

BULLETIN OF THE

Dipterists

Forum



Bulletin No. 47

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

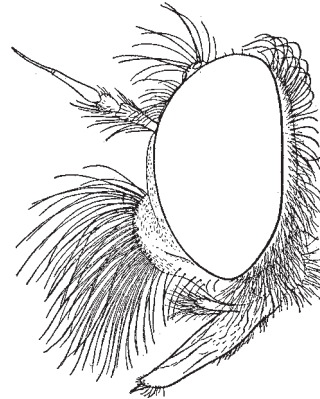
February 1999



BULLETIN OF THE **Dipterists** Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin No. 47	
February 1999	
ISSN 1358-5029	
Bulletin Editor Darwyn Sumner	
Chairman	Graham Rotheray
Secretary	Alan Stubbs
Treasurer	Jon Cole
Membership Secretary	Liz Howe
Field Meetings Secretary	Malcolm Smart
Indoor Meetings Secretary	
David Heaver	
Publicity Officer	Patrick Roper
Ordinary Members	
JCCBI representative	John Dobson
	Stuart Ball
	Steve Falk
	Roger Morris
	Chris Spilling
Unelected Members	
BENHS representative	Peter Chandler
Dipterists Digest Editor	Peter Chandler
Recording Scheme Organisers	
Crane fly	Alan Stubbs
Fungus Gnats	Peter Chandler
Hoverflies	David Iliff
Larger Brachycera	Martin Drake
Tephritid	Laurence Clemons
Sciomyzid	Ian McLean
Conopid	David Clements
Empid & Dolichopodid	Roy Crossley
Anthomyiid	Mike Ackland
<p>Articles submitted should be in the form of a word-processed file on disk or via E-mail (dsumner@leics.gov.uk). Please submit in native format and Rich Text Format (.rtf). An accompanying print-out would also be useful. Line artworks are encouraged.</p> <p>Darwyn Sumner: 122, Link Road, Anstey, Charnwood, Leicestershire LE7 7BX.; Biological Records Officer at Leicestershire Environmental Resources Centre (Leicestershire</p>	



Contents

Editorial	2
Outgoing Editor	2
New format	2
Forum News.....	3
News from the schemes.....	3
Other schemes	6
Joan Morgan: an appreciation	6
Membership Matters	7
Review	8
Microscopical Societies.....	8
Publications	9
Conservation.....	11
The effect of drainage on Diptera faunas	11
Notice board	12
National Distribution Atlases	12
Meetings	14
Annual General Meeting	14
Secretary's Report	15
Forthcoming	16
Summer Field Week 1999	17
Inqui-lines.....	20
A Review of field meetings	21
Diary 1999	26
Fly leaf.....	27
And now	28
Fly sheets	
Anthomyiidae Study Group Newsletter #6	
Crane fly Recording Scheme Newsletter #8	
Empid & Dolichopodid Study Group Newsheet #15	
Hoverfly Recording Scheme Newsletter #27	
Picture-winged flies Recording Scheme Newsletter #2	
Standing Order payment form	
Address List	

Editorial

Outgoing Editor

I am sure I am expressing the appreciation of all members of the Forum when I offer my thanks to Martin Drake as the outgoing Editor for all the splendid work he has done in maintaining this bulletin. When Martin started working on the Bulletin the number of tasks involved were considerably more than they are now, apparently the task of organising the meetings also fell to him. I am rather relieved in having avoided the whole gamut of Martin's responsibilities and remain thankful that he still retains his helpful enthusiasm.

