



# Cranefly News

**Dipterists Forum Cranefly Recording Scheme**

For Superfamily Tipuloidea & Families Ptychopteridae & Trichoceridae

**Newsletter No 25**

**Spring 2013**

Editor: John Kramer

Layout: John Dobson



Tipula vittata (Graham Calow)

## Notices

### Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cranefly Recording Scheme!!

It is difficult to know exactly when to light the candles. The Scheme was launched in April 1972, and the first Newsletter was published in February 1973; so thanks to Alan Stubbs, John Heath at BRC, Dick Vane-Wright and Tony Hutson at the NHM (or BM(NH) as it then was) and all the other founder-members. There was an inaugural meeting at the NHM in April 1973, the first field meeting was on 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August 1973 in the Forest of Dean, and the first Autumn Dipterists' Day was held at the NHM on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1973.

The group has achieved a lot, as you can see if you log on to [www.searchnbn.net](http://www.searchnbn.net) but there is still a lot to do. A hundred years ago Verrall had published his books on the Syrphidae and the Stratiomyidae. After his papers on British 'daddy-longlegs' (1886-8) his next book should perhaps have been on the Tipulidae, but it was not to be. Collin continued the good work with the Empididae.

It would be the best way to celebrate the work of the previous 40 years, and indeed of the past 130 years, if we could get a 'British Craneflies' published at last! Hopefully that will encourage more recording and result in a more definitive British List and distribution atlas.

Alan Stubbs tells the story of those early days in the Dipterists Digest (First Series) No 6 (1990) which is available as a pdf on the Dipterists Forum Website.

John Kramer

## Workshops

The following cranefly workshops have been organised for 2013:

March 28<sup>th</sup>: **VC 32 Diptera Group**. (Beds, Cambs and Northants). Pitsford Reservoir Centre, Northants.  
Contact: John Showers: [showersjohn@gmail.com](mailto:showersjohn@gmail.com)

July 13<sup>th</sup>?? & Aug 4<sup>th</sup>: **Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust**.  
Whisby Education Centre, Lincoln.

Contact: Kim Baines: [whisbyeducation@lincstrust.co.uk](mailto:whisbyeducation@lincstrust.co.uk)

Sept 8<sup>th</sup>: **Devon Wildlife Trust** (SW Eng.).  
Marsland NR Centre.

Contact: Gary Pilkinton: [garypilkinton1@aol.com](mailto:garypilkinton1@aol.com)

I am hoping that others from SW England will join this group. Members of the Devon Association, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Federation of Biological Recorders and the Cornwall Wildlife Trust should contact Gary if they wish to attend.

Sept 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: **Angela Marmont Centre**: NHM, London.  
Contact: Stuart Hine: [s.hine@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:s.hine@nhm.ac.uk)

Sept ??:**Sorby Invertebrate Group**, Sheffield

Contact: Derek Whiteley: [invertebrates@sorby.org.uk](mailto:invertebrates@sorby.org.uk)  
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Oct 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: **Glasgow Natural History Society**.

Glasgow Museums Resource Centre.

Contact: Richard Weddle:

[info@glasgownaturalhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@glasgownaturalhistory.org.uk)

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Oct: **North East Scotland Biological Records**

**Centre** (NESBReC) & Buglife. Venue: University of

Aberdeen Contact: Glenn Roberts:

[glenn.roberts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.roberts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>: **Highland Biological Recording Group**

**& Buglife**. Inverness (Venue to be arranged) Contact: Dr.

Scott Shanks: [scott.shanks@buglife.org.uk](mailto:scott.shanks@buglife.org.uk)

Some dates (marked ??) have yet to be finalised.

Please make contact with your area organiser who can give you more details. If you would like a workshop in your area and have a suitable venue please let me know. This is especially so for SW England. I am prepared to visit another venue if there is enough demand. We are full up for 2013, but we can open bookings for 2014 as soon as people let me know.

