

Cranefly Recording Scheme Newsletter

Newsletter 16

Spring 2008



Thoughts on recent wet summers

Tipula helevola became much more frequently recorded, and with a wider distribution post 1980. Indeed in some southern districts it became common. In the last two seasons it has become scarce again, in my experience, even in places where it had been common. My hypothesis is that it does not like wet summers.

Ormosia nodulosa used to be very plentiful until the hot drought years. I had supposed its recovery would be rapid after wet summers but so far it has made only a very minor comeback. Thus I wait with impatience to see the size of emergence in 2008.

One of the big mysteries is why the seasons of 2006 and 2007 were so poor for crane flies in much of the southern half of Britain. Traditionally elusive species are difficult to monitor, so it will be the 'common' species that best reveal fluctuations in population level. This is very relevant to climatic warming. Predictions of faunal change need to be based on observations on the consequences of the reactions to climate fluctuation that we have already experienced.

The above species examples may not prove to be the best ones to watch so we need to be alert to changes affecting our fauna on a broader basis.

Alan Stubbs

Some notes on the Biogeography of British Craneflies

The Cranefly Recording Scheme focuses on the distribution and ecology of species recorded in Britain and Ireland. This information contributes to assessment of status in Britain for conservation purposes. However, for many species the wider European status remains obscure.

The criteria used in the recent review of BAP Priority Species included international significance of British populations. This exercise has been extended more broadly to ascertain whether even some of our widespread species are otherwise of restricted European distribution. In the botanical world, the bluebell is such a case.

The notes below are a first stab at a list of British crane flies with interesting international distribution patterns.

Some species that have not been recorded in England or Wales, but occur in Ireland or Scotland. Those exceptions are being whittled away but some, especially most of those in the Scottish Highlands, are likely to be genuine.

One purpose of producing this review is to provoke comment from those who feel the statements need revision.

Tipula bistilata This is a species of north-east part of the Scottish Highlands, occurring beside rivers whose source is off granite. On the continent its distribution is surprisingly limited. It is known from the Alps (but not the eastern or south-western extensions: note

limestone occupies extensive areas), and in Scandinavia it is recorded from Sweden and Finland. In European Russia it is reported from the north and mid west, essentially an extension of the Scandinavian occurrence.

Tipula caesia One of the few examples of the species recorded in Ireland but not Britain. Notably, it does not occur in the Scandinavian countries but otherwise is very widespread in Europe, including northern Greece and Russia.

Tipula cheethami In Britain it is a scarce northern and western species, limited to limestone and other calcareous districts. It is a good example of a species otherwise confined to mid European alpine area; the Alps to Carpathians, the Pyrenees, the Apennines and Cantabrian mountains, as well as the mountains of mid Spain and Central Greece.

Tipula gimmerthali It is a scarce species of Upland Scotland and northern England, with a preference for calcareous soils. It typifies species found in both Scandinavia and the Alps, in this case including the Central Massif of France (but not the Pyrenees). In the far north of Europe it has also been recorded from Murmansk.

Tipula helvola In Britain this is a southern species, with a historic out-post in west Central Wales, though in recent warmer decades it has been found in the Midlands of England and in north Wales. On the continent this species occupies belt defined by a northern limit of The Netherlands, Belgium and the Alps across to the Ukraine, and a southern limit in north Spain and north Italy, Greece, and more surprisingly a number of Greek islands, including Crete. It transcends the Asian boundary but being present in Turkey and Israel.

Tipula montana An upland species in Britain, it characterises a central European upland distribution comprising the Alps and Czechoslovakia, the Balkans (excluding Greece), the Massif Central of France and the Pyrennes. It is of interest that a very closely related species, *excisa* (potentially in Britain), occurs in the Alps and Balkans and in Scandinavian mountains (but not the Central Massif of the Pyrennes).

Tipula mutila Only two specimens have been taken in Britain, both in the far south. In view of the European distribution, such a location is odd since the Baltic area is the main centre of distribution. Thus it has been recorded from Denmark, north Germany, south Sweden and south Finland and a nearby part of Russia (then in a few places across to the far east of Russian territory).

