Cranefly News

Dipterists Forum Cranefly Recording Scheme

For Superfamily Tipuloidea& Families Ptychopteridae & Trichoceridae

Newsletter No 24 **Summer 2012**

Editor: John Kramer Layout: John Dobson

Tanyptera nigra (J. Hancox)

Field Work 2012

A first Welsh record of *Dicranomyia aperta* from Anglesey in 2011.

Two specimens (a male and female) of *Dicranomyia* aperta Wahlgren, 1904 (Diptera, Limoniidae) were recorded from Waun Eurad SSSI (VC52: SH507804) on 22nd August 2011. Both were swept from very open calcareous seepages where wet, muddy substrate was interspersed with tussocks of black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*. Other plants associated with the seepages include grass-of-parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and brown mosses. An association of *D. aperta* with *P. palustris* has been reported from sites in north Yorkshire (Crossley, 2007).

The seepages at Waun Eurad also support a strong population of the soldierfly *Stratiomys chamaeleon* as well as *Oxycera pygmaea*, *Vanoyia tenuicornis* and the snail-killing flies *Tetanocera punctifrons* and *Psacadina verbekei*. A single female of *Orimarga juvenilis* was recorded here on 13th July 2002.

D. aperta occurs only very locally in the UK, and is recorded from localities concentrated in northern Lancashire and southern Cumbria as well as at isolated sites in north Yorkshire and northern Scotland. A record from north Wales mapped on the National Biodiversity Network (Bethesda, VC49: SH611658, 3rd July 1987, rec. Alan Stubbs) is a transcription error for *Euphylidorea* (ex *Limnophila*) *aperta* (*D. aperta* was previously *Limonia aperta*). *E. aperta* is associated with acidic wetlands, carr and woodland and is widespread in Wales.

References

Crossley, R. (2007). *Dicranomyia aperta* Wahlgren, 1904 (Diptera, Limoniidae) - an association with grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris* Linnaeus). Dipterists Digest, **14**: 11-12.

Dr. Mike Howe

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ShropshireCranefly report: (January - June 2012)

In January the recording year started with a continuation of a project to identify the by-catch of the Preston Montford and Pennerley Rothampsted traps. This had delivered some useful winter gnat records during December at Preston Montford and brought records of *Trichocera major* into early January. The first cranefly proper of the year was from the Pennerley by-catch, and produced a very early *Dicranota claripennis* on the last day of February.

Following the decision to publish the 2nd edition of the Shropshire Cranefly Atlas in early 2013, I set about targeting a range of species and sites that had not been recorded or visited for some time to assess status. Fortunately my role of Invertebrate Challenge Project Officer with the Field Studies Council enabled me to spend a decent amount of time on field work for the atlas project. The first species targeted was *Tipula grisescens* which Alan Stubbs had recorded from the Catherton Common area of South Shropshire in 1981 and David Heaver in 1983. I searched the runnels that come off Titterstone Clee and found the fly on 28th March from a ditch full of *Juncus* sp. and at Cleeton St Mary on 4th April at a vegetated seepage above the stream there.

The next target was *Molophilus niger* which had been found in dingle woodland in 2011 just north of the WyreForest around the Borle Brook / River Severn catchment. It was found from late April to very early June at two further sites around the Borle Brook and in the Dudmaston Estate to the east of the River Severn; but also further towards Ludlow in dingle woodland called The Hope. This suggests it is probably widespread in Shropshire's wooded dingles during spring. Several dingle sites were searched and the uncommon *Lipsothrix* species, *L. errans, L. nervosa* and *L. nobilis* were found from new sites in South Shropshire away from the known Ironbridge "hub". Also two sites were added for *Scleroprocta pentagonalis* around the south Telford dingle woodland network after it had been re-found at Loamhole Dingle on a truly filthy late April day.

