

Hoverfly Newsletter

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Readers will probably have noticed that with effect from the last issue the newsletter has taken on a new look. Darwyn Sumner, the editor of the Dipterists Forum Bulletin transformed **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 44** into a more economical and space-saving style, and as an experiment posted the revised version as a PDF on the Forum's website, with the inclusion of a colour image of *Chrysotoxum festivum*. Those of you who found it on the website will have been able to read it in advance of the publication of the Bulletin. In my view this initiative has resulted in an improved newsletter, and the plan is to continue in this way. Please keep the articles flowing. Colour images are also now welcome, though if large numbers are received their inclusion may have to be restricted to those that illustrate species featured in the articles. The images will appear in colour on the PDF which can of course be downloaded from the website; they will however appear in black-and-white in the postal version of the Bulletin.

Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 46** (which is expected to be issued with the Spring 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 November 2008. Please note the earlier deadline which has been brought forward to correspond with the revised copy deadline for the Bulletin.

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Hoverfly Recording Scheme update

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This has been a very odd and rather frustrating season. How many weekends have seen poor weather after several nice days when we have been locked up at work? Consequently, our own recording effort has been rather limited especially in March and April. That said, we have had some notable successes. In late March and early April we ran two training courses – one in Leicester and the other in Glasgow. Both were very well attended and several participants have already sent records. The Glasgow one was even populated by a group of under 40s – many of whom were wardens or rangers. Do other regions have a network of rangers who might benefit from a course? If you know of a group that might like to host a course please let us know.

We are scheduled to return to Glasgow for a follow up session in September with those who attended the earlier course. We will run an introductory course on hoverflies at the next Dipterists Forum Workshop in March 2009 and are available to run courses elsewhere this winter. We have also indicated that we would be willing to run an FSC course at Preston Montford during the summer of 2009 in conjunction with the Birmingham University MSc in Biological Recording.

The big news is that we plan to link up with Kenn Watt and the Scottish Hoverfly Recording Scheme to jointly produce an updated GB Atlas for the 6th International Workshop on the Syrphidae to be hosted by the UK in 2011 (probably in Edinburgh). This is great news because sharing our records considerably improves the coverage of both schemes. There remains plenty of scope for additional effort as Kenn has had the Herculean task of covering Scotland from Aberdeen so, as might be expected, the west coast and far north still need more work. Southern Scotland is much better covered but would still benefit from more recording.

This year we have made three trips to Scotland – Roger covered the Mull of Galloway, we had our annual pilgrimage to the Spey valley in mid-June and then were back in the Cairngorms two weeks later for the Dipterists Forum summer field meeting. Our mid-June trip was quite an experience as we attempted to get into several unrecorded squares and discovered why there were no records – no access by road! We managed to get into two of them without spending too long walking and Kenn Watt did another couple during the Summer Field Meeting by taking a much longer walk in.

Returning to Cairngorm for the summer field meeting we spent periods of poor weather during the journeys there and back looking for *Cheilosia* larvae in thistles. This was very successful and showed how one can make good use of wet days looking for hoverflies. Stuart has written up the techniques with photos and identification notes on the larvae of *Cheilosia albipila* and *C. grossa*. This is posted on the website at <http://www.hoverfly.org.uk/viewtopic.php?t=537> – do take a look. Finding larvae of these two relatively elusive species should be possible well into July or even early August in more northern areas, but they probably leave the thistle stems a little earlier in the south.

Having started to get interested in larvae, we spent today (12 July) looking for *Cheilosia* larvae with Alan Stubbs. Our search was for *C. cynocephala* and also to try to find larvae in other species of thistle. Our results were helpful but not wholly successful – we found larval activity but they had vacated the stems. We need to look earlier in the year or later – mid August looks likely for *C. cynocephala*.

On the question of larvae, Ellen Rotheray (who is doing her PhD on the saproxylic hoverflies of the Spey Valley: *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* and *Blera fallax* in particular) gave us an excellent talk during the summer field meeting. It is amazing just what can be achieved by hard work, but very worrying just how small the population of *Blera* is and how few colonies of *Hammerschmidtia* remain. It would be good to get a few more autecological projects moving, but the chances of getting PhD funding looks unlikely. Even so, there are plenty of possibilities – for example can anyone find the larvae of *Cheilosia griseiventris*?

