

This Bulletin gives details of the forthcoming Autumn Meetings and dinner, together with announcements of some events next year. News of the current season and other items are included.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES - 12 NOVEMBER 1983

The venue is the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington, London. The morning lecture session will be followed by an informal afternoon with demonstrations and optional discussions.

MORNING LECTURE SESSION (Main Lecture Hall)

Chairman Peter Dyte (a specialist on Dolichopodidae)

- 11.00 - 11.20 am Dr Charles Godfray Leaf mining by Anthomyids
11.20 - 11.40 am Dr John Haslett Hoverflies, flowers - and skis!
11.40 - 12.15 pm Dr John Coulson Diptera in the Uplands
12.15 - 12.35 pm Dr Henry Disney Dixids and Thaumaleids
12.35 - 12.55 pm Dr Nick Burgess and Dr Keith Snow The Mosquito Recording Scheme

LUNCH (various canteens, cafes, pubs etc or bring your own sandwiches)

AFTERNOON SESSION (Demonstration Room, Palaeontology Department).

Last year's more informal approach was welcomed by many people. This year we will hold an exhibition and optional demonstrations in one room and offer informal discussions on various schemes in another room.

- 2.00 - 2.30 pm Setting up time for exhibits, informal discussion
2.30 - 3.15 pm Various optional demonstrations (setting, slide mounts, genitalia preps etc.)
3.15 - 4.30 pm Option of joining short discussions on recording schemes (mainly hoverflies, Larger Brachycera, sciomyzids).
4.30 - 5.45 pm Informal and identification/advice service.

The success of the afternoon session is greatly assisted if there are plenty of exhibits - so that's up to you. We all enjoy seeing what the other fellow has been finding and plenty of interesting discussion results. Any new ideas in equipment would be appreciated.

This event is a major meeting point for dipterists. For newcomers on our circulation list it must be emphasised that everyone is welcome. If you are still finding your feet on the subject, then this is the chance to meet people and get advice. The lecture programme will be orientated towards the non-specialist but should be full of information and ideas to suit all.

5.45 pm Onwards. Dipterists' Supper (details overleaf)

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DIPTERISTS' SUPPER 1983

This year the Dipterists' Supper will be held on Saturday 12 November. As usual, it will take the form of an evening buffet and will be held in the Conversazione Room of the British Museum (Natural History). Sherry will be served from 5.45 pm and the supper will begin at 6.30 pm. The Museum's main car park, at the Cromwell Road entrance, will be available for guests during the whole evening.

The catering arrangements followed in recent years have proved very popular and will be repeated this year. The cost will be £5.50. The number of guests will again be limited to 80, and admission will be by ticket only. Please let Adrian Pont know by 28 October if you will be able to attend. Your subscription should accompany your acceptance, and cheques should be payable to Adrian Pont at the Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Please include s.a.e. for your ticket.

NEWS FROM LAST SUMMER'S MEETING

Cornwall Field Meeting 2 - 10 July 1983

A week of almost continuous hot and sunny weather enabled the party of 14 to see Cornwall at its best, with the coastal marshes, heaths, dunes and seepages and the larger ancient woodlands being particularly productive for uncommon and interesting species.

Notable finds included Chrysotoxum elegans, Criorhina berberina, Oxycera morrisii, the handsome Cylindromyia brassicaria (a tachinid parasite of Pentatomidae only known from the Lizard and Co. Cork, Ireland in the British Isles), the lauxaniid Sapromyza albiceps which was new to those present, Acartophthalmus bicolor, the Sciomyzidae Pherbellia nana, P. grisescens, P. dorsata, Colobaea punctata, and C. distincta. Altogether this was a most enjoyable and successful week, which considerably boosted the number of records for several recording schemes in this under-worked county. So far one species new to Britain has been recognised from material obtained on this meeting - an Oxya (Tephritidae).

FIELD MEETING IN NORFOLK AUTUMN 1983

The Autumn field meeting will be based in Norfolk this year, and will take place from Wednesday 12 to Sunday 16 October. At this season craneflies and fungus gnats will be most numerous but members of other families amongst the Brachyera and alypterates can be found, especially those species associated with fungi. Whether or not you have had experience studying the Autumn fly fauna, this is a good opportunity to join a recording schemes field meeting and do some fieldwork with other dipterists.