Tipula invenusta In Britain it is only known from Ben Lawers where its larva occur in moss on rocks on the high crags famous for their base-rich flora. Otherwise, this species is north Scandinavian, being known from Norway, Sweden, north Finland and northern Russia and into northern Asia. If base rich rocks are essential, occurrence within its range as a whole must be localised as in Britain.

Tipula yerburyi In European terms, this is a 'bluebell' species, confined to the milder western countries, Thus it is listed for the Netherlands, Belgium, west Germany, France (almost certainly the west) and Spain. The British distribution reveals a strong south-western skew, both in Britain and Ireland. It would seem likely that Britain is one of the strongholds for this species.. The French distribution is quite likely limited to Brittany and related areas and much of Spain is almost certainly unsuitable.

Dicranomyia consimilis Apart from the Scottish Highlands, it is mainly a Scandinavian species, including Denmark, and extending across north Russia and Asia.

Dicranomyia goritiensis In Britain this species is confined to seepages on sea cliffs, It is occurs patchily, mainly on the south and west coasts and is present in Ireland. It has been recorded inland in Switzerland, and from France though the location has not been ascertained. Notably the Mediterranean countries provide a centre of distribution: Corsica, Italy, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Morocco, plus the Crimea.

- Dicranomyia halterella*** A species of the Scottish Highlands, it extends down to Arran. It occurs in the Alps, extending eastwards to the Carpathians of Ukraine, and, apart from Denmark, it occurs in the Scandinavian countries extending marginally into Russia.
- Dicranomyia halterata*** It been found towards the Head of Loch Linne, a long sea loch on the west coast of Scotland and towards the head of the Moray Firth on the east coast of Scotland. Here is associated with brackish saltmarsh, befitting its main centre of distribution in the Baltic.
- D. lucida*** This species typifies a distribution that extends for England, Belgium and a narrow zone across Europe mainly comprising the Alps and Carpathians. Though absent from Greece, there is a curious out-post in Crete.
- D. sera*** In Britain this is strictly a saltmarsh species of the upper inter-tidal zone. Though the location of French records is ill-defined, the distribution follows the North sea coast and into the Baltic up to Finland. However, it also occurs in land-locked Czechoslovakia, as well as Bulgaria and Romania.
- D. sericata*** Whilst this species is widespread on calcareous soils in southern and Midland England, it has not been found in The Netherlands or Belgium. The Alps and Carpathians define the northern boundary for a species that is very characteristic of a Mediterranean climate including Sicily and Crete.
- D. pauli*** as yet the only British record is from lowland woodland bordering limestone pavement in the Arnside area of north-west England, a climatic hot spot. This location is far from the main clump of records from Switzerland, Italy and Yugoslavia.
- D. lackschewitzi*** In Britain this species is confined to soft rock sea cliffs, found at several locations on the Isle of Wight and at one site in Dorset. It was originally described from Corsica where, at a sea cliff. The only other known locality is in Czechoslovakia.
- Dicranomyia magnicauda*** It is recorded from the Southern Uplands, Northern England and north-west Wales, four sites in total. Floating bog is the habitat. In Europe it is otherwise only known from Denmark, Sweden, Finland and northern Russia.
- Dicranomyia melleicauda complicata*** In Britain it is restricted to coastal freshwater seepage saltmarsh. This subspecies is limited to France (? north-west only), Belgium, The Netherlands, West Germany and Denmark. There is a separate subspecies on the north fringe of Russia (*stenopectera*) and further one (*melleicauda*) extending from mid Russia across north Asia (including Mongolia) to northern North America. These subspecies are geographically well separated, and the ecology may be different.
- Discobola annuata*** A woodland species in the Scottish Highlands, it also occurs in the mountains of Central Europe and of Scandinavia, plus Russia east of the Baltic.
- Erioptera meijeri*** In Britain it is a fenland species, mainly found in the former Great fens area of Eastern England. This would appear to be a Doggerland, species, otherwise found in the Netherlands and west Germany. otherwise it is also recorded from Italy, though one wonders if this is really the same species.
- Erioptera flavissima*** The only British locality is in mid Dorset, in calcareous seepage carr with tiny streamlets and a small stream. Other potentially suitable sites in the district apparently lack this species. This occurrence is particularly odd since it is otherwise only known from eastern central Europe: Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania.
- Geranomyia unicolor*** Great Britain and Ireland, with extensive rocky coastlines, support the vast majority of the European representation. Otherwise it occurs just across the English Channel in France. probably mainly Brittany. The only other places in the world are volcanic islands in the Atlantic: Madeira, Canary Islands and Azores.

