



BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum

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www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/

Dipterists Forum Forum

www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/index.php

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BULLETIN OF THE **Dipterists** Forum

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Forum news

Editorial

Books

One of the great strengths of the Dipterists Forum is the wide range of interests of its members. Find me a member who cannot identify common species in a whole range of other Orders and I will be most surprised. Without a moment's hesitation I've therefore agreed to include a review of a book on Collembola in this edition of the Bulletin. Brill publishers clearly know what they are doing when they ask DF to make its membership aware of another in its series of entomological publications, which have included some excellent Diptera titles in the past (recall Platypezidae by Peter Chandler); amongst our ranks are several professionals who need to be able to work with these creatures. Many thanks to Keith Alexander for taking up the challenge. But what about books on the subject of Diptera? Glancing across my shelf of books, both new and old, it occurs to me that accounts of these have never found their way into the pages of the Bulletin. It would be of value to Diptera newcomers for the Bulletin to inform them of titles which many of us take for granted and to provide solutions to tough problems (as Judy Webb has provided in this issue). A series of items on classical Diptera books, the latest specialist groups and key solutions is therefore sought from contributors to future Bulletins.

Do plants depend on flies?

On Christmas Eve the BBC broadcast a sort of balloon debate organised by Earthwatch at the Royal Geographical Society. Different organisms were discussed, the idea being for the various speakers to promote their favourite (primates, bats, fungi, plankton) and argue the extent to which the biosphere (and more particularly ourselves) would suffer if their group were to disappear. The winners were bees, Dr. George McGavin at one point telling the audience that they were crucial to world agriculture - "pretty much all of the Angiosperms". A summary of the debate can be found at <http://www.wildlifeextra.com/go/news/vulnerable-species.html> where Dr. McGavin indicates that one quarter of a million species of flowering plants depend on bees. So my question is: "How does this figure compare to the total number of flowering plants in the world and what contribution do other insect groups make to their pollination" specifically Diptera, of course, but Coleoptera and Lepidoptera must do their bit, as indeed must other Hymenoptera.

10th Anniversary

In the 10 years since taking up the editorship from Martin Drake way back in February 1999 (issue 47), the labour involved in producing the Bulletin has been considerable. In effect we've always had a team of contributors working away as editors through the numerous newsletters which have also been produced during this period. The Dipterists Forum committee has recently focussed their attention onto the Bulletin which has resulted in a small panel of people responsible for its production (an editorial panel). With Malcolm Smart's help we now have a good breakdown of tasks, who is doing it, when and how (see "How to contribute articles") and we also have a good outline of the purposes of the Bulletin and the Dipterists Digest. With the change in logistics created by the move of BRC (our free postal distribution service), John Kramer no longer has the task of running around the country from printer to distributor: Judy Webb who is much nearer the BRC Wallingford depot is taking on this task, as well as selecting a new printers for us and acting as co-editor and proof reader. Mick Parker continues to provide up-to-date postal addresses for all members and acts as a storage facility for excess copies (for new members and replacement copies in case of faulty copies)

The Bulletin depends heavily upon the work of the organisers of our meetings, John Kramer for all the formal meetings, Malcolm Smart for our workshops and Roger Morris for all our field meetings.

With all that labour focussed onto production of the Bulletin twice per year, we would still have a publication with only half of its content. Contributions are always sought from the Recording Scheme and Study Group organisers and we are always pleased to include items of interest from any of our readers.

Darwyn Sumner

News from the schemes

In principle: Recording Scheme or Study Group?

The question of whether an initiative may be termed a Recording Scheme or a Study Group has been much debated over the years. Around the time that John Kramer conducted a survey of such initiatives within Dipterists Forum and our friends, a distinction was made between the two. The general conclusion was that a Recording Scheme was a formal group which had taken on a broad range of functions, ranging from established expertise through occasional publications and biogeographic distribution. Dipterists Forum members who wished to use Dipterists Forum resources (Bulletin, website, workshops) to pursue an interest in groups not covered by such a formal scheme are nonetheless supported by Dipterists Forum (it's in our constitution) and so the concept of Study Groups was considered an ideal format. So for example, as a person interested in the Diopsoidea and Nerioidae, I set up the Stilt and Stalk Fly Study Group. I used the Dipterists Forum facilities in order to discover if there was a broader interest and eventually, having discovered a number of people with expertise and records, turned it into a formal Recording Scheme. There is no reason at all why other Study Groups cannot be started off, indeed we have one that has just started with this issue of the Bulletin - Andrew Grayson's Oestridae Study Group. This places very little obligation upon Andrew, he has the opportunity to make the occasional announcement of interest in the Bulletin and on the website, he acts as a central focal point for records and observations and in true Dipterists Forum style we will support him in any appropriate manner.

<http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk>

Conopid Recording Scheme

Dave Clements gave an interesting update on the Conopidae and the Recording Scheme at the Dipterists Day in November at Cardiff Museum. His stunning photographs of a wide range of Conopids were accompanied by fascinating information on distribution patterns and tips on field craft for collecting particular species. Apparently we particularly need to watch out in the South and East for additional species that may be coming across to us from the continent in the genera Leopoldius, Thecophora and Conops. With approximately 10,000 records now in Mapmate, Dave is hoping to get a draft atlas for this family completed in 2009. This should be a good stimulus to us all to get our latest records into Dave before the new field season starts! (JW)

David Clements

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Cranefly News #18 is included in this Bulletin

John Kramer

Fungus gnat Recording Scheme

Peter's Newsletter #2 is appended towards the end of this Bulletin.

Peter Chandler

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Newsletter #46 included with this Bulletin

David Iliff

Anthomyiidae Study Group

Michael Ackland has produced Newsletter #7 which is included with this Bulletin.

Michael Ackland

Mosquito Recording Scheme

*Jolyon's item for this scheme (intended for the DF website) arrived close to the time of going to press with this Bulletin. It is to be found in **Forum Matters**.*

Jolyon Medlock

Forum News

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Work on the forthcoming atlas gathered momentum with a good deal of help from BRC. The assistance of Sally Rankin was vital in converting datasets from different versions of Recorder and dealing with some technical problems with complicated spreadsheets. Peter Brown at BRC was very helpful before leaving BRC due to the move to Wallingford. He secured clerical help in dealing with the backlog of paper records, some of which had not made the previous Provisional Atlas. Now all that is required is to input the influx of spreadsheets which encouragingly arrived towards the end of 2008 and to trawl some literature records which have not been submitted to the scheme. There will still be a lot of checking to do once the data is combined and has been sent to BRC. Should you still have records you wish to submit on receiving this newsletter the recommendation would be to get them in asap and they may still be incorporated

Simon Hayhow

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme

My efforts in 2008 were devoted largely to photography, giving me opportunities to observe behaviours of several species. The results of some of this effort was presented in the form of an unattended PowerPoint presentation at the Cardiff AGM showing *Tanypeza longimana* and *Cnodacophora stylifera*:



Cnodacophora stylifera amongst *Carex rostrata* growing on a bank of sand at Tromiebridge Meadows, the intersection of the Rivers Spey and Nethy.



Tanypeza longimana seems to like semi-shade (avoids direct sunlight although it is not active in overcast conditions) on tall herbs or the low leaves of trees (esp. Hazel) in ungrazed herb-rich meadows (or other tall vegetation) adjacent to black anaerobic muds and tree shade.

Cnodacophora stylifera is only to be found in Scotland but there is a good chance you will find *Tanypeza longimana* in the coming season if you find yourself in suitable habitat (look around the perimeter every time you visit a decent marshland). It sprints for deep shade when it is disturbed so use your eyes before you use your net. The prominent flat black palpi and the broad shimmer stripe on the thorax are a good guide to field identification.

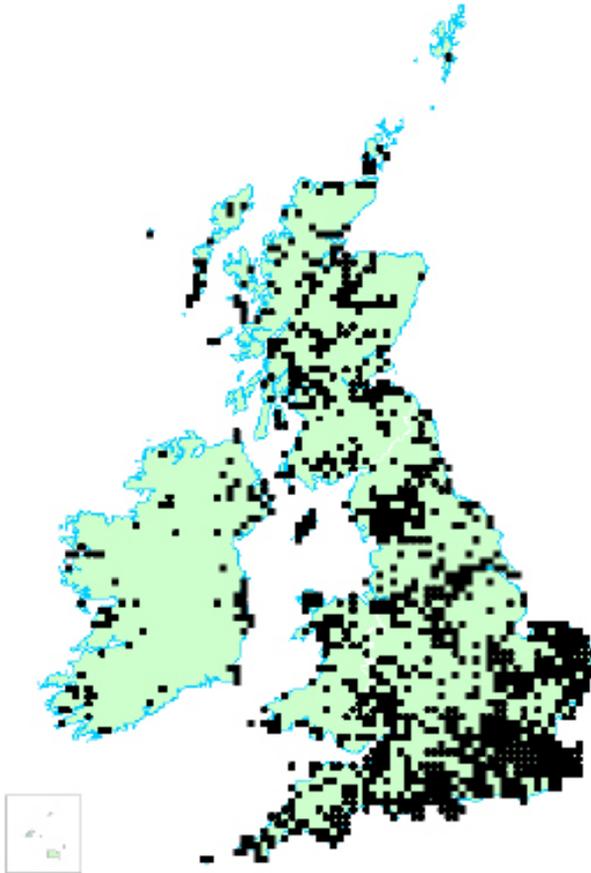


Our knowledge of the larvae of the **Calobatinae** is poor. Observations of them ovipositing provides a useful starting point to such research. This *Neria cibaria* (probably) seems to be ovipositing in sand (the same *Carex rostrata* bed as the above *Cnodacophora stylifera*) but would more often be found near anaerobic muds in woodlands, frequenting bulbous buttercup stands. One could speculate that the larvae favour these nutrient-rich muds and perhaps utilise the aerenchymatous roots (both *Ranunculus* and *Carex* have them) for their oxygen supply. We shall find out.

Darwyn Sumner

Sepsid Recording Scheme

At the very enjoyable recent Annual Meeting in Cardiff, I displayed a distribution map for each of the sepsid species I hold records for, which I hope were of interest to those attending. These maps were based on 9,950 records covering all but two of the known British species. The map below shows each 10km square with at least one record in it, and I think you will all agree that the spread of the records is fairly patchy with swathes of the country without any records at all. Hopefully, seeing this map will inspire those of you living in one of the gaps to send me some records from your patch.



The two species for which I had no records were *Sepsis luteipes* and *Meroplius fukuha-rai*, both fairly recent additions to the British list. Thanks to Adrian Pont this gap has been plugged and the records total has crept a bit closer to 10,000. Other recent sets of records have come in from Laurence Clemons and Roy Crossley.

Browsing the internet the other day from work, I came across an interesting paper at the following web address : <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/8/155>

The paper, entitled “*Bending for love: losses and gains of sexual dimorphisms are strictly correlated with changes in the mounting position of sepsid flies (Sepsidae: Diptera)*” by Nalini Puniamoorthy, Kathy Feng-Yi Su and Rudolf Meier (BMC Evolutionary Biology 2008, 8:155), is something of a Kamasutra for sepsids. The paper looks at 31 species of sepsid, many of them species that we Brits are familiar with, and links the morphology of the males forelegs to observations on the mounting position of the male during copulation, to a comparison of 10 genes to produce an evolutionary tree of sexual dimorphism and mounting behaviour. The paper is free to download and is well worth a read.

Lets hope we get a better 2009 recording season than 2008 turned out to be.

Steve Crellin

Shearwater, The Dhoor, Andreas Road, Lezayre, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM7 4EB, steve_crellin1@hotmail.co.uk

Oestridae Study Group



Andrew spoke of his interest in setting up a study group up for the Oestridae at the Cardiff AGM. We await his announcement with interest. It will be fascinating to find out if he’s the only person capable of catching them (ed).

Andrew Grayson

Other news

Diversity, host ranges and evolution of the U.K. Conopidae

Conopid flies are beautiful and fascinating subjects in their own right, but they also form a vital component of ecological communities, primarily via their role as parasitoids of a range of Hymenoptera including wasps, solitary bees and bumblebees. During the summer, adult Conopids oviposit into their hosts in mid-flight, often using patches of flowers as ‘patrolling sites’.



Conops quadrifasciatus by Chris Spilling

Conopid larvae develop while feeding on the internal organs of their host, which finally dies when the larva pupates. The pupa then over-winters in the dead host, emerging as an adult in the spring. Conopids are thought to have a significant effect on bumblebee population sizes, which, given the essential contribution of bumblebees to crop and wildflower pollination in the UK, makes them of potential agricultural importance.

Despite their importance, the ecology, distributions and host ranges of most of the Conopidae are poorly understood. The main reason for this is that the adults of many of the UK species are only occasionally encountered by collectors, and the larvae of different species are often indistinguishable, even to experts in Conopid taxonomy. My PhD work aims to overcome this difficulty by using genetic information to identify Conopid larvae that have been dissected out from hosts caught in the field. My work will involve first extracting DNA from adult Conopids and then sequencing a gene from the mitochondria (an organelle with its own DNA). The variation in the sequences of this gene should be sufficient to differentiate between the larvae of UK species using genetic data alone. In addition, the DNA sequences will be used to construct a phylogeny (evolutionary tree) for the UK Conopidae. I also plan to use this method to study the effects of agricultural intensification on bumblebee and Conopid species diversity.

I am aiming to get a collection of adult specimens of all the UK Conopidae in order to establish this DNA-based system of identification. Any spare specimens collected in 2009 (or previously) would be gratefully received. Ideally, they should be stored in 95% ethanol, although pinned or fresh specimens would also be welcomed.

If you would like to help, please send your Conopid specimens to:

Rachel Gibson

University of Bristol, School of Biological Sciences, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1UG.

I will pay for, or refund, postage. If you have any queries please telephone 01179545960

or email Rachel.Gibson@bristol.ac.uk

Muscidae Identification Update

Informal conversations on the Dipterists Forum website have indicated to me that there is quite a degree of interest in the identification of flies in the Muscidae, but that newer members of the Forum are perhaps unaware which keys are still usable and which species have been described new to Britain since the last published key.

I have discussed this with the family expert, Adrian Pont and his view is that the 1968 Fonseca Handbook is definitely still usable (d'Assis-Fonseca, E.C.M. 1968: Diptera, Cyclorrhapha, Calyptrata. Section (b), Muscidae. Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects. Vol. 10, part 4b. Royal Entomological Society, London, pp. 1-119.)

However one needs to use it with awareness of the species that have been described since then. Classification and nomenclature have changed, and for all those aspects the 1986 Palaearctic Catalogue should be consulted, together with the Fauna Europaea Website - though all the changes were of course incorporated into Peter Chandler's recent new Check List.

The species that have been added to the British List since the Fonseca handbook are detailed in the publications list below, which has been kindly supplied by Adrian. I hope readers will find this useful.

- Pont, A. C. 1970.** *Myospila hennigi* Gregor and Povolný, 1959 (Dipt., Muscidae), new to Britain, and notes on the European species of *Myospila* Rondani, 1856. Entomologist's mon. Mag., 106: 111-113. [22.xii.1970]
- Pont, A. C. 1973.** *Phaonia mediterranea* Hennig (Dipt., Muscidae), new to Britain. Entomologist's mon. Mag., 108: 238-239. [25.ix.1973]
- Pont, A. C., and Horsfield, D. 1989.** *Spilogona trigonata* (Zetterstedt, 1838) (Dipt., Muscidae), new to Britain. Entomologist's mon. Mag., 125: 243-244. [30.xi.1989]
- Pont, A. C., and Horsfield, D. 1992.** *Thricops genarum* (Zetterstedt, 1838) (Dipt., Muscidae), confirmed as a British species. Entomologist's mon. Mag., 128: 109-110. [31.vii.1992]
- Pont, A. C., d'Assis-Fonseca, E. C. M., and Ackland, D. M. 1994.** *Hydrotaea lundbecki* (Michelsen, 1978) (Dipt., Muscidae), new to Britain. Entomologist's mon. Mag., 130 (3): 247-248. [30.xi.1994]
- Skidmore, P., and Pont, A. C. 1999.** *Phaonia longicornis* Stein, 1916 (Diptera, Muscidae) new to Britain. Dipterists Digest (2), 6 (1): 44-46. [10.v.1999]
- Roper, T., Skidmore, P., and Pont, A. C. 1999.** *Helina cinerella* (Wulp, 1867) (Dipt., Muscidae), new to Britain. Entomologist's mon. Mag., 135: 207-209. [29.xi.1999]
- Pont, A. C., and Grainger, P. 2000.** *Atherigona varia* (Meigen, 1826) in Southern England (Diptera, Muscidae). Dipterists Digest (2), 7 (1): 53-58, 2 figs. [9.v.2000]
- Falk, S. J., and Pont, A. C. 2006.** *Lispocephala fuscitibia* Ringdahl, 1944 (Diptera, Muscidae) new to Britain from the New Forest. Dipterists Digest (2), 13 (1): 39-41. [25.viii.2006]
- Pont, A. C., Lole, M. J., LeBlanc, H. N., and Cole, J. H. 2007.** The American black dump fly *Hydrotaea aenescens* (Wiedemann, 1830) (Diptera, Muscidae) in Britain and Ireland. Dipterists Digest (2), 14 (1): 23-29, 1 fig. [19.x.2007]
- Pont, A. C., and Cole, J. H. 2008.** Two West European species of *Lispe* Latreille (Diptera, Muscidae), new to the British list, found in England. Dipterists Digest (2), 14 (2): 99-101. [31.iii.2008]
- Skidmore, P., and Pont, A. C. 2008.** *Muscina pascuorum* (Meigen, 1826) (Diptera, Muscidae) in Britain. Dipterists Digest (2), 15 (1): 20-22. [29.viii.2008]

Judy Webb

South Georgia expedition to sample Diptera and other invertebrates

In late December 2008/January 2009, Roger & Rosie Key will be in this remote part of the South Atlantic to undertake an invertebrate survey. The information collected will help to establish a baseline for South Georgia's invertebrates, to underpin future conservation effort. There will be a particular focus on the impact of invasive species, a major issue here.

Apart from alien species which need identification, it is anticipated that some interesting species will be uncovered during the expedition, with a possibility of species new to science. If there is anyone keen to assist identification of particular families of flies (see below for list of known families*), please contact Jamie Roberts at Buglife (01733 201 210 : jamie.roberts@buglife.org.uk).

Why South Georgia? It forms part of the UK Overseas Territories and thus falls within the conservation remit of the UK. The OTs support hundreds of endemic species but there is great concern that many of the habitats and species are under increasing threat. For instance on St Helena a proposed airport is likely to have significant impacts on existing invertebrate habitats which are home to a number of endemics. Whilst charismatic island nesting birds such as albatross get the limelight, the big concentrations of endemics tend to be among the poorly studied invertebrates. Buglife hopes that the current survey will be a catalyst to much wider recognition and action for invertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories, and the charity is already looking to develop projects on other OTs.

The South Georgia project is being carried out jointly with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (who will be surveying for invasive plants) with funding from the EU South Atlantic Invasive Species project.

* Families and number of species currently known:- Trichoceridae 1; Sciaridae 2; Psychodidae 1; Chironomidae 3; Mycetophilidae 1 (unidentified); Helcomyzidae 1; Helomyzidae 1; Pallopteridae 1; Sphaeroceridae 2; Calliphoridae 2. (plus 1 hoverfly)

Recent Developments in the Systematics of the Empidoidea

Understanding the systematics of Empidoidea is important on account of their being situated phylogenetically between the lower and higher Diptera. As a sister group of the Cyclorhapha, a knowledge of their basal branching and ground plan conditions is an essential prerequisite for determining relationships amongst the higher Diptera. Additionally, empidoid systematics are important on account of empidoid diversity and abundance with 12,000 described species (c700 in Britain) and they probably constitute 10% of dipteran diversity in many temperate ecosystems.

The 'traditional' arrangement of Empidoidea recognised two families:- Empididae and Dolichopodidae. This arrangement was followed by Collin in his *British Flies* (1961), but he adopted it merely for convenience and simplicity, fully realizing that a natural classification would involve the erection of additional families.

Chvála (1983) finally abolished the 'traditional' view with a detailed analysis of extant and fossil forms and proposed five families:- Empididae, Hybotidae, Atelestidae, Microphoridae and Dolichopodidae. His work firmly established that the dolichopodids and hybotids are clearly separated from the Empididae and provided firm evidence for a basal relationship of the microphorines to the Dolichopodidae. Chvála's work was a major landmark in empidoid systematics and formed the basis of the current British checklist. However, the very rich Southern Hemisphere empidoid fauna was poorly represented in his analysis and its incorporation, together with a growing body of molecular data, have enabled subsequent workers to further refine the tree of empidoid phylogeny.

The current 'best model' was advanced by Sinclair & Cumming (2006) [This work is available as a free download:- see reference list]. A simplification of their proposed phylogeny is presented in Fig 1. Their work strongly affirmed the monophyly of the Eremoneura and Empidoidea and recognized five empidoid families. The crucial points and keys differences from the Checklist arrangement are summarised below:-

1. There are now five empidoid families:- Empididae, Hybotidae, Atelestidae, Dolichopodidae and Brachystomatidae.

2. The microphorines (only *Microphor* in Britain) are downgraded from full family status to being a subfamily (Microphorinae) of the Dolichopodidae.
3. The parathalassiines (not yet known in Britain) become a subfamily (Parathalassiinae) of the Dolichopodidae.
4. A new family (Brachystomatidae) needs to be raised. It is a sister group of the Dolichopodidae and clearly resolved from the rest of the Empidoidea.
5. Three British genera (*Heleodromia*, *Gloma* & *Trichopeza*) should now be transferred to Brachystomatidae.
6. The easiest way to separate brachystomatids from other empidoid groups is by characters of the female genitalia:- presence of long regular setae on posterior margin of tergite 7 and the presence of acanthophorites (otherwise present in Empidoidea only in Dolichopodidae s. str. And Microphorinae).
7. The Hybotidae and Atelestidae, are sister groups and well founded families.
8. Within the Hybotidae, the tribes Oedaleini and Trichinini should now be given subfamily status (Oedaleinae and Trichininae respectively). New tribes are needed from *Bicellaria* (Bicellariini) and *Symbalophthalmus* (Symballophthalmini).
9. The Empididae are not well supported as a family although the subfamilies within it are well founded. Further work is ongoing to resolve this problem.
10. Within the Empididae, certain genera can't be properly placed. In Britain these *incertae sedis* genera are *Ragas* and *Hormopeza*.
11. Within the superfamily Empidoidea some genera can not as yet be confidently assigned to any family. The only British genus in this group is *Iteaphila* (represented by a single undescribed species).