John Kramer

## Field Work

### 2012 Records

Thanks to those people who have already sent in their 2012 cranefly records and these will be going off to the BRC in January 2013. As Ivan Perry said, it has been rather meagre fare this year, although parts of Scotland had a normal summer. Ivan recorded, among others, *Dicranomyia caledonica* and *D. distendens* from mid-Perthshire (VC88).

I am especially grateful to Phil and Elspeth Brighton for sending records from around Warrington, which is an under-recorded area. They have sent a record of *Tipula couckeii* from VC 59 (South Lancs.) which is, I believe, the first record from that region. *Nephrotoma scurra* has also been recorded by them, and this is a species not recorded in that VC for at least five decades.

Continued

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It is interesting to note that Herbert Womersley (see below) came from Warrington, and he submitted his first Diptera records to the Warrington Field Club in 1909. I believe that he also published Diptera records in the Lancashire Naturalist from 1910.)

Thanks to Laurence Clemons and his team in Kent. It is a well recorded county with its own Atlas, but it was good to see the rarely recorded *Neolimnophila placida* from two new sites in VC 16 (East Kent) during 2012. Howard Bentley, who is part of the Kent team, also sent in useful records from the Lagganlia Summer Field Meeting. These included *Rhabdomastix japonica* (ex *hilaris*) also captured by Nigel Jones, both specimens from the shingle margin of the R. Feshie. (See photos below)

Note that there are now 5 *Rhabdomastix* species on the British list (just 3 in the Stubbs Key) and a new key has been produced. The identification of these yellow species of *Rhabdomastix* depends in part on the shape of those tiny parameres at the base of the coxites, and so a good magnification is needed. F. W. Edwards first drew them, and noted differences, in 1938 (Edwards 1938, p115, Fig 22.).

More records would be welcomed. Please can recorders also note the gender of specimens identified on any list of records submitted. This is very useful in assessing the record, and as many of you will know sight of the male genitalia is essential for the identification of some species.

John Kramer



Fig 1. *R. japonica* (male)

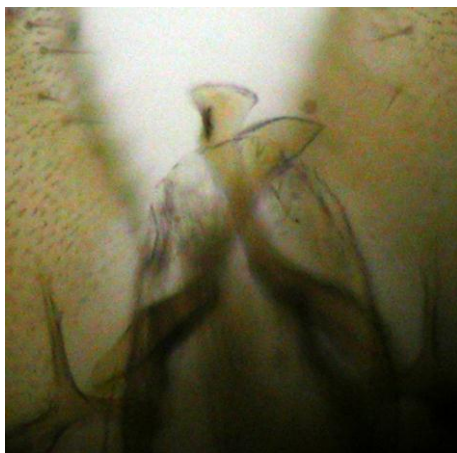


Fig. 2. *R. japonica*, parameres  
(Photos: John Kramer)

## Shropshire Crane-fly Report

July to December 2012

In the last crane-fly newsletter I submitted a report dealing with the first six months recording in Shropshire (VC40) during 2012, so I thought I would add another account to complete the crane-fly year in the county.

Before I start though I must relate two new county records that came my way from the first half of the year. They weren't included in my previous review as the envelopes that contained the specimens reached me later in the year. Both were samples collected by Shropshire dipterist Nigel Jones. One was *Molophilus bihamatus* collected in alder carr at Crosemere in April, and the second was a specimen of *Scleroprocta sororcula* from wet woodland on the low slopes of the Long Mynd in May. Nigel had specimens of *S. pentagonalis* from the same site.

The weather calmed down a bit in July after a very wet early summer and I was able to get out most days surveying at some point. The first interesting record was *Ormosia pseudosimilis* from The Bog Mine brownfield site close to The Stiperstones NNR. On the 10<sup>th</sup> July I netted my favourite species and the one that started it all off for me as a "crane-flyer" *Idioptera linnei* at Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR. It was two days later however that the real excitement arrived when I found *Elipteroidea alboscuteallatus* at a site close to Much Wenlock (see accompanying article for more details).