For details of the venue and arrangements for the meeting contact Ian McLean, NCC, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

MEETING IN 1984

FIELD MEETING 9 - 17 JUNE 1984 MUIR OF ORD, INVERNESS

A booking has been made with Tarradale House, Muir of Ord, which is a study centre run by the University of Aberdeen, from Saturday 9 June to Sunday 17 June 1984. Tarradale House overlooks the Beaully Firth, stands in its own large grounds, and is within easy reach of Dingwall and also Inverness (the latter via the new Kessock Bridge which enables the coast of Nairn, including the Culbin Sands, Findhorn and the Nairn Saltings, to be readily explored). Other known localities of considerable entomological interest nearby include the Caledonian Pine forests of Glen Affric, mountain tops (eg of Ben Wyvis), calcareous flushes on the Black Isle, the marsh and carr habitats of the Mound (a favoured locality of J E Collin), excellent lakeside riverside and ravine habitats are at hand; even Beinn Eighe beside Loch Maree and the Ullapool district both on the west coast are only an hour's drive from the centre.

The area has many of the notable highland and boreal Diptera, and following the experience of the highly successful Speyside meeting in 1982, and of a small group of Dipterists a few years previously, it seems probable that further important discoveries can be made in this part of Scotland, including species new to Britain. The meeting is timed to coincide with the flush of late spring and early summer species which emerge through the first half of June in the highlands, and should be productive for most families of Diptera.

The charges for dinner, bed, breakfast, packed lunch and evening coffee/biscuits will be about £9 per day plus VAT. The accommodation is in rooms with from 2 to 5 single beds, good library and laboratory facilities are available and 2 spacious lounges are available for our use. To book please write to Ian McLean, NCC, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY enclosing a deposit of £10 (cheques made payable to "University of Aberdeen" please).

NEWS FROM THE RECORDING SCHEMES

Cranefly Recording Scheme Maps for all Tipulinae are plotted but got held up in order to give priority to the hoverfly atlas. It is intended to update with 1983 records and submit the draft atlas to BRC this winter.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme A preliminary atlas with 30 maps is being issued by BRC this autumn. The scheme has been taking a fairly low profile pending publication of the hoverfly book but it is felt that some maps, however preliminary, would act as a stimulus to the recording effort.

The future organisation of the scheme following arrival of the hoverfly book will be discussed during an afternoon session at the annual meeting.

A male Paragus albifrons was taken on the Essex Coast; this is only the second recent record. Lejops vittata has been found this year in Somerset, Sussex and Norfolk but was seemingly absent in ideal habitat in Suffolk and Essex. Neoascia interrupta has gained a number of records along the Essex coast and within GLC and Surrey. Metasyrphus latilunulatus was taken in a wood in Herefordshire. The sunny summer should have produced further good records.

The scheme has now produced its second newsletter. As with the first newsletter there is plenty of interesting information. To keep the momentum your scheme organiser will welcome further contributions of text. If you are interested but are not on the schemes mailing list, then write to Philip Entwistle, Institute of Virology, Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3SR.

Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme The first newsletter has been issued to those who have registered an interest in the scheme. It contains some notes on the British List of Sciomyzidae, information on identification to supplement published keys and lists of species recorded from Wicken and Chippenham Fens. If you wish to join the scheme and receive the newsletter please write to Ian McLean, NCC, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

Larger Brachycera Scheme

A second newsletter is in preparation. Contributions of text would be welcomed from recorders by your scheme organiser Dr Tony Irwin, Castle Museum, Norwich.

Mosquito Recording Scheme

The scheme will hold a meeting of recorders during the afternoon session on 12 November. Techniques of study will also be demonstrated.

NEW BOOKS

RES Handbook on scuttle flies (Phoridae)

The Handbook on British Phoridae (except Megaselia) by Dr Henry Disney has just been published by the Royal Entomological Society. It covers 93 species in 21 genera and gives a detailed introduction to the family including a comprehensive account of techniques for examining and preserving material. The keys are fully illustrated and are very different from those previously published - especially welcome is the complete avoidance of the measurement of costal ratios. This most welcome publication will serve to stimulate interest in this neglected family, and will enable dipterists to commence their own studies.

Copies can be obtained from the Royal Entomological Society of London, 41 Queens Gate, London SW7 5HU. Price to fellows £4.50 (£6.00 for non-fellows).

The Hoverfly Book

The book is through galley proofs and into page proofs. It was hoped that publication would be in time for the BENHS exhibition on 29 October but the printer has let some dead lines slip. There is a chance of it being available on 12 November.

The title is British Hoverflies : an illustrated identification guide by Stubbs and Falk, published by the British Entomological and Natural History Society. The present estimate is 270 pages (240 x 174 mm; that's a decent size) with 12 colour plates (263 specimens, 190 species), a plate of Platycheirus legs and other figures. There are over 540 illustrations within the body of the keys to make them as easy to use as possible; a X10 hand lens should be sufficient for all but a few identifications. There is text on each species, chapters on collecting, studying etc. There are 255 species (234 in Coe) including species new to Britain.