We had hoped that we would be able to announce the publication of the Hoverfly Status Review – it is very close, but will be a few more weeks – keep an eye on the Recording Scheme website as we will announce it as soon as it is out.

Meanwhile, we have a few more weeks of recording. Roger has plans to go north again and hopefully we will get improved coverage of other parts of southern Scotland by the autumn.

Hopefully by the winter we will have more to announce on progress with the atlas. We need to seek sponsorship for the updated atlas in 2011 and then must think about the work needed to produce a more comprehensive “final atlas”. This will need quite a high level of sponsorship, and a lot of work. We had hoped to do something in 2010, but are not far enough forward to achieve this. So it looks like we need to plan for 2012 or later.

News of possible new species

Chris Webster posted a photo on the Recording Scheme website of a *Scaeva* that seems to fit the description of *S. dignota*. Unfortunately the specimen was not retained and we cannot be absolutely certain. Nonetheless, this looks to be a very strong possibility, so anyone taking *Scaeva selenitica* should keep a wary eye open. The key differentiation from *S. selenitica* is that the frons is weakly inflated and the spots on the tergites usually reach the lateral margins of the tergites. It is a migratory species and probably ought to occur in southern England from time to time.

There have now been two reports of *Milesia crabroniformis* from south-west England and it looks increasingly likely that this spectacular continental hoverfly is arriving as a vagrant. Keep your eyes peeled, as this could be the next arrival into the permanent UK fauna. It is a rot hole species so the likelihood of permanent establishment cannot be ruled out – maybe the next *Volucella zonaria*?

International Symposium on Hoverflies

We understand that the Fifth International Symposium on the Syrphidae will be held at Novi Sad in Serbia between the 18th and 22nd June 2009. At the moment details are limited and we will post more information on the Recording Scheme website as it becomes available. We (Roger and Stuart) will be there, and it would be great to have a strong UK contingent. Last year there were just three from the UK at the meeting in Finland – which was an absolutely fantastic meeting – let's have a bigger UK contingent next time - maybe we can organise a field trip to coincide with this event. Anyone interested – please let Roger know and we'll see what can be organised (Roger is not committing to logistics but will coordinate a post symposium meeting if that is wanted).

A note on fieldcraft required to find *Brachyopa* (Diptera, Syrphidae)

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Brachyopa scutellaris male (photo: David Iliff)

Very few hoverfly recorders submit records of *Brachyopa* to the hoverfly recording scheme even though the genus is actually widespread and probably a lot more common than current records indicate. The map for *B. scutellaris* Robineau-Desvoidy in Ball & Morris (2000) clearly illustrates this statement, and there are similar indications that *B. insensilis* Collin is equally widespread. My own fieldwork supports this argument – *B. scutellaris* is widely recorded provided one's field-craft is focussed on finding adults, as shown in my note (Morris, 2007).

This spring, Stuart Ball and I visited Archer's wood in VC 31 Huntingdonshire (TL1781) on 3 May 2008 on a warm sunny day. Towards the end of our visit I spotted a *Brachyopa* flying around an oak *Quercus sp.* with clear damage and red heart rot with a trunk diameter of approximately 45cm. I failed to catch this specimen but a few minutes later caught another specimen hovering close to the trunk of a nearby ash *Fraxinus excelsior* of slightly broader dimensions (perhaps 50cm diameter). This latter specimen looked a bit bigger than normal *B. scutellaris* and at the time I thought "maybe *B. bicolor*?" Subsequent examination under the microscope confirmed this provisional identification of a male *B. bicolor* (Fallén).

After leaving Archers Wood, we passed through the village of Spaldwick where I spotted a sap run on a horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastaneum* and upon stopping immediately found larvae that subsequently proved to be *B. insensilis* Collin. We then proceeded to Brampton Wood (TL1870) where several piles of aspen logs attracted my attention. Two *Brachyopa* were spotted and both caught (one mangled during its capture). They struck me as likely to be *B. pilosa* based on experience in Surrey (Morris, 1998), and later examination of the damaged specimen confirmed this provisional identification (the undamaged specimen successfully escaped). A string of comments on the Hoverfly Recording Scheme website www.hoverfly.org.uk over subsequent days showed that experienced recorders were not picking up *Brachyopa* specimens until some basic tips on finding them, had been posted. It therefore seems logical to outline the techniques that I find productive in searching for *Brachyopa*.