August also proved to be exciting as Keith Fowler found *Limonia dilutior* on top of the Long Mynd on an Invertebrate Challenge crane-fly day. This is the first Shropshire record since the 1930's when it was found by Cyril Pugh and Harry Britten at different lowland sites. It came at the end of a long hot day and was swept over heather as we walked back to cars. Buoyed by this I returned the next day to look in similar habitat on The Stiperstones NNR without success but I did find *Euphyllidorea aperta* along a flush near the visitor's car park.

*Ormosia pseudosimilis* was found again but this time at Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR in mid-August amongst cotton-sedge tussocks. A few days later I returned to the Long Mynd again with a different Invertebrate Challenge group and was rewarded with *Dicranomyia nigristigma* which was a fabulous surprise! It was swept from bottle sedge at the edge of a dammed pool and also from seepages that run into the stream along the base of Carding Mill Valley. *Dicranomyia didyma* was found on the outflow of the pool sat on the mossy splash zone and again at Wildmoor Pool at a splash zone where the pool flows out and under the road.

At the end of August I explored some of the more ignored parts of Shropshire towards the very south-western edge of the county and found *Eloeophila apicata* with *E. mundata* at Llanywolley by the River Teme.

Into September and I led a trip to Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR in search of a crane-fly that had eluded me there (and everyone else) since it was found by Cyril Pugh in the 1930's – *Phylidorea heterogyna*. Keith Fowler, Jim Cresswell and I searched without success during the morning but I was fortunate to find it by wading out into a very wet part of the reserve where it was swept from *Sphagnum* moss and small tufts of cotton-sedge. A fuller account of this find has been submitted to Dipterists Digest.

The goodies kept coming into October. Examination of Dave Poyton's Rothampsted by-catch revealed a couple of specimens of *Dicranota exclusa* which were the first Shropshire records again since Pugh's time. Also I took the opportunity of a sunny (but cold) day to have one last sweep about for late crane-flies at the very end of October and came across several flies from a wet heathy meadow in the Shropshire uplands that I assumed were *Tipula pagana* on first glance. This didn't seem right though due to the habitat so I had a look at Alan Stubbs' notes and having taken a few samples later concluded they were in fact *Tipula holoptera*, though I found the illustration in the test key a little misleading. I visited the Long Mynd on the same day and found a mystery female *Tipula* sat on *Sphagnum* in a flush that turned out to *Tipula holoptera* too (being fully winged – *Tipula pagana* has reduced wings and is flightless). It was the coldest I've ever been "crane-flying" – the air temperature was 2.5°C but crane-flies were still findable by sweeping tussocks. Inspired by this for one last hurrah I visited the summit of Titterstone Clee the following day and recorded several species including *Tipula subcunctans* which has few Shropshire records – presumably due to the fact it flies late and dipterists tend not to go looking for it during late autumn in moorland habitat.

The final, final crane-fly trip of the year was another Invertebrate Challenge event which was due to take place indoors at Ironbridge in the form of an id workshop but as the weather was quite mild we (Keith Fowler, Nigel Jones, Jim Cresswell, Gordon Leel, Kat Woods and I) headed into Loamhole Dingle and recorded 9 species of crane-flies and 4 species of winter gnat – which for the 11<sup>th</sup> November wasn't too bad at all – again a great advert for crane-flying as it has such a long season and something can always be found! This brings the site list for Loamhole Dingle to 90 species of crane-flies, winter gnats and fold-wing crane-flies. We're of course aiming for the 100 next year!

Most of this year's crane-fly activity was designed to boost recording for the forthcoming Shropshire Crane-fly Atlas (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). During 2012 we were able to add approximately a further 4000 crane-fly records to the Shropshire list as a result of this work. The atlas will be going to the publishers (FSC Publications) early in 2013 and will contain crane-fly records from all of Shropshire's complete tetrads and many of the fiddly bits around the edge – a total of about 935 tetrads in total, so will be amongst the most complete atlases of Shropshire's

invertebrate fauna in coverage. That said there are so many sites to visit and revisit to improve it – but I'm proud of what has been achieved this year.

#### Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank the Invertebrate Challenge crane-fly group for their enthusiasm. Keith Fowler and Nigel Jones for their contribution to Shropshire crane-flies during the year and Keith, Nigel and Jim Cresswell for helping with tetrad-bashing at the end of the year.

Pete Boardman

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#### **The Crane-fly *Ellipteroides alboscuteUellatus***

In the first Shropshire crane-fly atlas (Boardman 2007) I listed the uncommon crane-fly *Ellipteroides alboscuteUellatus* as "one that got away" as it had been recorded in the Wyre Forest a number of times but never from the Shropshire part of the great forest that covers parts of the vice counties of Worcestershire, Shropshire and Staffordshire.



***Ellipteroides alboscuteUellatus* among the moss  
*Pallustriella falcata***

Worcestershire dipterist Mick Blythe recently detailed the habitats for *E. alboscuteUellatus* and other *Ellipteroides* species within the Wyre Forest in a paper within the Wyre Forest Study Group's annual review in 2010 (Blythe, 2010), and it is known to be associated with *Pallustriella* mosses that grow on or around tufa deposits (Heaver, 2006).

Tufaceous habitat from which the fly is known is poorly represented in Shropshire but small pockets do exist and so there was always hope that this crane-fly might be found. To this end I sought advice from naturalists in Shropshire as to where people knew of tufa occurring and a list of sites was noted including a couple of areas close to Much Wenlock, Ironbridge; Cramer Gutter nature reserve by Catherton Common, Weir Coppice at Hook-a-gate near Shrewsbury, Sweeney Fen near Oswestry and Alveley Country Park near Bridgnorth.

Fortunately one of the people consulted, botanist Alex Lockton, reported tufa *en-masse* at a site he'd been to during the spring to carry out a botanical

survey and suggested there was more tufa there than any other site he'd seen in the county. The site, Whitwell Coppice (north of Wenlock Edge) was already a well-known cranefly site as it was one of the study sites visited by Andy Godfrey as part of his *Lipsothrix* study for Natural England (Godfrey, 2001), though it is likely that a different part of the coppice was examined. A visit in June established that the tufa was indeed widespread in part of the coppice where a wide shallow stream bed at the base of the coppice was swamp-like in places with alder carr but scoured in others enabling the colonisation of *Pallustriella* mosses on the tufa sediments. Over 20 species of craneflies were recorded in a short visit including *Ellipteroides (Ellipteroides) lateralis* (Macquart, 1835) in large numbers and *Scleroprocta pentagonalis* (Loew, 1873). I returned to the site for a second time on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and found many *E. alboscutellatus* crawling around on the bryophytes, which Alex Lockton later identified as *Pallustriella falcata* (Brid.) Hedenas (confirmed by Martin Godfrey).

It is hoped that further searches in 2013 at some of the sites listed above may further highlight other sites for this fly in Shropshire.



**Habitat of *Ellipteroides alboscutellatus***

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Alex Lockton for his help and alerting me to the tufa at Whitwell Coppice and Rosemary Winnall of the Wyre Forest Study Group for supplying a copy of Mick Blythe's paper before it became more widely available via the Wyre Forest Study Group website.

#### **References**

- Blythe, M. E. (2010). Ellipteroides Craneflies (Diptera: Limoniidae). In: *Wyre Forest Study Group Review 2010*. pp.34-37.  
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- Boardman, P. J. (2007). *A Provisional atlas and account of the craneflies of Shropshire*. Pete Boardman, Oswestry.
- Heaver, D. (2006) The ecology of *Ellipteroides alboscutellatus* (von Roser, 1840) (Diptera: Limoniidae) in England. *Dipterists Digest* **13** 67-68.
- Stubbs, A. E. (in prep). *British Craneflies*.

**Pete Boardman**

## Museums Focus

As many of you will know, Dipterists' Day in 2012 was located at Bristol Museum, and this gave us access to some important collections of Craneflies. The Audcent, Charbonnier and Payne collections are curated there, as well as a general collection, which has not yet been examined.



