

DIPTERISTS DAY



Saturday 20th November, 10.30 to 13.15 GMT

ON-LINE EVENT

This year Dipterists Day will be an on-line event, with presentations from speakers and live Q & A sessions.

REGISTRATION

To register for this event, use the link below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7581328804789430029>



PROGRAMME

- 10:30 Welcome and orientation
[Zoe Adams (NHM)]
- 10:40 Darwin Tree of Life: UK Diptera – progress so far.
[Inez Januszczak (NHM)]
- 11:00 Why catastrophic insect declines?
[Roger Morris (DF)]
- 11:25 Coffee break
- 11:55 Insect migration research
[Will Hawkes (University of Exeter)]
- 12:15 New Kelp-fly recording scheme.
[Donald Smith (DF)]
- 12:25 New Ked, Louse & Bat-fly recording scheme.
[Denise Wawman (DF)]
- 12:45 Scratchpads
[Rob Davis (NHM)]
- 13:05 Closing remarks
[Zoe Adams & Rob Wolton]

Each presentation will be followed by a short question and answer session. You can post questions through the chat.

Darwin Tree of Life Project

PROGRESS UPDATE



Inez will be giving us a quick update on the projects progress and then opening the session to questions from the audience.

The webcast software will generate a log of the questions, so even if we run out of time on Saturday, we can still get answers to you via e-mail. Just make sure you reference DTOL in your question, so we can identify any questions intended for Inez.

Kelp fly Recording Scheme



A compact scheme launched in 2020 for the UK's 5 species of Kelp flies.

Visit the [scheme page](#) on the DF website for more details.

SPEAKERS

Inez Januszczak

Inez Januszczak is the Sampling Coordinator for the Darwin Tree of Life Project, leading the sample collection and curation side at the Natural History Museum. The Darwin Tree of Life Project is an ambitious project that aims to sequence the whole genomes of every eukaryotic species in the UK. Currently at the NHM we are primarily collecting terrestrial and marine invertebrates, although chordates are slowly being introduced into the project. Inez graduated from the University of Oxford in 2013 in Biological Sciences, before doing a Masters in Wild Animal Biology at the Royal Veterinary College. Inez has since worked as field and sample technician in the Wildlife Epidemiology department at the Institute of Zoology, managed the London Zoo frozen and formalin pathology archive, and completed a year-long internship in marine pathology at the Oceanographic aquarium in Valencia prior to starting her role at the museum.

Roger Morris [Profile](#)

Roger Morris is the joint organiser of the British Hoverfly Recording Scheme (with Dr Stuart Ball). He and Stuart have longstanding interest in invertebrate ecology and have used the HRS dataset in various ways to investigate trends in hoverfly distribution and abundance. They are authors of a wide range of papers and books, the best known being the [WildGuide Britain's Hoverflies](#). Their presentation uses HRS results to support the development of a conceptual model that may go some way to explaining the dramatic declines in invertebrate abundance that have been highlighted by various research teams.

Will Hawkes [Podcast](#) [Instagram](#)

Will Hawkes is an insect migration scientist who grew up in the wild valleys of north Wales. A fascination with insects began very early on with other larger animals pushed aside as they were less easy to grab and handle. He studied zoology at Exeter university, Cornwall campus before beginning a PhD focusing upon insect migration in 2018. His work allows him to travel to beautiful 'migratory hotspots' to count, identify, and understand the importance of these tiny insects that fly 1000s of kilometres around the world each year in their trillions.

Hippoboscidae and Nycteribiidae Recording Scheme



Also launched in 2020 with the aim of promoting recording of Keds, flat/louse-flies, and bat-flies. This new scheme has forged links with the Ornithology & Chiropterology communities.

Visit the [scheme page](#) on the DF website for further details.

Scratchpads



Scratchpads is a social networking application for biodiversity research. It can be used to manage, share, and publish taxonomic data online. The software has tools for managing phylogenies, classifications, bibliographies, documents, images, spreadsheets, specimen records, & maps. We will be hearing from Rob Davis, the new Scratchpads developer at the Natural History Museum, in London.

For a comprehensive overview of Scratchpads read this [paper](#).

Donald Smith [Blog](#)

Donald has worked on the evolution and taxonomy of viruses for several decades but is now rediscovering his boyhood fascination with flies. His blog "The Year of the Fly" describes a self-imposed challenge to see as many fly families as possible in 2019 - with the newly created Polleniidae providing the 63rd and last family. Though still very much at the steep part of the learning curve, his find on a local beach in 2020 of the third of the three species in the family Coelopidae (kelp flies) inspired him to initiate a Kelp Fly recording scheme as part of the Dipterists Forum. The motivation for this was partly to participate more fully in the collective project that is biological recording, but also to get an understanding of how the complex recording landscape works.

Denise Wawman [Profile](#)

Denise Wawman studied medicine at the University of Leicester, graduating in 1990, and worked as an NHS GP until ill-health forced early retirement. Since then, she has, amongst other things, qualified as a bird ringing trainer and developed an interest in bird diseases and parasitology. Denise is the Bird Ringing Contact for the Somerset Ornithological Society and became the Hippoboscidae Recorder in November 2020. She is currently researching flat flies (Diptera: Hippoboscidae) for a DPhil at the University of Oxford.

Rob Davis [StackExchange](#) [Twitter](#)

Rob joined the Natural History Museum in London, recently in September 2021 as a Research Software Engineer within the Biodiversity Informatics Group. He is looking after the day-to-day running of Scratchpads software as well as working on some exciting plans for keeping it going into the future and new functionalities. Along with a Computer Science BSc, Rob brings beneficial experience to his new role with a background in web development of 8 years with both commercial and public sector websites but is also an all-rounder with embedded software and some mobile experience too. He loves the community part of the work he is involved in, having contributed to technical communities as well in his choir. He has already some familiarity with our scientific terms, having been successful (grade C!) studying Biology A level at evening classes some years ago while in his first job as a graduate.