

Survey Guide

Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle – *Erotides Cosnardi*

Description:

A medium sized, elongated beetle with black antennae and legs and a red/brown pronotum that is darker in the centre. The elytra bear an intricate network of ridges which look a bit like a net, hence the name. The pits between the four main elytral costae are arranged irregularly.



Habitat:

Dead/dying Beech trees in ancient woodlands. To date, in England it has been found in the Wye Gorge area and on the South Downs. Larvae develop in dead and dying Beech trees. As adults, they tend to be found in sunny glades in ancient woodland and fly in hot sunshine.



Confusable species:

It can be confused with *Platycis minutus*. But *P. minutus* has a completely black pronotum and the last segment of the antenna is a yellowish colour. In addition, confirmed records of Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle (CNWB) have all fallen between early May and the middle of June whereas *P. minutus* adults have been recorded in August and September, so the time of year can be a useful distinguishing feature.



Survey methods:

- Search during May and early June.
- Target areas with large populations of Beech trees including a good proportion of mature and over-mature trees. Focus effort on individual trees which are dead or with extensive heartwood decay, standing or fallen, especially of large girth and in open, sunny situations.
- Use a stout, canvas sweep-net to sweep the grassy and herbaceous vegetation all around any potential Beeches. Look carefully in the bottom of the sweep-net for any CNWBs lying folded-up and motionless.
- Be alert to the possibility of seeing CNWB sitting up on vegetation or of seeing CNWB in flight.
- Concentrate survey effort on the hottest, sunny and still days of the season.

What to record:

- Number of beetles
- Location (grid reference or GPS if possible)
- Take photos if possible of the beetle and the habitat