Fig. 3

### Audcent's Collection of Craneflies

Audcent's collection of craneflies is contained in boxes of two sizes. The 17 smaller ones, housing the 'Limnobiidae' (Cylindrotomidae, Pediciidae and Limoniidae) are approximately 20 x 15cm, while the 10 larger boxes, which contain the Tipulidae, measure approximately 35 x 25cm.

The boxes themselves were made in Paris by the Deyrolle sons and could be stored like books on a shelf. They were labelled on the 'spine' by Audcent, as shown in the two boxes above (Figs. 3 and 4).

His 'limoniid' craneflies are organised using the checklist found in Edwards 1938 and are in numbered boxes as follows:

#### Small Boxes Nos. A19 - A35

- 19 *Metalimnobia*, *Discobola*, *Limonia maculipennis*, *dilutior*, to *flavipes*
- 20 *phragmitidis* to *stigma*
- 21 *Dicranomyia decemmaculata*, *fusca*, *ornata*, *lucida*, *goritiensis*, *didyma*
- 22 *Dicranomyia mitis*, to *autumnalis*
- 23 *Dicranomyia sericata*, *danica*, *morio*, *occidua*, *Geranomyia* to *Rhipidia*
- 24 *Antocha*, *Orimargo*, to *Helius*
- 25 *Ula sylvatica*, *Pedicia rivosa*, *Crunobia*
- 26 *Pedicia* to *Tricyphona* to *Dicranota*, *Dactylolabis*
- 27 To be ascertained
- 28 *Phylidorea*, *Idioptera*
- 29 *Eloeophila*, *Limnophila*, *Pseudolimnophila*
- 30 *Limnophila Palaria*, *Neolimnomyia*
- 31 *Neolimnophila placida*
- 32 *Cheilotrichia*, *Rhabdomastix laeta*, *Cheilotrichia imbuta* to *Erioptera*
- 33 *Erioptera fuscipennis* to *Ilysia*, *Trimicra*
- 34 *Ormosia*, *Molophilus*
- 35 *Molophilus*, *Tasiocera*, Cylindrotomidae

The first of these is the collection of Henri Audcent (1875-1951). His Collection is described below, and I have summarised his biography in the final section of this Newsletter. The second collection is that of Ron Payne (1921-2011) and I will describe that in the next edition of Cranefly News.



Fig. 4

### Tipulidae

The arrangement of this collection follows approximately the order in Audcent's 1932 paper, but with some additions of European species.

#### Large Boxes

- 1 *Dolichopeza*, *Prionocera*, *Dictenidia*, *Tanyptera*, *Ctenophora*
- 2 *Pales (Nephrotoma) dorsalis* to *N. flavescens*
- 3 *Pales (Nephrotoma) lunulicornis* to *N. cornicina*
- 4 *T. maxima* and *T. fulvipennis*
- 5 *T. vittata*, *N. nigra*, *T. variicornis*, *nubeculosa*, *selene* to *T. lunata*
- 6 *T. fascipennis*, *T. luna*
- 7 *T. sg Tipula, oleracea, czizeki* to *T. lateralis*
- 8 *T. montium*, *solstitialis*, *varipennis*, *cheethami* to *T. signata*
- 9 *T. rufina* to *T. pruinosa*
- 10 *T. melanoceros* to *T. subnodicornis*, *T. gimmerthali*

Audcent's collection is distinctive in that he used coloured location labels on his specimens to indicate those from different regions. His local ones are pale green while the ones from France are labelled on silver paper, giving his collection, viewed as it was near Christmas, a very festive appearance!

The collection itself is an excellent resource and it would be appropriate if Audcent's work could be followed up by a local Dipterist, preferably working on the craneflies! We are currently compiling a Catalogue, and at our recent dipterists meeting at the Bristol Museum, in November, Alan Stubbs checked some identities, while the author, with help from Roger Morris, collected data from many of the labels. This resource, together with the papers cited below would all be available to any local entomologist undertaking this project. There is still a lot of worthwhile and enjoyable work to do in the Museum, and in the Bristol District.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

### The Specimens

Among the hundreds of cranefly specimens there are 7 specimens of *Idioptera linnei* in the Audcent Collection as follows:

- 23.6.1919, Cliburn Moss Westmoreland, H. Britten, 1 specimen.
- 6.6.1922. Abbot's Moss, Cheshire, H. Womersley, 3 specimens.
- 10.8.1936, Allerthorpe, Yorks, Audcent, 3 specimens.