A mid-May trip to Whixall Moss NNR produced *Idioptera linnei* and all three *Prionocera* species. *P. turcica* and *P. pubescens* were taken from the sphagnum bog whilst *P. subserricornis* was swept from a drainage ditch with mineral influence at the edge of the site.

continued

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Shropshire Cranefly report(*continued*)
A week later this species was found at Melverley Farm Shropshire Wildlife Trust reserve near Whitchurch, around a shallow pond on another rainy recording day. *P. turcica* was later found for the first time away from the Meres and Mosses area of North Shropshire. Keith Fowler took it from swamp in the Telford area and I took it at Cranmere Bog, a rather unexpected glacial remnant on the Triassic sands of South Shropshire.

Rosemary Winnall and John Bingham both sent me photos of *Tanyptera atrata* from the WyreForest in May and I came across *T. nigricornis* in Longville Coppice along the limestone ridge of Wenlock Edge. Given the availability of dead ash along the Edge it should probably be quite widespread. Another correspondent sent a photo of *Ctenophora pecticornis* from his garden in Bridgnorth, South Shropshire, and Ian Cheeseborough encountered it at Nesscliffe Hill in coniferous woodland. Also in May there was a welcome return for an enigmatic species. Dan Wrench, the county ecologist, photographed *Nephrotoma crocata* at Llynclys Quarry, a limestone quarry in the Oswestry uplands, which seems to be the first Shropshire record since the 1970's. The previous records were from Whixall Moss and Prees Heath, a peatland site and a sandy heath.

A lull in the rain at the end of May saw some targeting of the Clun uplands, and the River Clun produced *Hoplolabis areolata* and *H. vicina* at the same site along sandy banks. At the same spot *Eloeophila verralli* was found and further along the same river *Eloeophila trimaculata* was swept in the shade of trees on the same day.

The continuing poor weather encouraged trips to woodlands with a decent canopy rather than more open, soggy sites, or swollen rivers, and *Tipula hortorum* was encountered more frequently than was expected in five woodland sites. On another awful June day *Molophilus lackschewitzianus* and *Dactylolabis transversa* were found on the claggy, calcareous clays of Harton Hollow and Harton Wood. Wet woodland also produced several sightings of *Dicranomyia lucida* from late May into mid June, but notably it also was swept twice from the edge of ponds at SevernValleyCountryPark and Preston Montford.

More waterside searches in late June produced some nice craneflies. The rather random and unexpected *Rhipidia ctenophora* was found up on the underside of a road bridge just south of Shrewsbury at its first Shropshire location. Sweeps of waterside vegetation growing in fine sandy and small coarse pebbly vegetation revealed *Rhabdomastix edwardsi* at the same site on the same day.

Another trip to Whixall Moss in late June yielded *Idioptera linnei* once more as well as other interesting species. *Tricyphona schummeli* was swept from sheltered heather and cottongrass, whilst *Metalimnobia bifasciata* was found at the edge of the moss by a shelter belt of wet birch, alder and sallow woodland. This species is classed as "common but in low numbers" in Stubbs (in prep) and as Least Concern in John Kramer's recent status review.This is the first Shropshire record since 1928, where it was found at the same site by Cyril Pugh. It was not found during Liverpool Museum's entomology survey of the Mosses in the early 1990's, or their other Shropshire site surveys, and it was not amongst Mick Blythe's records for the Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest that were sent to me by the Worcester LRC; it was also the first time I had seen it in the field. I would therefore suggest that it might be rather more uncommon here than previously thought.

The Whixall trip was blighted by heavy showers though when the sun did come out in between them, there was a sudden swarming of *Erioptera nielseni.* Around 40-50 flies were seen swarming in groups over birch bushes and saplings around the edge of *Sphagnum* pools at 1.30 pm. The bog at this location is part recovering poor-fen due to the past influx of canal water on the Moss.

Pete Boardman
Cranefly recorder for Shropshire VC40

New Forest Meeting 11-13 May 2012
The weather was kind but after a lot of heavy rain the ground was very wet in parts. This was especially so at Matley Bog, where I spent a lot of time. Going was very slow in the (very) wet alder woodland, and judicious use of a bog-pole was necessary to avoid the soft spots.

