

Back from the Brink – Species summary

Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle

BftB project: IP02 Ancients of the Future

Project lead organisation: Buglife

Contact: info@buglife.org.uk

Species name – common & scientific	Cosnard's net-winged beetle (<i>Erotides cosnardi</i>)
Photograph	 <p>© Udo Schmidt_Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0) / Back from the Brink</p>
Taxon group	Invertebrate-Coleoptera (Elateridae, Lycidae)
Conservation status	Endangered in Britain and a NERC Act Section 41 Priority Species in England. It has not yet been assessed for the European Red List of Saproxyllic Beetles
UK distribution	Only known from the Wye Valley and the South Downs of West Sussex and Hampshire.
Habitat associations	This species is associated with ancient woodland (probably wood pasture), where it is thought that the larvae develop in the white rotten heartwood of beech trees. They tend to be found in sunny glades where adults fly in hot sunshine. Males have been observed to congregate at particular deadwood features such as recently cut stumps (of both beech and goat willow) and wait for flying females to come along to them for mating.
BftB work carried out:	
Survey & Monitoring	<p>Interception traps were used to survey this species at 5 sites within the Wye Valley during the summer of 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Doward, Herefordshire and Cadora Woods, Gloucestershire (Woodland Trust) • Highbury Wood NNR, Gloucestershire (Natural England) • Rodge Wood, Gloucestershire and Reddings Inclosure, Monmouthshire (Forestry Commission)

	The traps did not catch any Cosnard's net-winged beetles, and just a single beetle was recorded through the entire survey. It was observed close to a large dead beech trunk in a glade in an area of Little Doward where the species has not previously been found. The trunk had a flight interception trap in place, but the beetle was observed on beech leaf litter close by.
Conservation 'interventions' incl. reintroductions & translocations	None specific to this species beyond the provision of management advice
Technical advice provision	Advice from the survey report for future management works around the provision of cut stumps was given to Woodland Trust, Natural England, and Forestry England.
Links made with other taxa / conservation work?	None other than general saproxylic fauna advice
BftB results obtained:	
Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)	Recorded from Little Doward, Gloucestershire
Recorded Abundance of species populations	Just one individual was recorded from Little Doward.
Other results documented?	The interception traps have discovered a rich and varied saproxylic fauna, including many British Red List and Nationally Scarce species. Little Doward in particular is clearly of at least national significance for saproxylic beetles in general.
Species Recovery Curve progress made	The species has remained at 2 . We know aspects of its habitat associations but need to fully understand the species' autecology and long-term nature of managing habitats for them. Although there are significant gaps in our understanding of their specific deadwood habitat associations, we know that there are problems with habitat continuity as a result of the age structure of trees on its sites. No habitat works were undertaken on sites supporting the species, but regardless there is also no evidence to date that the works to bridge the age gap, retain existing trees or plan for future veteran trees will directly benefit the species, with very long timescales at play.
Recommendations for future work:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the possibility of expanding the interception trap survey, though this is likely to be costly. • Ensure cut stumps are provided for the species particularly in the Wye Valley, to allow for future survey work to take place. • Provisional discussions are already underway as to the feasibility of a captive rearing programme.