The specimen collected by Harry Britten on Cliburn Moss pre-dates all English records on the current database, The Scottish records by Henderson, dated 1901 from Milngavie, near Glasgow were later identified by F.W. Edwards as *I. pulchella*.

There are Yorkshire specimens of *Tipula coerulescens* collected by Cheetham, and of *Neolimnophila placida* taken by Audcent. A number of specimens remain to be checked, including interesting records of the rare *Ormosia aciculata* and *Hoplolabis areolata*.

Thanks to Rhian Rowson for her help in facilitating access to the collections. We were very grateful for all her preparatory work.

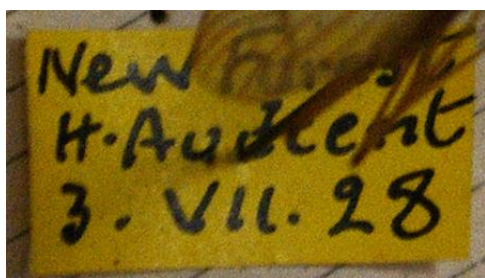


Fig. 5

### References

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- Audcent, H. (1949). Bristol Insect Fauna, Diptera. *Proc. Bristol Nats. Soc.*
- Audcent, H. (1932). British Tipulinae (Diptera, Tipulidae). *Trans. Ento. Soc. of the South of England*. Vol. 8 Part 1.
- Charbonnier, H. G. (1912). List of Diptera of the Bristol District. *Proc. Bristol Nats. Soc.*

John Kramer

### Species Notes

The British members of the genus *Symplecta* are divided into two sub genera - the sg *Psiloconopa*, (without an additional cross-vein) and sg *Symplecta* (with an additional cross-vein). The former contains the rare black and yellow northern species *S. meigeni*, another great rarity *S. pusilla* and the often abundant *S. stictica* (see below).

The subgenus *Symplecta* contains the common *S. hybrida*, *S. scotica* and the 'soft cliff' species *S. chosenensis* Alexander 1940. This latter species was first recognised in Britain in a paper published in 2003 by Peter Chandler and Roy Crossley (Dipterists Digest 2003, 10, 49-54). In addition to the sinuous vein 2A, and in contrast to sg *Symplecta*, these three species have an additional cross-vein between vein R2 and R3.

One diagnostic character is the position of the cross-vein Sc2, which lies between the sub-costa and vein R1. In *S. scotica* it lies just distal to (beyond) the base of vein Rs (This is like *S. stictica* which lacks the second cross-vein.). In *S. chosenensis* and *S. hybrida* this cross-vein lies at some distance beyond the base of Rs.

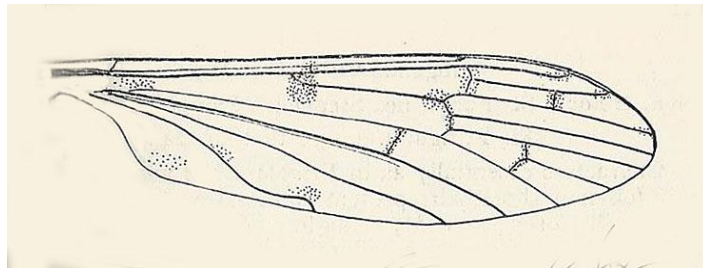


Fig. 6. Wing of *Symplecta (Symplecta) scotica* (Edwards 1938)