The life cycle of *Brachyopa* is now well known (Rotheray, 1994) – the larvae are associated with sap-runs. The behaviour of *B. insensilis* males therefore suggests that adults may be found in association with sap runs (Morris, 1993). My experience suggests that this is not quite true, however. Most *Brachyopa* are found hovering close to a tree trunk but it is rare

for a sap run to be visible. This is especially true for *B. bicolor* and *B. scutellaris* – both of which seem to be found close to trunks in a variety of situations with the only common denominator being an association with sunlight situations in warm sunshine. My experience suggests that *B. bicolor* in particular is likely to be associated with trunks with no obvious sap runs: the species of tree is equally inconsistent [*Tilia x europea* at Barnack Hills & Holes NNR (15.04.2003), and *Fraxinus excelsior* at Archers Wood (03.05.2008)].

In past notes I have also drawn attention to the importance of leaf-basking by *Brachyopa* – males of which (especially *B. scutellaris*) are regular leaf-baskers (Morris, 2007). This is a technique that is potentially important in securing records of what appears to be an enigmatic and under-recorded genus. If this is not an option then careful examination of the trunks of broadleaved trees seems to be viable in many cases. There is no need to look for sap runs: these are often small and insignificant whilst *Brachyopa* specimens (especially males) are quite likely to be noted in suitable locations. In my experience, males are often noted between 0.5 and 1 metre above ground level although some can be much lower down: they are actually quite common.

The importance of cut stumps and log-piles is also very clear, especially in the case of *B. pilosa* which has been found at sap runs on cut beech stumps (Morris, 1998), at grey/white poplar logs (Morris, 1998), cut birch logs (Morris, 1998) and now at aspen logs. The role of aspen in conservation of *B. pilosa* is well illustrated by the numbers of records from Scotland associated with aspen woodlands. This suggests that although beech is important for this species in southern England, aspen may actually prove to be considerably more important.

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***Brachyopa* and *Ferdinanda* at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury**

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I had not encountered any *Brachyopa* in the field for over twenty years and had begun to despair of ever again seeing these distinctive hoverflies. However Roger Morris provided an online "master class" in *Brachyopa* spotting, via the Recording Scheme's website forum. Roger's advice was to try looking at sun dappled trunks at between 18 inches and three feet height. I went out around Attingham Park the next day, 7 May, and following this advice I almost immediately found *Brachyopa bicolor* on an Oak trunk and *B. scutellaris* hovering around a Sycamore trunk! So Roger's advice was absolutely spot on.

A week later, in the park, I came upon Oak weeping copious amounts of sap (only some fifty yards from my office). The sap held large numbers of *Ferdinanda* larvae and a few smaller *Brachyopa* larvae. Over the next few days more *B. bicolor* were taken from this tree and I obtained some decent photographs of both the *Ferdinanda* larvae and adult *B. bicolor*. A real bonus was the taking of a relatively large specimen of the scarce *Ferdinanda ruficornis*, on 20 May, the first time I had encountered this fly in the flesh rather than from a malaise trap.

The sap runs continued to fill up with Syrphid larvae between 15 and 20 May. After this I did not visit the tree again for three days. On my return on 23 May, I was very surprised to find virtually all the larvae had disappeared. I at first put this down to predation by birds, as the larvae were very exposed and easily seen. However a few days later I noticed three hornets *Vespa crabro* flying up and down sap runs higher up the tree and I suspect that these were the culprits that removed most of the larvae. On subsequent days only a few Syrphid larvae were seen in the sap runs, until all activity ceased in early June.

Diary of a square basher – Mull of Galloway, May 2008

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In the past few years I have regularly visited southern Scotland in an attempt to address shortfalls in coverage on the national hoverfly database. Most trips have been a matter of a few days. It was my intention to do something more comprehensive this year and I therefore blocked out several weeks in my diary to make space for some serious square-bashing. My first scheduled trip (in the first week of May) was abandoned owing to work commitments. Thus I looked forward to the Spring Bank Holiday and a full week working my way up the West Coast of Scotland – nice thought but think again! Work again got in the way, but I did manage four days away – not quite the amble up the West Coast that I had planned, but as things turned out probably the best that could have been achieved given the weather.