I was rewarded with a male specimen of *Lipsothrix nobilis*. Andy Godfrey tells me that a pupa case of *L. nobilis* has been found in the New Forest, but previous records of adults were confined to Lancashire and Shropshire. Another notable record, and a first for the New Forest, was for *Prionocera pubescens*, recorded by Alan Stubbs on the bog to the east of the alder woodland. *Euphylidea aperta* and *Phylidorea abdominalis* were among the 30 or so other noteworthy species recorded.

We also visited Mark Ash where a valley bog yielded *Triogma trisulcata*, which is new to the New Forest.

John Kramer

Stop Press! Dipterists Forum Summer Field Meeting - Kincraig, 21-28 July 2012

The copy deadline left me with insufficient time to produce a full species list, and there are still a few hours of microscope work needed to name the smaller species. The weather was good however, and a large number of records were collected. Even the habitats close to the Lagganlia Centre where we stayed were excellent; these included the exposed riverine sand and shingle of the River Feshie, the Insh Marshes, and a number of woodland sites.

Among the Tipulidae the genus *Nephrotoma* was well represented with *N. dorsalis* and *N. submaculosa* being found in some numbers. Despite the good habitat *N. aculeata* did not alas

make an appearance. Nine species of *Tipula* were recorded. *Tipula fascipennis* was often common in marshes and on the river banks, along with *T. fulvipennis*. A number of *T. irrorata* were found, all of them female. Perhaps the best find was made by Richard Underwood on a visit to the Findhorn dune slacks where he took a specimen of *Tipula nodicornis*.

Short-palped species from marshes included *Diogma glabrata, Tricyphona schummeli, T. unicolor, Idioptera linnei,* and three specimens of *Pilaria meridiana.* Two specimens of *Limonia dilutior* were also recorded. From the river bank *Hexatoma fuscipennis, Eleophila apicata*, *E. mundata* and *Antocha vitripennis* were recorded. It was reassuring to see these species in good numbers along with plenty of *Ormosia staegeriana* and *Limonia stigma* in the wooded sandy back-channels.

Woodland species included the rarely recorded Scottish species *Discobola annulata*, which was recorded in twos-and-threes at a number of sites. Other fungivorous species included *Metalimnobia bifasciata* and *M. quadrinotata.*

As usual we enjoyed an excellent week in beautiful scenery and in very convivial company. Some sixty-five species of Craneflies were recorded, and more will be added as I work through the envelopes of specimens.

John Kramer

Molophilus ater abundant in a lowland wet woodland

I am currently working on a contract survey of an area of farmland in the Vale of Glamorgan (VC41). The site is on a fine clay substrate along the floodplain of the Ely River (Afon-Elá) near Peterston-Super-Ely (ST07), altitude 27m asl. The woodland comprises mostly alder and willow, with tall marshy vegetation.

One of the few surprises has been a large population of *Molophilus ater* recorded in an area of low-lying wet woodland on 24th April 2012.A few examples of *M. ater* were also recorded in rush pastures on the farm, but in nothing like the abundance observed in the woodland.

My previous experience with this species has been almost entirely on upland peat mire and I had assumed that this was a peat mire specialist. My only previous lowland encounter with *M. ater* was on cliff-top *Molinia* mire in West Cornwall. Does anybody else have experience of this species in the lowlands? And in wet woodland?!

Keith Alexander

Museums Focus

Wingate's Craneflies:

The Hancock Collection, Discovery Museum Newcastle upon Tyne.

This year is the centenary of the death of the Reverend W. J. Wingate, the author of Wingate's Durham Diptera (1903), and to commemorate this I have written a short biographical piece in Dipterists Digest (Vol. 19, No.2). During the winter of 2011/12 I visited Wingate's collection, now housed in the basement of the Discovery Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne. I focussed on his collection of craneflies and the results of my visit are described below.