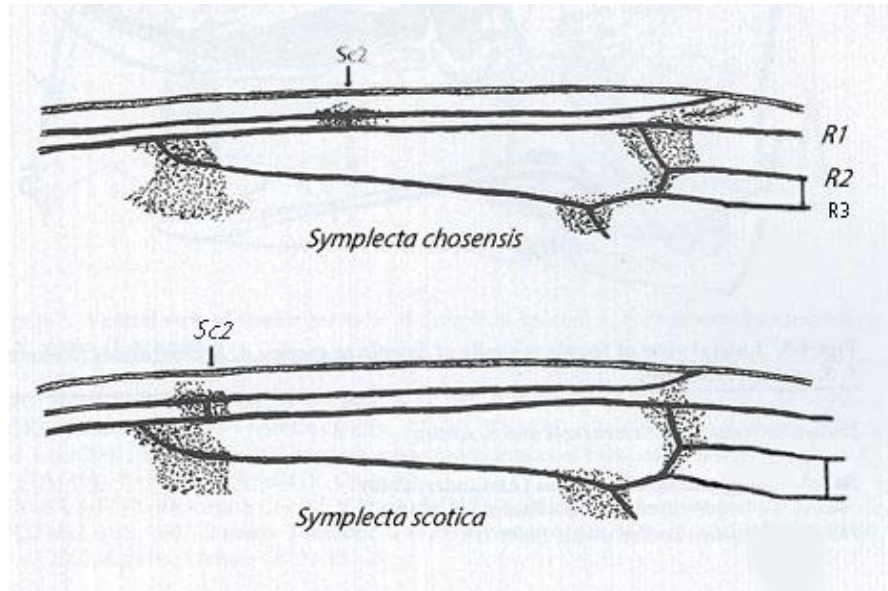


Fig 7. (Adapted from Chandler and Crossley 2003)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wing with cross-vein between R2 and R3</li> <li>• with Sc2 near base of Rs</li> <li>• with Sc2 about half way down, above ubc</li> <li>• With bifid ventral (outer) style</li> </ul> | <p><i>Symplecta (Symplecta) hybrida, scotica, and chosensis</i></p> <p><i>S.S. scotica</i></p> <p><i>S.S. chosensis and hybrida</i></p> <p><i>S.S. chosensis</i></p> |
|---|--|



Fig. 8. *Symplecta S. hybrida* (From Edwards 1938)

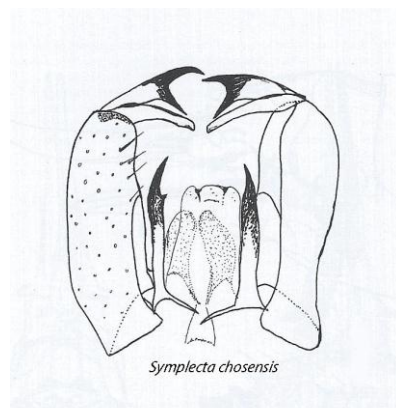


Fig. 9. *S. chosensis* (From Chandler and Crossley 2003)

Fortunately there are strong discontinuous differences between the male genitalia of *S. hybrida* and *S. chosenensis*, as seen in the above figures, which allows them to be distinguished. Check your specimens of *Symplecta hybrida* and see what you can find.

The cautionary tale below, from John Bratton, concerns *Symplecta stictica*, but it could equally well be applied to all species. Living things are variable, sometimes surprisingly so. Given the process of evolution, it amazes me that members of populations of the same species which have been separated for tens of thousands of years should look so similar. And yet, despite this conservatism,

we need to be prepared for natural variations which, frustratingly, defy all our attempts to construct keys which are absolutely and eternally accurate. As with other things in life, we need to use our imaginations and experience.

To tackle some difficult identification problems, Alan Stubbs divided craneflies into those with-, and those without a discal cell (Stubbs 2001a, 2001b). Here, below, is one species where this character varies within the species, and there are others, so beware!

John Kramer

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### An aberrant *Symplecta stictica* (Limoniidae)

Two small craneflies which emerged from a mud sample in November 2012 were identical except that one had discal cells and the other lacked them in both wings. Fortunately they were males, and the one with the discal cells keyed easily to *Symplecta*

*stictica* (Meigen). The styles proved that the other was also this species. The mud was collected 9 October 2012 from among reed litter close to the waterline of the brackish pond (6.8% seawater) in The Spinnies North Wales Wildlife Trust reserve by the Menai Strait, SH 6136 7215, VC 49.