Bulletin Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

"Well, yes, okay" I said to Alan when he pinned me down in the classroom we were using as a laboratory in Dorchester and asked me if I would be willing to become Editor of this Bulletin. I thought he'd come to reprimand me for prefixing the word "genitalia" to the notice "Examinations in Progress" pinned to the classroom door. Summer has passed by, the flies are pinned, the lessons from Jon Cole, Ivan Perry and Richard Underwood on "what to look out for in a sweep net" partly absorbed, the story about Tom Mawdesley's portable commode has almost exhausted its ability to generate mirth and still all seems quiet on the Editor front. The November AGM arrives and provides a welcome opportunity to chat to old friends and lose (or should that be loose) and loan some of my prize specimens. A good feed and a few beers in the town and all seems fine: too busy chatting I seem to have missed a couple of sessions I was interested in attending but all in all this Editor job doesn't seem so bad. I can't dispel a little disquiet, however, when I start to talk to Martin to find out just what it is that the Editor does; perhaps I should have taken notes of all those excellent talks at the meeting. Late November and the format is almost finalised, a trawl through the previous Bulletins and realisation begins to dawn as I work out just how much of it Martin wrote. A handful of E-mails from Martin and the mists clear a little more as he reveals some more of the inner workings and offers words of encouragement. The first copy arrives in January from David Illiffe together with a charming apology for possible lateness. Some real meaty stuff then arrives from Alan, keeping me busy for some time. A few phone calls achieve some success, I call David Clements one morning, he writes his items, faxes them to me and I have them scanned, OCR'd and popped into the Bulletin within 30 minutes of receiving the fax - the wonders of modern technology! The same sort of speed is achieved with the various E-mails. As the thing grows to telephone directory size, my tension begins to abate; it's everyone else who is panicking now the copy date looms. Perhaps Alan was reprimanding me; the punishment seems, on reflection, to fit the crime.



New format

When I was first offered the Editor's job I anticipated having to retain the format of the Bulletin in much the same way as we have become accustomed to. This impression was dispelled quite thoroughly at the Cardiff AGM where everyone I spoke to was anticipating a change.

It would appear, therefore that the development and maintenance of a new format was one of the things expected of your new Editor, so here it is. Readers of a popular science weekly will perhaps be familiar with the style.

Pictures appeal

I have a reasonable library of suitable pictures at the moment but this Bulletin is using them up at a fair pace and they will soon be exhausted. The format depends heavily on such illustrations and I do not have access to the sort of picture libraries available commercially but I feel confident that we can build up a good collection of our own. So good copies of appropriate pictorial material (insects and habitats etc.) would be much appreciated by the Editor, regardless of their relevance to any textual accompaniment. These may include anything that is out of copyright (75 years now) or drawings of your own (perhaps you started to illustrate a key and abandoned the idea some years ago). Whilst crisp line drawings are to be preferred I have had some success in the past with pencil drawings provided they do not have too much shading. As such a computerised clip-art library develops it could also be made available to members. Bear in mind, though, the context in which any item will be used; serious illustrated accounts be-

Forum News

News from the schemes

Some scheme organisers might be put off attempting to collate a full newsletter because they have not accumulated enough material, or perhaps they have not the time to assemble a full newsletter. I wish to remind them that the "News from the schemes" offers an additional means of disseminating snippets of information if that is all they have to hand. The editor would be pleased to receive even as little as a couple of sentences dictated over the telephone. If you have material for the schemes please pass this on to the Scheme Organiser and not to the Bulletin Editor.