Saturday Morning (24 May) – 5am – the alarm went and all I wanted to do was get more sleep. No chance - it was time to get up and, ablutions permitting, get on the road. I was off at 5.45 making my way up the A1 avoiding the jams that would inevitably happen as the massed ranks made their way on holiday. As I drove north I wondered whether I was making the right decision – overcast skies were far from promising. By the time I passed Dumfries at 10.00 I was starting to wonder where the promised sun had gone? At last, a glimmer of sunlight and I set to start the task in hand – my first roadside verge and, remarkably, *Epistrophe eligans*, a species that has been singularly absent on previous occasions!

Over that first day I worked my way towards Newton Stewart – lots of wooded roadsides, an *Equisetum* marsh and the classic willow verge with rushy buttercup pastures.

That whole day I saw little of real note but took plenty of material. There is an art to square-bashing – one needs to make best use of time so there is a need for active searching and sweeping for the mundane. A bit of effort sweeping ribwort plantain can yield several *Platycheirus* plus two species of *Melanostoma*. So, most sites ought to yield around 10 species without too much trouble and a good stop could result in between 15 and 20 species. This first day most stops were closer to 10 species but there were exceptions – a path by the River Urr yielded 18 species (nothing special) and a conifer plantation yielded 16 species (including *Brachyopa scutellaris* and *Criorhina berberina* from the small area of adjacent broadleaf). The haul for the day was 13 stops totalling 11 hectads. My last site was at 17.30 when I might normally have been on my way home. It is always amazing that a bit of effort at this time can be productive and today was no exception – 13 species. At this time of day the secret is the sunlit leaf or the last sun on a patch of hawthorn flowers.

My first stop was at the House O'Hill Hotel – a lovely location in the Galloway Forest. The venue itself was a bit tired and I was singularly unimpressed by the stone cold centre of my steak pie; but at least it had a pastry base and top: I consider the modern “pie” to be a misnomer at best – a stew covered by puff-pastry! My haul kept me busy most of the evening and I was pleased to have 115 records of hovers from the day's effort. I was less pleased to find I'd lost one sample – where on earth was it?

The following morning as I loaded the car and looked for the missing tube the weather was fabulous – warm and sunny with *Eristalis pertinax* sun-basking at 8am. The missing tube of specimens was nowhere to be found.

Day two and I aimed to work my way round Burrow Head before heading to the Mull of Galloway. Lots of stops but few squares covered. Over the entire day I managed just seven hectads. Most notably I do wonder whether the idea that sycamore woods are native to northern counties is that unlikely – lots of woodlands with bluebells and ramsons have a sycamore over-storey and I suspect that they have a long history as sycamore woodland. Several over my trip yielded *Portevinia maculata* and apart from upland conifer plantations they were frequently the most productive sites. This day's effort yielded little of significance apart from *Sphegina siberica* and an odd *Parasyrphus* that looks close to *Parasyrphus malinellus* but fails on several counts.

That evening I made my way to the Torrs Warren Country Hotel at Stoneykirk – nice location but maybe not the best of choices. I had booked Dinner B&B and signed in thinking that this was some form of reasonable deal – how wrong I was! I ordered a pint (Belhaven froth) and perused the menu – the lady of the house enquired “has Jim explained the rules of Dinner B&B?” “No” “Well, if you order something that costs more than £15 allowed for dinner you pay the extra” – “fair enough – but what if it is below £15.00 – is there a commensurate discount?” “No” – “not fair enough”. I muttered something about rip-offs and set about avoiding the “surcharge” for not spending enough. Soup, lasagne and maybe pudding. “Did Jim telly you the change in the soup – it is no longer vegetable but is now potato soup” – splutter (Belhaven froth in all directions) – “No!” Time I reorganised my ideas about a nice meal! I hate to think what happened to my cholesterol and calories that night but to hell with the under spend surcharge!

Day 3 – as I loaded the car the missing tube lay right in front of me – where had it come from? Still, thanks for that - a few extra records. I wandered my way round Mull of Galloway: hard work as this is improved grassland country and apart from a few nice verges with bluebells in the open countryside there is nothing worth looking at. A few cliffs with squill were nice (but few flies). As I worked my way round I realised why so few records emanated from this

area – wildlife free zone at least from the perspective of the square basher. One site yielded a surprise – a woodland of sycamore and wet squidgy ground yielded *Tropida scita* – where did that come from? One of life's little mysteries.



Tropida scita male (photo: David Iliff)

As I wandered about in temperatures above 20°C I noted the warnings of bad weather in the south – storms and cool conditions – the antithesis of southern Scotland but heading my way. Should I go north and drop in at the SNH office at Aviemore to organise the DF access permissions for the summer field meeting? Or, should I go south and prepare the Policy Steering Group paper that must be completed by the end of the week? No contest – duty calls.

