

OBSERVATIONS ON THE INVERTEBRATE FAUNA OF LUNDY, SEPTEMBER 2025

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A day visit to Lundy provides limited opportunities to understand its invertebrate fauna, but 25 September 2025 coincided with sunny, unusually tranquil conditions and enabled the following observations to be made. Species are related here to broad habitat types *i.e.* grassland either rank, closed sward, as a matrix in *Ulex* scrub or as fragments in pioneer herb-dominated biozones; *Calluna*-dominated heathland, and the littoral. Abbreviations are Col. for Coleoptera beetles, Hem. for Hemiptera true bugs and Hym. for Hymenoptera, an ant. Species marked with an asterisk * have the potential of being new to the island (see <https://www.lundy.org.uk/records>). The objective is to provide a basic list; the wider biota of Lundy is well-known and well-documented (Palmer, 1946; Compton, Key & Key, 2002; Haw *et al.*, 2009).

Grassland

Pterostichus melanarius (Illiger, 1798) (Col., Carabidae) SS136446 132 m under rock; according to <https://www.lundy.org.uk/species-lists/beetles> rarely observed since 2016. *Ocypus olens* (Müller, 1764) (Col., Staphylinidae), two among short-grazed turf SS130446 130 m. *Anoplotrupes stercorosus* (Scriba, 1791) (Col., Geotrupidae) especially at SS137456 98 m in horse faeces with *Aphodius (Nimbus) contaminatus* (Col., Scarabaeidae) and fragments with *Typhaeus typhoeus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Col., Geotrupidae) in old faecal mass of Sika Deer (Temminck, 1838). The Earthquake SS136455 113 m with its thin soils over granite subject to major tectonic impacts is a key invertebrate site with a well-defined subcommunity worthy of further research. Drapes of a dwarf ecotype of Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* L. var. *compacta* support the localised snail *Ponentina subvirescens* (Bellamy, 1839) (Helicidae) (Fig. 1) and the flower-visiting *Corizus hyoscyami* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Hem., Rhopalidae)* (Fig. 2), a vagile, increasingly widespread species (Whitehead, 2008). Heathland elements at the Earthquake include *Macrodera micropterum* (Curtis, 1836)* (Hem., Lygaeidae) associated with Ling *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull and *Nalassus laevioctoatriatus* (Goeze, 1777) (Col., Tenebrionidae). According to Rowland (2024) *Ponentina subvirescens* remains a rare and little-known species on Lundy.

Heathland

Given the extensive cover of Ling *Calluna vulgaris*, especially at Punchbowl SS133454 122 m the existence of *Notiophilus aquaticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Col., Carabidae), *Staphylinus erythropterus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Col., Staphylinidae), and *Nalassus laevioctoatriatus* is no surprise. *Macrodera micropterum**, *Scolopostethus decoratus* (Hahn, 1833) and *Stygnocoris sabulosus* (Schilling, 1829) (Hem., Lygaeidae)* are stenotopic acid heathland species; a single worker ant *Myrmecina graminicola* (Latreille, 1802)* (Hym., Formicidae) under Ling is more eurytopic. *Deltocephalus pulicaris* (Fallén, 1806) (Hem., Cicadellidae) featured prominently in this assemblage. Of particular interest in this context is the occurrence of the lichenophagous *Nalassus laevioctoatriatus* on a lichen-encrusted granite monolith at SS136455 122 m in open exposure. This monolith, one of a number intended in 1896 to guide lighthouse keepers, is beset with lichens especially *Parmelia saxatilis* (L.) Ach. (1803) (Parmeliaceae) among which the beetle was sheltering, together with *Melanelixia fuliginosa* ssp. *fuliginosa* (Fr. ex Duby) O. Blanco *et al.* (Parmeliaceae) and *Ramalina siliquosa* Huds. A L. Sm. (1918) (Ramalinaceae), a largely maritime species.

Littoral

Examination of Lundy Cabbage *Coincya wrightii* (O. E. Schulz) Stace near the Quay SS144437 11m revealed several endemic *Psylliodes luridipennis* Kutschera, 1864 (Col., Chrysomelidae) leaf beetles and



▲ Fig. 1. Detail of external surface of shell of the terrestrial mollusc *Ponentina subvirescens*, Earthquake, SS136455, thin soils over granite, 25 September 2025

a single *Brassicogethes viridescens* (Fabricius, 1787) (Col., Nitidulidae) this last showing some features of possible taxonomic significance.

Quarries

East Coast quarries at SS138455 109 m have interesting plant communities of ferns, sedges and mosses among which *Cicadula quadrinotata* (Fabricius, 1794)* (Hem., Cicadellidae) was found in numbers together with a few *Eupteryx filicum* (Newman, 1853)* (Hem., Cicadellidae) (Fig. 3).

Acknowledgement

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References

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▲ Fig. 2. The rhopalid bug *Corizus hyoscyami* on inflorescence of yarrow *Achillea millefolium* var. *compacta*, Earthquake, SS136455, 25 September 2025



▲ Fig. 3. The cicadellid auchenorrhynchan *Eupteryx filicum*, quarry floor, SS138455, 25 September 2025.