Pricing policy is still not finalised but the highest proposal is £12 for members and £18 for non-members. If you compare that with RES Handbook prices and other specialist works, it is still good value and realistic even if sounding a lot. Package and postage will add £2.50 per copy in UK. (Standard copies will have a laminated cover; hard back copies will cost extra £3.00).

Assuming the book is ready for our meeting on the 12th November (but this is not yet certain) it will be possible for those attending to obtain copies (cheques preferable). So as not to cause chaos in the lecture hall, arrangements will be made between 2.20 and 3 pm with as quick service system as we can muster (but copies will still be obtainable through into the evening). Please send an SAE to Alan Stubbs for an order form (BENHS members will be circulated automatically by the Society) should you not be attending the meeting.

A Dipterist's Handbook

Several recent enquiries have been received asking how to obtain a copy. The address is A E S Publication Agent, 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6DS. Cheques should be made payable to A E S Publications. The price is £6.70 inclusive of package and postage.

Many of our newer recorders will not know of this Handbook published by the Amateur Entomologist's Society. It is 255 p long and covers collecting techniques, equipment, a larval key to family level, associations with plants and other animals, the fauna of habitat types and various other topics. It was specifically written to give access to the sort of information which is not otherwise easy to come by. Over 20 specialists contributed.

A PROJECT ON CATTLE FLIES - CAN YOU HELP?

There is geographical variation in which species of Muscidae are associated with cattle in Britain. Musca autumnalis occurs in the southern half of the country feeding around the eyes and nose. Further north this niche is occupied by Morellia simplex. Of the British Stomoxyinae Haematobia irritans is only found in the south and Haematobosca stimulans, in my experience, is quite local in distribution.

Of all the flies associated with cattle Hydrotaea irritans is probably most widespread but again there are some areas of much lower density. This fly is also the one most frequently associated with the transmission of bacterial infection in cattle, notably 'summer mastitis' and New Forest disease.

As part of a project to investigate the aetiology of 'summer mastitis' in dairy heifer I should welcome any information that can be provided on the distribution of any muscids associated with cattle from any geographical location in Britain. Information on species, numbers, locations, date and time, local topography, weather and type of cattle would be ideal. Numbers of all these flies are highest in August and early September, but data from any season will be very welcome.

For further details or to send information please contact: Dr J Eric Hillerton, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading RG2 9AT. Tel. (0734) 883103 extn. 223.

EQUIPMENT

Plastic pinning boxes

A number of dipterists find small plastic boxes, lined with plastazote, to be ideal for pinning and storing specimens during the field season. The boxes have push on lids and are of rigid construction, measuring approximately 5" x 3" x $\frac{7}{8}$ ". The manufacturers are Stewart Plastics of Croydon but the only retail outlet I have been able to trace is Gallenkamp & Co.

22p.
Stewart Plastics will supply a minimum order of 160 boxes at an inclusive cost of £34.50 (August 1983 price), being approx. 21.5p per box. Gallenkamp supply the boxes in packs of 10 at an inclusive cost of £6.54 (65p per box) for ten, or £11.85 (60p per box) for two packs of ten each. If there is sufficient interest I am prepared to obtain a stock of 160 direct from the manufacturers and sell them (without plastazote) in packs of 10 at cost price plus postage. As an alternative to posting, I will bring orders to the November meeting at the B M.

Will anyone who is interested in taking up this offer please let me know by Friday 7 October.

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OBITUARY

Professor G C Varley

Dipterists everywhere will be saddened to learn of the death earlier this year of Prof George Varley. His doctoral research at Cambridge was on tephritids in Knapweeds - a pioneering work in population ecology. During his tenure of the Hope Professorship at Oxford he undertook his well-known research into the population dynamics of winter moth. Following his retirement he attended several of the annual meetings for dipterists where he made a number of perceptive and informative contributions. He will be much missed.

AND NOW.....EXPLODING FLIES!

The Hunts County News (The Trader) reported recently that paintwork on cars and boats in the St Neots area was being attacked by a mystery agent which damaged the surface, giving a speckled effect. One of their theories was as follows:

"The suggestion which caused the biggest flutter of excitement, was the common fruit fly. These tiny invaders, so the story went, would home in on hot surfaces - such as car bodies after prolonged periods in the sun - and literally explode on landing. Acids in the body would then set to work on the car's finish. In other words, kami kaze flies".

If fruit flies behave like this in Britain, it must be bedlam in Japan!

Central Panel of
Diptera Recording Scheme Organisers

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