Geranomyia bezzii In Britain a rare species of coastal lagoons in southern England and East Anglia. This is far removed from its other main centre of distribution in the Mediterranean, where it is only recorded from Italy, Albania, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria. It is otherwise only known from the Canary Islands.

Gonomyia edwardsi A Scottish Highland species, it occurs in the Alps and Carpathians, and in Sweden, Finland and a nearby parts of Russia.

Gonomyia hippocampi The only British specimen was found near Basingstoke, north Hampshire and there is another specimen from Switzerland.

Helius hispanicus In Britain it is known from a cliff on the south coast. As the name implies, it is really a Spanish species. Remarkably, its only other places it is known to occur are in Trans-Caucasia and Iran.

Idiocera sexmaculata A near endemic. Historically it has only been found in about 5 localities and is currently known from a sea cliff in Dorset. The only other recent site is in South Wales where its continued presence is in doubt. It has recently been discovered in Denmark.

Idiocera bradleyi Though a rare species in Britain, the only other west European listing is for west Germany. Otherwise, it is a rare east European species recorded from the old Czechoslovakia, Romania, Ukrainian Carpathians, plus Georgia.

Limonia masoni An enigmatic species, it is either an endemic or near endemic. The dilemma is its taxonomic status since it could be interpreted as a colour form of *nigropunctata*.

Molophilus pusillus Seemingly an endemic. The females are parthenogenetic and a male has never been found.

Orimarga attenuata Though found in Ireland, it has not been detected in Britain. It is mainly species, of the Alps and Carpathians, though also known from the Baltic area (Sweden, Finland and nearby parts of Russia).

Rhabdomastix inclinata A species found at exposed riverine sediment of large rivers in the Scottish Highlands. It is only otherwise known with certainty from one locality in the Czech republic and one in Slovakia. In literature it is reported from Romania and Ukraine but the identifications need confirmation.

Symplecta scotica Endemic, only known from the old type specimens, from Dingwall. Extensive recording in that region of Scotland has not relocated the species.

Symplecta chosenensis Apart from coastal Britain, it is found in Czechoslovakia and Romania. However, Scandinavian material attributed to *S. novaezemiae scotica* needs re-evaluation.

Idioptera elsneri Only known from Windsor Forest and one specimen from Czechoslovakia.

SPECIES CONFINED TO SCOTLAND (on present knowledge)

Symplecta scotica endemic

Tipula invenusta a scarce boreal species

Erioptera sordida widespread in mountain regions of Europe.

Erioptera edwardsi

Rhabdomastix inclinata

Dicranomyia halterata

D. halterella

D. consimilis Scandinavian

Discobola annulata

Species confined to IRELAND (on present knowledge)

Tipula caesia

Orimarga attentuata

WALES

A Welsh list will be forthcoming but seemingly all species occur elsewhere in Britain.

Alan Stubbs [alan.stubbs@buglife.org.uk]

Field Work Reports

Anancaun Field Station. Beinn Eighe NNR, (NH023630) Wester Ross (VC55) Scotland, from 15 – 22 June 2007.

The weather for the week was dry and mild, although a lack of rain in the previous few weeks meant that river levels were right down and perhaps some river margin species had emerged and died earlier than normal. Some 10 sites were visited and 78 species of tipuloid crane-fly were collected.