Homeward bound – as I passed Creetown I remembered a hotel whose details I'd noted during my planning for the trip – the Ellangowan Hotel. Do they have a room? As luck would have it they did (and also Belhaven froth). If I'd not stopped here I guess I would have driven through the night to get home. As it happened I spent a quiet night hoping for good weather and the following morning seemed to promise something better than expected. But, as breakfast progressed (the best of the trip with bacon not murdered) the clouds assembled and my plans changed – a fast run home. By 14.30 I was back in Stamford after a round trip of 900 miles that yielded maybe 340 hoverfly records and a few of other orders.

What drives the square-basher to do this? I wonder? It cannot be the beer – this part of Scotland has not kept pace with modern trends towards micro-breweries and real ale. Nor can it be the hotels – I was singularly unimpressed – especially by fixed cost “deals” that offer a surcharge if you choose a meal that suits. But then, sitting at my desk the following day I cast my mind to deserted forest rides and sunlit hawthorns and rowans, wooded gorges and the calls of yellowhammer, reed-warbler, skylark, curlew and oyster-catcher, and knew only too well. It is that irresistible call of the wild. Where next? Maybe the weather next weekend holds promise?

Hoverfly Notes for 2007

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Cheilosia grossa – 13 March 2007 two feeding from flowers of *Ranunculus ficaria*. Atcham, Shropshire SJ540092

Cheilosia semifasciata: Following my discovery of this species in 2006, as larvae in leaves of *Umbilicus rupestris*, in woodland near Shrewsbury (see Hoverfly Newsletter No. 42). I returned to the site in 2007 and was able to photograph adult males and females. They were present in good numbers throughout much of this woodland, below Haughmond Hill, Shropshire SJ5415. Adults were first recorded as early as 26 March and again on 12 April. I also encountered adults flying around Pontesford and Earl's Hills, Shropshire SJ4004 on 10 April and 14 April. Several males were also swept from a small woodland at Lee Brockhurst, Shropshire, SJ554280 on 30 April. I failed to record *C. semifasciata* from two other candidate sites at Nesscliffe Hill and near Harmer Hill.



Cheilosia semifasciata male (left) & female (right) (photos: Nigel Jones)

Meligramma trianguliferum: A single male at Presthoke, Wenlock Edge, SO5897 on 20 April.

Parasyrphus punctulatus: Was very common in 2007, being encountered on 14 occasions between 23 March and 20 May, with large numbers present on 26 April at Sunny Hill wood, near Clunton, where many males were hovering at about 4-5 metres over forest roads.

Eriozona syrphoides: The first Shropshire record for this impressive fly was made at Sunny Hill Wood, Clunton SJ3283 on 20 May, with a second record from nearby Blakeridge Wood, Bishop's Castle SJ3086 on 20 August.

Heringia pubescens: A single female from Sunny Hill, Clunton SO3283, 20 May.

Sphegina verecunda: At Lee Brockhurst, Shropshire SJ554280, 11 June.

Pocota personata: A single female was found resting on a path in secondary woodland, near Llanymynech Hill Nature Reserve, SJ2621 on 17 May. A first modern record for Shropshire.



Pocota personata (photo: Nigel Jones)

Rhingia rostrata appears to be firmly established in the Welsh border region. It was frequently encountered in spring and late summer/autumn, in the Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire region. I recorded *R. rostrata* on nine occasions between 21 April and 1 June, then on five occasions between 22 August and 13 September.

Xylota xanthocnema at Attingham Park SJ5509 on 4 July and in woodland at Smethcott SO446991 on 10 August.

