

Anthomyiidae Newsletter

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Overview

The years 2011 and 2012 have seen a significant increase in collecting and recording Anthomyiidae. As well as the usual stalwarts (Ivan Perry, Laurence Clemons and Peter Chandler) several dipterists have begun to use the provisional keys that I have been providing over the years, and have sent me some interesting records. These show that the recording of even the most common and widely spread species have not previously been recorded from a large number of vice-counties, and the existing records (for example on the NBN Gateway) indicate where dipterists live or have been on collecting trips, rather than the real distribution of the species.

In August 2010 I downloaded the bulk of my records onto the NBN Gateway. This consisted of 4108 records from 987 sites, and 235 species. These records were mainly from my own collection, the Hope Entomological collections in Oxford, some published records, and those sent to me over the years. But many sources of reliably determined specimens still remain to be recorded, for example the Assis-Fonseca material now in the BMNH.

I checked the Gateway to see what vice-counties might be without any records of one of the most common and widely distributed species, namely *Delia platura*, which is probably the most abundant species of Anthomyiidae in the world. It has been recorded from every continent except Antarctica. A random check of 8 vice-counties (Norfolk, Bedford, Durham, Dumfries, Berwick, W. Perth, W. Sutherland and N. Devon) revealed that there are no records of this species from any of them. No doubt there are many others. So that many of the records sent to me over the last two years will include new vice county records for many common species.

Recent records

Six dipterists have sent me spreadsheets of their 2011 and 2012 records. These are summarised below.

Ivan Perry has been sending me records for many years His ability to find and identify the rarer species is remarkable.. Many of the records sent to the Gateway in 2010 were from his collecting trips to many parts of Britain. These included *Delia penicilliventris* which was known in Britain from 1-2 old records, but Ivan found several males at Kinrara near Aviemore. *D. penicilliventris* was previously known as *D. penicillaris* Rondani of authors, but the true *penicillaris* is only known from S. Europe. Ivan's records for 2009/2010 (58 records) included *Botanophila lobata* from Mid Perth, a new record from this area, and *Delia coronariae* from Glamorgan. This is a rarely recorded species favouring damp meadows, and I have never caught it myself. I selected at random 6 species from different vice-counties and they were all new records for those vice-counties: *Chirosia similata* 17 Surrey; *Delia quadripila* 27 E. Norfolk; *Leucophora grisella* 28 W. Norfolk; *Pegomya meridiana* 17 Surrey; *Phorbia bartaki* and *sepia* 26 W. Suffolk. Ivan recently sent me an unrecognised specimen from Cambs and it proved to be an *Egle* species new to Britain (to be recorded in the Dipterists Digest in due course).

John Coldwell (33 records from the Barnsley area, VC 63) contained at least seven species which were new to this vice county. These included *Paregle atrisquama*, *Leucophora personata*, *Botanophila lobata*, *Heterostylodes obscurus* (only 3 records of this species on the Gateway from Glamorgan and Somerset), *Pegomya rubivora*, *P. meridiana* and *Chirosia similata*.

Howard Bentley sent 106 records, mainly from Scotland and Kent. The uncommon *Pegomya caesia* was recorded from E. Kent.

Roger Hawkins (27 records) which included *Eustalomyia histrio* from E. Inverness, apparently the first record of this species from Scotland. Also *Leucophora sponosa* from Surrey on Reigate Heath.

Andrew Graham collected some interesting species in North Wales, including *Chirosia griseifrons* from Merioneth, VC 48.

Richard Dixon sent 106 records mainly from S. Hants, including *Pegomya bicolor*. I checked the records on the Gateway for this species, and for S. Hants, VC 11, there was only one record which was dated 1963 and was within a 10km square overlapping S. Wilts. Richard's 11 records of *P. bicolor* from VC 11 are from 5 different locations, so that these appear to be the first records of this common species from that vice county. Alan Stubbs sent me a large spreadsheet with 430 records for at least 35 vice-counties and 104 species. These must include many new VC records, but I have not yet had time to analyse them.

John Bratton has continued to find rare and interesting species in North Wales. His recent records are the subject of a joint paper to be published in *Dipterists Digest* this year, so I won't mention the records here.

My thanks to all these people who have taken an interest in Anthomyiidae and supplied these records, which will in due course be downloaded to the NBN Gateway. The dataset they are in is ascribed to the Anthomyiidae Study Group

In order to keep the same formatted spreadsheet for these records to be easily incorporated, both into my master spreadsheet, and also in the Gateway, I would be grateful if future records were submitted to me in a standard form. Email me at mackland@btinternet.com and I will send you a sample layout.

A new version of the provisional keys and male genitalia figures to British Anthomyiidae are nearing completion. They will be available towards the end of January 2013, probably on Chris Raper's tachinid website. I will put a note on the *Dipterists Forum* site when this is available. The new version contains a set of male genitalia figures reformatted to A4 size with the figures arranged in a more or less standard layout. The keys have been brought up to date with current terminology, some new keys are included. Unfortunately there are still some omissions.

A few keys do not yet include females, due either to lack of material or difficulty in finding reliable characters. A female key to the

genera is also missing. Where there are good generic characters these are often in the structure of the oviscapt, which are not convenient to use in a general key. But from the point of view of recording, it is possible to check the identity arrived at in a key by examination of the male genitalia, as in almost all the British species they are different, often significantly.

Recent Bibliography with references to British species.

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Michelsen, V. 2009. Revision of the *Botanophila helviana* species group (Diptera: Anthomyiidae) in Europe. *Zootaxa* 2108: 45-61.

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Michelsen, V. 2009. Revision of the willow catkin flies, genus *Egle* Robineau-Desvoidy (Diptera: Anthomyiidae) in Europe and neighbouring areas. *Zootaxa* 2043: 1-76.

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