References

- Chvála, M (1983). The Empidoidea (Diptera of Fennoscandia. Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica 12: 279pp.
- Collin, J. E. (1961). British Flies, Empididae. Cambridge University Press, 782pp.
- Sinclair, B. J. & Cumming, J. M. (2006). The morphology, higher-level phylogeny and classification of the Empidoidea (Diptera). Zootaxa, 1180: 1-172 (available as free download from <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/content.html>).

Adrian Plant

OPAL funded support and development programme for Societies

As part of OPAL (Open Air Laboratories - a Big Lottery Fund project), the Natural History Museum is running a well-resourced programme that aims to promote and enhance the vital role that natural history societies and recording schemes play in developing the understanding and conservation of UK biodiversity, and in communicating this to the wider public. A core element of this will be a funded support and development programme for societies that will run from December 2008 to December 2012.

If you wish to know more about this, or want to get involved (for your local Natural History Society or Diptera Recording Scheme/Study Group) then the NBN website at <http://www.nbn.org.uk/News-and-Events/NBN-news/Consultation.aspx> provides a good link.

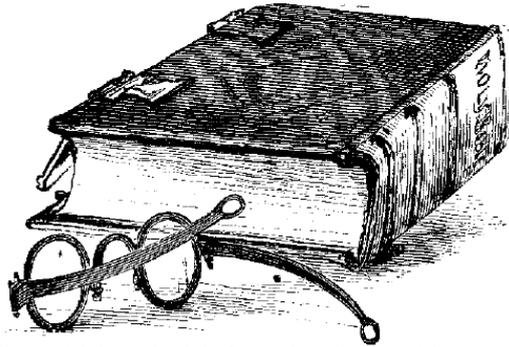
There's a questionnaire to be filled in. It would be rather nice if all the Diptera Recording Schemes featured in the statistics when they finally publish.

Darwyn Sumner

Publications

Reviews

The Collembola of Fennoscandia and Denmark. Part II: Entomobryomorpha and Symphypleona by Arne Fjellberg. Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica Volume 42 – 2007. Brill, Leiden. List price EUR 119.-. 264 pp. Hardback. ISBN 9789004157705



Things have moved a long way since the only modern key to springtails in English was Arne Fjellberg's 1980 Identification Keys to Norwegian Collembola. The British and Irish fauna has been subject to a rigorous review by the late Steve Hopkin and a new key to the known species produced in the Field Studies Council's AIDGAP Series A key to the Collembola (Springtails) of Britain and Ireland (2007). Steve's masterly key is very clear to use and has excellent illustrations, as well as some stunning colour photographs. He also maintained good contact with Arne and so the publication of both books in the same year does not imply that the one may not have taken account of the other. Indeed Part I of Arne's treatise – Poduromorpha - appeared in 1998 and proved extremely useful to Steve. The AIDGAP key covers 250 species which definitely occur in Britain and Ireland plus another 140 species for which there are no definite records supported by specimens or unequivocal literature records. The new Fjellberg key covers the second half of the group and provides much more detailed descriptions than is possible within an AIDGAP key. About two thirds of the species covered by the AIDGAP key are featured, including the distinctive and familiar sminthurids. The information provided on distribution and ecology is also a valuable supplement to what is provided in the AIDGAP key. For anyone tempted into exploring springtails, be warned - the species names can be as difficult to pronounce as those of many fungus gnats but the obsession with positions of bristles will feel familiar.

Keith Alexander

Publication of a Checklist of Irish Diptera

The following work has recently appeared:

An annotated checklist of the Irish two-winged flies (Diptera) by Peter J. Chandler, James P. O'Connor and Robert Nash. 2008. 261 pp. National Museum of Ireland. £20 including packing and postage, obtainable from The Irish Biogeographical Society, c/o Dr J.P. O'Connor, National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

The Irish Diptera fauna is well known to be smaller than that of Britain, although there are more than 30 species recorded from Ireland but not from Britain as discussed in the article in the previous Bulletin on the British Isles Diptera list having exceeded 7000 species.

Occurrence in Ireland was indicated by + against species names in the 1998 checklist of Diptera of the British Isles and in recent years updates of the Irish Diptera list have been included in each issue of Dipterists Digest. As with these previous publications the present checklist relates to the island of Ireland, including both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

A Diptera checklist specifically related to Ireland was considered desirable to form part of a series of checklists being produced by the Irish Biogeographical Society in association with the National Museum of Ireland. Checklists of the Coleoptera and Lepidoptera in this series had already appeared and the Diptera checklist follows the same format as those lists.

The checklist is restricted to species that have been published as occurring in Ireland and references are given to all species added since the 1998 checklist. It includes 3313 species, compared to 2832 in the 1998 list. Nomenclature has been updated in conformity with changes reported up to Volume 15 No. 1 of Dipterists Digest and there are several changes in family assignment compared to the 1998 list, to reflect current usage. The numerical changes in composition of each family since 1998 are tabulated in the introduction. All nomenclatural and taxonomic changes since 1998 are explained in footnotes and relevant references are cited. Synonymy relevant to the Irish literature is also included and all names accepted as valid are indexed.

Errata

To British Lonchaeidae - Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Vol 10 Part 15. MacGowan & Rotheray 2008

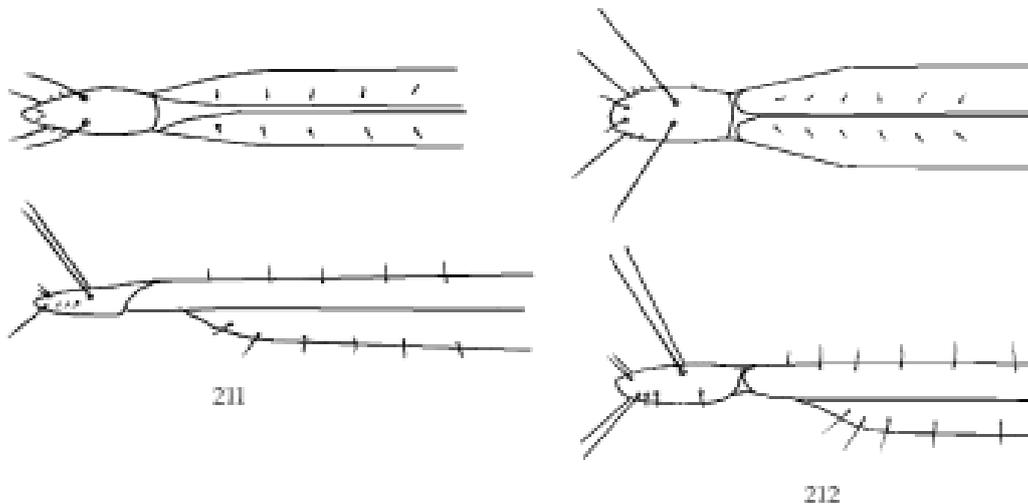
Corrections to Fig 1, Page 29

Stigmatal bristle should read poststigmatal bristle

Poststigmatal bristle should read propleural bristle

Propleural bristle should read stigmatal bristle

Corrections to Figs 211-212, page 59.



In the pipeline

Proposed New Edition of "A Dipterist's Handbook"

The Dipterist's Handbook was published by the Amateur Entomologists' Society in 1978 as Volume 15 of the Amateur Entomologist and was a collaborative work involving 25 authors, edited by Alan Stubbs and Peter Chandler and published as a paperback book of 255 pages.

The original handbook is still in print but since stocks have been running low the AES has decided to produce a new edition, which will be fully revised. There have been many changes over the thirty years since publication, both in improved techniques and in knowledge of the biology of Diptera, so a full revision is certainly desirable. A significant change since 1978 has been the coming into existence of Dipterists Forum and it has been agreed with the AES that the Forum will carry forward the preparation and editing of a new edition.

The new edition is projected to be a hardback book of similar size to the recently published Coleopterist's Handbook and there will be the opportunity to include more illustrations, including some in colour. It is also intended to include more references as appropriate as the first edition did not always clearly distinguish between new and previously published information.

Fifteen of the original authors have kindly agreed to update their contributions and two of these have already been received. New authors have been found for the sections on Immature stages and associations with Mites.

The sections for which new authors are still needed are as follows and any volunteers or suggestions as to potential authors would be welcomed:

Forum News

Chapter 3: Carrion, Water.

Chapter 5: Flies and man, Nests roosts and burrows, Flies associated with Flies and associations with the following organisms: Butterflies and moths, Beetles, Heteropteran Bugs, Mayflies, Micro-organisms.

Chapter 7: Studying the Behaviour of Diptera

Many of the original contributions were co-authored and more than one author might be sought in case of some of these sections.

Other subjects not covered by the first edition that should be included have been suggested, e.g. Brownfield sites and Forensic entomology. Any other suggestions or offers of contributions on additional subjects would be appreciated.

The end of 2009 has initially been set as a date for final submission of contributions though this may be dependent on finding authors for the remaining sections.

Peter Chandler

Dipterists Forum - regular publications

The Dipterists Forum (DF) publishes two journals with different objectives and scope.

The Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum

The bulletin is a twice yearly newsletter published in September and February, sent to every DF member, whose purpose is to keep the membership informed of the current and planned activities of the DF and the Diptera Recording Schemes. It is the primary vehicle for communication of information stipulated by the DF constitution, e.g. the dates, venues and agendas of Annual and Special General Meetings (AGMs and SGMs), notification of Committee vacancies and calls for nomination of candidates. Most particularly, it also provides details of planned forthcoming workshops and field meetings together with instructions on whom to contact to reserve places. It provides a platform for Recording Scheme Organisers to keep DF members informed of their activities and to distribute material such as newsletters, test keys and distribution maps, either as “bound-in articles” or as separate booklets included in the same envelope.

Another most important objective of the Bulletin is to stimulate and/or broaden interest in all aspects of Diptera study and the activities of the DF by publishing miscellaneous short articles or other information. Members are encouraged to submit any material that they think may be appropriate, however obscure or whacky, to the editor (the present issue provides an idea of the variety of material that is potentially acceptable). If you have any ideas that you would like to share with the membership – please put them on paper (or electronic aether) and submit them. Editor: Darwyn Sumner

Malcolm Smart

Dipterists Digest

Scope and request for contributions

Dipterists Digest is the journal of Dipterists Forum and publishes papers and notes on British and European Diptera. All items offered are subject to review, where possible by specialists in the field concerned. It is a scientific journal but is intended for amateur as well as semi-professional and professional field (as well as deskbound) dipterists.

The purpose and scope of the journal are stated on the inside cover page preceding the instructions to authors. The scope is wide, the common factor being the emphasis on new observations and many items that appear in Recording Scheme newsletters would merit inclusion, often with little further work required. The principal subjects covered are behaviour, ecology and natural history of flies; taxonomic revisions including descriptions of species new to science and notes on identification; new and improved techniques; the conservation of flies; accounts of scarce species and of those new to regions, countries etc. and local faunistic accounts. Each issue also contains details of changes to the British and Irish checklists.

Since the Second Series began in 1994, a volume comprising two issues has been published each year, so in 2008 we reached Volume 15. Publication date is irregular and has been largely determined by the availability of material and this has led to some recent issues being published in the year following that of the volume concerned. For the same reason the size of issues has varied but in recent years this has

been standardised at 86 pages of text, the latest issue with 98 pages being an exception and near the limit for the type of binding now being used.

That issue was longer to take in all items offered before the end of June 2008 as Volume 15 Part 2, currently being edited, is to comprise a single paper on the Diptera of the Western Isles. Consequently, any items accepted since Part 1 was finalised will be included in Volume 16. Further contributions for Volume 16 are needed, to be submitted early in 2009, if we are to return to schedule and publish both parts of Volume 16 during the year. If enough material is received by the end of March it should be possible to produce a part in the summer, so please could all members consider contributing to the Digest and send your contributions to me as soon as possible.

Please read the instructions to authors on the inside cover page and follow the layout of recent issues before submitting any papers or notes.

Peter Chandler

Dipterists Digest Volume 15 No 1 missing inside cover pages

Although we have been in general served well by our new printers Henry Ling, a problem arose with some copies of the latest issue. Only after distribution had taken place was it discovered that about 20 per cent of the remaining stock of copies had no printing on the inside cover pages. The inside of the front cover should have a caption explaining the photograph that appears on the cover, while the continuation of the contents list should appear as usual within the back cover.

If any subscriber has received a copy with these pages blank, we apologise for the error. Please contact Mick Parker who will supply a replacement copy. It would also be helpful for Mick to be informed so that we know how widespread this problem was.

Peter Chandler

Forum Matters

Proposed changes to the Dipterists Forum Constitution

The current text of clauses 7c and 7d reads as follows:

- c) Members wishing to nominate candidates for election to the General Committee must inform the Secretary 120 days in advance of elections, and confirm the nominated person has agreed to have his or her name put forward.
- d) Those standing for election shall be announced to members a minimum of 28 days in advance. A postal vote shall be permitted provided it reaches the Secretary seven days before the election. Elections shall be decided on a simple majority at the AGM, taking account of the postal vote.

The effect of these clauses is that nominations/volunteers for committee members to be elected at an AGM in November of a given year MUST be called for in the Spring Bulletin (February) and that those nominations MUST be published in the Autumn Bulletin (September).

It is proposed that the constitution be amended to enable calls for nominations/ volunteers to be made in the Autumn Bulletin of any year and any resulting nominations voted on at the subsequent November AGM of the same year.

Proposed revised text of clauses 7c and 7d reads as follows:

- c) Members wishing to nominate candidates for election to the General Committee must inform the Secretary 35 days in advance of elections, and confirm that the nominated person has agreed to have his or her name put forward.
- d) Those standing for election shall be announced to members a minimum of 21 days in advance. This announcement requirement shall be deemed to be satisfied by the posting of a notice on the Dipterists Forum website. A postal vote shall be permitted provided it reaches the Secretary seven days before the election in the form of a letter, e-mail or other facsimile transmission. Elections shall be decided on a simple majority at the AGM, taking account of the postal vote.

Comments on this proposal should be sent to the secretary. It is planned to publish a final version of the proposal, taking into account comments received, in the Autumn 2009 Bulletin and to put that final proposal to a vote at the AGM in November 2009.

Vacancies on the Committee

Secretary and Treasurer and other elected Officers with specific responsibilities (detailed below) require annual election. The constitution (7c) requires nominations 120 days in advance of the AGM. Ordinary elected Committee Members serve for two years. Ideally half of the team stand down each year, but due to members being elected to Officer posts this has got out of kilter. Present occupants of posts will stand for election unless they retire, but other members may also stand for the same post.

Please send your proposals for any of these posts, with a seconder, to the Secretary before July 20th 2009.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Current Officer</u>
Chair	Stuart Ball (Elected until 2010)
Vice Chair	John Ismay (Elected until 2010)
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	Howard Bentley
Membership Secretary	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Secretary	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Secretary	Malcolm Smart
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner

Forum News

at the old pre 2005 rate, I would be grateful, if those who have yet to top up their membership fees could please do so or pay me in person if you wish, I plan to be at all the Dipterists Forum Events this Spring & Summer. Also, updated Bankers Order Forms are available on request either by post or by e-mail attachment.

I wish most of you all the very best and good luck in 2009!

Mick Parker, Membership Secretary.

Mick Parker, 9 East Wyld Road, Weymouth, DORSET. DT4 0RP. Tel : 01305 788380

E-mail : jmparker_87@hotmail.com

Mosquito Recording Scheme

33 species of mosquito (Diptera: Culicidae) have been recorded in the British Isles, five are either rare or doubtfully native as they have not been recorded for many years. The aquatic breeding sites adopted by British mosquitoes vary considerably. The requirement of mosquito larvae and pupae to breathe air, limit them to relatively still, sheltered and shallow waters. Some species develop in permanent waterbodies such as ditches and ponds, while others occupy temporary freshwater pools in woodlands and flooded meadows or saline pools in saltmarshes. A few species are dendrolimnic, occupying the water that collects in tree-holes, while others are found in great numbers in containers such as rainwater butts in urban areas. One British mosquito selects underground water that collects in flooded basements, the foundations of dwellings, drains and underground railway tunnels. Mosquitoes adapt to their many habitats and aquatic sites by developing differing survival strategies, particularly in coping with periods out of water and surviving over winter, and their preference for haematophagy and their role as disease vectors, makes this family of Diptera a fascinating group to study.

Following Keith Snow's work in running the British mosquito recording scheme, Jolyon Medlock in collaboration with Moray Anderson will now be taking on this role and have been working with the Biological Records Centre to make all current and historical data available through the NBN Gateway. Many of our endemic species are heavily under recorded, and the potential exists for new species to be added to the list. We therefore welcome all records of Culicidae, or indeed samples for identification. We would be very grateful if you could send records or samples (for details see Recording Schemes)

Jolyon Medlock

Correspondence

Faune de France

Over the last 25 years or so many naturalists, particularly entomologists, have purchased specific copies of volumes from the Fauna de France series as in many instances they were the only published material available for certain groups of insects and beyond.

They were never cheap books being well illustrated and the text being in French did put some off but many entomologists are used to having to work around French, German, Danish, Italian and even Russian texts to obtain the information and identification abilities that they need.

I have just found that the Fauna de France series has a website and that many of the earlier volumes are NOW available as a FREE PDF file download. These range from Tardigrades (water Bears) to Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets), from Dermaptera (Earwings) to Birds, from Sea Urchins to various families of Coleoptera. I have not been through them all and consequently cannot vouch for their completeness but I did wonder if you might be interested and if they might be useful to some.

To see and download the volumes check over at:
<http://www.faunedefrance.org/BibliothequeVirtuelleNumerique>

Steve McWilliam

Pepper and Salt

I was interested to read Dr Rant's perceptive article regarding English or vernacular names in the Dipterists Forum Bulletin No. 65.

I hope it is not presumptuous for me to suggest some additional points. One is that vernacular names are easier to remember because you do not need so many of them. The same name can be used for different species, in other geographical regions or fields of science. The example of the name "Thunder Fly" being given to different insects in various regions is quoted (Colyer & Hammond 1968). The name "Fruit Fly", commonly applied to the small Laboratory fly that is famous for its use in genetic studies, is used for the Gall-causing picture-wing flies in some other countries. I was pleased to see that the principle of simplifying nomenclature by choosing an English name to include as many species as possible is being adopted with names such as "Long-legged fly", which could be understood to cover up to 40% of our Diptera fauna, if legs are described as long in relative rather than absolute terms.

To be even more economical on names some such as "Daddy longlegs" can be used not only for most large craneflies but also a household spider. The principle can be extended beyond Diptera so for example "Peacock" can be a four-winged insect or a two-winged vertebrate.

A drawback of English names is that ambitious, pushy, scientists are unlikely to be able to get additional papers on their publication lists by changing existing English names. A cursory comparison of the names in my most recent moth book (P. Waring, M. Townsend and R. Lewington, 2003) with the selection of moths in an old insect book (A.W.Kappel and W.E.Kirby, 1892) gave me the impression that more than a third of the Latin names had been changed over 100 years but I only noticed one example where the English name had changed. The "Peppered Moth", *Biston betularia*, was called the "Pepper-and-Salt Moth", *Amphidasis betularia* in the earlier book. This may have been an unsuccessful attempt to change an English name as the name "Peppered" was in use before 1766 (M. Harris) perhaps even preceding the introduction of double-barrelled Latin names (C. Linnaeus, 1758). The caption of the Moses Harris illustration used the name "Peppered" for the species, adding "Moth" for the imago. Quaintly the male and female moth were referred to as the cock and hen respectively.

C.N. Colyer and C.O. Hammond, 1951 and 1968, "Flies of the British Isles", Fredrick Warne & Co. Ltd., London.

P. Waring, M. Townsend and R. Lewington, 2003, "Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland" British Wildlife Publishing, ISBN 0 9531 1399 1 3 (paperback) 0 9531 1399 3 x (hardback)

A.W.Kappel and W.E.Kirby, 1892, "Beetles, Butterflies, Moths And Other Insects", Cassell & Co., Ltd., London, Paris & Melbourne

Moses Harris, Plate XVIII watercolour drawings for "The Aurelian" dated before 1766

Carl Linnaeus 1758, "Systema Naturae"

I. Ron Hick

For the record

In issue 66, Michael Ackland was incorrectly detailed as organiser of the Pipunculidae Study Group - the organiser is actually David Gibbs (corrected on the back pages of this issue)

Barbara Ismay's maiden name was twice incorrectly printed (Schulten) in issue 66.

The wrong kind of gnat was used in the Fungus Gnat newsletter (by me ed., not Peter)

In the Beginning

While browsing through the obituary of the coleopterist, Charles Owen Waterhouse (1843 - 1917) in the *Entomologist* for 1917 I came across a description which gave me a glimpse of the lives of entomologists of former times:

'The present writer ('W.L.D.') first made his (C.O.W.'s) acquaintance in 1869 in the entomological room of the Bloomsbury Building, an apartment much smaller and less specialised than the series of rooms now devoted to the *Insecta* at South Kensington. Many of us still remember the former entomological sanctuary, which was then occupied by A.G. Butler who worked at the *Lepidoptera* and had charge of several other orders of insects. Our late friend (Waterhouse) was custodian of the *Coleoptera*; Fredk Smith studied and arranged the *Hymenoptera*, while the spare Dickensian figure of Frs. Walker was to be seen engaged in his encyclopaedic attempts to catalogue and describe beyond the capacity of any single entomologist (!) The vicinity of the museum then contained the offices and showrooms of many entomological dealers of which the names of Jansen (senr.), Higgins, Boucard, and Cutter were very familiar. They usually had fresh consignments to offer, and were much visited, for there were more collectors of exotic insects in those days than now.'

