and the Tree Bumble Bee was recorded, which appears to be slowly spreading its range northwards.

The species list is attached on the following page.

Two hours of sampling were sufficient for the group before people became too damp. It was resolved that further surveying should be carried out at other times of the year and in the grazed areas (White Park Cattle) of the nature reserve.

My thanks go to Jennifer Newton who undertook most of the identification, and to the Fairfield Association for access permission. I hope that several will come to join the NLNG and jointly support each other's interests.

Chris Workman

## Invertebrate survey : Hay meadow, FAUNA 29 July 2012

Comon names	Order	Family or species if known	
<b>Insects</b>			
<b>Springtails</b>			
Springtail	Collembola	Sminthuridae	
<b>Damsel flies</b>			
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Odonata	Coenagriidae	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
<b>True Bugs</b>			
Frog Hopper	Homoptera	Cercopidae	<i>Philaenus spumarius</i>
Leafhopper (blue-green)	Homoptera	Cicadellidae	<i>Cicadella viridis</i>
Aphids	Homoptera	Aphididae	
Grass bugs (green)	Heteroptera	Miridae	<i>Blepharidopterus angulatus</i> (?)
Grass bugs	Heteroptera	Miridae	<i>Capsus ater</i>
Potato capsid bug	Heteroptera	Miridae	<i>Calocoris norvegicus</i>
<b>Thrips</b>			
Thrip	Thysanoptera	Thripidae	
<b>Butterflies</b>			
Green-veined White	Lepidoptera	Pieridae	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Meadow Brown	Lepidoptera	Satyridae	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Large Skipper	Lepidoptera	Hesperiidae	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>
<b>Moths</b>			
Tortrix Moth	Lepidoptera	Tortricidae	<i>Tortrix viridana?</i>
Cinnabar Moth caterpillar	Lepidoptera	Arctiidae	<i>Tryia jacobaeae</i>
Grass moth (micro moth)			<i>Agriphila straminella</i>
<b>True flies</b>			
Yellow dung Fly	Diptera	Muscidae	<i>Scatophaga sp.</i>
Stilt-legged Fly	Diptera	Helomyzidae	<i>Helomyza sp. (?)</i>
Fly	Diptera	Lonchopteridae	
Moth Fly or Owl Midge	Diptera	Psychodidae	
Chironomid (m. feathery antennae)	Diptera	Chironomidae	
Chironomid (yellow & black striped)	Diptera	Chironomidae	
<b>Bees, wasps and ants</b>			
Ichneuman Fly - female	Hymenoptera	Ichneumonidae	
Chalcid Wasp	Hymenoptera	Chalcidoidea	
Common Carder Bee	Hymenoptera	Apoidea	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
White-Tailed Bumble Bee	Hymenoptera	Apoidea agg.	<i>Bombus lucorum / terrestris</i>

Tree bumble bee		Apoidea	<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>
<b>Beetles</b>			
Soldier beetle	Coleoptera	Cantharidae	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>
Figwort Weevil Larva (slug-like)	Coleoptera	Curculionidae	<i>Cionus scrophulariae</i>
Staphylinid Beetles	Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	
Flea Beetles	Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	<i>Phyllotreta sp.</i>
7-Spot Ladybirds	Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>
<b>Spiders and Harvestmen</b>			
Comb-footed spider	Aranea	Theridiidae	<i>Theridium impressum</i>
Orb-web spider	Aranea	Agriopidae	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>
Orb-web spider	Aranea	Agriopidae	<i>Larinioides cornutus</i>
Long-jawed orb weaver	Aranea	Tetragnathidae	<i>Pachygnatha degeeri</i>
Harvestman	Opilione		<i>Dichranopalpus ramosus</i>
<b>Mollusca</b>			
Slug		Arion cf ater (stripy red skirt)	