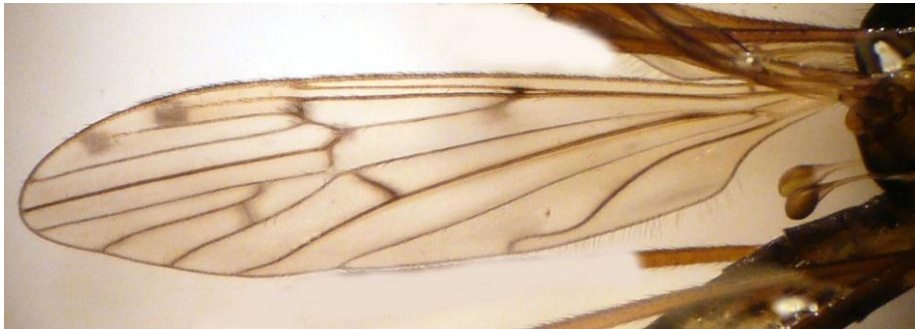


Fig. 12. *Symplecta stictica* male, typical wing with discal cel. (Photo. JB)



Fig. 13. *Symplecta stictica* male, aberrant wing with no discal cell (Photo. JB)

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John Bratton

### People, Places and Historical Notes

#### Louis Felix Henri Audcent - 1875-1951

Henri Audcent was born in 1875 in Keynsham, North Somerset, into a French family. His father was a French brandy merchant, and he and his mother had been living in England for only a few years when Henri was born. His mother and father died when Henri was young and he went to live with his grandparents in Taunton. He married his cousin, Henriette Ferney, on May 14, 1910, and they had three children. After study in London and Bristol, Audcent became a French teacher in Bristol in 1922, where he remained until his retirement in 1939.

Influenced by H. J. Charbonnier, Audcent began to study flies in 1916 at the age of 41. On 6 July 1927



at Shapwick, Somerset (ST4137) he identified the limoniid crane fly *Dicranomyia (Idiopyga) danica* Kuntz, a fly which had not been recorded in Britain before. His six papers on 'Bristol Insect Fauna (Diptera)' were published between 1928 and 1934 in the *Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalist's Society* and they give a good indication of number and destination of his field trips in Bristol, Gloucestershire and Somerset during these years.



**Fig.14. Henri Audcent who moved from Warrington to Bristol in 1920, living there until 1930**

Henri updated his 'Bristol Insect Fauna' (Diptera) every few years until 1947 at which point the lists were revised, new records added and re-published in the *Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalist's Society* during 1948 and 1949. This list contains records of more than 2,200 species of Diptera and some 150 species of crane flies (Tipuloidea). Together with the previous lists of Charbonnier (1912, 1915) it provides an excellent historical record on which to base future work.

Henri corresponded and collaborated widely. As a testament to this are specimens in his collection from C. P. Alexander in the USA, and B. Mannheims, Riedel, C. Pierre, Goetghebuer and other European workers of that time. His proficiency in both french and english languages were very helpful and in 1932 he attended the International Congress of Entomology in Paris. Specimens in his collection from British collectors include those from Chris Cheetham, the renowned Yorkshire Dipterist who used Wingate's Durham Diptera, E. Rivenhall Goffe, H. Womersley, J. W. Saunt, and E. A. Fonseca. F. W. Edwards from the NHM also added specimens.

After his retirement in 1939, Henri Audcent and his wife Henriette moved to Clevedon where, after a brief illness and a fall Henri died aged 75 years on February 8 1951.

There are many specimens in Audcent's collection from Herbert Womersley who was born in Warrington in 1889 (See 'Records' above) but who later emigrated to Australia and became a world authority on mites (Acarina). Womersley was an industrial chemist with a long interest in Diptera.

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