The collector Hans Sloane died in 1753 and bequeathed his collections to the Nation. Chiefly in order to house this collection, and others, Montagu House, in Bloomsbury was opened in 1759 as the British Museum. It was a significant time for in 1758, Linnaeus published his tenth edition of *Systemae Naturae*, the one in which he first used his binomial system for the classification and naming of Animals. Subsequent enlarged editions were published until the thirteenth edition in 1770.

It is said that most of Sloane's Natural History specimens were destroyed by members of staff in the early part of the nineteenth century. In 1813, William Efford Leach (1790 - 1836) was appointed Keeper of Zoology and began work on the Natural History specimens in the BM, which had been largely neglected for the 50 years since Sloane's death. In 1818 he was joined by the entomologist James Francis Stephens, (1792 - 1852) who was seconded from the Admiralty for 27 years (!) The 1833 Annual Report claimed that all the 5,500 insects listed in the Sloane Catalogue had been lost. It would be interesting to know the politics, rivalry and incompetence behind that fact. Clearly, at least some of the Bloomsbury staff had problems with curation! The *Beagle* had sailed in 1831 and '*On the Origin of Species*' was first published in 1858, so again, these were interesting times.

Charles Owen's father, George Robert Waterhouse, was keeper of the Geological Department of the BM from 1851 -1880 and from the age of 9 years, the young Charles lived in the museum buildings, with his entomological brothers. As his name implies, he was a godson of both Richard Owen, and of Charles Darwin. He joined the entomological staff at the BM in 1866 and retired as Assistant Keeper in 1910. The removal of specimens from the British Museum building to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington was completed by 1883 and Richard Owen was appointed the first Superintendent there.

The entomologist Francis Walker (1809 - 1873), referred to in the obituary extract above, was a man of independent means. He published his volumes of '*Insecta Britannica*' between 1851 and 1856, and was described by Edward Newman in his obituary as 'the most voluminous and most industrious writer on Entomology this country has ever produced.' His '*Insecta Britannica*' contained a section on the *Diptera*, and in addition he prepared Catalogues of the tens of thousands of insects in the National Collection, including the *Diptera*. He was also a controversial figure and many entomologists who succeeded him, including the dipterist George Verrall, grumbled at the taxonomic mess that he left behind. As the quotation from the Waterhouse obituary implies, perhaps Walker tried to do too much. His mother's family came from Geneva and he spent much time travelling in Europe. Despite this opportunity he seems not to have made contact with Meigen, Fabricius, Schiner, or any other European dipterists of that time. As a man he certainly seems to have been driven, but Newman describes him as 'unassuming, utterly unselfish, and uniformly kind and considerate'.

John Kramer

Obituary

Neil Robinson

We were saddened to hear that our member Neil Robinson died on 7 October 2008. Neil had long been a member of Dipterists Forum, although his main interest was in aculeates and he was also an active member of BWARS. Those who attend the summer field meetings will know that he was a regular participant and always an enthusiastic fieldworker. In 1999 we went to his home area of Cumbria, where Neil assisted with arranging site access and we benefited greatly from his local knowledge. I was pleased that he was able to attend the 2004 meeting in Wiltshire, when he made a useful contribution to the records thanks to his special interests.

Neil lived in the village of Natland near Kendal, where he was an active member of the community and since 2005 had been contributing monthly wildlife notes to the village website (Natland.info), illustrated by photographs taken by his wife Judith. An obituary that appeared in the Westmorland Gazette on 17 October 2008 can be accessed via this website, where there is also an appreciation of Neil by Don Shore who provided the wildlife notes for September, following Neil's latest contribution in August 2008.

Neil was born in 1935 at Gosforth, Northumberland and lived in Newcastle, developing an interest in solitary bees from an early age. He attended Newcastle Royal Grammar School and then read natural sciences at Kings College, Cambridge. In 1956 he took part with other Cambridge students in an expedition to study mountain botany in Macedonia. After teaching biology at Lancaster Royal Grammar School for eight years he joined the Nature Conservancy Council as warden naturalist at Ainsdale National Nature Reserve, near Southport. Later he moved to the regional office, becoming assistant regional officer with responsibility for Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester and was involved in the purchase of the Ribble Estuary and the fight to save Gaitbarrows, near Silverdale.

Since retirement, Neil made a significant contribution to knowledge of aculeates in the North West of England and also worked on the Tullie House museum collection of bees and wasps. He has also been secretary of Kendal Natural History Society, honorary warden of Enid Maples Nature Reserve and editor of the annual publication *Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria*.

Over the past 20 years Neil had been studying wood ants and the other insects, including various Diptera, associated with their nests. Some sciarids are specific to these nests and a species new to science that Neil had discovered was described by Frank Menzel in an article published in *Dipterists Digest* in 2007. Neil had been assisted in this work by his daughter Elva and she is now to complete the writing up of this study of nest associates, so we can look forward to seeing the results of this thorough investigation in due course.

Peter Chandler

Meetings

Reports

Tachinid Workshop

Preston Montford 7-9th March 2008

This excellent workshop on parasite flies was run by tutors Chris Raper and Matt Smith who run the Tachinid website (<http://tachinidae.org.uk>). It was very well attended and thanks are due to Matt and Chris for their enthusiasm and dedication. After the presentations they were kept rushed off their feet with key queries for the whole two days. Feedback from attendees on difficult key couplets is very useful information for redesign of their latest version of the Tachinid key (see 'key updates' on their website). Although I brought my own selection of Tachinids to work on, the best thing for me was to see the interesting range of specimens brought by others. All my ideas on the 'jizz' of a Tachinid (wing vein characters, looks a bit like a Muscid, but much bristlier and with longer antennae) went out of the window when I saw the slender/skinny *Cylindromyia*, and especially when I saw the extraordinary *Freraea gagatea*, which is so completely 'un-Tachinid' in appearance: no bristles, smooth, slim and black with a round to pointed head with huge round eyes – more like a Pipunculid or Psilid head. The whole event certainly increased my confidence in tackling any of this family.



Barbara & Richard consult Chris and Matt at the Tachinid Workshop

Judy Webb

Spring Field Meeting

Lincolnshire, 10-11th May 2008



Alan Lawson & Alan Stubbs: “Yes it’s definitely *Ptychoptera contaminata*”

This short weekend meeting attracted a small group of 9 regulars. Based in bed and breakfast in Lincoln, we enjoyed brilliant sunny weather and good collecting conditions. On the Saturday we focused on the Bardney Lime woods. Amongst these the biggest was Chambers Farm wood, which had a great variety of habitats as it consisted of a complex of ancient semi natural woodland linked by more recent woodlands planted on agricultural land. There were good rides, nice wet areas and (for me) the chance to appreciate ancient woodland floor indicators in flower (Bluebells, Herb Paris,

and Early Purple Orchids) as well as a variety of spring flies. I had to leave on Sunday, but I understand the group focused on the very different habitats along the coast in Lincolnshire, especially Saltfleetby NNR.

Judy Webb

Summer Field Meeting

Glenmore Lodge, 28 June to 5 July 2008

Over thirty members and friends attended this meeting, with a total of 28 entomologists participating over the week. Not all were Dipterists - several Coleopterists attended this year – which kept our numbers up and was greatly appreciated as we enjoy their company. Numbers would have been considerably higher had there not been a spate of late cancellations. In total six members cancelled in the last month and the losses did not cease when we got to Glenmore Lodge – three members had to go home early because of domestic and work challenges. Despite these little hic-ups, the meeting was a considerable success – the pace of fieldwork was relaxed and the location of the centre was so convenient for good habitat that very little driving was necessary.



John Ismay sitting on a rock in the Cairngorms

Glenmore Lodge did us proud – it is a fantastic venue, sited below Cairngorm within the Rothiemurchus forest and almost adjacent to Loch Morlich – a fantastic array of habitat within walking distance. This close proximity was also convenient because the weather was variable. Splendid cakes and afternoon tea were a great lure to get back early and we saw very little of the late evening arrivals from fieldwork that is a common feature of most DF summer field meetings. As usual,

Andrew Halstead ran the “Honey-pot Challenge” for the greatest haul of sawflies – this provided valuable light entertainment and some important records too.

Forum News

Variable weather, and perhaps a funny year, meant that our overall impression was that numbers of flies were lower than might have been expected. That did not stop me ending up in the lab 'till after midnight most nights as I ploughed my way through an assortment of Dolis, a few Hovers, Empids and assorted Scios and Scathophagids. For me, the highlight of the week was finding *Eroneura argus* – a spotted winged scathophagid whose larvae are predaceous upon caddis fly egg masses. This was the third time Stuart and I had looked for this animal and it was starting to appear to become an enigma. Not this time – we found it in numbers at Loch Garten but it was the very devil to catch. You cannot sweep them because they sit on exposed roots at the loch-edge and when disturbed drop and whip away. Tubing is equally impossible so pooting is the answer – it is quite an art and demands patience and dexterity.



Stuart Ball looking for *Eroneura argus* at Loch Garten – the flies frequented the larger exposed roots and occasionally stones but were difficult to spot as their maculated wings make them highly cryptic.

Over the following days we investigated all of the possible lochs in the vicinity but failed to find any additional populations. Most lochs were seemingly unsuitable but a nil result does not mean that the fly was not present. On the basis of current evidence, however, this is a species with a very restricted distribution.

This first success followed a journey to Scotland that was far from straightforward. The “Peterborough Mafia” (Alan, Stuart and I) travelled up as far as Moffat on Friday 27th June. We arranged to leave early in the afternoon in order to take a series of breaks because Alan’s back was troubling him. No such luck, however, as we zig-zagged across the country in search of a way through traffic jams – from the A1, then up the M18 to Rotherham where we turned off to avoid the M1, then across country to the M62 and then lo-and-behold even more jams! Nothing for it but to go through Bradford at rush hour – 5 hours to do 130 miles! It was a relief to get to Moffat at 8.30 that evening.

The second leg of the journey north from Moffat was met with inclement weather – not the best start for the day, but the intrepid band was not disheartened. Nothing for it but to test my newly acquired tool for unearthing thistles in search of *Cheilosia* – this handy little iron cost £2.00 at Wilkinson and is now better known as the “No 1 Cheilosia Iron”. Our journey north involved frequent stops to wreck marsh and spear thistles in search for *Cheilosia* – we succeeded on nearly every occasion – our journey is clearly marked on the distribution map for *C. grossa* on the hoverfly website. Plants infested by *C. grossa* are generally easy to recognise as they are multiple stemmed and the larvae are usually close to the base. Those affected by *C. albipila* are less consistent and can be multiple stemmed or can be just much thickened single stems. Now and then we were met by a much-perplexed frosted orange *Gortyna flavago* larva. Borings further up the stem indicate something else – maybe *C. fraterna* but we failed to identify these.

Our journey north, and also our subsequent return might give this trip the sub-title: “a journey in search of *Cheilosia*” – for we made many stops and added considerably to the current records of both *C. grossa* and *C. albipila*. A note on finding these larvae has been put on the Hoverfly Recording Scheme website and we will write something for one of the journals when time permits.

On our first full day, Graham Rotheray introduced his daughter Ellen who is doing a PhD on saproxylic hoverflies (mainly *Blera fallax*) and gave us a fascinating presentation on her work. It is exciting to see how *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* can be encouraged by creating habitat, but at the same time it is worrying how few sites have extant populations – did I hear correctly – just five out of eleven known sites! *Blera* is even more threatened. Ellen showed us her *Hammerschmidtia* study site and even produced a specimen of the animal. This is a great project – just the sort of thing I’d have loved to do years ago (or now) – but I doubt I could achieve as much as Ellen has – we must book her for a DF AGM.

Whilst the highs were definitely Ellen’s hoverflies, we were saddened when Malcolm Smart had to depart early because his dog was taken ill again – it was the same one that had nose bleeds last year! This time things sounded a good deal more serious and Malcolm left us just three days into the trip. Graham Rotheray had an even more precipitous departure – a call from work around 8.30 in the morning and a three-line whip that he had to get back that same morning for a planning meeting! Mmmm – maybe this management style is becoming the norm – I can think of other places where such an approach might occur.

As might be expected, the Spey valley yielded a fine selection of Scathophagidae – it really is a major hotspot for this family. *Cordylura rufimana* turned up at several localities, and Stuart, Alan and I spent a happy hour looking for larvae in *Carex* stems in a sedge bed on the banks of a pool in Craigellachey NNR. We spent quite a bit of time looking elsewhere for larvae but met with comparatively little success. Insh marshes did yield lots of *Platycheirus*, especially *P. perpallidus*, and we were pleased to locate the reed-beetle *Donacia aquatica* in two ditches. One the beetle front, another goodie was the chafer *Cetonia cuprea*.

Whilst, the haul of Spey valley goodies was quite limited, it was entertaining at times. For example, several members found *Cnodophora stylifera* at the Nethey confluence. Darwyn Sumner went in search: the first time borrowing John Kramer’s wellies and then having to be physically extracted from them by lying on his back and John pulling (well they were a couple of sizes too small) – hopefully someone got a photo? This reminds me of the episode where Pooh-Bear got stuck in Rabbit’s front door! Following this Darwyn went in search of a pair of wellies and returned with the most expensive pair possible, plus a portable table that can only be a cake stand – great entertainment for all except poor Darwyn who could not quite understand what the mirth was about!

On the subject of noteworthy episodes, our renowned horse-whisperer (chaser of bot flies) was found to have succumbed to the need for more food after a full supper. Down to Aviemore went our intrepid and peckish hero – a little deep-fried haggis for afters!!!! To cap this the lure of deep-fried haggis beckoned the following day mid-afternoon but this time with a fried fish aperitif. It is a good thing that he has a sense of humour because this goes down in the annals of DF as a legend in the making.

As usual, the list of records is likely to take a while to trickle in. Highlights include plenty of records of the spectacular Asilid *Laphria flava*. The Peterborough Mafia caused a certain amount of amusement by investigating a fallen pine near the road: several members commented upon Alan having been spotted disported on the trunk as he photographed exuviae. This tree also yielded a *Clusiodes* (probably *C. caledonica* – which Keith Alexander took elsewhere).

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Alan Stubbs closes in on the exuviae of *Laphria flava*

Seventeen years ago, Alan Stubbs added the hoverfly *Sphagina siberica* to the UK list whilst on a DF meeting in Skye. This year it was widely abundant on both our outward and return journeys. We already knew it was really widespread in Scotland but no-one was expecting it to occur at the ski-lift carpark on Cairngorm at an altitude of over 2,000 feet. Well, it did – and in numbers. This would seem to indicate upward movement and I understand that similar high altitude experiences have been noted by the Malloch Society at other locations: *S. siberica* it appears is a highly mobile species, which is to be expected given the place it was first recorded.

An account of this year's meeting would not be complete without a note on Andy Grayson's successes – he is an expert on catching horse flies and also deer bot flies – this year's haul included several examples of one of the deer bot flies (*Cephenomyia sp.*). Moreover, he noted lots of *Hybomitra distinguenda* and *H. montana*. Most of us saw but a few solitary individuals whilst Andy counted twenty plus round his car on occasions – how does he do it? His haul also included the Conopid *Physocephala nigra* – a species which appears to be most frequently encountered in Scotland.

I hope this provides a brief flavour of the trip. We were greatly pleased to have several newer members join us, which is really encouraging. The meetings are wholly reliant on members taking part and my impression is that everyone had a very pleasant time. I'm now hard at work organising next year's meeting, which will be in Swansea – 4 to 11 July.

.... And the winner of the Honey-pot Challenge – Richard Underwood.

More in due course but do keep an eye on the DF website for field meeting: details at www.dipterists-forum.org.uk.

Roger Morris

More comments and records from the 2008 summer field meeting to the Cairngorms, (Aviemore area)

Following on from the reports penned by Roger Morris and John Kramer, my findings and the results of a request for some recollections from other attendees follows. This makes the point that important flies were found, but that these meetings are not all about flies. Several non-Dipterist partners attended and wildlife watching of all sorts was the order of the day.

Personally I did at least as much botany, mycology and landscape appreciation as catching Diptera. Botanically I met for the first time Dwarf Cornel and Chickweed Wintergreen in flower and encountered again my favourite thistle – the tall, elegant Melancholy Thistle. Why isn't it a garden plant, gracing every suburban herbaceous border? However my main fly aim for the week was to concentrate particularly on collecting fungus gnats and Anthomyiidae, as experts Peter Chandler and Michael Ackland had expressed interest in seeing specimens from this upland locality. Now that time has elapsed for identifications, the results are more interesting than I could ever have hoped for.

I was particularly pleased to see the special upland Aspen fungi and fauna shown to me by Scottish Dipterist, Iain MacGowan, in the Mains of Tulloch area. The lichens on every tree and rock were amazing (wonderful clean air). Despite cool and windy conditions I was able to see *Homalocephala biumbrata* (RDB1) displaying its black and white patterned wings on the bark of a fallen aspen log. This species is a Ulidiid which breeds in the rotting cambial layer under the bark of freshly fallen aspen, the same larval habitat as the more famous, orange brown, BAP Aspen Hoverfly, *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*.



The favourite experience of the week for quite a few people was the chance to see live examples of this Aspen Hoverfly. Near one of its breeding sites Malcolm Smart took *Xylota tarda*, a local and scarce species that may be specifically associated with poplars. Several others mentioned also memorable encounters with the large, spectacularly hairy, bee mimic Asilid, *Laphria flava*, which breeds in pine logs in ancient pine forest. Apparently the *Laphria flava* and *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* were worth the trip on their own according to Mick Parker! (I missed both).

Alan Stubbs and I were lucky enough to be shown by Iain the work of the Scottish Dipterists in encouraging the breeding of

another rare hoverfly, *Callicera rufa*, confined to ancient pine woods such as the Rothiemurchus Forest in Scotland. The larvae need water filled cavities in pine trees and stumps. Stumps in the correct condition (formed when a pine tree snaps off a few feet from the ground) are a limited resource, so artificial breeding homes have been created in areas that pines had to be felled for other reasons. We saw pine stumps with a hole skilfully sawn from the centre with a chain saw and then filled with pine chips and rain water. In the stump, whitish larvae could be seen swimming about in the viscous slime which had developed around the pine chips (which was a bacterial growth upon which *C. rufa* larvae feed). Some photographs of these stumps are to be found on the DF website in the gallery section on larval rearing.

Fungus Gnats that I swept from sites throughout the week and subsequently passed on to Peter Chandler revealed 44 species, the most remarkable of which was *Rymosia speyae*, swept from flowering cow parsley and buttercups from the Cairngorms ski centre car park and under the chair lift at an altitude of 700m. This is only the fourth record ever of this gnat, which has Vulnerable status. It has not yet been found outside Britain (previously recorded only from Caernarvonshire, Aberdeenshire and Easterness in the Insh Marshes). Peter comments that it took its name from the Insh Marshes so this Cairngorm upland site is surprising.

Michael Ackland comments that my catches revealed 27 species of Anthomyiidae in total, the most excit-

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ing of which were 2 males and 2 females of *Paregle atrisquama* Ringd., captured by sweeping Buttercups and Cow Parsley flowers under the chair lift and around the car park of the ski centre at 700m (see more on this species in the Anthomyiidae newsletter in this edition). Also of interest was *Pegomya tabida* Mg., from Loch Morlich, swept from grass and ferns in birch and pine woods behind the campsite and beach. This is a little known species, of which Michael had previously only a male caught many years ago.

Samples from my sweepings given to Dave Gibbs revealed the following Pipunculids:

Pipunculus tenuirostris from Glenmore Lodge and Loch Morlich pinewood, grass, and bog with bilberry; *Dorylomorpha albitarsis* from Glenmore Lodge pine and bog and *Cephalops varipes* from the Insh Marshes aspen woodland with grass.

Roy Crossley reports that he found the following empidooids worthy of note:

Hilara abdominalis (Nb), a new species to him which is a widespread but local species of the Scottish Highlands and for a *Hilara*, a very distinctive fly. Single males were taken at Uath Lochan – in neighbouring woodland; Nethy Bridge – ex tree foliage overhanging the river; Cairngorm itself ex shrub foliage where the path up from the car park crosses a stream. Another good collection was *Rhamphomyia trigemina* (Nb). First reported from Aviemore in 1959, this species is still known only from the Spey Valley. Also easily mistaken for one of the common species of the sub-genus (*Holoclera*). He took a single female by the R. Spey at Aviemore.

A single male of *Argyra elongata* was swept ex emergent vegetation at Loch Morlich. A scarce species, of which Roy had only taken examples on two previous occasions (Whixall Moss NNR -Shropshire and Askham Bog, York), so was pleased to find it.

John Showers commented: I took *Tipula montana* in a wet flush at the base of the slope above the Northern Corries at around 3000 ft. It is a really handsome crane fly. Alan Stubbs has the specimen. It was a glorious day when Stuart, Roger and I climbed up there from the ski lift car park. Other highlights of the day were Fly Orchid in the Northern Corries, Alpine Lady's Mantle and Globe Flower on the corrie slopes. On the shore of Loch Morlich I took the hoverfly *Sericomyia lappona* for the first time and also had the luck to watch an otter catching fish just off shore. Several Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries graced the woodland glades, whilst, close to Glenmore Lodge, I found *Platycheirus ramsarensis*. At Uath Lochan a large horsefly sitting on the boardwalk turned out to be *Hybomitra montana*, another first for me.