Wingate's collection of Diptera is housed in a glass-fronted cabinet, in 36 numbered glass-topped cardboard store boxes which are stacked on their sides in three rows like books on a shelf (*photo*). To evaluate the collection as a whole would take a number of specialists many hours of work. There are signs that the collection has been examined previously on many occasions, but the only publication that I am aware of is by Andrew Grayson who re-examined the seven species of Tabanidae (horseflies) (Grayson 2004). It is however a historic collection since the names of species and their arrangement are probably unchanged since it was assembled about 100 years ago.

Cabinet housing Wingate's craneflies in the Hancock Collection

There are 173 species of craneflies (Tipuloidea) on Verrall's list, 155 species in the Wingate's book, 'Durham Diptera', and perhaps 80 cranefly (Tipuloidea) species in the collection.

The collection of craneflies is located in five glass-topped store-boxes numbered 5 to 9. Each species is labelled below with the species name cut out from the List of British Diptera published by G. H. Verrall in 1901, and follows the published order. Labelled spaces are left in boxes in anticipation of future captures. After 100 years, many of the store boxes are cracked and the specimens are vulnerable, so it is doubtful whether they will last another 100 years.

Box 5 and 6 contain the 'Limnobidae' (Limoniidae and Pediciidae) while Nos. 7-9 contain some 31 species and 150 specimens of the Tipulidae. Most of the specimens are carded and as a result are largely intact (although with a fine deposit of soot). Almost all of them have a data label on the pin beneath the specimen.

None of the specimens have a determination (det.) label and it was not possible to confirm identification of many of the smaller species in the short time that I had available, although this would be a worthwhile thing to do. Prior permission from the Trustees would be needed to do genitalia preparations. Species namesare on labels pinned in the box below each species. This means that when specimens are replaced in error, their previous identification is lost. This had happened for example in the case of a specimen of *Tipula fascipennis* in Box 9. In addition, the numerous specimens of *T. lateralis* spill over into the adjacent *T. vernalis* section.

Box 5 includes the Ptychopteridae in Row 1 alongside 24 species of Limoniidae occupying the remainder of the box. There is an unidentified *Gonomyia* present which is not surprising considering that most of the British species of *Gonomyia* were named on the basis of microscopic characters in the 1920's.

Box 6 contains 25 species of Limoniidae, Pediciidae and Trichoceridae.*Dactylolabis transversa* was also present (labelled as *Dactylolabis gracilipes* and collected at Harperley on June 4, 1900).

There were two battered *Lipsothrix* present here. At the time only *L. errans* was recognised in Verrall's 1901 British checklist. One of these specimens is legless and the other specimen (which is uncharacteristically dark and dusty and would require closer examination) is perhaps *L. remota*.

The *Ula* specimen in this box was identified by Wingate as *U. pilosa* (Schummel 1829) as on Verrall's list. It was not until 1969 that two British species (*U. mollissima* and *U. sylvatica*) were recognised, and the first British example of*U.mixta* was found in 2003. The specimen of *Tricyphona unicolor* in this box, from Harperley on June 28, 1902 is correctly identified.

Box 7 contains 13 species of the family Tipulidae, including the genera *Nephrotoma* (as *Pachyrhina*) and *Tipula.* The specimens of *Nephrotoma* include two females of *N. crocata*, while a number of the remaining specimens would require further examination. Among the species of *Tipula* is a female labelled *T. truncorum* which has a thin median prescutal stripe present, supporting that identification.

Box 8 contains 10 species of *Tipula*. Among these, above the Wingate label '*T. hortensis*', there are two female specimens labelled '*T. hortulana* Mg. (F.W. Edwards identification 29 (24?).3.1924'). Both *T. hortensis* Mg. and *T. hortulana* Mg. are on Verrall's 1901 British checklist.