(See the full report for more details, available on request)

On the first day a visit was made to a small stream - Allt na h-Airighe – which flowed through some birch woodland in the Beinn Eighe NNR. Bluebells and primroses were still in flower. Thirty-one species of crane-fly were found there. These were made up of species with aquatic/semi-aquatic larvae such as *Dicranota (Ludicia) lucidipennis*, *Rhaphidolabis exclusa*, *Rhabdomastix edwardsi*, *Eloeophila mundata* and *Antocha vitripennis*; fungivorous species: *Ula sylvatica*, *Metalimnobia quadrinotata*; and wood/fungivores such as *Rhipidia maculata*, *Neolimonia dumetorum*, and *Limonia nubeculosa*. Marsh species included *Tipula maxima*, *Tricyphona schummeli*, *Molophilus obscurus* and *Dicranomyia distendens*.

The wet wood feeder *Lipsothrix errans* was also collected here.

On the next day we went to The Rassal Ashwood NNR, (NG841431) which is situated on the lime rich soils on an outcrop of Durness limestone, and marsh arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*) was present. The reserve includes a small stream and area of seepages to the SW of the woodland and it was here that I spent my time. Eleven species were found here, including *Pedicia littoralis*, *Antocha vitripennis*, *Dicranomyia occidua*, and *Orimarga juvenilis*. Both the latter were seen often at that site.

Antocha vitripennis is a variable species in that the body colour ranges from yellow to dark brown.



Dicranomyia occidua (VV) to show the aedeagus and the flattened leaf-like parameres. (Compare this with the drawing in Podenas et al.)

Adrian Plant, our expedition leader, set up a Malaise trap in the Ashwood, for the week. This yielded a further 7 species of craneflies. This included a female of what was perhaps *Limonia stigma*, with 7 grey mites attached. This species is very similar to *Limonia phragmitidis*, also found at this site, with black tips to the femora, although in the latter species, the black does not run to the tip itself, which is pale. There seems to be intermediate examples, (**check your collections and let me know !**) which makes me unhappy about the identification, unless I can use the male genitalia. The tiny black, 'hairy' *Tasiocera murina* was also identified from this sample.



Male aedeagus of *Tasiocera murina*

On the 17th June I walked from the Field Station through wet grassland and woodland, to the Kinlochewe River. I walked south and the river was sufficiently low to be waded, allowing access to both banks. A second visit was made to the Kinlochewe River on 21 June, this time walking Northward from the road bridge in Kinlochewe. The river margin yielded 19 species, including *Nephrotoma submaculosa*, *Rhabdomastix edwardsi*, *Eloeophila apicata*, *Hexatoma bicolor*, and *Antocha vitripennis*.

On 19 June I explored the northern end of the river, where it flows into the southern end of Loch Marée. There is plenty of sandy and not so sandy shingle *Tipula* (*Yamototipula*) *couckeii* was common on an area where lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) was growing. Also

Nephrotoma dorsalis, *N. submaculosa*, *Tipula montium*, *Hexatoma fuscipennis*, and *Molophilus pusillus*, were found.

Other members of the team made notable contributions. The intrepid Adrian Plant collected 2 specimens of *Dactyolabis sexmaculata* with *Tipula alpium* from a seepage high up on the NE side of Beinn Eighe. The former species is associated with calcareous habitats, which raises questions about the local geology of this predominantly acid/sandstone area. Mark Pavett collected the last remaining specimen of *Discobola annulata* of the season from the A Ghairbhe Wood (NH023588) and despite a thorough search, I couldn't find another! Mick Parker also contributed 6 records.

The list of species found included *Tipula luridirostris*, (see Newsletter 15 for genitalia pics).

This was listed as an RDB 3 (Rare) species recorded from just one post-1960 site in Falk 1991. It was collected by me on 20th June from near the Allt Squabaidh stream (NH 019626)

J. Kramer

Dipterists Forum Aberystwyth Field Meeting 15 – 20 July 2007

There are of course many excellent sites in Wales, and within striking distance of Aberystwyth. My most memorable visit was to Cader Idris. I parked at the southern edge in the car park at Minfford (SH732115) From here there is a clear path by a stream up onto the hillside. By the stream there was *Dolichocheza albipes*, and *Pedicia littoralis*. Where the slope levelled, there was boggy ground with Bog Asphodel, with craneflies *Phyllidorea squalens*, *P.fulvonervosa*, and *Neolimnomyia nemoralis*. Higher up near the source of a stream, at about 500 m altitude.