The week was great fun in a wonderful location. "My wife, Sarah, was so pleased to find everyone welcoming to a non-dipterist. We did sneak off one day to watch the Bottle-nosed Dolphins in the Moray Firth. I would recommend the field meetings to anyone." says Roy

Andy Halstead details flies, beetles and the sawflies for the Honeypot challenge:

A male *Loxocera sylvatica* (Psilidae) that he took from the Rothiemurchus Estate and a female of the same species, from Abernethy Forest were exciting to Darwyn Sumner for the Stilt and Stalk Recording Scheme. There were some nice beetles – *Anastrangalia sanguinolentus* (Cerambycidae) from Glenmore Lodge; *Cryptocephalus sexpunctatus* and Orsodacne cerasi (Chrysomelidae), in an un-named piece of woodland at Speybridge. Sawfly records totaled 50 species recorded during the week, encouraged by the Honeypot Challenge (Richard Underwood won with the score of 37 points). This is a relatively low number of species and no great rarities were taken. Some northern species were among those recorded, including *Heptamelus ochroleucus*, *Tenthredo mioceras* and *T. olivacea*. On 3rd July Andy climbed 3300ft up Cairngorm, where he took the montane species, *Pachynematus clibrichellus*, before making a mini-snowman from the snow still lying on the upper slopes. The black mountain moth, *Glacies coracina*, and the moorland pond skater, *Gerris costae*, were also seen there. Sadly there will not be a Honeypot Challenge at the 2009 Swansea meeting, as the dates clash with the Hampton Court Flower Show which Andy will have to attend instead of joining us.

As to the whole Cairngorms area – I can't wait to get back there (even if it does mean another 14 hour journey back on the train). There is limited space for photographs of the trip here, but there are more in the 'Meetings' section of the Gallery on the Dipterists Forum website, so do have a look. So there are loads of good reasons to come on a summer field meeting. Remember the flies will be good, but the meetings are not all about flies! To all those who enjoyed the trip with me, remember Roger Morris would like your species records as soon as maybe.

Judy Webb

Abergavenny Autumn Field Meeting 10-15th October 2008

A very pleasant bed and breakfast venue in this South Wales centre enabled trips to a wide range of interesting habitats around Abergavenny and by good luck; we had two warm sunny days to start us off. As always, a good social time was had by all in the hostelrys of the town during the evenings. This was a four day meeting, but I had to leave after the first two days, so the following is just a flavour of the experience and not a comprehensive account.



Erica and her big pooter

Most who come on this event are after particular groups of flies (my particular interest being ones that breed in fungi) but Erica McAlister and Kim Goodger from the Diptera section at the Natural History Museum were after all families with their impressive battery powered suction sampler. So quiet compared to the D-Vac suction samplers and with very gentle suction, so that individual flies can be sucked off leaves with no damage.

Encouraged by good weather we started on the Saturday some way up the Black Mountain (Mynydd Du) and stopped off at various points down a river valley looking at birch and alder woodland. The sun shone, flies flew and I was impressed by the beauty of the place –tumbling

stream and trees dripping with mosses, lichens and ferns. At Coed y Cerrig an ancient glacial overflow channel area had an impressive alder carr and swamp woodland adjacent to slopes with hazel coppice. Near Pont Rhys Powell, in fields adjacent to the river, I saw some of the oldest alders I have ever seen and a particularly spectacular large veteran oak with a wild honey bee nest in the base (see the photo in the Dipterists Forum website Gallery).



Weird things at Aber Cwm Clydach

The following day had again brilliant sunshine and we visited habitats ranging from wet alder/oak/birch woodland to the completely different habitat of beech woodland on steep limestone hillside at Cwm Clydach NR. This was one of the best sites for me as beech is one of the best trees for finding a large number of mycorrhizal fungi associated with the roots – there were spectacular numbers of the spiky hedgehog fungus and large clumps of weird coral fungus. A complete change again as we headed to the acid treeless uplands. Near Keeper's Pond (Pen Ffordd Goch pond) on the Blorenge, there were spectacular views, but not many flies in the rush/grass/

heather turf, so I had help from others to search for the attractive wax cap fungi which characterise such low nutrient grasslands. Whilst searching, that battery suction sampler just tipped Erica off balance and if it had not been for Peter Chandler, she might have rolled all the way down the mountain....

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I left on Monday, but I understand the next two days were good as well; however the weather gradually deteriorated and became less useful for collecting.



Chris Spilling, Keith Alexander and Howard Bentley stop for a map break

I didn't even take my net, instead along went my fungus foray basket and a heap of fungus identification books. I came away with more than 20 pots of fungus caps set up to rear Diptera. These ranged from golden honey fungus, sulphur tuft and shaggy pholiotas to clouded agarics, huge clumps of coral fungus, spiny hedgehog fungus and even the tiny bright red grassland wax caps (*Hygrocybe* sp.). The next 3 weeks at home were quite a busy time emptying the pots morning and evening as flies emerged. Even though the reared flies might have already been recorded in the sweeps, rearing reveals food preferences that might be completely unknown.



The Abergavenney veterans with Kim and Erica

All who caught fungus gnats during their sweeping passed them to Peter Chandler. He tells me that these catches, along with the results of my rearings from toadstools collected, resulted in the total of 119 fungus gnat species recorded for the whole event, which is a pleasing total. A couple of Nationally Scarce gnats recorded were *Mycomya pectinifera*, found at Blaen y Cwm and *Keroplatus testaceus*, found by the River Usk. All these records have added to the set that are now at BRC being digitised and thus are contributing to the future atlas.

Platypezids, those flat-footed specialist fungus-breeders, were few, but a female of the Nationally Scarce *Agathomyia lundbecki* was swept at Blaen y Cwm. There were plenty of Platypezid larvae in the rotting Honey Fungus (*Armillaria*) toadstools I took away, but alas, it looks as though they are now waiting until next spring to emerge.

Judy Webb

Dipterists Day

Report on the Dipterists' Day and Annual General Meeting at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff 22 November 2008

Thirty-three members were present when our Chairman, John Ismay, opened the meeting at 10.30am and introduced our host Adrian Plant. Adrian welcomed everyone and, after going through some safety information, outlined the programme for the day. Unfortunately Graham Rotheray had undergone a dental operation which meant that he was unable to deliver his talk about *Copestylum*. This meant that we would have three talks in the morning, instead of four.

Adrian remained on his feet to start the programme of talks, the first part of which was on Recent Developments in the Systematics of the Empidoidea. There are about 700 Empidoid species in the UK, and about 12,000 species world-wide, representing about 10% of the Diptera fauna. Phylogenetically, they occupy a position between the primitive and the higher Diptera. The earlier taxonomic work by Melander (1928), Collin (1961) and Chvala (1983) was then touched upon. The latter worker used few species from the southern hemisphere in his taxonomy and the modern synthesis (Sinclair and Cumming 2006) includes these species together with evidence from DNA.

Adrian then went through a diagram (cladogram) showing this latest taxonomy relating the four British families, Empididae, Hybotidae, Atelestidae, Brachystomatidae (with three species, a new family in the UK), and Dolichopodidae sens lat. He highlighted the demotion of the Microphorinae to sub-family status within the Dolichopodidae, and said that, although the groups within the Empididae (Hemerodromiinae, Empidinae, Clinocerinae) were strong, the evidence that the groups within it form a coherent family is weak.

For the second part of his talk, Adrian went on to describe the progress with the Empid and Doli Recording Scheme. He showed maps of the 10k squares from which records had been obtained, and also the density of records and said that there was tendency for records to reflect the distribution of recorders rather than of flies. A graph, plotting number of records against ranked species, showed the usual steep fall from a relatively small number of commonly recorded flies to a large number of much less frequently recorded species. Adrian then went through some of the distribution maps to show examples of those species which were widespread, and those with northern, north-western, southern, eastern, and coastal distributions. He also showed species which correlated with different soil types based on calcareous and peaty substrates. The maps showed some disjunctions which call for an explanation.

Adrian went on to show changes in the abundance of records of *Rhamphomyia longipes* over time, and showed the goodness of fit with the climatic cycle known as the North Atlantic Oscillation.

However, more data is needed and especially historical data from field notebooks and from the literature. Very little work has been done on larval soil habitat requirements. Also an Organiser/Recorder is needed for the Dolichopodidae, so keen members, please volunteer !

The second talk was given by **John Manlove on Forensic Entomology**. John introduced himself and his company, Manlove Forensics, and went on to give a brief history of the subject. He said that the first documented case occurred in China about a thousand years ago.

He then described the use of Calliphorids and Phorids (scuttle flies) to try to determine the Post-mortem Interval. The presence of different species of Diptera could also shed light on the transport of a corpse. Maggots may also be analysed for narcotics, and a DNA profile may be obtained from maggot gut contents.

John described the limits of some of the assumptions made regarding the ovulation habits of flies, and said that caution was always necessary when making deductions from evidence. One example he quoted was of the discovery of a cold-tolerant population of Calliphorids that layed eggs well below the accepted threshold of 10°C, and another was of *Lucilia* which laid eggs in daylight. He also said that there could be big variations in the pre-ovulation delay which depended, among other factors, on the amount and nature of food and drink present in the corpse.

After a coffee break the final talk on the programme was given by **David Clements on the results from the Conopid Recording Scheme**. He said that there are about 10,000 records of the UK species currently in Mapmate, and went through the British list to highlight the useful characteristics. Dave offered a pdf of the key, and reference list, to help members with identification and said that there are now a lot of new synonyms, a list of which would be published in the Bulletin.

There is a need for more work since there are very few specimens of the rarer species available in museums. *Conops vitellinus*, and *Leopoldius coronatus* are not yet on the British list but are European species to look out for.

In the study of larvae of the Conopidae there is evidence that the behaviour of parasitised bees changes. They seem to keep away from the hive, and because they are cooler as a result, both they and the parasite live longer. The adult bees also forage flowers which need the expenditure of less energy.

As an extra item **Stuart Ball** then gave a short but very interesting presentation of data on the **changes in hoverfly populations from two gardens**. Dr Jennifer Owen ran a Malaise trap in her garden in Leicester

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for 30 years, (see “The Ecology of a Garden”, 2005, Cambridge University Press) and Alan Stubbs has been using a transect walk to record hoverflies in his garden in Peterborough since 1991 (see DD.10, 1991). Stuart presented results from these two sources to show the changes in the number of individuals and species of hoverflies recorded each year. There was a significant fall in both cases in the total numbers caught per year and also in the number of species recorded - by 1 species every 2.4 years in Owen’s case and 1 species every 3.2 years in Stubbs’ garden. Neither data set showed any significant change in diversity (measured by Fisher’s alpha) so it seems that the drop in the number of species observed was consistent with the reduced total number of hoverflies.

John Kramer

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Dipterists’ Forum held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, at 3.00pm on Saturday 22th November 2008.

Chair: John Ismay. About 32 members were present.

1. Apologies were received from Howard Bentley, Peter Boardman, Simon Hayhow, David Heaver, Alan Stubbs and Chris Spilling.

2. Minutes and Matters arising.

The minutes of the AGM held at the Hunterian Museum (Zoology), Glasgow University, on Saturday 24 November, 2007, as printed on p34, in the Spring Bulletin, 2008, and distributed at this AGM, were accepted unanimously by the meeting as a correct record.

3. Secretary’s Report - John Kramer

Forum meetings have continued to be well-attended. These included our Spring Workshop (7-9 March 2008) at Preston Montford, where there were two courses, ‘An Introduction to Diptera’, led by Stuart Ball and Roger Morris, and a workshop on Tachinid flies, which was led by Chris Raper and Matt Smith.

Although the original, advertised destination for the Spring Field Meeting was to be Swaledale, we were unable to find suitable accommodation, so it was switched to Lincoln at the last minute. About 12 members attended. Lincolnshire Lime Woods were visited on the Saturday and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR on the Sunday.

Twenty-eight members and wives attended the Summer Field Meeting (28 June – 5 July 2008), based at Glenmore Lodge, near Aviemore, in the Cairngorms, where the weather, although cloudy and blustery, at least enabled us to collect every day. We were pleased to welcome to the Field Meeting, as new Dipterists Forum members Kim Goodger and Erica McAllister from the Natural History Museum. I hope that we can continue to restore strong ties to that institution, which provided such an important home for the Recording Schemes at the birth of our group.

The Autumn Field Meeting, (11-15 October) was based at Abergavenny and attended by about eleven people.

The Committee met in March, July and November. Some of the topics discussed by us will be raised in the reports of individual Officers, and some are described below.

As can be seen from our list of proposed Officers, there have been some changes. Jon Cole, who was a member of the Diptera Recording Schemes in the 70’s, has retired as Treasurer to the Forum, after guiding our finances from the founding of the Dipterists Forum in 1994. Jon retires with our warmest thanks, and we hope that we can continue to draw on his considerable knowledge and experience for many years to come. He will be replaced by Howard Bentley who we welcome onto the committee.

David Heaver retired from post at the Abergavenny field meeting, and is replaced by Malcolm Smart, as our Indoor Meetings’ Secretary. David has done this important job for the Forum for ten years. We wish him well in his new job within English Nature, although it means that he now has less time available for Forum business.

Publicity and recruitment

Thanks to the continued excellent efforts of Mick Parker and Judy Webb, membership has continued to grow, and now stands at 328. The introductory courses run by Roger Morris and Stuart Ball all over the

UK have also been very effective. What better way could there be to recruit new dipterists? The increased membership has necessitated an increase in the print run of the Bulletin.

Publications

Apart from the Bulletin and the Dipterists Digest, there have been no additional Forum publications this year. Both the Digest and the Bulletin maintained a high standard and we hope to have overcome problems with recent late distribution dates of the latter. Peter Chandler, Alan Stubbs and Darwyn Sumner formed a small Publications Sub-committee to discuss the proposed publication of a revised Dipterists Handbook. Needs have been identified, including also, a replacement for the successful 'Flies of the British Isles', by Colyer and Hammond, last published in 1968. The Dipterists Forum website has also continued to develop and is an important way of supplying many of our needs.

Recording schemes

The Hoverfly Recording Scheme continues to set the pace. An updated atlas, produced jointly with the Scottish Hoverfly Recording Scheme, is planned for the International Hoverfly Workshop which will be held in the UK (probably in Glasgow) in 2011.

The BRC has been in the process of removal to their new offices in Wallingford, and this has had consequences for all of the active Recording Schemes.

The Cranefly Scheme has a membership of about 30 and is now into Newsletter 17. The Newsletters are improved in their colourful electronic format, available either from the Forum web-site or as attachments. Useful maps are now available on the NBN Gateway. (www.searchnbn.net). Peter Brown, our contact at the NBN is being replaced in the reorganisation and I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to him for the help that he has given to the scheme.

For the Fungus Gnats Recording Scheme work started last year to enter about 150-200,000 records from Peter Chandler's record cards, an estimated six months work, but, as far as is known, no fungus gnat records have yet appeared on the Gateway. Further data-entry will be part of a new contract, due to start in February and hopefully it will be completed by the end of 2009.

Simon Hayhow, organiser of the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme, has sent apologies for his absence, but is unfortunately unable to attend. During the Summer he secured help from Sally Rankin to convert data from Recorder 3, and Recorder 2002, to Recorder 6, so things are getting back on track. However, the records are currently divided between Simon, and the BRC, and so it is not yet possible to produce meaningful maps until these data-sets can be merged. This will happen once the move to Wallingford is completed. Simon requested that any new records be sent to him by the end of 2008.

Future meetings

The Spring Workshop will be held from 6-8th March 2009 at Preston Montford Field Study Centre, Shropshire. There will be a Beginner's Workshop - an Introduction to Hoverflies, and an Advanced Workshop on Picture-winged flies and led by Alan Stubbs, with other members leading on some families. The Summer Field Meeting will be based at the University of Swansea from from 4-11 July. Our next AGM and Dipterists' Days will take place at the Natural History Museum, London, on Saturday and Sunday, 28th and 29th November, 2009.

Points of Information were raised as follows:

Roger Morris commented that the Spring 2008 weekend field meeting, omitted from the Secretary's Report, was based in Lincolnshire and about 20 members attended. This has been amended above.

5. Treasurer's Report - Jon Cole

Prior to his retirement, and on the unavoidable absence of his successor, Jon presented his Account of Income and Expenditure to the Meeting. It was accepted unanimously. Jon said that, as last year, there was a slight loss over the year, but a healthy balance of over £13,000 still remained.

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6. Membership Secretary's Report - Mick Parker

Mick reported that there were currently 328 DF members and 306 DD subscribers.

(This amounts to 342 Individuals)

There are 52 new members this year, with 21 past members and 22 Dipterists Digest Subscribers still to pay their subscription for 2008. The figures may be broken down as follows:

Dipterists Forum & Dipterists Digest	: 291
Dipterists Forum only	: 37
Dipterists digest only	: 15
Total	: 342

Among these figures are some 221 Bankers Order Payers

Some 21 Dipterists Forum Members (Who were present during 2007) have yet to renew & are off the mailing list

A vote of thanks was proposed to both Mick and Judy for their work, and especially thanked for staffing the DF stand at the day-long AES and BENHS annual meetings.

7. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report –Peter Chandler

There had been 2 issues of the Dipterists Digest this year. Volume 15 Part 2 will consist mainly of Peter Skidmore's paper on 'The Diptera of the Western Isles' and will only otherwise include the checklist changes section. The Western Isles paper has been edited and returned to the author for final revision so it is hoped that it will be printed early in 2009. A request was made for photographs relevant either to Diptera or the Western Isles for the cover of the next issue. More copy is still needed for Volume 16, and members were invited to send in material.

An error in the printing of the last volume resulted in blank pages inside the front and back covers. Any members with such copies can exchange them by returning them to the Membership Secretary.

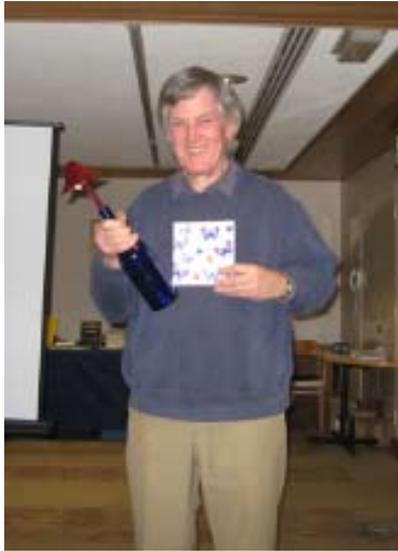
Peter thanked past authors for their work, and Mike Pugh for proof-reading the copy. Finally a request was made to exhibitors for notes on their exhibits, for publication in the Digest.

9. Election of Officers:

It was proposed by the Chairman, John Ismay, that the proposed Officers of the General Committee listed below be elected en bloc. This was agreed and the members elected unanimously, as follows:

Chairman:	Stuart Ball
Vice-Chairman:	John Ismay
Secretary:	John Kramer
Treasurer:	Howard Bentley
Membership Secretary:	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Secretary:	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Secretary:	Malcolm Smart
Bulletin Editor:	Darwyn Sumner
Publicity Officer:	Judy Webb
Website Manager:	Stuart Ball
Conservation/BAP Officer:	Barbara Ismay
Committee Members:	Alan Stubbs

After the election, John made two awards on behalf of the Dipterists Forum. The first, a valuable piece of conceptual art, was presented to Peter Chandler to commemorate the addition to the British Isles Checklist of the 7,000th species. The Chairman then warmly thanked Jon Cole on our behalf, for all his work as treasurer for 14 years. Both Peter and Jon were awarded Honorary Life Memberships as an expression of our friendship, gratitude and esteem. The new Chairman, Stuart Ball, then took the Chair. Stuart thanked John for all of his work on behalf of the Dipterists' Forum during his two years in post as Chairman. Stuart also thanked Adrian, and the staff at the National Museum of Wales for their work in organising the meeting.



Peter Chandler with his award



Jon Cole receives thanks for all his work from John Ismay

Any other business

1. Barbara Ismay noted that Jolyon Medlock would be initiating a Culicidae Recording Scheme in the next edition of the Bulletin. Also she said that there was a need for more work on the ecology of the RDB flies, in order to inform habitat management plans. She urged everyone to adopt an RDB species, if at all possible.

2. Roger Morris asked for £40 deposits for the Summer Field Meeting, from 4-11 July based at the University of Wales, Swansea campus.

The 2009 Field Meetings were currently being planned as follows: A Spring meeting based at Pickering in the first week in June, and a week long autumn meeting in Scotland in September, based at two centres, possibly Galloway and the Trossachs.

Other meetings discussed included Windsor, and the New Forest, Hallsannery in North Devon for July 2010, and a return to Glenmore Lodge in 2012.

3. The Spring Workshop: Malcolm Smart said that the prices for DF members were £155 for a single Room, and £135 for a shared room. An extra £75 is payable by non-members so the £15 subscription is well worth paying. Please book directly with Preston Montford Field Study Centre.

Please Note: Our next AGM and Dipterists' Days will take place at the Natural History Museum, London, on Saturday and Sunday, 28th and 29th November, 2009.