Under the name of *T. hortensis* there are 3 male specimens of *T.submarmorata* Schummel (det. JK). The names might have been muddled here, since *T. submarmorata* Schummel was often wrongly labelled *T. hortulana* Mg through misidentification at that time (See Chandler 1998). Edwards (1924) writes:

'The Durham specimens recorded by the late Rev. W. J. Wingate are T. hortulana*; the mistake probably arose through the females having* (*as usual*) *more distinct wing markings than the males, and one or two specimens having the vein R2 complete on one or both wings.*'

At that time the name *T. hortulana* was used for both *T. pseudovariipennis* Czizeki, and *T. submarmorata* Schummel. Edwards must have meant the former in this case and close examination shows that these are both female *T. pseudovaripennis*, having only the tips of their front femora black.

When the 3 specimens of '*T. plumbea'* were examined they were found to consist of 2 species: 1 male *T. subnodicornis* and 2 male *T. pruinosa.*

Tipula. lunata (3m, 1f)*,* are also present in this box, labelled as *T. luna*. The common *Tipula luna* Westhoff. 1879 is not on Verrall's 1901 checklist and also not in Wingate's key, the relevant part of which (p88) runs as follows:

67 (70) Abdomen grey

68 (69) The joints of the flagellum not incised beneath.

823 ***Tipula lunata*** **L**.

69 (68) The joints of the flagellum deeply incised beneath.

827 ***Tipula diana*** **Mg.** (= *Prionocera turcica*)

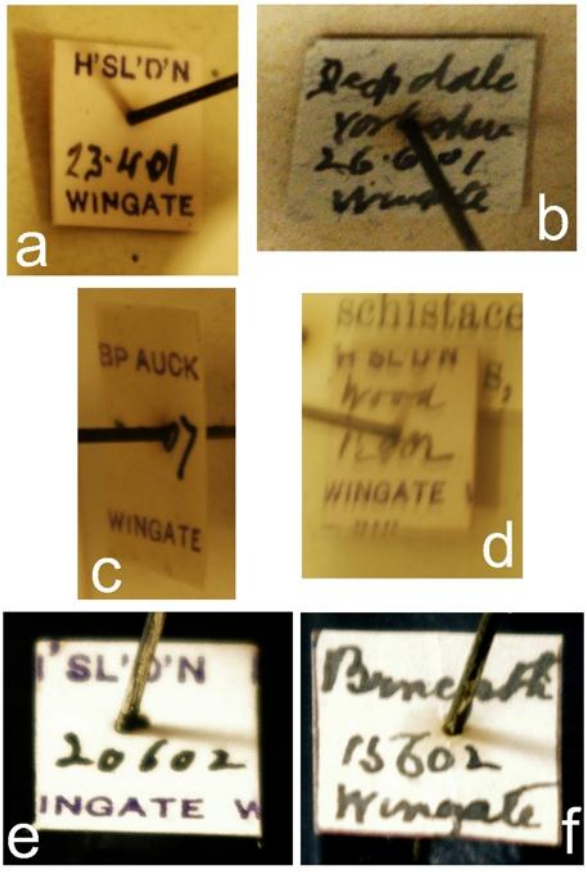
Wingate, in common with many other dipterists of his time, misnamed the blue-grey *T. luna* Westhoff 1879, as the orange *T. lunata* Linnaeus. 1758. This error occurs in a number of historical collections and was due in part to a misidentification made by Meigen. In 'Systematische Beschreibung Vol 1, 1818, p188; Meigen describes *T. lunata* Linn. as 'Aschgrau' ('ashgrey'). Meigen also states that the description of this species by Fabricius is different from his. Meigen's writing translates as follows:

*'*Tip. lunata *(as described by Fabricius) is not the present species but is ochraceous'* (yellow-brown).

It seems then that Fabricius had correctly interpreted this Linnaean species.