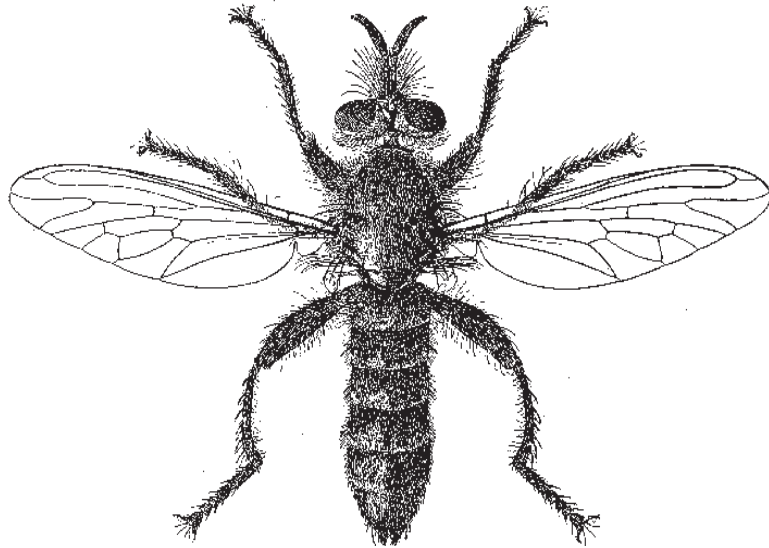
Conopid Recording Scheme

David Clements

It has been a quiet time for conopids, with records well down over the year probably reflecting the poor weather and comparative lack of aculeates. Interesting records include those of David Baldock in Surrey, who reported *Myopa fasciata* and several records of *Thecophora atra*, the latter all at *Lasioglossum morio* sites. Andy Halstead and Mick Parker both had *Zodion cinereum* from several headland sites in Dorset, and Steve Crellin had *Myopa testacea* on the Isle of Man. Back-records from Bill Hardwick included some 1985 records of *M.fasciata* from Lincolnshire, whilst Jon Cole reported *M.strandi* and *M.polystigma* from Suffolk in 1995. Thanks go out as always to all who have sent me records or specimens over the last twelve months or so.

Work on the world checklist is progressing, and I have begun to compile a world bibliography of taxonomic sources for Conopidae. Eventually the two will cross-refer. I have been able to see a number of new *Myopa* species, including the types of the North African species *M.vaulogeri* Seguy.

A recent sort through the specimens of '*M. testacea*' held at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff showed the material to comprise in fact a mixture of that species with *M.strandi*, *M.tessellatipennis* and *M.extricata*. I begin to suspect that some of the longer-haired specimens of '*extricata*' which I have determined without dissection over the last few years may in fact have been *M.strandi*, as this species apparently does not always have tergal hairs which equal or exceed the length of the hind metatarsus, especially in the female. Any specimens of '*extricata*' from southeastern England in which the hairs of the last tergal discs are approaching the length of the hind metatarsus, and in which the last segment of the proboscis is not about the same length as the front tarsus (measured from the tip of the pulvillus to the base of the metatarsus), would merit critical re-examination. Shorter-haired *M.strandi* is usually more distinctly reddish on the abdomen than *extricata*, but is otherwise superficially very similar indeed. By their naughty bits shall ye know them!



Scheme organisers:

Mike Ackland (Anthomyiidae)

24 The Moors, Kidlington, Oxon.

OX5 2AJ

David Clements (Conopidae)

7 Vista Rise, Radyr Cheyne, Llandaf, Cardiff

CF5 2SD

Alan Stubbs (Craneflies)

181 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 4DS

Roy Crossley (Empids & dollies)

1 The Cloisters, Wilberfoss, York

YO4 5RF

Peter Chandler (Fungus gnats)

43 Eastfield Road, Burnham, Slough

SL1 7EL

David Iliff (Hoverflies)

Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote,

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 4HW

Martin Drake (larger Brachycera)

22 Park Road, Deeping St. James, Peterbor-

ough, Lincolnshire PE6 8ND

Laurence Clemons (Tephritidae)

14 St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent

ME10 4NE

Forum News

Picture-Winged Flies Recording Scheme

(Ulidiidae, Platystomatidae and Pallopteridae)

David Clements

Records have slowly been accumulating for this interesting group of families, with Andy Halstead, Bill Hardwick, Chris Palmer, Laurence Clemons, David Gibbs and Jon Cole being, especially meritorious in this regard, Keith Alexander has published some older records of *Dorycera graminum* in Worcestershire and London. (Dipt Digest 5(1): 5), both from situations which seem to confirm the association with umbellifers first mooted by Laurence Clemons in 1994 (Ent Rec 106: 138), This rare fly has also been recorded fairly recently from Hampshire and Kent. A compilation of older records by Laurence Clemons suggests that June is the time to be looking for this enigmatic BAP species.

A key to the British and nearby continental *Herina* species has been produced (Dipt Digest 5(2): 55-67) and work is progressing on guidance for *Melieria*. A newsletter will appear when I have enough copy.