John Kramer
Secretary

Forthcoming Events Calendar 2009

DIPTERISTS FORUM MEETINGS & SELECTED MEETINGS FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- Check the Dipterists Forum website for changes and meetings added after publication of this Bulletin.
- 6-8 Mar 2009, DF Identification Workshops on Hoverflies or Picture Wing Flies, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury. See www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford
 - 14th March 2009, BENHS AGM and Presidential Address, Oxford University Museum, Oxford. See www.benhs.org.uk
 - 18th Mar 2009, Day of lectures 'Insects, Weather & Climate', Imperial College, London Univ. Organised by Royal Entomological Society and Royal Meteorological Society. See www.royensoc.co.uk
 - 16-17 April 2009 National Federation for Biological Recording - Conference in Gloucester "Volunteer development" and "Habitat Data" (check www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk)
 - 18th April 2009, Tachinidae identification Workshop, Dinton Pastures, Hurst, Reading. See www.benhs.org.uk
 - 18th April 2009, AES Members Day and AGM, Zoology Dept, Cambridge University. See www.amentsoc.org/
 - 30-31 May 2009, DF Spring Field Meeting – Pickering. Contact Roger Morris to book, 7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE, roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com
 - 4th July 2009, Insect Festival, York Museum and Gardens. Organised by Royal Entomological Society. See www.royensoc.co.uk/events
 - 4-11 July 2009, DF Summer Field Meeting – Swansea (Gower peninsula, S Wales Coast) Contact Roger Morris to book, 7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE, roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com
 - September 2009, DF Autumn Field Meeting – Southern Scotland. This meeting has yet to be fully organised. The intention is to run a two-centre meeting over a full week. Roger has yet to determine which would be the best week but this will be advertised on the DF website as soon as known.
 - 17th October 2009, AES Annual Exhibition and Trade Fair, Kempton Park, London. DF will have a publicity stand and publications for sale. Date will be on DF website as soon as known.
 - 7th November 2009 Worcestershire Entomology Day, organised by the Wyre Forest Study Group. Heightington Village Hall near Bewdley. MalcolmSmart@talktalk.net
 - November 2009, NBN (National Biodiversity Network) Conference. Usually second weekend in Nov. Date will be on DF website as soon as known. (at the time of going to press, NBN guessed it would be either 13th or 20th)
 - 14th November 2009, BENHS Annual Exhibition and Dinner, Imperial College, London. DF members invited to exhibit flies. www.benhs.org.uk
 - 28-29 November 2009, Dipterists Day and DF AGM, Natural History Museum, London. Details of programme on DF website as soon as known.
- Sundays on the following dates in 2009: 8th Mar, 22nd Mar, 26th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, BENHS Dinton Pastures Open Days, Hurst, Reading. Bring your flies; use the collections and library for identifications. See www.benhs.org.uk

Judy Webb

Details of the Dipterists Forum meetings

Diptera Identification Workshops 2009

To be held at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th March 2008

Do you know anybody who might benefit from some help in starting with the Diptera? If so, why not pass the details of the following on to them?



Beginner's Workshop – Introduction to Hoverflies

Led by Roger Morris & Stuart Ball

Arrive Friday in time for supper at 6.30pm - depart 4.00pm Sunday

A workshop which aims to help beginners tackle the hoverflies, those attractive and often gaily striped flies that are a feature of every flowery garden or road verge. It will explore the range and diversity of hoverflies in the UK, and give tips on how to find them, what you do when you find them, and how to tell what they actually are.

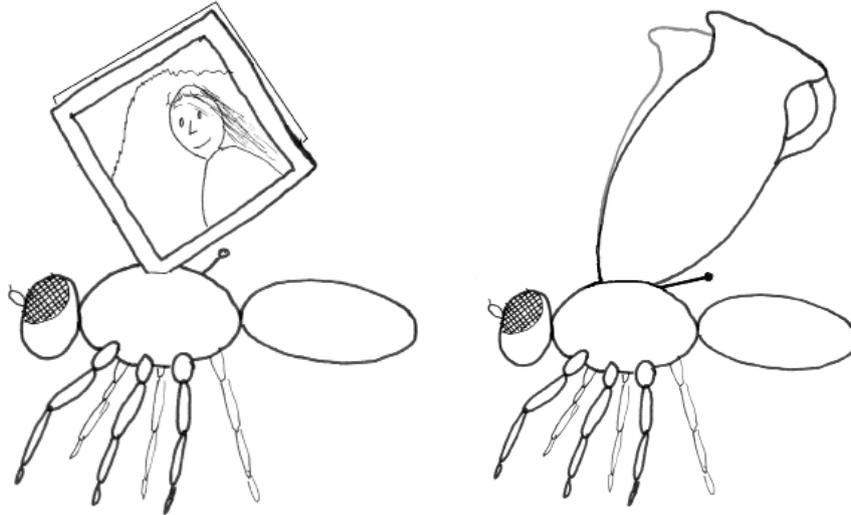
There will be presentations, followed by work on on a range of pinned specimens using microscopes. If the weather is fine and sunny, a foray into the garden for some spring hoverflies may be possible. If you already have some of your own pinned specimens or photographs, then you are welcome to bring them along. The course will take you through the stages of working out what kind of hoverfly is in front of you, and hopefully to identify the species.

All materials and equipment (microscopes, lights etc.) will be supplied by the Field centre.

Forum News

Advanced Workshop – Picture-winged flies

Led by Alan Stubbs with help from Martin Drake



Illustrations by Ken Merrifield

Arrive Friday in time for supper at 6.30pm - depart Sunday afternoon

By popular request this workshop will deal with flies in the families Tephritidae (75 species), Pallopteridae (12 spp.), Opomyzidae (16 spp.) and Ulidiidae (formerly known as Otitidae, 20 spp.) which include the majority of British flies with strikingly patterned wings. It planned to introduce new draft keys to the Tephritidae and Pallopteridae. There will also be reference to patterned winged flies in other families with which confusion might arise and how they can be recognised and identified.

The Tephritidae are a very popular family of acalyprate flies and it is quite practical to make good progress even as a beginner. Their larvae develop in plants as leaf, fruit and stem-miners or they form galls. One good way to record the group is to search for the host plants and look for the associated adult flies or early stages according to the season: a strong interface with botany potentially of interest to botanists as well as entomologists. There is an RES Handbook (White, 1988) but we shall be using a new user-friendly key. A recording scheme produces newsletters and has published an atlas (Clemons, 1996).

The workshop will follow the standard format of presentations, informal discussion and practice running through test keys, either with prepared material (flies from all the families provided) or flies you have brought yourself. If you have your own microscope, lamp etc. then please bring them along. The centre does have some, so don't feel that you cannot come along if you don't have them.

Fees & Booking Procedure for either workshop

Dipterists Forum members:

Single Room Resident:	£155 full board accommodation
Shared Room Resident:	£135 full board accommodation
Non-resident:	£72 incl. packed lunches & evening meals

Non Dipterists Forum members (fees include one year's membership):

Single Room Resident:	£230 full board accommodation
Shared Room Resident:	£210 full board accommodation
Non-resident:	£147 incl. packed lunches & evening meals

If you are not a Dipterists Forum member and wish to attend, note that it is well worth joining the Forum before booking as it will result in a considerable cost saving!! (contact Membership Secretary or visit DF website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk)

To book a place on either of these workshops please contact

Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1DX

Tel: 01743 852 040 Fax: 01743 851 066

Email: enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org

You will be required to pay a deposit of £50 (cheque payable to Field Studies Council) to the address above. Payment of the balance of the course fee will be due 30 days before beginning of course. Cancellation after this date may leave the customer liable for the full amount - a condition which is accepted when the booking is confirmed.

Malcolm Smart

Roger Morris reports: *I am still in the process of organising the field meetings but have the following scheduled:*

Spring Field Meeting Pickering 30-31 May 2009

Hopefully this year we will have less trouble organising a meeting in a popular place. This meeting has been scheduled for the weekend following the Bank Holiday. I am inclined to offer a third day – probably the Friday, if there are Members who would like a slightly longer break.

Expressions of interest needed as a matter of urgency, as I will need to organise guest houses. By the time this note emerges I should have provisional bookings in place – so first come first served!

Summer Field Meeting Swansea 4-11 July 2009

This is an excellent opportunity to visit a wide range of habitats on the Gower Peninsular and the South Wales coast. I have booked 25 places in the halls or residence at Swansea University. Hopefully we will fill all of the places. Costs will depend upon the type of room – we have rooms in a new block close to our workroom, canteen and the bar. The costs will be in the region of £46.50 per day inclusive of the workroom, but this is based on filling all 25 places.

Bookings, payable to Roger Morris, for £40.00. This is a non-returnable deposit that will be forwarded to the college with a booking of a room. A further payment of £100 will be sought six weeks in advance, with the balance payable at the meeting.

Autumn Field Meeting Southern Scotland – September 2009

This meeting has yet to be fully organised. The intention is to run a two-centre meeting over a full week. I have yet to determine which would be the best week but this will be advertised on the DF website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk. Expressions of interest at an early stage would be helpful to make planning the meeting more straightforward.

Roger Morris

7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE

Annual Meeting 2009 To be held at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London Saturday and Sunday, 28th and 29th November, 2009

This will be the first time that we have held this meeting in London since 2004 and we look forward to our return to that venue. It is planned to make it a 2-day event with identification workshops and other sessions on the Sunday. Full details of the programme will be published on the DF website (www.dipteristsforum.org.uk) when finalised and also of course in the Autumn Bulletin. In the meantime we ask you to make a note of the dates in your diary.

Malcolm Smart

Bulletin issues

How to contribute articles

Text

1. Articles submitted should be in the form of a word-processed file either on disk (3.5", CD or USB Flash) or via E-mail which should have the phrase "DF Bulletin" in the Subject line. Email text alone will not be accepted.
2. Please submit in native format and in "text-only" Rich Text Format (.rtf) and additionally send pictures in their original format. An accompanying print-out would also be useful.
3. Please note the width of the borders used in Dipterists Bulletin; for conformity with style would newsletter compilers please match this format.
4. **Do not** use "all capitals", underlining, blank lines between paragraphs, carriage returns in the middle of a sentence or double spaces.
5. Scientific names should be italicised throughout and emboldened only at the start of a paragraph,
6. Place names should have a grid reference.

Illustrations

Colour photographs are now used extensively in the Bulletin, they appear coloured only in the pdf (available from the DF website).

7. Please include all original illustrations with your articles. These may be suitably "cleaned up" but please do not reduce their quality by resizing etc..
8. Please indicate the subject of the picture so that a suitable caption may be included, in some cases it will be possible for the picture's name to be changed to its caption (e.g. 049.jpg becomes Keepers Pond NN045678 12 Oct 2008.jpg). All group pictures should identify all the individuals portrayed.
9. Powerpoint files may be submitted, they are a useful means of showing your layout and pictures are easily extracted
10. Line artworks are also encouraged - especially cartoons

11. Powerpoint files may be submitted, they are a useful means of showing your layout and pictures are easily extracted
12. Colour pictures and illustrations will be printed in black and white (uncorrected) and so it would be wise to see what a B&W photocopy looks like first
13. A suitable colour photograph is sought for the front cover (and inside front cover) of every copy of the Bulletin.

Tables

14. Tables should be submitted in their original spreadsheet format (e.g. Excel)
15. Spreadsheet format is also appropriate for long lists

When to send (deadlines) Spring bulletin

16. Aims to be on your doorstep before the end of February, contributions should therefore be made to the editor **by the end of December**, it will be printed then distributed half way through February in time for the March workshop meeting. Please note that the date for contributions is now 1 month earlier than for previous Bulletins.

Autumn bulletin

17. Aims to be on your doorstep in mid September, contributions should therefore be made to the editor **by the end of July**. It will be printed then distributed in time for final notification of the Autumn field meeting (although you would be well advised to contact Roger Morris before this time and consult the DF website) and in time to provide details of the Annual Meeting. Please note that the date for contributions is now considerably earlier than for previous Bulletins

Where to send

18. Would Bulletin contributors please ensure that their items are sent to BOTH Darwyn Sumner and Judy Webb

Newsletters

The following newsletters are printed as part of this Bulletin. They are additionally available as downloadable pdfs from the Dipterists Forum website or from the Newsletter editors, to whom all articles should be submitted. Would newsletter editors please be aware that items submitted to them may merit inclusion in Dipterists Digest (see Peter Chandler's article in Bulletin #67)

Anthomyiidae Newsletter #7 - Spring 2008

Cranefly Recording Scheme Newsletter #18

Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme Newsletter #2

Newsletter number 1 appeared in Bulletin #64

Hoverfly Newsletter #46

And now ...

Appropriate names

I find it difficult to come to terms with the fact that some dipterists sail through a key easily when I have been struggling for decades. Often the official name sounds innocuous, little reflecting my pain and under the breath muttered names I could give a wretched beast.

I have affinity with those who name flies with honesty: for instance *obscura*, *ambiguus*, *confusa*, *perplexa*.

However, beware of the deception in such names as *simplex*, which does not mean easy to identify but rather so simple that there are hardly any characters to go by. And how about the name *nigra*, which could apply to just about every other fly in the net. And what relevance are names such as *equestris* when the key couplet does not say 'looks like a horse' or 'ignore the horse but look for the red and black character on the dorsal surface'. And then there are flies named after people, but how am I supposed to know what Mr Bloggs looked like, and surely not like the fly before me.

Unfortunately, the Commission for Zoological Nomenclature has no mechanism for renaming species according to difficulty in identifying them. Why not? It would be far more relevant than swopping well used names for those of some half-mangled specimens found in a box not opened since 1066. In any case, surely we are running out of dead languages names. As an offering to 21st Century dipterology, I offer a new set of names that speak to the heart of the non-specialist.



abandonittia	abdabs	absurdochallengens	aganigans	anomynous
aspermultispeciosa	assendomuralis	avago	avoides	bingopreferans
canotbe	clunilorum	clulessens	confusosetosa	demandovme
detispreposterosa	dispiritans	dustbinia	excrucians	fiendishii
flumox	fooldya	frustracea	exasperorum	excrucia
givupia	grusomotestor	guestimatans	hopenilia	iffii
immedioabandans	impossibilis	isitia	kindovia	eveniffia
maydayi	mopbrow	nanominuta	minutonigra	neuroboggldii
nocturnoequella	nillikeli	nilfeaturans	neveragainia	nowstartagainans
obscuripheaturosa	pitime	sos	phlouneri	pseudosimplicia
pullalternipede	putacida	rackmyneurons	ruedetstartans	persperia
neopseudosimplex	ultrapseudosimplex	sortovia	striva	temporphuriosa
teaseme	tempostiffdrinka	trimetaphysics	tyuinotia	varisetosa
weepforme	whatisitia	yukia	ystartnow	tortura

For Scotland: kannaydoo, aghnooken

For Wales, llanfairpwllgwyngyllensis

For Ireland: mirargolepricornus

For those with a regional accent, such as Geordie, xzygfdvtzzghya: this is the phonetic version which in any case has no Latin or Greek equivalent.

Alan Stubbs

Forum News

Anthomyiidae Study Group

Newsletter 7

Spring 2009



The last newsletter for this study group was No 6 (February, 1998). Unfortunately since that date I have received few communications regarding the British species, and have myself been occupied with revisions of various genera of Anthomyiidae from other areas, mainly Afrotropical and European.

Reports of some interesting captures were sent to me by Ivan Perry. In Newsletter No 6 he recorded 2 males of *Paregle atrisquama* (Ringdahl) from the River Findhorn area and Bridge of Brown. The first British specimen of this little known species was recorded in the Entomologist's monthly Magazine, 1989, **125**: 220. This was based on the capture of a single male at Cwm Pydew, Merioneth, on 4 July 1987 by Jon Cole, whilst on his way to the Dipterists Forum summer field meeting in Bangor. Only a few male specimens of this species are known from Europe, and Griffiths in his Revision of the Nearctic Anthomyiidae, could only record in 2001 two male specimens from North America. In 2003 Ivan Perry found further males of *P. atrisquama* in the Cairngorms, Inverness-shire, Coire an t-Sneachda. Up to this time the females remained unknown.

When Judy Webb kindly offered to collect Anthomyiidae for me during the 2008 field meeting to Glenmore, I asked her if she would sweep vegetation and flowers in the area around the Cairngorm ski centre, and suggested that she put all the anthomyiids in alcohol. This would enable me to search through all the females in the catch, should any males be recognized. I was very pleased to find in this material two males and two females of *Paregle atrisquama*. The data is: Inverness-shire, Cairngorm ski centre, car park and under chairlift, NH989660, 4.vii.2008, J. Webb. Altogether Judy Webb collected 27 species of Anthomyiidae during the week, which will be added to the records for other families.

British Anthomyiidae study pack

These provisional identification keys to the British species, together with figures of almost all the male genitalia and some females, were originally available as hard copies. These proved to be difficult and expensive to distribute to interested parties. Later it became possible to put them onto a CD, which was available for a small postage charge. They are now available at no charge to download as PDF files, which are viewable using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. To download the files, go to tachinidae.org.uk/ Under Tachinids on the dropdown menu click on Anthomyiids and download the keys etc. Then email me at mackland@btinternet.com with your name and address, and I will send the password to open the files. This enables me to keep a record of users, and the email will include any corrections and errata.

Recent work on Anthomyiidae

At present there are (excluding China) only four dipterists working on the taxonomy of the Anthomyiidae of various regions: Graham Griffiths has been revising the Nearctic species since 1982. This monumental work has now reached 2635 pages, with only the large genus *Botanophila* and a few small genera still to do. This revision has many implications for the Palearctic region, as quite a number of species are common to both regions, and I have

found that several recently described Nearctic species also occur in Mongolia and Nepal. Verner Michelsen is currently publishing papers on new European species which have been overlooked due to rarity or confusion with already described species. Masaaki Suwa in Japan in 1974 produced the first authoritative work on Japanese Anthomyiidae, and has since then kept it up to date with many new species, and also revisions of Nepalese and Taiwanese species. I myself have published revisions (1995-2008) of the Afrotropical species of the genera *Emmesomyia*, *Anthomyia* and *Delia*. Some of the results of European investigations have still to be incorporated in the status of the British species.

Identification of Anthomyiidae

It is generally thought that species of Anthomyiidae are difficult to identify. This perception probably originated from the time when little consideration was given to the male genitalia. Schnabl and Dziedzicki were the first to figure the genitalia in 1911, followed by Collin in 1921 and Hockett in America in 1924. Previously it was common practice to group species into genera based on various chaetotactic characters; for example the common species now called *Pegoplata aestiva* (Meigen) was included in *Paregle* with other species possessing a strongly protruding mouth margin, such as *Paregle audacula* (Harris). But examination of the male genitalia shows that *aestiva* is clearly related to a monophyletic group which includes *infirma* (Meigen). The character of an anteroventral seta on the mid tibia, and a protruding mouth margin, which are present on *aestiva* but absent in *infirma* indicates that these characters are of no phylogenetic importance, at least in this instance.

I mention this because it explains why it is so difficult to write a satisfactory key to the genera of Anthomyiidae. In a sense one knows the genus when one recognizes the species! This is of little help to the beginner faced with an unknown species and a generic key which is difficult to use because the author has attempted to use external characters which are not unique to the genera. Emden's key to the British Tachinidae is a case in point, though one can understand his problem when one learns that he was required to write a phylogenetic key using 'artificial' characters. I have attempted to overcome this problem in my keys to genera by splitting some large genera into several artificial groups (for example *Delia* and *Botanophila*), which are listed as *Delia* 1 etc.

Initially I recommend dealing with males only, as females are somewhat more difficult, and attempt to run down the specimen in the keys, and if you arrive at what seems to be the correct result, examine the genitalia preferably by macerating the end of the abdomen until it is fairly transparent and transferring it to glycerol in a solid watch glass. With minuten pins mounted in wooden sticks (I use cocktail sticks), dissect the hypogygium and sternite V away from the other parts under the microscope. It should not be difficult to compare with the figures and check if you have arrived at the correct genus or even species. Once you have built up a reference collection of reliably named species, further study of the external characters of the species will make it much easier to recognize them without dissection.

Recording Scheme

There is no recording scheme for Anthomyiidae in operation at present. I have found that the entry of such data as I have into MapMate is a very time consuming process. No doubt this is the case for Recorder. In MapMate it is necessary to know the map reference, and in the majority of records taken from collections of Anthomyiidae which are reliably named, such as Assis-Fonseca's in the BMNH and the Verrall-Collin collection in Oxford, the data merely consists of a locality, date, and collector. The time taken in looking up the map reference, and then having to enter all sorts of other data such as status, determiner, habitat, administrative region etc, when all one wants to know is the approximate distribution of the species in the UK, is prohibitive. I would be interested to know how the existing recording

schemes manage this. If anyone is willing to undertake this work, I will send them all my MapMate records, and email them further records as they become available.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Ivan Perry, Judy Webb, Nick Riddiford, Barbara Ismay, Dave Gibbs, Patrick Roper, Ken Merrifield and Laurence Clemons, who have all sent me records in the last ten years. My apologies to anyone I have left out of this list.

Michael Ackland, 5 Pond End, Pymore, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5SB
01308 420254
mackland@btinternet.com

Cranefly Recording Scheme Newsletter

Newsletter 18

Spring 2009



Note on Winter Gnat names

The genus *Trichocera* has had few friends. A small, insignificant, scrag-end, a family of Tipulomorpha (or perhaps Psychodomorpha), the pragmatic approach was to acknowledge that a few species could be identified with confidence, and a name could be attached to most specimens providing they just happened to be a perfect match to the ideal. That idyll corresponded with reality in samples from some localities, whilst other localities seemed dominated by 'odd balls'.

Others have trod the lonely path before but over the last decade or so a few fool-hardy dipterists on the Continent have dared open wide the can of worms. The good news is that with better-refined taxonomy it has become possible to better define the boundaries between long-recognised species. The outcome is more good news, or yet more anguish, as the genus proves to be an ever larger one full of cryptic species. Scandinavia and the Alps/Carpathians are species rich, and it is likely that many more species are yet to be discovered, since many regions are still almost unrecorded.

The test key to *Trichocera* notes some extra taxa in Britain and the matter of a revised British list has met some urgency for a new Crane fly Recording Scheme record card. The following decisions have been made.

Trichocera (Saltrichocera) brevis Krzeminska, 2002 This is a split of *saltator* of the British list, most easily recognised in the female: ovipositor short in *brevis*, longish in *saltator*. These are black bodied species, the male styles with almost no hint of a basal tubercle. *T. brevis* is more modest in size than the average *saltator*. Both species are widespread in Britain.

Trichocera (Saltrichocera) Species A Though very distinct from other British species, a confident match with a described species has not yet been concluded. The voucher specimen is from Roxboroughshire.

Trichocera (Saltrichocera) Species V The designation refers to a broad V-shaped notch on the hind margin of the last sternite. The name *japonica* was floating as a candidate but this is no longer a serious option. *T. recondita* Stary 2000 comes close but the relative lengths of the male flagellar segments differ from British material. *T. implicata* Dahl, 1976 is supposed to have a rectangular rather than V-shaped notch, and is certainly a likely contender as a potential British species. British material has been found in the North York Moors National Park.

It is noteworthy that the two un-named species were found in northern districts. In the Oslo district the maximum species-richness occurred in December (a period with virtually no sampling in northern Britain).

Alan Stubbs

Photos of Craneflies

Regrettably the Cranefly Book is still on hold in late draft pending agreement with BENHS Publications Committee on final shape and content.