Meigen also describes another species, *T. ochracea* Mg. 1804, which is present on Verrall's list, and a specimen of which is housed in Box 9 of Wingate's collection. It is a junior synonym of *T. lunata* Linn. Mannheims, in Lindner's Die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region (Vol III, 1980), has marked this synonym with a Vorsicht! (=Warning!) sign to indicate the confusion. It took some time for the orange species of *Tipula* to be sorted out. The orange *T. cava* was named by Riedel in 1913, after Wingate's death, but I found no *T. cava* in Wingate's collection.

Box 9 contains 8 species of Tipulidae. Perhaps the most surprising specimen in this box, and in the collection as a whole, is a male *Ctenophora ornata*(*photo*) in Row 7 of box 9. The label (c, below) states: '*Bishop Auckland, - - 07, Wingate*'. To the best of my knowledge, this species has never been recorded north of Sherwood Forest and its presence in the collection raises interesting questions. Was it added to the collection by Wingate? If so, had it arrived as a pupa in imported timber? Was it donated? It would be good to know something of the history of this specimen. All operators of light traps in the north of England should be alerted to look out for this species.



Wingate's Labels

From specimen e) it can be seen how the labels for usual sites were cut into strips from printed sheets, and the strips were again cut. Sometimes additional information was added, as in d).

References

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Acknowledgements
I am grateful to Dan Gordon, Keeper of Biology at Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums for access to the Wingate Collection.

John Kramer

Rarity Indices for the British Craneflies

Over the winter months I had a look at the approximately 110,000 records of British craneflies in the database at the Biological Records Centre. We have been sending in these records for the past 40 years and so it was hoped that it might be possible to detect some interesting patterns.

The first results of your efforts are the British distribution maps for each species and these can be viewed on the NBN Gateway at www.searchnbn.net.

One question that was asked was 'Is it possible to detect any changes in population size when the 20-year periods 1960-1979 and 1990-2009 are compared?' Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the sampling effort within each species and sampling period was not sufficiently constant for this to be attempted easily. It is possible that preliminary conclusions might be arrived at following a more sophisticated analysis of the species data. Something for next winter, perhaps?

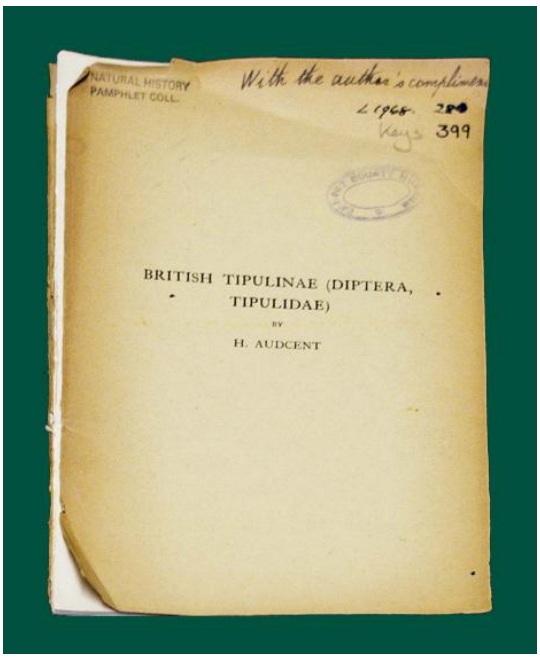
A question that is more easily answered is the relative rarity of each species. Species were divided into classes according to the number of hectads nationally, that they had been recorded from, and a score was given from 1 to 6, from the least recorded to the most recorded. The result is a list of Rarity Indices for the craneflies. The scoring system is arbitrary and some workers prefer to use an exponential scale; 1,2,4,8,16,and 32. This clearly weights the rarer species. There is of course the problem of under-recording, and clearly the least recorded species (occurring say in the middle of an inaccessible moor) might not be the rarest, and some compensation needs to be made.

Nevertheless, Rarity Indices have their uses for site evaluation. For example, if a planner grabs you by the lapels and demands to know which of a number of sites 'has the best, and the worst ecology'; then after some appropriate sampling, you might be able to give them some kind of semi-quantitative answer; and planners like that! It can also be used to compare sites for conservation purposes.