The summer of 2007 was particularly disappointing for adult hoverflies, most species occurring in very low numbers. However late August and September, proved to be a far more productive period, during which some species were notable for their relative frequency. *Arctophila superbiens*: I had not encountered *A. superbiens* for many years in Shropshire, so it has been pleasing to record this handsome fly in good numbers from six locations during 2007. The most notable of which was Riddles Wood, Westcott, Shropshire SJ419022, where I had ten sightings of individuals along a ride in a small wet woodland. As a general observation, rides in coniferised woodlands seem to be well suited to this fly. *Epistrophe grossulariae* appeared in good numbers throughout August and September, with ten sightings from Eastridge Wood, Habberley, Shropshire SJ3802, on 28 August. Four *Melangyna umbellatarum* put in an appearance at Blakeridge Wood, Bishop's Castle SO3086 on 24 August, and another two at Eastridge Wood, SJ3802 on 28 August. A single *Scaeva selenitica* was recorded in Blakeridge Wood on 24 August. *Helophilus trivittatus* was recorded in Shropshire, on nine occasions between 29 June and 22 August. A Shropshire first record for *Xanthandrus comtus* was made at Smethcott SO446991, on 10 August, with a second, the next day, found in my kitchen in Shrewsbury! There was a third record of at least three, hovering at the edge of woodland, on 14 October at Tan Tree Bank SJ2905.

Dorset Hoverfly Report 2007

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The year 2007 was much better than expected for Hoverfly records and 127 species were recorded in the County including one new species, a specimen of *Eupeodes goeldini* was taken by Dave during an especially comprehensive study of Wareham Forest, in the second half of the year. The new species is a recent split and may be revealed in other collections eventually, when determination features are more widely publicized. It is quite similar to other species of the *Eupeodes* genus. Once again we have to thank Mick Parker for an impressive list for the year.

The following species are in our opinion the most interesting records for 2007:

<i>Platycheirus splendidus</i>	Cerne Abbas 13.7.2007.
<i>Chrysotoxum festivum</i>	Wareham Forest 1.9.2007, 8.9.2007
<i>Chrysotoxum vernale</i>	Tonerpuddle Heath 20.5.2007, 29.5.2007
<i>Didea fasciata</i>	Puddletown Forest 7.10.2007; Wareham Forest 25.8.2007, 12.10.2007
<i>Didea intermedia</i>	Wareham Forest 14.10.2007
<i>Eupeodes bucculatus</i>	Delcombe Wood 21.4.2007; Wareham Forest 11.08-15.9.2007
<i>Eupeodes goeldini</i>	Wareham Forest 23.8.2007. New species for Dorset determined from the latest Key (Speight, Sarthou & Levy, 2007).
<i>Eupeodes nielsenii</i>	Wareham Forest 12.8.2007; 15.9.2007
<i>Eupeodes nitens</i>	Wareham Forest 12.8.2007; 15.9.2007
<i>Parasyrphus punctulatus</i>	Great Coll Wood 7.4.2007; Holt Hill Wood 6.4.2007
<i>Scaeva selenitica</i>	Puddletown Forest 7.7.2007
<i>Sphaerophoria rueppellii</i>	Bramblecombe 12.7.2007.
<i>Sphaerophoria taeniata</i>	Binegar Plain 28.7.2007
<i>Sphaerophoria virgata</i>	Wareham Forest 23.8.2007, 2.9.2007, 14.10.2007.
<i>Xanthandrus comtus</i>	Grimstone 21.10.2007; Moreton Plantation 27.6.2007; Puddletown Forest 28.6.2007, 7.7.2007.
<i>Arctophila superbians</i>	Ibberton 9.9.2007
<i>Brachypalpoides lentus</i>	Lewcombe 18.5.2007; Oakers Wood 19.5.2007; Watcombe Bottom Wood 20.5.2007.
<i>Cheilosia albipila</i>	Waterley Wood 1.4.2007
<i>Cheilosia griseiventris</i>	Blagdon Copse 20.5.2007; Kitemoor 2.9.2007
<i>Cheilosia lasiopa</i>	Grimstone 29.5.2007
<i>Cheilosia latifrons</i>	Grimstone 19.8.2007; Ibberton 9.9.2007; Kitemoor 2.9.2007; <i>Nether Cerne</i> 12.5.2007
<i>Cheilosia longula</i>	Wareham Forest 13.10.2007
<i>Criorhina floccosa</i>	Ashley Wood 29.4.2007; Delcombe Wood 29.4.2007; Lewcombe Farm 18.5.2007; Oakers Wood 5.5.2007; Watcombe Bottom Wood 20.5.2007
<i>Criorhina ranunculi</i>	Ashley Wood 29.3.2007; Bloxworth Wood 6.4.2007; Delcombe Wood 20/21.4.2007; Great Coli Wood 7.4.2007
<i>Eristalinus aeneus</i>	Portland" Portland Bird Observatory 11.3.2007; Powerstock Common (NR) 17.8.2007
<i>Helophilus hybridus</i>	Powerstock Common 17.8.2007
<i>Heringia heringi</i>	Holt Hill Woods 20.4.2007