Meanwhile, more dipterists having been getting into digital photography. Since dried specimens of craneflies can lack luster, a better option may be field shots of live specimens. That supposes the opportunities arise and are taken. Thus please feel encouraged to help build up the DF website picture gallery.

Alan Stubbs

New record card available soon !!

Record cards can be a quick and legible way to enter records from a site, and these records can then be transcribed to Recorder using secretarial assistance without the need for expert knowledge of synonyms, possible abbreviations and variations in spelling. A new edition of the Record Card for Craneflies has been produced. Please let me know if you wish to use them and I can co-ordinate the order with the Biological Records Centre.

Grid reference	Locality						Date(s) from: _____
							to: _____
							Vice county
Grey cells for GPS users	Habitat						Altitude (metres)
							Source (circle one) *Source details
	Recorder						Field
							Museum*
						Literature*	
	TIPULIDAE	Tipula varipennis					
	Ctenophora ornata	Tipula alpium					
703	Ctenophora flaveolata	Tipula cheethami					
	Ctenophora pectinicornis	Tipula confusa					
	Dictenidia bimaculata	Tipula gimmerthali					
	Tanyptera atrata	Tipula grisescens					
	Tanyptera nigricornis	Tipula holoptera					
	Dolichocheza albipes	Tipula invenusta					

Wingate's Craneflies - Part I, Tipulidae and Pediciidae

In the previous Bulletin, Spring 2008, No. 66, I described my impressions of Wingate's Durham Diptera, 1906, and ended by wondering how his records from 100 years ago compare with those today. The aim of this piece is to provide some background to readers, especially those in northern England, who may re-visit Wingate's sites.

Thanks to June Holmes, Archivist of the Natural History Society of Northumbria, I can add a few more details to the life of the Reverend William John Wingate, though only a few. He

was born in Glasgow on the 19th August 1846 and occupied curacies in Gateshead as a young man. In 1884 he was a Vicar in South Shields and then later, for most of his working life, at St. Peters, Bishop Auckland. When he died in 1912 at the age of 66 he was vicar of South Hetton. In 1902 he was founder and Secretary of the Durham County Naturalists' Union, and donated collections of Marine Algae, Vascular Plants, Mosses, Coleoptera and Diptera to Sunderland Museum. He also donated 243 specimens of Diptera to the Hancock Museum, Newcastle Upon Tyne. His largest publication was his book, 'A Preliminary list of Durham Diptera, with Analytical Tables', in 1906. In his Obituary it says *'he was a good botanist, and a good geologist as well, and by his energy as an organiser and lecturer he did great service to the local scientific societies of the county of Durham.'*

Following my previous piece, Andrew Grayson drew my attention to his own paper in *Dipterists Digest* 2004, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp144-146, about the species of *Tabanus* recorded by Wingate. Andy recommended that I read Wingate's paper, 'Durham Diptera', in *The Naturalist* [28], 1903, (pp 269-288) where Wingate has included descriptions of some of his sites, (quoted by Andrew) most of them in Weardale, by the River Wear and its tributaries. I have done so and these descriptions are included in the list below, to which I have added grid references. Wingate also acknowledges help from some of the leading Dipterists of the day; Mr. Austen, Col. Yerbury, Mr. Collin, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Wainwright, Herr P. Stein, and Mr. Grimshaw.

Wingate used Schiner's *Fauna Austriaca*, published in Vienna in 1862, and it may be that he was helped with the translation from the German by 'Herr P. Stein.' He also probably used the keys in Verrall's papers and British Checklists of 1886 to 1901 to organise his work. Both Schiner and Verrall used dichotomous keys to identify species.

Wingate's sites where he collected craneflies were as follows:

- BC** **Barnard Castle** - NZ0516
- Bd** **Bedburn** - NZ 1032
- Bl** **Belburn** - River near Binchester. NZ 21649 31797. Strip of wood and stream below Auckland.
- BA** **Bishop Auckland** – NZ2228. 350ft. Practically the small plot of ground round the vicarage.
- Bo** **Bollinghope Common** - NY 9834 - 700-900 ft. A dale running into Weardale.
- Br** **Brancepeth** - NZ 2338
- D** **Deepdale** - NY 9615
- G** **Gibside** - North Durham. NZ 176589. 100 - 400 ft. Wooded estate (Snipes Dene Wood) on the River Derwent, about 7 miles south-west of Newcastle. (Wingate was vicar in this parish.).
- Ha** **Harperley** - NZ 17463 53017 400ft. Wooded Wear banks
- He** **Hesleden** - North Durham NZ 4438. Sea shore, flowery sea banks, sandhills, wooded dene and farm land, about 3 miles north of Hartlepool. Collected mostly during the holiday month of August.
- R** **Raby** - Near Raby Castle and Park: NZ 12893 21807
- SM** **Shipleigh Moor, Shipleigh Glen** - 400-700ft. Wooded glen with bog at the top.
- Sh** **Shull** - Near Consett NZ 07653 82487 600-900 ft. Pine woods with stream.
- St** **Stanhope** - NY9939 - 700-900 ft. Wooded dene.
- Wa** **Waskerley** - NZ 05092 45442. 700 - 1,300 ft. Wooded glen and moorland.
- We** **Wearhead** - NZ 17633 53397 1,000-1,500 ft. High dales and moors.

A Checklist of Wingate's species - Families Tipulidae and Pediciidae

TIPULIDAE

Genus NEPHROTOMA

- Nephrotoma analis* Schumm. BA/07/1902 – 1m
Nephrotoma appendiculata Pierre (as *maculosa* Mg) BA - 2f, Bo 06/1897-1901- 1f
Nephrotoma cornicina Linn. BA - 2m, Ha/06/1902 -1f
Nephrotoma crocata Linn. Bd/07/1902 – 2f
Nephrotoma flavescens Linn. (as *histrion* Fabre 1794) BA - 2f, He - 1m,3f, 08/1889
Nephrotoma guestfalica West. BA 07/1901 – 1f
Nephrotoma lunulicornis Schumm. BA – 1m, Ha - 1m, 06/1902
Nephrotoma quadrifaria Mg. BA 1F, He/08/1900 – 1m, 4f
Also *Pachyrhina annulicornis* Mg (Walker 1856) which may be *Tipula annulicornis*, ie *Tipula* (*Schummelia*) *variicornis*. Ha/06/1902 – 1m

Genus TIPULA

Sub-genus ACUTIPULA

- Tipula fulvipennis* (as *T. lutescens* Fab) BA/07/00-1m,SD06/02-1f,Ha/06/02-1m,He/08/02-2m
Tipula maxima (as *T. gigantea* Schrank) Ha/06/00-1m, Ha/06/02-1m Sh/07/02-1m.
Tipula vittata Mg Ha/06/00-1m, Bl/04/00-1f, R/04/00-1f

Sub-genus BERINGOTIPULA

- Tipula unca* (as *T. hortensis* Mg,) BA/06/1897-1901-2m, Ha/06/01-1f, Wa/04/01-1f, R/05/01-1m,2f
Tipula unca (as *T. longicornis* Schummel) BA/06/02-1m, Ha/06/1902 2m,2f.

Sub-genus LUNATIPULA

- Tipula fascipennis* Mg He/08/00-1m,Ha/06/02-2m.
Tipula lunata L (Probably *T.luna*) Ha/06/02-2M,2F
Tipula lunata L (as *T. ochracea* Mg) BC/06/00-1m, BA/06/1900-01-5m,1f.
Tipula peliostigma Schumm BA/06/02-1f
Tipula vernalis Mg Ha/06/00-1m, Bo/06/01-1f, Wa/07/01-1f, Bl/08/1898-2f.

Sub-genus PTERELACHISUS

- Tipula truncorum* Mg BA/06/01-1f
Tipula varipennis Mg We/06/01-2m, BC/06/01-2f

Sub-genus SAVSCHENKIA

- Tipula confusa* V.deWulp Sh/09/1900-2m, We/08/1901-6m,2f.
Tipula pagana Mg Sh/09/1900-4m
Tipula subnodicornis (as *plumbea* F) Ha/06/01-1m, Ha/06/02-1m, Bd/07/02-1m,1f.

Sub-genus SCHUMMELIA

- Tipula variicornis*
Tipula oleracea L BA/06/00-1m, He/08/1899-1f, common.
Tipula paludosa Mg He/08/00-2m,2f. We/08/01-4m,4f.

Sub-genus VESTIPLEX

- Tipula scripta* Mg We/08/01-1m, Ha/06/02-1m.

Sub-genus YAMATOTIPULA

- Tipula lateralis* Mg BA/06/00-2m, Bo/06/00-2m, Ha/06/00-1f, Wa/07/01-1f, He/08/00-4m,2f, We/08/01-2m.

PEDICIIDAE

- Dicranota bimaculata*
Pedicia rivosa

Tricyphona immaculata
Tricyphona unicolor
Ula sp.

The names follow Chandler P.J. 1998

Conclusions

Many of the records are common species that are widespread over the UK. The genus *Nephrotoma* is well represented in Wingate's list, and, if the identification is correct, it includes two records for *N. lunulicornis*, a very rare and local species of shaded, sandy river banks. (Stubbs 1992). Also *N. analis*, *N. cornicina* (RDB 3) *N. crocata* and *N. guestfalica* are all local species. Local species of *Tipula* recorded by Wingate are one female *Tipula truncorum*, and *T. subnodicornis*. No members of the Cylindrotomidae are on his list, but the local *Tricyphona unicolor* is a member of the Pediciidae worth noting. All of these records would be worth investigating next season, and his collection, currently not accessible, would be worth checking, once it is available again.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks to June Holmes, Archivist of the Natural History Society of Northumbria, who sent me biographical details and grid references of some sites that I was unable to locate.

John Kramer

Some Interesting Records

I received some interesting records from Ivan Perry from his field work in England and Scotland during 2008. Perhaps the best was of *Phylidorea bicolor*, a new British species, first recorded in the Lake District earlier in the year. Ivan's specimen was recorded from an ancient coppiced wood on calcareous clay, in west Suffolk. This species superficially resembles *Phylidorea squalens*. (See Alan Stubbs Test Key to the Sub-Family Limnophilinae, p16.) The site also provided habitat for *Diogma glabrata* (Cylindrotomidae), *Molophilus cinereifrons* and *Nephrotoma cornicina*,

Another good list was gathered by Ivan in the Aviemore area in early June, and this includes *Symplecta meigeni*, and the very rare *Tipula bistilata*. Also in the district were *Tricyphona unicolor*, *Hoplolabis vicina*, *Molophilus curvatus*, *Ormosia staegeriana*, *Pilaria meridiana*, *Dicranomyia distendens*, *Dicranomyia caledonica*, and *Lipsothrix errans*,

John Kramer

Does *Dicranomyia goritiensis* occur inland in the UK ?

In the last Newsletter #17 Geoff Hancock cited what seems to be a unique record of *Dicranomyia goritiensis* at an inland site. This prompted me to check on as many sources as I could. Firstly the map on the NBN Gateway (www.searchnbn.net) shows no inland sites. (I must ensure that both Geoff's inland, and Islay records are entered.) Then I checked the specimens in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, and the NHM, London. Again, there are no specimens from inland sites.

Why certain species are restricted to the coast may relate to a tolerance of factors which give them an advantage over competitors which are less tolerant. Perhaps the larvae of *Dicranomyia sera* are better able to tolerate saline conditions than others. However, *D. goritiensis* seems to thrive on cliff edges well above the sea, where there is seepage of fresh-water. Perhaps there is some salt spray, but from my experience of their sites, saline conditions would not seem to be part of their habitat requirements. So why are all records but one from coastal cliff edge sites? Again their unique response to factors in their habitat may confer an advantage. For example, perhaps a behavioural response by *D. goritiensis* to wind speed, restricting flight to very calm weather, may be beneficial. It may also be that they can better exploit the food resources there. The larvae are as yet unknown, but the food available would often seem to be roots of grasses, eg *Festuca*, alive or decaying.

All of this points to a need to explore similar inland sites. Well established quarry edges with seepages seem possible habitats, or better, a natural cliff, with higher land above, draining water into seepages, perhaps, as at the Spout of Ballagan with a waterfall. The mossy fringes of waterfalls are the habitats of the closely related *D. didyma*. Are there any inland habitats like that in your county? Under the over-hanging tussocks of grass it may be possible to sweep *D. goritiensis*. I found that it is better to disturb them with a stick in one hand, and then catch them with the net in the other as they fly up. There may be two emergences in the year, with modes in May-June, and another in late August-September.

If *D. goritiensis* is reluctant to fly and disperse, so that they are not easily blown away, and their cliff top seepage habitats are rare inland, this may explain why nearly all recorders have never found them away from coastal cliffs.

John Kramer

Leicestershire Cranefly Checklist

I have recently updated my checklist of Leicestershire Craneflies (see below). Many of the species listed (with asterisk) have only one record, and some others have only two, and so further confirmatory records would be reassuring. There are a few other biotopes to explore, such as the disused sand/gravel quarries, and undoubtedly more cranefly species will be added to the checklist in the future.

A Check-list of Leicestershire Craneflies

Compiled by John Kramer. January 2009

TIPULIDAE

*Ctenophora pectinicornis**
*Dictenidia bimaculata**
*Prionocera subserricornis**
Prionocera turcica
Nephrotoma appendiculata
Nephrotoma cornicina
*Nephrotoma crocata**
Nephrotoma flavescens
Nephrotoma flavipalpis
Nephrotoma guestfalica
Nephrotoma quadrifaria
Tipula fulvipennis
Tipula luna
Tipula maxima
Tipula vittata
Tipula unca
Tipula flavolineata
Tipula cava
Tipula fascipennis
Tipula lunata
*Tipula selene**
Tipula vernalis
Tipula submarmorata
Tipula varipennis
Tipula confusa
Tipula pagana
Tipula rufina
Tipula staegeri
Tipula oleracea
Tipula paludosa
Tipula scripta
Tipula couckeii
Tipula lateralis
Tipula pruinosa

CYLINDROTOMIDAE

Cylindrotoma distinctissima

PEDICIIDAE

Dicranota bimaculata
Paradicranota pavida
Pedicia littoralis
Pedicia rivosa
Tricyphona immaculata
Ula mollissima
Ula sylvatica

LIMONIIDAE

CHIONEINAE

*Cheilotrichia imbuta**

Empeda cinerascens
Crypteria limnophiloides
Ellipteroides lateralis
Erioconopa trivialis
*Erioptera divisa**
Erioptera flavata
Erioptera fuscipennis
Erioptera fusculentata
Erioptera griseipennis
Erioptera lutea
Erioptera squalida
*Erioptera verralli**
*Gnophomyia viridipennis**
Gonempeda flava
Gonomyia recta
Gonomyia simplex
Ilisia maculata
Ilisia occoecata
Molophilus appendiculatus
Molophilus bifidus
Molophilus bihamatus
Molophilus cinereifrons
Molophilus corniger
Molophilus griseus
Molophilus medius
Molophilus niger
Molophilus obscurus
Molophilus ochraceus
Molophilus pleuralis
Molophilus serpentiger
Molophilus undulatus
Ormosia hederata
Ormosia lineata
Ormosia nodulosa
Ormosia pseudosimilis
Rhypholophus bifurcatus
Rhypholophus haemorrhoidalis
Rhypholophus varius
Symplecta stictica
Symplecta hybrida
*Trimicra pilipes**
LIMNOPHILINAE
Austrolimnophila ochracea
Eloeophila maculata
Eloeophila submarmorata
Eloeophila verralli
Epiphragma ocellare
Euphyllidorea aperta

Euphylidorea dispar
Euphylidorea lineola
Limnophila schranki
Neolimnomyia adjuncta
Neolimnomyia nemoralis
Neolimnomyia batava
Neolimnomyia filata
Paradelphomyia fuscula
Paradelphomyia nielseni
Paradelphomyia senilis
Phylidorea ferruginea
Phylidorea fulvonervosa
Pilaria discicollis
Pilaria fuscipennis
Pilaria scutellata
Pseudolimnophila lucorum
Pseudolimnophila sepium
LIMONIINAE
Achyrolimonia
decemmaculata
Antocha vitripennis
Atypopthalmus inustus
Dicranomyia autumnalis
Dicranomyia chorea
Dicranomyia didyma

Dicranomyia lucida
Dicranomyia mitis
Dicranomyia modesta
Dicranomyia morio
Dicranomyia fusca
Helius flavus
Helius pallirostris
Limonia flavipes
Limonia macrostigma
Limonia nigropunctata
Limonia nubeculosa
Limonia phragmitidis
Limonia trivittata
*Lipsothrix nervosa**
Lipsothrix remota
Metalimnobia bifasciata
Neolimonia dumetorum
Rhipidia maculata
Rhipidia uniseriata
*Thaumastoptera calceata**

Ref: Chandler, P. (Ed) (1998) Checklist of
Insects of the British Isles. Part 1: Diptera.
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People and Historical Notes



Sir Christopher Howard Andrewes M.D. M.R.C.P. FRS. 1896-1988

While researching the craneflies from the Aviemore area for the Summer Field Meeting the name of C.H. Andrewes frequently occurred. Andrewes' collection of 15,000 specimens of Diptera was presented to the Natural History Museum in 1982. These included many craneflies collected in Scotland between 1945-1965 and especially in 1949 when, during May and June, he spent about a month in the area. Even in his obituary in the E.M.M. it says: 'No doubt other interesting species will be found in his collections, though care will be necessary in interpreting locality data as his labels are all handwritten and (as befits a medical man) almost indecipherable!'

Andrewes had an interesting life. Born and brought up in Mill Hill, London, the son of a pathologist, Sir Frederick William Andrewes M.D., FRS., he went as a student to Bart's and then served as a surgeon in the R.N.V.R. from 1918-19. He returned to Bart's, and then for two years worked in New York. From there he again returned to Bart's, but from 1927 to 1961 he worked at National Institute for Medical Research at Hampstead, in the field of animal and human virology. He became very eminent in that field and was, from 1947-61, the first Director of the World Influenza Centre. He was one of the team who discovered the influenza virus and became the first director of the Common Cold Research Centre at Porton Down. He retired in 1961 and from then lived at Coombe Bissett, on the edge of Salisbury.

During his days in London he got to know Ralph Coe, Cyril Hammond, Len Parmenter and others of that generation and while living there he recorded craneflies for the London area, especially in north and north-east London.

Both Andrewes and Len Parmenter lived close to the New Forest, after retirement, and they took on the task of working-up a Diptera list for the area. Parmenter assembled a card index of past and present records, though, regrettably, Parmenter died after a few years so the project lapsed prematurely.

His forte was being a good collector and Alan Stubbs persuaded him to leave his large collection to the NHM, rather than the local museum. When the collection reached NHM, and Alan went through the craneflies, there were a number of problems. (Lessons for us all!!) One such, coupled with the lack of det. labels, had been his returning of examined specimens in the wrong place in his collection. Another problem was his handwriting on location labels. Fortunately he wrote out an index of place names with grid references. One must remember that in those days most recording used to be by county, the use of grid references on data labels coming quite late in his time.

In spite of his busy life he also made a significant contribution to the study of Hymenoptera and his Hampstead records date from 1917.

Ref: 1989 Obituary EMM John Kramer and Alan Stubbs

European species of the subgenus *Brachylimnophila*.

In an important paper just published in *Entomologica Fennica* Vol 19, Jaroslav Starý and Herbert Reusch have proposed that the members of the subgenus *Brachylimnophila* ALEXANDER (Genus *Neolimnomyia* SÉGUY) be transferred to the genus *Dicranophragma* OSTEN SACKEN. After a considerable amount of work they state that 'the male terminalia of *Dicranophragma* are similar to those of *Brachylimnophila* to an extent that leaves no doubt that the two are congeneric despite the very different general appearance.' The species of *Brachylimnophila* are carefully re-described from the types and new names proposed as follows:

Neolimnomyia (Brachylimnophila) nemoralis (Meigen 1818) becomes *Dicranophragma (Brachylimnophila) nemorale*

Neolimnomyia (Brachylimnophila) separata (Walker 1848) becomes *Dicranophragma (Brachylimnophila) separatum*

Neolimnomyia (Brachylimnophila) adjuncta (Walke 1848) becomes *Dicranophragma (Brachylimnophila) adjunctum*.

In Alan Stubbs' Test Key to the Sub-Family Limnophilinae, p8-9, the subgenus *Brachylimnophila* includes the three species above, together with *Brachylimnophila minuscula*, and 'species A'. Verrall noted the variations within the 'nemoralis' group and Edwards, to try and make sense of this, proposed five varieties, including *Limnophila nemoralis* var *minuscula* in his 1921 paper. Like some other species of crane fly, it would seem that this is a polymorphic group, with similar genitalia, all forms of which can interbreed. What do you think? It is perhaps something for the next edition of 'Crane fly News'.

John Kramer

In the last edition of the CRG Newsletter I discussed the problem of separating the males *Euphyllidorea phaeostigma* and *E. meigenii* and Jukka Salmela has responded by sending the piece below about the differences between the females of these species.

Euphyllidorea phaeostigma (Schummel) and *E. meigenii* (Verrall) in Finland, including morphological notes on female terminalia

Jukka Salmela

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In this short article I will summarise the distribution and ecology of *Euphyllidorea phaeostigma* and *E. meigenii* in Finland, with notes on the female taxonomy. The data presented on their occurrence is based on my own collecting, covering all vegetation zones or ecoregions (hemiboreal, southern, middle and northern boreal) and main aquatic-semiaquatic ecosystems (mires, swamps, alpine wetlands, brooks, springs, Baltic coastal meadows) of Finland. In the collecting I have mainly used Malaise traps (over 300 localities) and I have also examined trap material collected by other Finnish entomologists. In addition, I have collected crane flies with a traditional sweep net. Although there still are poorly known regions and habitats in Finland, some conclusions on the Finnish crane fly fauna may be drawn, as presented here.

Female terminalia (8th sternite, hypogynial valves, 10th tergite and cerci) have been illustrated by Starý and Rozkošný (1969), but their vaginal apodeme is here figured for the first time.