This list of Rarity Indices for the British craneflies is available from me, and I am hoping to make it available on the Dipterists Forum website.

John Kramer

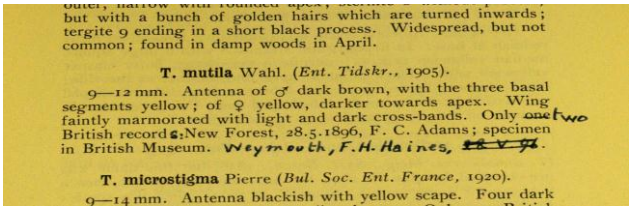
The story of the British specimens of *Tipula* (*Pterelachisis*) *mutila* Wahlgren



There are only two known British specimens of *Tipula mutila*, both of which are in the Natural History Museum, London. A note of the occurrence of *T. mutila* Wahlgren in Britain was first published by F. W. Edwards (1924) (as *T. mutila* Wahlberg (*sic*)where he states that:

'*A male of this very well defined species was taken at Lyndhurst, 28.v.1896 by the late Mr. F. C. Adams and was given by him with his collection to the British Museum*'.

At the time when Audcent (1932) published his paper on the British Tipulinae this was the only known British specimen of *T. mutila*.


but with a bunch of golden hairs which are turned inwards; tergite 9 ending in a short black process. Widespread, but not common; found in damp woods in April.

T. mutila Wahl. (*Ent. Tidskr.*, 1905).

♂—12 mm. Antenna of ♂ dark brown, with the three basal segments yellow; of ♀ yellow, darker towards apex. Wing faintly marmorated with light and dark cross-bands. Only ~~one~~ two British record♂:New Forest, 28.5.1896, F. C. Adams; specimen in British Museum. Weymouth, F.H. Haines, ~~28.V.96~~.

T. microstigma Pierre (*Bul. Soc. Ent. France*, 1920).

♂—14 mm. Antenna blackish with yellow scape. Four dark

Text from the Dorset County Museum copy of Audcent (1932)

The second specimen housed at the Natural History Museum is a female from the collection of Dr. F. H. Haines. This specimen is labelled:

'*Dorset, Chickerell, F. H. Haines, 1932*'.

Referring to the latter specimen, Edwards (1933) writes:

'*Recently when looking through Dr. F. H. Haines' collection of Diptera I came across a female* T. mutila *Wahlberg which had been taken at Chickerell near Weymouth, and provisionally determined as* T. hortensis *Mg. Dr. Haines has very kindly presented this specimen to the National Collection; he suggests that other examples from the same place may be found in the Dorchester Museum*.'

For me, some mystery still remains as to the origin of this specimen. Was 1932 the last time that *T. mutila* was seen in Britain? Was Chickerell the last place it was seen?

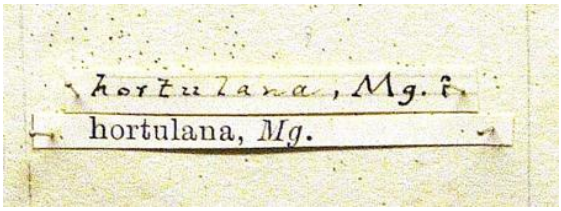
When I went to the Dorset County Museum in Dorchester and look in their copy of Audcent (1932) (*photo*) I found that someone had written-in an additional record. It is curious that F. H. Haines is given as the recorder, and that the date of the original 'Adams' New Forest record has been used and then crossed-out. Was there another 'Adams' specimen of *T. mutila* which remained in Dorset when the first one was donated to the NHM?

