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The leaf-beetle *Bruchidius villosus* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae): occurrences in Glasgow, Scotland

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On a visit to a brownfield site beside the Forth and Clyde canal at Collina Street, Maryhill, Glasgow on 22nd May 2015, I swept a number of insects from broom flowers (*Cytisus scoparius*). I was surprised to find that the sample included three specimens of the leaf-beetle, *Bruchidius villosus* (Fabricius, 1792) (Fig. 1), which reference books state as being absent from Scotland, though it is widespread in central and southern England and Wales, local in Northern Ireland, and very local in northern England (see, e.g., Duff, 2016).



Fig 1. The leaf-beetle *Bruchidius villosus* collected from broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Dietscha, Selbitz, Bavaria, Germany, 5th June 2020; size 3.3 mm. (Photo: U. Schmidt, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en>)

This distribution is borne out by the map on the National Biodiversity Network Atlas (NBN, 2021), which shows the nearest records to be in the north of Cumbria, England. In view of the possibility that there may be records which had not been submitted to NBN, I also enquired at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, and the Biological Record Centres which cover Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders, as the latter are the most likely areas in Scotland where the beetle would first appear if spreading northwards naturally. No Scottish sightings had been recorded.

I returned to the site a few days later and again found the beetle on different broom plants, a variety with pink-tinged flowers, whereas the original plant was the typical yellow-flowered form. It is possible that the

plants with variegated flowers were garden escapes, though this colour-form does occur naturally. However, given the apparent abundance of this species in the Collina Street area, in contrast to its absence in the rest of Scotland, it is tempting to speculate that the insect was introduced on cultivated species in a nearby garden, though these were not looked for.

A specimen was retained and will be donated to the Hunterian Museum.

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REFERENCES

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