Euphyllidorea phaeostigma

Euphyllidorea phaeostigma is common in Finland. It is distributed all over the country

(Fig.1.), its absence from the provinces lying in the border of middle and northern boreal Finland (Om, Ok, Oba) is most probably due to inefficient sampling. The species occurs in a wide array of moist biotopes, including spring-fed spruce mires, headwater brooks and their surroundings, aapa mires, ombrotrophic bogs, grooves and alpine wetlands. It is usually quite low in numbers (1-10 specimens in a Malaise trap within a season), but may be rarely abundant (ca. 30 specimens) around small brooks characterised by spruce mire vegetation. The species is common especially in the southern parts of the country, but decreases in frequency toward north Finland. *Euphylidorea phaeostigma* is a summer species, its flying season extends from June to August.

Euphylidorea meigenii

Euphylidorea meigenii is relatively scarce species in Finland. It has been recorded from southern, middle and northern boreal zones, but it is probably absent from the southernmost Finland (provinces Ab and N) (Fig. 2). The species is quite common in the northern boreal Finland, being present there around brooks, minerotrophic fens and alpine wetlands. In the southern parts of its range it is mainly found in fens and spruce mires. In fact, the species is probably sensitive to ditching and consequent drying of peatlands, and thus, it may be an indicator of good habitat quality and pristine hydrological conditions of southern mires. Like *E. phaeostigma*, *E. meigenii* is usually low in numbers (1-10 specimens), but it may be quite abundant (ca. 25 specimens) around alpine spring fens and headwater brooks in the northernmost Finland. *Euphylidorea meigenii* is a summer species, it is on the wing from late June to August.

Female terminalia of *Euphylidorea phaeostigma* and *E. meigenii*

Cerci and hypogynial valves are longer in *E. phaeostigma* than in *E. meigenii*, if assessed in relation to 10th tergite and 8th sternite, respectively. Coloration of 8th sternite of *E. phaeostigma* is dark brown with a longitudinal pale stripe in the middle (may not extend to the proximal margin); in *E. meigenii* 8th sternite is yellowish brown (pale and indistinct, longitudinal middle stripe may be present). Vaginal apodemes of the species also differ significantly (Fig. 3).

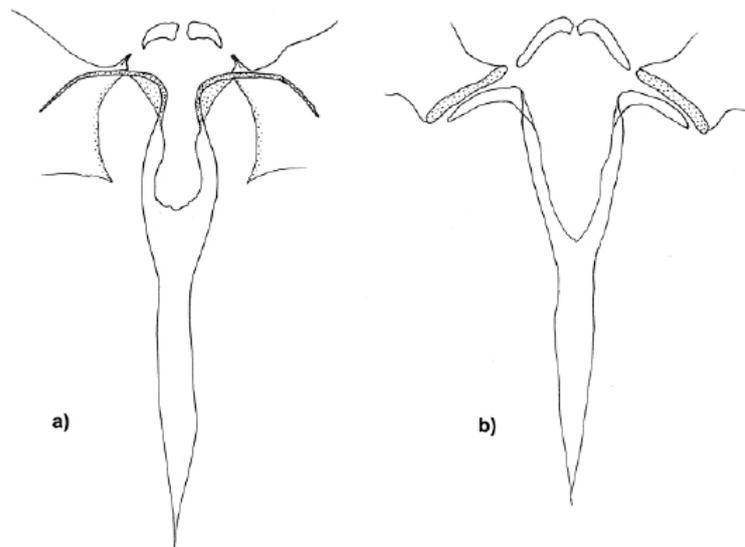


Fig. 3. Vaginal apodemes of *Euphylidorea meigenii* (a) and *E. phaeostigma* (b), ventral view

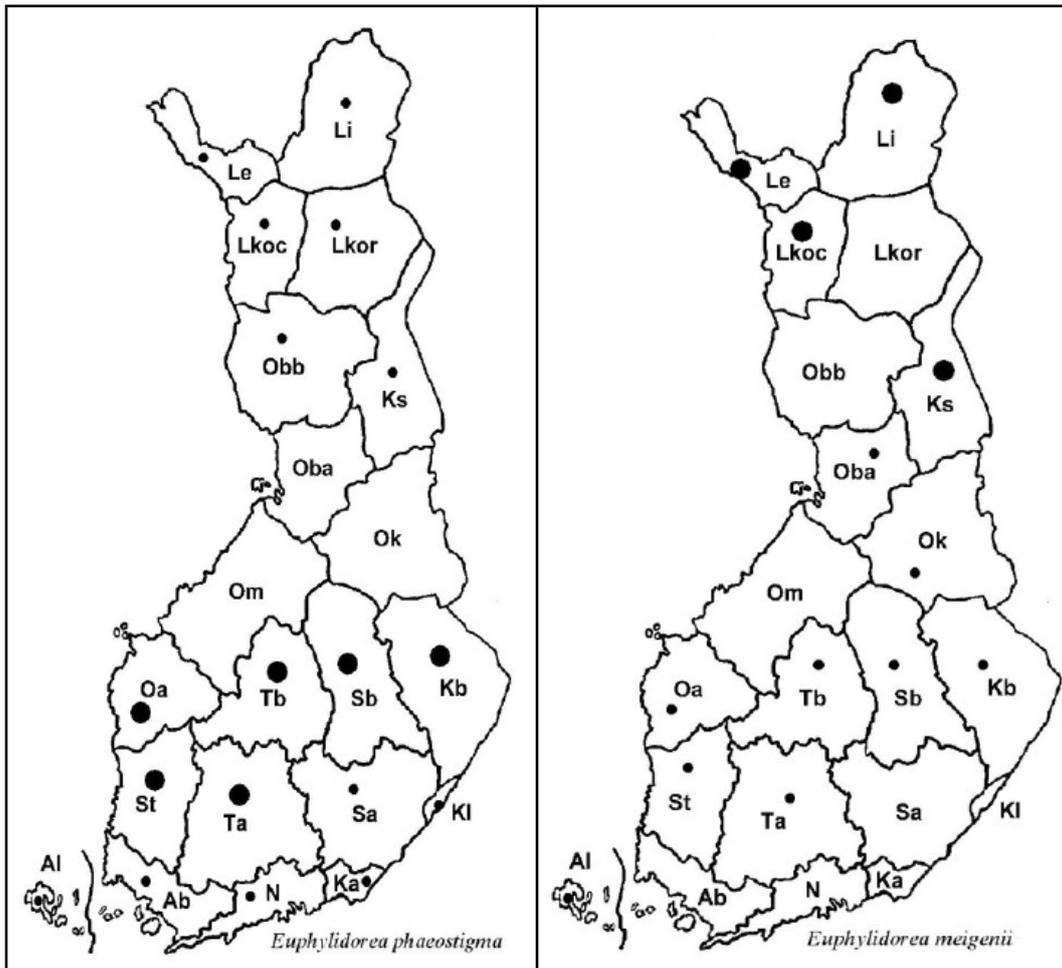


Fig. 1. Presence of *Euphylidorea phaeostigma* in the Finnish biogeographical provinces.

Large dot = ≥ 8 localities, small dot = 1-7 localities.

Fig. 2. Presence of *Euphylidorea meigenii* in the Finnish biogeographical provinces.

Large dot = ≥ 8 localities, small dot = 1-7 localities.

Acknowledgements. Sincere thanks to my wife Niina Sankari for the illustrations of female terminalia of *Euphylidorea meigenii* and *E. phaeostigma*.

References:

Starý, J. & Rozkošný, R. 1969: Die Slowakischen Arten der Unterfamilie Limoniinae (Tipulidae, Diptera). –Ac. Rer. Natur. Mus. Nat. Slov., Bratislava 15: 75-136.

Please note that the next copy deadline is July 31st for distribution in mid September.

Fungus Gnats Recording Scheme

Newsletter 2 Spring 2009



Progress on Distribution Maps. As previously reported BRC processed much of the data held by the Scheme during 2007 and produced provisional maps. Errors on these maps have now been corrected and electronic copies supplied so that interim distribution maps are now available where required to assist with ecological studies. The maps of most species with conservation status are relatively complete, although many records from the past 4 years, including the field meetings during that time, have yet to be input.

Some further input of data has now been done by BRC, who moved to Wallingford in 2008, and this will begin again and hopefully be completed in 2009. All specimens received by me during 2008 have now been checked. These and other records received have been passed to BRC and will be included on the final maps. I am grateful to all who have submitted specimens and records that have contributed towards the preparation of these maps.

Fungus Gnats of the Channel Islands. As the Channel Islands are included on the maps I have now also passed to BRC the fungus gnat data for these islands, nearly all obtained on Jersey by Tony Warne, so they can be covered. So far there are records of 94 species and no doubt many others still to be found. Among these are five species not known from the British Isles, although one of them *Leia arsona* has been recorded as an introduction and was included in the 1980 RES Handbook (Hutson *et al.*) on that basis. The other four species are *Keroplatus reaumurii*, which is widespread in Europe including northern France; *Sciophila corlutea*, a close relative of our *S. lutea*, otherwise known from the south of France, Corsica and Switzerland; *Clastobasis loici*, also known from Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Hungary and *Zygomyia matilei*, otherwise found in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Switzerland.

Handbook to Mycetophilinae planned. I have started the preparation of keys to the subfamily Mycetophilinae, the only group not covered by the existing RES Handbook (Hutson *et al.* 1980). Since 2003 Zaitzev's keys to the Russian species of this subfamily, published in English, have been available and enable most British species to be determined. In Bulletin No 60 (2005, pp 7-9) I drew attention to these keys, pointing out that 45 British species were not included and listed the additional papers required for their determination, but keys including all British species are still needed. Including the newly found species mentioned below there are 310 British species of this subfamily.

Draft keys have now been compiled and will be tested against specimens before making them available to other testers. A list of known fungus association records for this subfamily has also been compiled and cross-referenced to a systematic list of the fungi involved. I am grateful to Judy Webb and Brian Spooner for assistance with the latest fungus nomenclature. Judy should also be congratulated on her continuing success at obtaining new rearing records from her extensive samples obtained on field meetings.

***Mycetophila cingulum* needs to be re-examined.** Since preparing the above mentioned draft keys three more species of Mycetophilinae new to Britain have been discovered in material collected by Martin Drake, David Gibbs and Ivan Perry. These will be published in

due course but one species found by all three of these recorders should be mentioned here, i.e. *Mycetophila sigmoides*, which has been found at 7 localities in 6 counties in southern England since 2004. Although four of these records are from 2008, when it was first recognised in Britain by David Gibbs, a few specimens collected in earlier years, by Martin, Alan Stubbs and myself, have also been identified. This may, like *Greenomyia mongolica* reported last year, be a recent arrival here but there is a possibility that it has been confused with the widespread species *M. cingulum*, which it closely resembles. Apart from small differences in the genitalia, including a smaller ventral lobe to the gonostylus, *M. sigmoides* differs in having slender fore tarsi in both sexes while *M. cingulum* has the front tarsi with segments 2 and 3 a little enlarged below in both sexes. Having slightly swollen fore tarsi is not uncommon in the genus *Mycetophila* but usually restricted to females.

While *M. cingulum* is mainly specific to dryad's saddle *Polyporus squamosus* and has also been reared recently in the Czech Republic from another soft polypore *Grifola frondosa*, *M. sigmoides* develops in tougher brackets. According to Zaitzev (2003) it has been reared from *Fomitopsis*, *Daedaleopsis* and *Trametes* species in Russia, where it is only known in Siberia and the Far East. Both *M. cingulum* and *M. sigmoides* are Holarctic species but *M. sigmoides* has only been recognised to occur in Europe in recent years. It was first reported from the Czech Republic in 1996, Hungary in 2002 and more recently has been found in northern Italy, so it is now known to be widely distributed in central Europe and may be spreading.

Most earlier specimens identified as *M. cingulum* that I have so far re-examined (including some from Belgium, northern France and Croatia) have been found to be correctly determined, but other specimens in collections should be checked. Could anyone who has specimens of *M. cingulum* please check the tarsal character and let me know the result.

Nursery Gnats. In the previous Bulletin, No. 66, I mentioned in an article about the 7000th British fly that some fungus gnats of South American origin had been found in association with cultivated plants in nurseries in the Netherlands. These sometimes accompanied *Leia arsona* mentioned above, which is now a widespread species in regions with a Mediterranean climate. It had been suggested to be Afrotropical in origin though there has been no confirmation of this and it is equally possible that it originally came from South America. The latter is certainly true of the other four species concerned which belong to the genera *Lyprauta*, *Proceroplatus* (both Keroplatidae) and *Sciophila* although one of the two *Lyprauta* species is apparently new to science. A paper on these species has now been submitted and should appear in 2009. Given the proximity and the considerable trade in plants with the Netherlands it is highly likely that one or more of these species will be found to occur in the British Isles, if they are not already here.

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Peter Chandler

Hoverfly Newsletter

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A year ago the first electronic issue of this newsletter (no. 44) appeared, thanks to the initiative of Darwyn Sumner. This change means that colour illustrations can now be incorporated into these newsletters, and though the copy attached to the Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum that is mailed to members will still be in monochrome, the full colour version should be available online for downloading. I understand, however, that some readers have experienced problems obtaining the online versions of issues 44 and 45. Any readers who have not yet seen the full colour versions of these two newsletters are invited to contact me so that I can email them the PDFs. I wish to record here my thanks to Darwyn for his help in formatting the new-style newsletters and for putting them into PDF.

Articles and illustrations (including colour images) for the next newsletter are always welcome. Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 47** (which is expected to be issued with the Autumn 2009 Dipterists Forum Bulletin) should be sent to me: **David Iliff, Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HN**, (telephone 01242 674398), email: davidiliff@talk21.com, to reach me by 20 June 2009.

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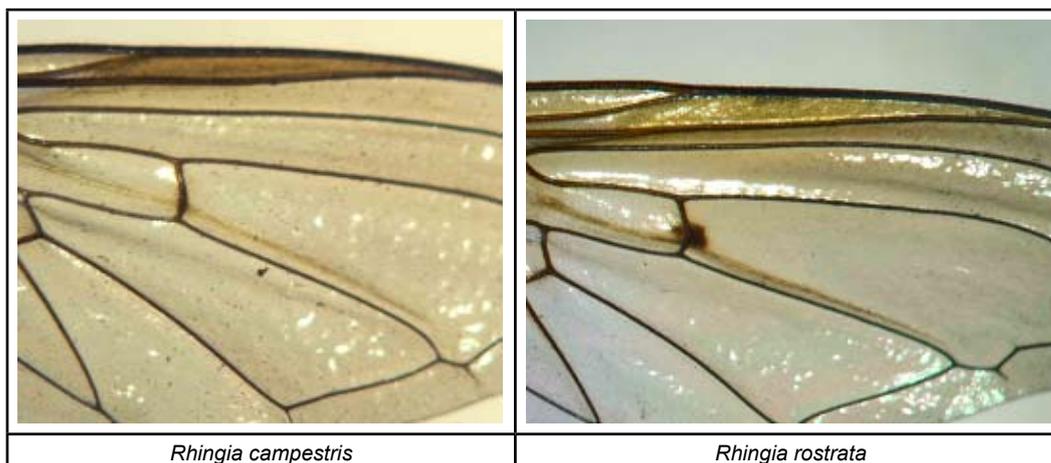
***Rhingia rostrata* in Cambridgeshire: wing vein clue to identity**

Keith Porter

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As in the wild, flowers of Devil's-bit scabious are an irresistible lure to syrphids in the garden. A casual glance at a bright looking *Rhingia campestris* led to my first net capture of *rostrata*. I knew from conversations with Roger Morris that this species was expanding and being found more regularly in Northants and elsewhere. The purpose of this note is to add a diagnostic feature that distinguishes *rostrata* from *campestris*. The lack both of black edges to the tergites and of a central dorsal black stripe on the abdomen is striking in live specimens; this was why I first noticed the species amongst the many individuals of *campestris*. In dried specimens of lighter *campestris* tergite edges curl and may need critical examination. The feature that immediately struck me when comparing specimens under the microscope was a wing vein difference. In *rostrata* cross vein r-m has a dark 'spot' that lies on the cross vein and is absent from all the specimens of *campestris* that I have examined. If present in other specimens of *rostrata*, this feature gives added confidence to the recorder.

Pictures crudely taken down my microscope show the difference:



The same flowers of Devil's-bit scabious in the same week also yielded specimens of both *Volucella inanis* and *V. zonaria*; clearly a good plant to encourage!

Hoverfly Recording Scheme Progress Report – Winter 2008/9

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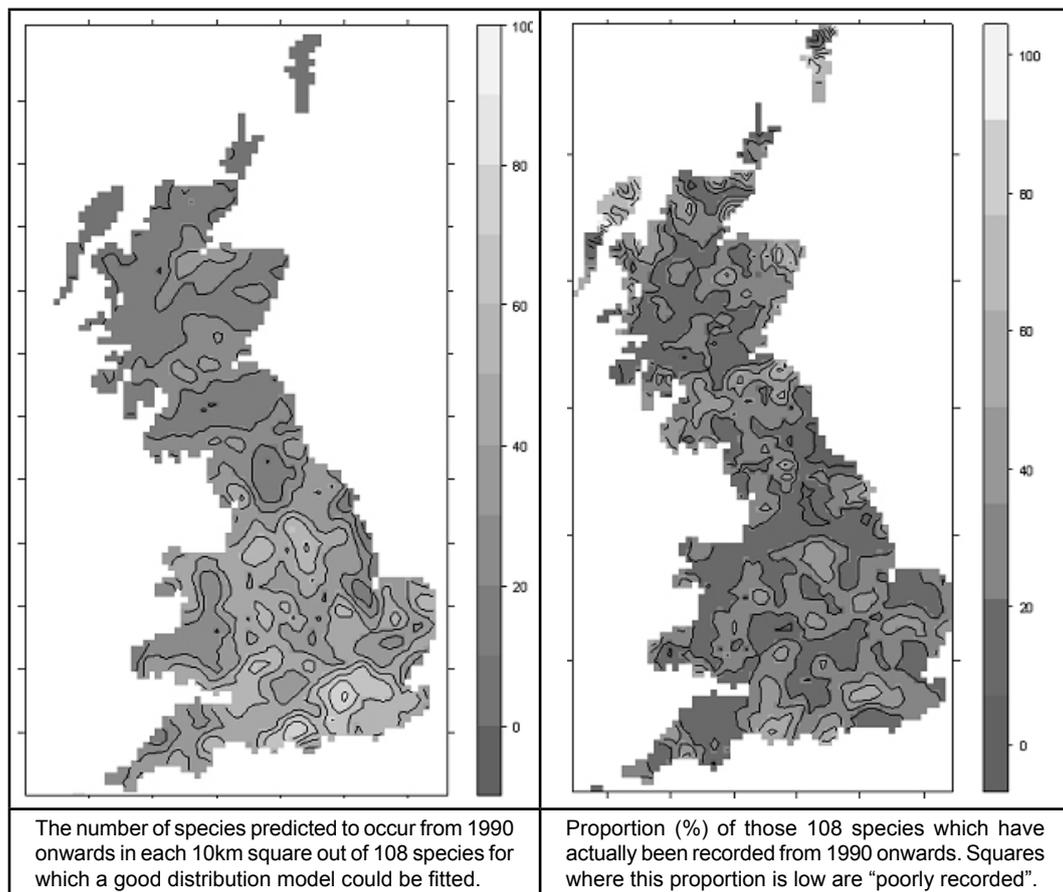
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As the winter progresses the memories of 2008 fade, but there is no escaping the fact that it was not a good year for hoverfly recording. Our own efforts were heavily curtailed by bad weather and the general impression we get from incoming records is that few recorders had a particularly productive year. That said, there were highlights, including at least two new localities for *Brachyopa bicolor*. Readers who are unfamiliar with *Brachyopa* are encouraged to take a look next year using the techniques described by Roger in the last newsletter.

Provisional atlas 2011

For us, a really important development was the link-up with Kenn Watt whose Scottish dataset greatly improves overall coverage. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are now in the process of planning an atlas designed to coincide with the International Hoverfly Symposium that will be held in Glasgow in 2011. We hope that the atlas will do more than simply illustrate species' distribution. We hope to include a certain amount of analysis and to include a section updating the larval work that Graham Rotheray has been undertaking over many years. This product will have four authors – with Graham and Kenn joining us.

The atlas we have in mind for 2011 is still in the design stages, but as it is intended as a symposium document, we don't anticipate that it will be widely distributed. It will be available to those who attend the symposium and also to recorders who have made a significant contribution since the last atlas in 2000. We have yet to set a qualification level for receipt of a copy: perhaps 150 records. At the moment rather fewer than 100 contributors have reached this target but there is still time and we hope this will encourage some readers to make an effort in the next two seasons. We would really like people to adopt a poorly recorded square (or squares) and set about putting it on a firmer footing. Those who are uncertain about identifying material are welcome to send material to Roger for identification – the records will still count towards your tally.



Planning for the Symposium is at a very early stage, but an organisational nucleus comprising Stuart, Roger, Graham Rotheray, Francis Gilbert and Geoff Hancock has been formed. We want to make this a really exciting event and hope that there will be a better UK presence than has been the case for the last two of these Symposia!

Hoverfly status review

We very much hope that the review of hoverfly statuses will be published by the time this report reaches readers. The text has been delivered to JNCC and it is now up to them to deliver! The addition of Kenn Watt's data has helped considerably, although the list of species has not altered greatly. We have one particularly problematic species – *Platycheirus immarginatus*. This is generally thought of as a coastal species, but the HRS has received many inland records – about 22% of the total. The problem is that we suspect that many of these are based on females and we are now firmly of the opinion that the leg colour character used in the key in Stubbs & Falk is unreliable. Males **can** be reliably identified, and records based on males from well established recorders are all coastal. We have yet to see a male specimen taken away from the coast! If we only accept male records, then it is an exclusively coastal species in Great Britain, recorded from 70 ten km. squares, and should remain “Nationally Scarce”. If we accepted all records, then it occurs widely inland, from 98 ten km. squares, and is on the borderline to no longer qualify for this status. We decided to map only the coastal records, retain it as “Nationally Scarce” and documented these problems in the text.