With reference to the Edwards (1933) paper,*T. hortensis* does not appear in Haines (1926). That article does however include a listing for '*T. hortulana* Mg? Chickerell'. In addition, the author states that:

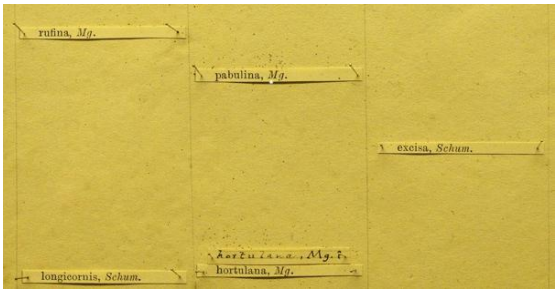
'*Chickerell, Portland and adjacent coast records are generally from specimens in a collection made by the late N. M. Richardson, and now in the Dorset County Museum.*'

So was the Chickerell specimen originally in the Richardson collection, collected in 1896, and provisionally labelled *T. hortulana* Mg? Most of the specimens in the Richardson collection date from around 1895, about the same time as the Adams specimen. So perhaps the specimen dates from 1896, and *T. mutila* has not been seen since then?

The Haines Collection of Flies is currently stored at the Dorset County Museum; so is there any evidence there of specimens of *T. hortensis* or *T.mutila*?



Label from the Richardson Collection



Part of 'Box 48 and 49'

The Tipulidae are housed in two cabinet drawers labelled:

1) Box 45, 46, and 47
2) Box 48 and 49.

The specimens of Tipulidae commence in the last row of the first drawer, and these comprise *Tipula pagana*, *T. obsoleta, T. truncorum* and *T. hortensis*. *Tipula* is then continued in the second drawer where row 1 comprises specimens labelled as

T. pabulina, *T. variipennis*, *T. scripta, T. excisa*, and *T. subnodicornis*. The following rows house specimens of the sub-genera *Dendrotipula, Lunatipula, Acutipula* and so on.

Some specimens in the collection are misidentified; however neither a labelled space for *T. mutila*, nor a misidentified specimen of *T. hortensis* are in evidence. The drawers are lined with plastazote indicating that the collection has been rehoused at some point since 1950 when they were donated to the Museum. It is therefore possible that some 'gap-closing' or rearrangement might have occurred.

A separate 'mock-Tudor' oak cabinet houses the Richardson Collection of Diptera, and here the drawer labels show no signs of re-curation or rearrangement. Drawer 3 contains the Culicidae and Limnobiidae, drawer 4 contains more Limnobiidae, while drawer 5 houses the Tipulidae. As with the Haines collection there are labelled spaces: row 1 is labelled for *T. pagana, T. nigra*, and *T. obsoleta,* and row 2 for *T. confusa, T. marmorata, T. rufina, T. longicornis, T. truncorum* and *T. winnertzii* etc*.* In row 3 there are printed labels, but in the empty space for *T. hortulana* there is an additional handwritten label which reads '*T. hortulana* Mg.?'. This clearly indicates a provisionally identified specimen, and perhaps the Chickerell specimen of *T. mutila* originally occupied that space, labelled as '*T. hortulana* Mg.?, described in Haines' 1926 paper.

As regards the larval habitat of *T. mutila*, it is a very rare species in Europe with only three records in the past decade. The only record of the larval habitat is the emergence of an adult from a dead trunk of aspen (*Populus tremula*) in Finland in 2006 (Salmela, pers.com.). If the larvae feed inside the wood, dead aspen in the right state of decay is not common, and in Finland, where there are about 15 records of *T. mutila*, the habitat where the adults fly is given as moist heath woodland. (Salmela, 2009). Rotting alder or other species of *Populus* may be alternative larval food sources here in England. However, many larvae of the sub-genus *Pterelachisus* are associated with mosses, and perhaps the larva had pupated under mosses, or had been feeding on the mosses and had burrowed into the soft aspen wood in order to pupate? (I. McGowan, pers. comm.). There is 'moist heath woodland' in the New Forest and it seems to me that this is the most likely origin of the 'Chickerell' specimen. Perhaps it was a gift from Adams to Richardson?

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NB: The next copy deadline for Cranefly News will be 15th December 2012. Why not send in a report?

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