P. claripennis, *Dicranomyia didyma*, *D. aquosa*, *Neolimnomyia filata*, *N. nemoralis*, and *Molophilus occultus* were recorded. The latter two species were present in good numbers.

I also had a good list on 18 July from the area around Llynn Bychan (SH646314) and the Roman Steps, which included *Lipsothrix errans*.

J.Kramer

Dictenidia bimaculata (L.) in Northern Ireland

This large and dramatic crane fly is only known in Ireland from Counties Cavan, Offaly, Wicklow and Wexford (O'Connor & Speight, 1987). The best documented of the few earlier Irish records are from undisturbed woodlands, with rearing records from decaying birch and alder stumps and trunks. The Irish records are also all from eastern counties and therefore fit well with the British experience of it favouring wet woodland in eastern England (Stubbs, 1992). It, however, develops in the decaying heartwood of large open-grown broad-leaved trees in ancient wood pasture type situations in the more humid west of Britain (Alexander, 2003). Although I have found it but once in the Irish Republic despite many visits (reared from a pupa found in decaying oak in a mature oak woodland in Glenmalur, Co Wicklow, T1090, 13.vi.1993), I found two large populations in historic parklands in Northern Ireland during 2006.

The 2006 work was a parkland scoping study carried out on behalf of the Environment & Heritage Service, and involved a series of visits to each of six historic parklands in five counties. Any crane fly larvae and pupae found in decaying wood were retained for rearing, and two sites produced quite a number: Baronscourt Park, Co Tyrone, H3682 (in beech and oak), and the Great Deer Park, Glenarm, Co Antrim, D2911 (in oak). *Dictenidia bimaculata* emerged from all of them! It had never been found in N Ireland previously, and yet the Glenarm site is an Area of Special Scientific Interest and an Ulster Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Baronscourt is a

private estate and so an overlooked population of a large and distinctive insect is much less surprising there. Adult *D. bimaculata* were later seen active in both sites and further specimens were taken in flight interception traps at both sites. This is an exciting addition to the insect fauna of Northern Ireland.

References

Alexander, K.N.A., 2003. Some records of *Dictenidia bimaculata* (Linnaeus) (Diptera, Tipulidae) from western Britain. *Dipterists Digest* **10**: 106.

O'Connor, J.P. & Speight, M.C.D., 1987. *Macrosiphum albifrons*, *Dictenidia bimaculata*, *Callaspidia defonscolombeii* and *Xyalaspis petiolata*: insects new to Ireland. *Irish Naturalists Journal* **22**: 199-201.

Stubbs, A.E. 1992. *Provisional atlas of the long-palped crane flies (Diptera: Tipulinae) of Britain and Ireland*. Huntingdon: Biological Records Centre.

Keith Alexander

Shropshire crane flies during 2007

This has been a bit of a funny year really. It started off in a bit of a frenzy as I desperately searched for more records and new tetrads to get as much data together as possible for my Shropshire atlas. Amongst these was one of my favourite crane flies *Dicranomyia sericata* which was found once more at Llanymynech Rocks in early April, a great big piece of carboniferous limestone managed as a nature reserve by the Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trusts. Also in April I came across *Hoplolabis areolata*, a riverine fly by the River Severn at Preston Montford. It was the first record I have of this species in Shropshire since Cyril Pugh's times (1920's) – but surely must be quite widespread along this and other rivers in the county. Hopefully this year I might get time to look for it in greater depth! (what did Douglas Adam's write – "time is an illusion – lunchtime doubly so"!!!).

Searches on the Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR again turned up *Idioptera linnei* in good numbers. I recorded it in May and June without much trouble. My other favourite species *Phalocropera replicata* was easily located in May and September as adults, and also as larvae in September whilst searching for dragonfly larva. Also in May *Dictenidia bimaculata* seemed to be pretty widespread and I had two photographs sent to me of this species by work colleagues. This really pleased me that they had thought to do this! Both sites were new and were woodlands. Later in the year Keith Alexander showed me the larva whilst he was teaching a 'Dead Wood Invertebrates' course for my Biodiversity Training Project.