Training events

Last year's identification courses seem to have had quite an impact on Dipterists Forum membership. They have also encouraged a number of new recruits to hoverfly recording. We were particularly pleased with the results of two courses held in Glasgow where the average age was considerably under 40! That group has been very productive and we hope to run another course for a similar group in 2009.

The second of the two Glasgow courses was held at Rowardennan, Glasgow University's field centre on the banks of Loch Lomond. It was a great venue and it yielded a tantalising record: amongst a batch of material that appears to have been collected by students from the general environs of the field centre – there was an unlabelled female specimen of *Syrphus admirandus*. This is a northern European species that keyed out readily using the new Finnish Hoverfly book (Haarto & Kerppola, 2007). It looks rather more like a large *Scaeva* than a *Syrphus* and has pointed wing-tips – a very distinctive feature (which is not mentioned in van Veen (2004)'s key!). It is tantalising because, without a data label, we cannot claim this as a “new to Britain”. Needless to say we have plans to look for the beast next summer!

Spring 2009?

Spring will be upon us by the time this newsletter emerges. Hopefully you will have time to register an interest in the monitoring initiative that is discussed in the separate note in this bulletin. Other opportunities to bear in mind include looking for *Cheilosia* larvae in thistles as we did last summer (see account of our journey to and from last July's field meeting in Scotland). Also, do keep an eye open for some of the species that are on the move – especially *Sphegina sibirica* in southern England.

Happy hunting

A possible hoverfly monitoring project – a call for volunteers

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Butterfly monitoring has been ongoing since 1976 and has become an established and important means of following changes in the butterfly fauna of the British Isles. Similar schemes have been set up elsewhere in the world, and many wardens undertake butterfly transects to monitor the effects of management or the overall condition of their reserve. Butterflies can tell us a lot, but more could be achieved using a wider range of taxa. The problem is that monitoring for one group is not necessarily compatible with others: search techniques differ and of course some taxa are more obvious than others.

Hoverflies are an obvious addition to the monitoring process, not least because they occupy a much wider suite of niches. They are therefore potentially more versatile and useful in monitoring conditions within some sites such as woodlands where saproxylic and predaceous faunas have the potential to tell us a great deal more about what is going on. Long-term monitoring effort such as Jenny Owen's malaise trap and Alan Stubbs' garden monitoring scheme provide some indications of how data could be secured, but we are aware that neither is necessarily suitable for reserve wardens or for relative novices to hoverfly recording. Something different is needed and we hope to develop and refine a monitoring scheme over the next few years. Defining such a scheme needs a bit of work and therefore we are looking for people who would like to trial the idea. In 2009 we hope to investigate the issues that are likely to emerge and to develop the idea into something that can be disseminated to a much wider audience.

One idea would be to set up a series of "constant effort sites" where recorders visit during set periods over the spring and summer. The main period of interest would be between late April and mid-July, but the idea could be extended to include visits in late July and August. The following table outlines the possible timing of visits if extended over a full season.

April	May				June				July				August				September					
24-30	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-29	30-5	6-12	13-19	20-26	27-3	4-10	11-17	18-24	25-31	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-28	29-4	5-11	12-18	19-25	
	Visit 1				Visit 2				Visit 3				Visit 4				Visit 5					

Timing

Each visit needs to be timed to coincide with peak hoverfly activity and therefore needs to be between 10 am and 12 am over a defined route with suitable localities for recording hoverflies i.e. sunlit areas with flowers and suitable leaves (especially lime & sycamore). Recording during the middle of the day should be acceptable until July, after which the hottest period should be avoided – in which case starting earlier is to be preferred.

A three-week period for each recording visit has been defined to take account of multifarious factors that make weekly counts unrealistic. Ideally, the visit should be timed within the second of each three-week period but there is latitude for variation – as long as the date of the visit is recorded.

Recording

Ideally, all species of hoverfly should be recorded, with difficult taxa retained for critical examination. However, this approach will not suit many recorders (either because they lack experience or because they are averse to taking specimens). A twin-track approach is therefore suggested:

Novices and conscientious objectors: Species recorded should be confined to those species that we believe can be reliably identified in the field and which are readily recognisable. These are listed on the proposed recording sheet. Photographs of uncertain species could be retained and submitted for identification (not always possible).

Experienced all-taxa recorders: Readily identified species should be noted and counted. More difficult taxa (i.e. those that definitely require microscopic examination) should be retained and recorded later.

Unlike the butterfly transect which relies on fast visual examination of a particular route, tak-

Site name:		Recorder:			
Grid ref. (4-figure)		Date:		From to (time)	
Conditions		Main nectar sources		Notes	
Species	No.	Species	No.	Additional species*	No.
Baccha elongata		Eristalis tenax			
Platycheirus albimanus		Helophilus pendulus			
Chrysotoxum bicinctum		Myathropa florea			
Chrysotoxum festivum		Merodon equestris			
Dasysyrphus albostrigatus		Sericomyia silentis			
Epistrophe eligans		Volucella bombylans			
Leucozona glauca		Volucella inanis			
Leucozona lucorum		Volucella pellucens			
Scaeva pyrastris		Volucella zonaria			
Syrphus sp.		Syrpitta pipiens			
Cheilosia illustrata		Xylota segnis			
Eristalis pertinax		Xylota sylvarum			
* Please note whether specimen retained.					

ing account of specimens seen within a corridor, hoverfly recording needs to be tailored to the site. So, keep to a specified route and define a series of stopping points where recording can be undertaken – say a series of patches of hogweed or obvious nectar sources such as hawthorn, blackthorn or dogwood flowers. The route needs to be sufficiently long to allow a reasonable period of recording, and needs to take account of seasonal variation. However, it should not be so long that it cannot be completed within a reasonable time-period of between 1 & 1.5 hours. Stops to record hoverflies should be sufficient to note what is there at the time, rather than waiting for new or more flies to arrive.

Aspirations

Our hope is that we might recruit around 50 people across the UK. Ideally, the surveys would cover all species, but as we realise that people of varying confidence might like to participate we think there is scope to vary the approach to fit skills. Primarily, we would like to record those common species that can be recorded in the field once a recorder is reasonably competent and can use a simple chart of the commonest species. This part of the survey might also form the basis for school projects.

If this project gets support we propose to develop a project newsletter and an e-group. Over a series of years the data assembled should help to develop the sort of monitoring outputs currently achieved by the butterfly-monitoring scheme. Yes, it will have its limitations; but it offers the possibility of giving hoverflies a more prominent profile in all sorts of ways. It

would be really good to see hoverflies used as indicators of change in the countryside, but to do so we need your help.

Our feeling is that the sites chosen for this monitoring project could be adapted to fit individual needs: your garden, a school nature area, a local nature reserve or maybe your favourite "patch"? We are planning to produce an identification sheet along the lines of those published by the Field Studies Council and our hope is that participants will help to trial it by downloading from the website and printing it at home.

Anyone who is interested should visit the Hoverfly Recording Scheme website www.hoverfly.org.uk and register interest through the forum thread.

***Platycheirus sticticus* (Meigen 1822) – a cautionary tale**

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On 14 July 2008 I swept a single male *Platycheirus sticticus* (Mg.), my first ever, in a moorland valley on the eastern edge of the North York Moors National Park. The site is a delightful mix of peaty bogs, tumbling streams and scattered old woodland. After nearly fifty years of collecting hoverflies I ought to have spotted this as something different straight away, but in the net, amongst a milling mass of varied flies, I took it to be dark *Melanostoma mellinum* (L.) and thought it might be worth keeping for further study. When I was rough-sorting at night, at a cursory glance I took it to be a dwarf *Platycheirus albimanus* (Fab.), and probably an aberrant, maybe even an intersex, on account of the small first tarsal segment of the front leg., and fortunately I decided to pin it and look at it in detail later.

It was only when pinning the specimen that I noted the relatively large head in proportion to the size of the body, as in *Platycheirus discimanus* Loew, to which it looks rather similar. However, the character that alerted me to the fact that this was something quite different was the very conspicuous, spiny, isolated posterior bristle towards the apex of the front femora. This is illustrated in Plate R in **British Hoverflies** (Stubbs & Falk), and also, slightly more prominently to my eyes, at p.171 in **Hoverflies of Northwest Europe** (van Veen).

In his book, Alan Stubbs comments (p184), 'It would be easy to overlook this species in the field'. So it is! And not only in the field either, so take care with tiny, dark *Platycheirus* specimens; as we say up here in Yorkshire – "Tha' nivver knows"

Fieldcraft notes – finding *Cheilosia*

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It is remarkable how few recorders include the genus *Cheilosia* on their lists. Why is this? Perhaps one reason is that they are not terribly easy to identify? Another might be that they are more cryptic and therefore don't get noticed? My suspicion is that difficulty in identification may be compounded by the challenge they pose to search techniques. So how can one increase the haul? Most *Cheilosia* are regular flower visitors. They seem to prefer open flat flowers and can be found pretty well throughout the year. My year follows a familiar pattern:

April: The obvious place to look is on *Salix* flowers where both *C. albipila* and *C. grossa* can be found. But, don't just stop there. Spring dandelions can be exceptionally rewarding – I regularly find *C. bergenstammi* at these, sometimes with *C. pagana* and *C. vernalis*. The latter two can also be found at lesser celandine, occasionally accompanied by *C. albitarsis* agg.

May: Buttercup season brings out *C. albitarsis* and *C. ranunculi* – both will visit creeping and bulbous buttercups but are rarely seen at meadow buttercup. *C. fraterna* behaves in a similar way. Watch out for leaf baskers – *C. variabilis* is a major proponent, but I have seen *C. chrysocoma* behaving in a similar manner. This latter species looks so like female *Andrena fulva* that it may get overlooked. Hawthorns can be a useful lure – most frequently for *C. impressa* which also seems to turn up at the flowers of ramsons (together with *C. pagana* and perhaps others). The other good (possibly under-rated) lure is *Anthriscus sylvestris* (cow parsley or Queen Anne's lace) – but specimens can be quite dispersed. Nonetheless *C. proxima*, *C. pagana*, *C. variabilis* and *C. vulpina* are regular visitors.

June: This is the start of the umbellifer season when all manner of *Cheilosia* can be found at hogweed. *C. illustrata* is particularly noteworthy but there are many others. It is worth holding on to a large selection because a large *C. proxima* may well turn out to be *C. vulpina*. As the hogweed subsides, other umbellifers become more apparent. I find upright hedge parsley to be particularly good.

July: A generally excellent month for *Cheilosia* with lots happening on all remaining umbellifers. Keep a careful eye open for *Myolepta dubia*, which looks remarkably like a *Cheilosia* when its wings are folded over the abdomen – the yellow tergite markings are sometimes heavily obscured. At this time *Cheilosia soror* and *C. scutellata* become prominent members of the assemblage (more so in southern England).

August: This is actually an excellent month for *Cheilosia* with lots of lures: ragwort is often festooned with all manner of *Cheilosia* whilst angelica can be extremely productive; in northern England this is a good way of finding *C. longula*. Don't overlook yarrow which is often a good lure for *C. vernalis*; and keep a weather eye open for that patch of *Matricaria* in the field margin – this too can be good and I have found such species as *C. griseiventris* in attendance.

September: The choice is a bit more limited but in the latter stages of August and into September I tend to stop at verges with catsear and *Leontodon* sp. These sorts of locations provide a great chance of both *C. latifrons* and *C. griseiventris*. The ivy patches can also be productive with a limited fauna such as *C. scutellata* and *C. pagana*, which may be found into October.

Cheilosia are not always straightforward to identify and although it is possible to get a feel for what they might be, the best bet is to retain a large selection as several species lurk cryptically amongst the others. Have a go – there is much to be gained and in so many places we know very little about the occurrence of *Cheilosia*. This was apparent to me when I arrived in the Peterborough area. From the maps it looked like a *Cheilosia*-free zone but when I got to work there was actually quite a rich assemblage

Announcement: the 5th International Symposium on Syrphidae

The V International Symposium on Syrphidae will take place in Novi Sad (Fruska gora-Andrevlje), Serbia, from 18 to 22 June 2009. Details can be found on <http://www.diptera.info/news.php>, <http://www.ib.ns.ac.yu/CBBC/en/index.htm> and <http://syrphidae.com/>.

Interesting recent records

2007 records from Leon Truscott:

- Chrysotoxum elegans* Penlee Point, Cornwall, 16 & 29 June and 5 August.
- Xanthandrus comtus* Rame, Cornwall, 30 October. Torpoint, Cornwall, 25 November (in garden moth trap (actinic light)).
- Xanthogramma citrofasciatum* Penlee Point, Cornwall, 4 May and 22 June. Cawsand, Cornwall 24th May.

2008 records from Leon Truscott:

- Chrysotoxum elegans* Penlee Point, Cornwall, 3 & 6 June, 7, 15 & 21 August and 8 October. Rame, Cornwall, 19 June and 15 August.
- Criorhina berberina* Penlee Point, Cornwall, 11 June.
- Meligramma guttatum* Penlee Point, Cornwall, 6 July (2nd record for this site).
- Microdon myrmicae* Wimalford, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, 7 June (now regular at this site).
- Xanthandrus comtus* Penlee Point, Cornwall 8 June and 6 & 19 July. Torpoint, Cornwall, 7 September & 26 October, the latter in garden moth trap as in November 2007.
- Xanthogramma citrofasciatum* Penlee Point, Cornwall, 18 May (seems established in this area).
- Xylota segnis* Seaton Valley, Cornwall, 19 November (a late date).

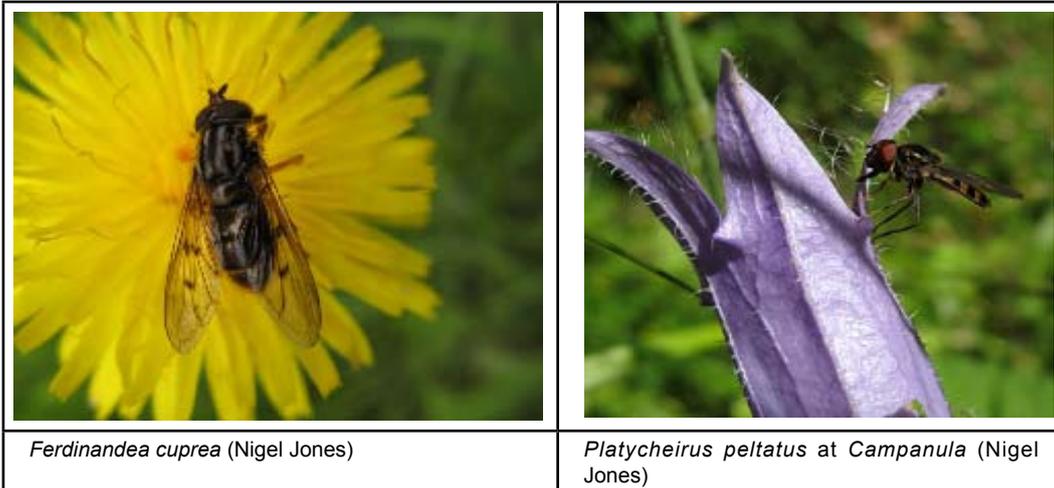
2008 Hoverfly notes by Nigel Jones:

Although most species of hoverfly were around in very reduced numbers during 2008, no doubt reflecting the very poor weather through much of the season, I did encounter a number of interesting species. A few species were notable for their apparent absence, whilst a few other species appeared to thrive.

- Brachyopa bicolor* was found at Attingham Park, Shropshire 7 & 18 May SJ5410 (see Hoverfly Newsletter Autumn 2008).
- Brachypalpoides lentus* - a single specimen in woodland, 19 June, Tan Tree Bank, Rowley, Shropshire, SJ291058.
- Cheilosia albipila* - on Salix flowers, Riddles Wood, Westcott, Shropshire, 22 April, SJ403017.
- Cheilosia semifasciata* - a fifth Shropshire site for this scarce species was discovered on 26 May, Snailbeach Coppice SJ387024.
- Criorhina asilica* 23 May, Attingham Park, SJ548103; 19 June, Tan Tree Bank, Rowley, SJ291058 – both in Shropshire.
- Criorhina ranunculi* - on salix flowers, 16 & 22 April Riddles Wood, Westcott SJ403017; 2 May Gamebuck Rough, Penley SJ4037 – both in Shropshire.
- Epsitrophe diaphana* – a singleton was recorded on 30 May, Kingston Seymour, Somerset, ST392672.
- Epistrophe grossulariae* appeared to be numerous in 2008, with 28 sightings between 4 June and 19 August, mainly in Shropshire.

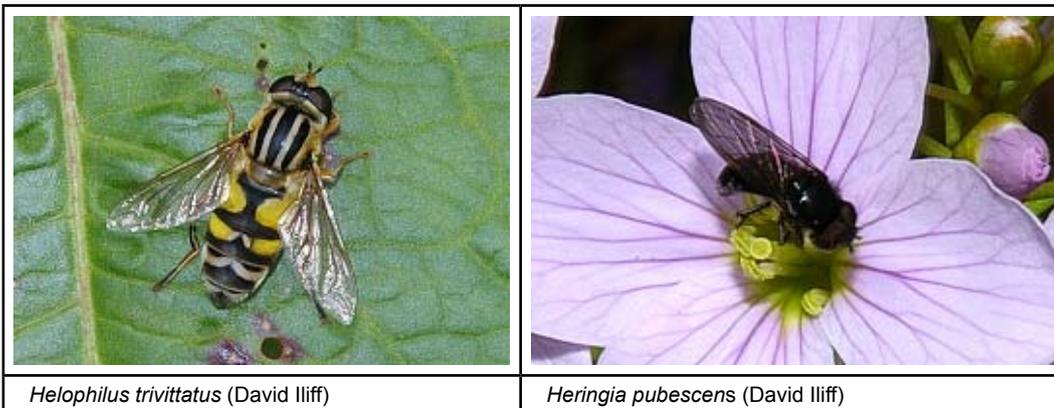
Very few *Eumerus* were encountered during 2008, with just two *E. funeralis* 24 May and 19 August (Shrewsbury area) and no *E. strigatus* were recorded.

Ferdinandea cuprea was encountered on many occasions, most notably on 4 June, Breidden Hill, Montgomeryshire, SJ2914, where fifteen were seen, nearly all going to yellow flowers of *Ranunculus* and Compositae



Ferdinandea ruficornis 20 May Attingham Park SJ548099 and 1 August, Stevenshill, Shropshire, SJ5550035, where two were flying to *Campanula trachelium* flowers along with very large numbers of *Platycheirus peltatus*.

Helophilus trivittatus enjoyed another good year with twelve sightings between 30 May and 21 September in Shropshire, Worcestershire, Cardiganshire and Somerset.



Heringia pubescens 2 May, Gamebuck Rough, Penley, Shropshire, SJ4037.

Mallota cimbiciformis - this scarce species was sighted on three occasions in Shropshire: 19 July, New Coppice, Haughmond, SJ542155; 21 July Hollies, Haughmond, SJ535137; 28 July Racecourse Common, Llawnt, SJ257309. All were nectaring on *Heracluem sphondylium* flowers. I also noted several reports of *Mallota* sightings on various internet forums, indicating that this species may have surged during 2008.

Melangyna umbellatarum was unusually numerous, with nine sightings between 24 May and 19 August, including a surprising record from my garden in Shrewsbury SJ491113.

Microdon mutabilis 09 June, Waun Las NNR, SN530181.

Neoascia geniculata 14 May, Attingham Park, SJ551098.
Parasyrphus punctulatus thrived during 2007, but I did not encounter a single specimen in 2008. Perhaps a reaction to the very cool spring of 2008.
Pipiza luteitarsis 24 May, Redhill, Shrewsbury SJ4709.
Rhingia rostrata was not encountered as frequently as in the two previous seasons, with just four sightings - 5 May Stevenshill, Shrops, SJ5503; 6 May, Blackstone Farm, Worcestershire, SO798745; 3 August Tan Tree Bank, Shropshire SJ292058; 6 August Attingham Park, Shropshire SJ548103.
Sphagina sibirica 4 July, Merrington Green, Shropshire, SJ4620.
Trichopsomyia flavitarsis 9 June, National Botanic Garden of Wales, Camarthenshire SN521179.
Triglyphus primus - a pair were taken from a track at the edge of an arable field, 21 July, Uffington, Shropshire, SJ530141.
Volucella zonaria - a second Shropshire record was made on 15 September, Shrewsbury SJ498131.
Xylota florum 19 June Rowley, Shropshire SJ298055; Hall Close Coppice, Alveley, Shropshire, SO752837.
Xylota xanthocnema 16 June, Attingham Park, Shropshire, SJ548103.

Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum

Dipterists Forum Recording Scheme Organisers

Please notify Dr Mark Hill of changes:
BRC (CEH) McLean Building, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford,
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Website brc@ceh.ac.uk

Recording Schemes

Whilst all schemes will readily accept records in written form the following symbols are used to indicate some of the known (or surmised) methods by which Scheme Organisers may currently receive records electronically:

Recorder

Microsoft Access

Square brackets indicate that the organiser can handle records in the format indicated.

Potential recorders really need to know your preferred recording format so please inform the Bulletin Editor in time for an update of this guide in the future issues

MapMate

Spreadsheet (Excel)

Conopidae, Lonchoceridae, Ulidiidae & Pallopteridae



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Culicidae - Mosquitoes

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Dixidae - Meniscus midges

Acting scheme organiser

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Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum

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Amateur Entomologists' Society



Founded in 1935 the Society promotes the study of entomology, especially amongst amateurs and the younger generation. It produces six bi-monthly highly acclaimed *Bulletins* and for the younger enthusiast, the *Bug Club Magazine*.

The Society is also a post-war leader the field of insect conservation and publishes *Invertebrate Conservation News* three times a year.

Along with these publications the Society also publishes a wide range of books, leaflets and pamphlets.

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