

***Panspaeus guttatus* (Sharp, 1877) (Elateridae) in Norfolk**

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During a flight interception trap survey of Sheringham Park in Norfolk, six individuals of a very small elaterid were collected. These were provisionally identified as *Panspaeus guttatus*, which was later confirmed by Howard Mendel.

Specimens were collected in July/ August 2023, as follows:

- Scots Pine TG13268 41697: 1 individual
- Scots Pine TG13809 41542: 1 individual
- Beech TG13614 41683: 1 individual
- Beech Stump TG13355 42647: 1 individual
- Oak TG13175 41858: 2 individuals

This tiny click-beetle is native to New Zealand and was first discovered in the UK in July of 1981 when specimens were found in Windsor Great Park (Owen *et al.* 1985). Since then, its range has been expanding and it has been collected from a number of sites to the SW of London, North Hampshire and Sussex. Its occurrence in Cornwall (Alexander 2010) was a leap beyond gradual range expansion and such leaps are characteristic of 'successful' colonists.

In its native range it is associated with *Nothofagus* forest, but the immature stages are unknown in New Zealand. In Britain, larvae develop in very rotten wood at ground level. The species is clearly capable of parthenogenetic reproduction (males have not yet been noticed in Britain).

These records from Norfolk are evidence of a significant expansion in the known UK distribution of this species. However, it is an easily overlooked species and is very likely to be much more widely distributed across the UK, especially considering parthenogenetic reproduction and its ability to develop in the rot of various tree species.

Acknowledgments

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References

Alexander KNA (2010). *Panspaeus guttatus* Sharp (Elateridae) from a hollow tree in Cornwall. *The Coleopterist* 19(1):35.

Owen JA, Allen AA, Carter IS and von Hayek CMF (1985). *Panspaeos guttatus* Sharp (Col., Elateridae) new to Britain. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 121:91-95.

Fig. 1. Female *Panspaeus guttatus* from Sheringham Park, Norfolk.