A few people now collect stuff for me and I was really pleased to receive a specimen from Ian Thompson of the Shropshire Invertebrate Group of what I take to be *Limonia nigropunctata x masoni*. It certainly matches Alan's description in the test key. Also Nigel Jones collected widely for me and turned up a few reasonably local species including *Tipula peliostigma* from two locations.

During the busy mid-summer, the few hours I could spare to look for crane flies were spent on The Long Mynd. I wanted to see how widespread *Molophilus occultus* was and see if anything else turned up. The target species was found at a number of wet flushes, along with *Phylidorea squalens* and *Ormosia pseudosimilis*.

My final record of the year was *Trichocera annulata* from the toilets at The Three Fishes pub in the middle of Shrewsbury on the 23rd October. Probably my favourite recording location of the year!!!

Pete Boardman

Catalogue of the Craneflies of the World (CCW)

Available online at <http://ip30.eti.uva.nl/ccw/>

The CCW includes over 17.500 records, covering all genera, subgenera, species, subspecies, and synonyms for the families Cylindrotomidae, Limoniidae, Pediciidae, and Tipulidae (Insecta, Diptera, Nematocera, Tipuloidea, Craneflies).

For all species and subspecies the CCW includes:

- The usual taxonomic information (genus, subgenus, author, publication, synonyms, etc.).
- The distribution, specified in countries, and, for the larger countries, giving the states, provinces, and/or islands.
- An overview of almost all relevant citations from the literature after 1999 (2007 is not yet completely processed). This citation-overview appears automatically below the information for the species. It is separated into sections for taxonomy, distribution, biology, period of flight, and altitude. In the biology section very frequently a summary is presented of the original article (see f.e. *Tanyptera atrata atrata*, under biology, for Great Britain the extensive citation of Stubbs, 2003).

Searching the CCW is very easy. Fill in a name or country, or go to Advanced Search for more specified searching (eg. islands, biogeographical regions, authors, etc.). Searching 'Limonia' gives worldwide 247 records. Searching 'Great Britain' gives 330 records for the four Tipuloid families combined. All these records can be consulted individually, or scrolled one after the other. All these records can also be exported to Excel with a single click of the mouse. So, a species list for Great Britain (or any other part of the world) can be generated within a few seconds.

The CCW furthermore includes:

- A reference citation for most of the important details in which it differs from the printed regional catalogues.
- A reference citation for all figures and relevant information published by C.P. Alexander, F.W. Edwards (west palaeartic excepted), G. Theischinger, and as published in most of the fairly recent papers.
- A searchable database for the world literature (presently 5147 titles).
- A manual (on classification, distribution, abbreviations, gender, spelling of names, references).
- Some pictures (to be extended in the near future)
- Statistics.

For the most recent update (18-12-2007) these are:

Number of records: 17502

Genera and subgenera: 682

Recognized species: 15276

Synonyms: 1605

Doubtful taxa: 96

Number of recognized (sub)species per family

Cylindrotomidae: 71 (plus 14 synonyms)

Limoniidae: 10468 (plus 779 synonyms)

Pediciidae: 486 (plus 50 synonyms)

Tipulidae: 4251 (plus 605 synonyms)

Number of recognized (sub)species per region

Holarctic: 4655

Palaeartic: 3115

Nearctic: 1630

Westpalaeartic: 1412

Eastpalaeartic: 1996

Neotropic: 3553

Afrotropic: 1383

Oriental: 3454

Australasian/Oceanian: 2520

Please use the CCW as much as you like and send me your comments so that it can be improved further.

The CCW has been developed and is maintained by Pjotr Oosterbroek, Honorary Staff member, Section Entomology, Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam, Plantage Middenlaan 64, 1018 DH Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Pjotr Oosterbroek (e-mail: oosterbroek@science.uva.nl)

Look-alikes

Crypteria limnophiloides. v. *Neolimnophila placida*

These species share a distinctive conical basal flagellar segment and similar venation BUT NB:

- there is usually no r cross-vein in *C. limnophiloides*, as depicted in Edwards and in Coe, (See below, Fig. 20) and in the 'Closed Discal Cell' draft key.

Edwards (1938) says 'r is usually absent, but present in some specimens and then situated almost at mid-length of R₂.' This contrasts with *Neolimnophila* where it is at the base of the fork.