<i>Myolepta dubia</i>	Stockwood 10.6.2007
<i>Neoascia meticulosa</i>	Nether Cerne 12.5.2007
<i>Pipiza bimaculata</i>	Grey's Wood 6.5.2007
<i>Rhingia rostrata</i>	Wareham Forest 1.9.2007. 2nd Dorset locality record
<i>Sphegina verecunda</i>	Nether Cerne 12.5.2007; Stockwood 10.6.2007
<i>Volucella inanis</i>	Wareham Forest 23.8.2007, 7.9.2007
<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	Bincombe Hill 29.7.2007; Portland 22.7.2007, 26.8.2007
<i>Xylota abiens</i>	Oakers Wood 19.5.2007
<i>Xylota jakutorum</i>	Moreton Plantation 27.7.2007; Tonerpuddle Heath 29.5.2007

Somerset Hoverfly Report 2007

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We have seen or had reports of 82 species during the year and would like to thank B. Widden, C. Gladman, P. Bright, R. Sutton and D. Miller for records sent in. Also to BRERC and Justin Smith for the Bishops Sutton lists. All the species of *Volucella* were recorded in 2007 and *V. inanis*, the scarcest, does seem to be making a comeback.

The following species are the most interesting records for the year:

<i>Chrysotoxum festivum</i>	Ham Hill 2.7.2007
<i>Dasysyrphus pinastri</i>	Bishops Sutton August 2007
<i>Leucozona laternaria</i>	Ham Hill 22.7.2007; Marston Wood 11.7.2007; Otterhead Lakes 22.8.2007; Pink Wood 1.7.2007
<i>Melangyna umbellatarum</i>	Pink Wood 22.9.2007; West Hay Moor 11.9.2007
<i>Xanthandrus comtus</i>	Coombe Park Garden, Yeovil 10.6.2007. Rare in a town garden
<i>Xanthogramma pedissequum</i>	West Zoyland 13.8.2007. In a light trap
<i>Anasimyia lineata</i>	Wick 4.9.2007. On Purple Loosestrife
<i>Arctophila superbiens</i>	Otterhead Lakes 22.8.2007. On Fleabane
<i>Brachypalpoides lentus</i>	Ringdown NR 5.5.2007. On Hawthorn
<i>Cheilosia lasiopa</i>	Ringdown NR 5.5.2007. On Buttercups
<i>Cheilosia soror</i>	Great Breach Wood 29.8.2007; Green Down 24.8.2007; Pink Wood 1.7.2007
<i>Riponnensia splendens</i>	Chilton Polden 26.5.2007. On Umbelliferae
<i>Volucella inanis</i>	Pool Farm, Bishops Sutton 22-29 August 2007
<i>Volucella inflata</i>	Pool Farm, Bishops Sutton August 2007
<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	Blue Anchor, Minehead 23.6.2007; Neroche Church, Hatch Beauchamp 15.9.2007; Pool Farm, Bishops Sutton 22-29 August 2007; Weston Super Mare garden 13.8.2007. 2006 records recently received: Westbury Sub-Mendip 23.9.2006; West Zoyland 17.6.2006

Interesting Recent Records

Chrysotoxum arcuatum: 1 female, Ruardeanhill Plantation SO6316, 20 May 2007 (John Phillips); 3rd Gloucestershire record.

Chrysotoxum verralli: 1 female Woodmancote SO968281. 11 July 2007, (David Iliff); 3rd Gloucestershire record.

Xanthandrus comtus: 1 female Rookhill Covert Lake, 16 June 2007 SP197345 (John Phillips and David Iliff); 1 female Blaisdon Wood S6917, 19 June 2007 (John Phillips)

Heringia pubescens: 1 male on cuckoo flower, Ley Park Wood SO7217, 26 April 2008 (David Iliff); 2nd Gloucestershire record.

Trichosomyia flavitarsis: Ley Park Wood SO7217, 26 April 2008 (John Harper); 4th Gloucestershire record.

Brachypalpus laphriformis: 1 male on log pile, Lower Woods ST7487, 18 May 2008 (John Phillips); 4th VC 34 record and 2nd VC 34 site for the species.

Criorhina asilica: 1 female Lower Woods ST7487, 19 May 2008 (John Harper)