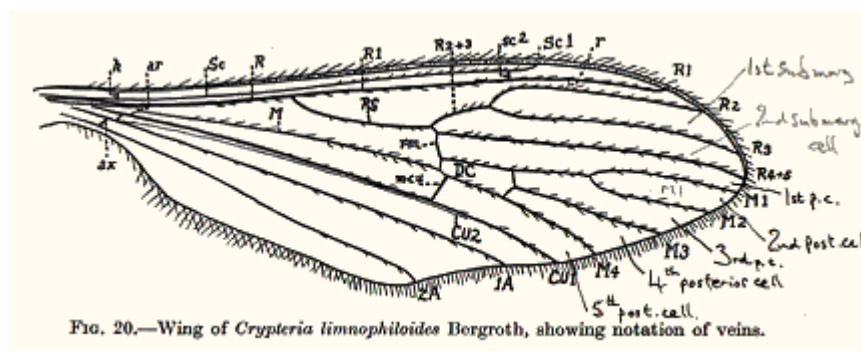


FIG. 20.—Wing of *Crypteria limnophiloides* Bergroth, showing notation of veins.

I captured a female cranefly in the Beinn Eighe NNR, with the distinctive conical basal flagellar segment, and hoped that it might be *N. placida*. It is not! It is the much commoner *Crypteria limnophiloides* which has broader wings (if you have both and can compare them).

NBN Gateway

You can check on the distributions of British craneflies on: www.searchnbn.net
We have just had another print-out of the distribution maps for the Cranefly Atlas.

Crane-fly references

There are a number of seminal works on which the study of British craneflies is based. **One of these is 'British Short-Palped Craneflies. Taxonomy of Adults', by F.W.Edwards, in Transactions of the Society for British Entomology, Vol 5, Part 1**, published on 31 March 1938. It has been out of print for many decades and is only available as a photocopy, or occasionally from a second-hand book seller.



Frederick Wallace Edwards was born at Fletton, Peterborough, in 1888 and joined the staff of the Natural History Museum in 1910 where he worked for most of his life. He produced a large amount of excellent work and was a pioneer in many groups of British and foreign Nematoceran flies, including the craneflies. During the first Great War he obtained leave of absence and his strong religious conviction led him to work, first for the Red Cross and then, until 1919 as an agricultural labourer. He took up his post again in May of 1919.

He died of cancer in 1940, aged 52.

Mick Parker does it again !

While entering data into Recorder from Alan Stubbs' notes taken on the DF 1994 Summer Field Meeting, based at Preston Montford, the following nugget was discovered:

24.5.94 Whixall Moss SJ4936. Ne app, Ti vern, Ti variip, Pr pub, Mol gris, li fasciata, li squal, Er lut. MP.

Alan had identified the specimens collected by Mick on his visit to Whixall Moss and made a note of the list.

Pr pub, is *Prionocera pubescens*, and **li fasciata** is now *Idioptera linnei*. Both of these species are known to exist at this site, but Mick and Alan's record for *P. pubescens* pre-date the previous first for that site by ten years. *I. linnei* was recorded by Pugh in 1938, but there then followed a long gap before it was again recorded in 2004. Again, this 1994 record pre-dates that.

Reviews

(See *The Craneflies of Shropshire* by Peter Boardman)

A Provisional Account and Atlas of The Craneflies of Shropshire. Written and published by Peter Boardman. 2007. ISBN: 978-0-9555629-0-7. pp 96. 9 colour photos.

The book is being sold by the Preston Montford Field Centre for £15 + £2 P+P and can be ordered from Pete Boardman at salopcraneflies@btinternet.com or Kate Cheshire at kate.pm@field-studies-council.org

Next Edition

The copy deadline for Cranefly News 17 will be on July 31st 2008, so please write a paragraph or two and tell us what you have discovered. What about a species list from your local nature reserve, with a description of the habitats there? Or send your records from a specific biotope, such as river margins, wet pasture, or farm ditches? Or you could do a study of a single species.

Send me your e.mail address if you are not yet on our mailing list. You can then receive a superior, colour version of Cranefly News !

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