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Alan Stubbs

A winter gnat new to Britain has been on hold for several years. It does not seem to correspond with any known European species. Illustrations have been sent to Dr. J. Stary in Czechoslovakia for his advice. The specimen was in a sample obtained by Peter Chandler in SE Scotland. It may represent a more widespread species accounting for earlier problems in identifying Scottish material from some localities.

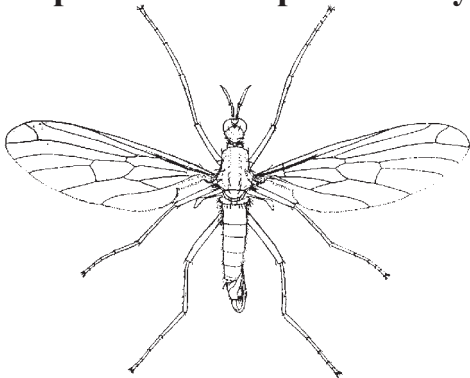
John Kramer has been surveying a selection of springs and flushes in Leicestershire and has now reviewed data for his first season. A copy of this report can be obtained by writing to the author.

Amendments to earlier test keys are given separately with this Bulletin. Work is in progress with remaining test keys but the Larger Brachycera Book has had to take priority.

The intention is to publish a book on British Craneflies, of which the test keys are a precursor. This time I want to review the British literature before writing. An annotated bibliography arranged by journal and volume seems a useful way of doing this. I can do the national journals but need help with the local ones, even if confirming the absence of data. A sample format is appended to this Bulletin covering Dipterists Digest. If anyone can help, please contact Alan Stubbs first.



Empid & Dolichopodid Study Group



Roy Crossley

Newsletter accompanies this issue

Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme

Peter Chandler

Peter strives to produce one issue per year of his recording scheme newsletter, this should accompany the next Bulletin.

Anthomyiidae Study Group

Mike Ackland

Newsletter accompanies this issue

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

David Iliff

Newsletter accompanies this issue

A note from Alan Stubbs:

Graham Rotheray has added to the British list a species new to science, *Platycheirus splendidus* which was formerly confused with *Platycheirus scutatus* (Entomologist's Gaz. 49: 271-276.). This species only flies in the spring and is so far known from both southern and northern Britain, though apparently most frequent in the north.

Pipunculidae Study Group

Alan Stubbs

Life has somewhat been on hold whilst completing the larger Brachycera book,

I hope soon to dust down a draft paper on the distribution of *Nephrocera flavicornis* (and *N. scutellatus* while I am about it). Some of you kindly sent me records about eight years ago, and a few extras have been published since. If anyone has further records, these will be very welcome.

One of the suggested hosts is *Ledra aurita*, for which a distribution map has just been published by BENHS (Br. J. ent. Nat. Hist. Soc. 11: 167-8).

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

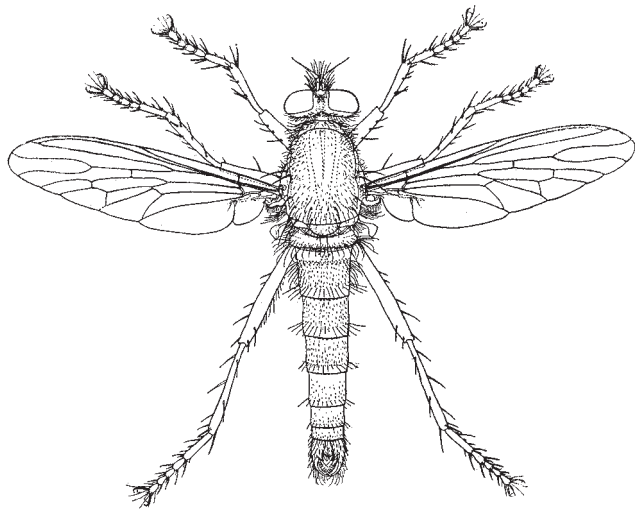
Martin Drake

After a spell in the doldrums, I have input more records this winter, and now have about 16,000 records on top of the 21,000 used to produce the provisional atlas in 1991. There are more still to be entered. The additional records have been useful in checking the statements on distributions and phenology that Alan and I have given in the forthcoming book. One of the more conspicuous features of maps based on the recently received records compared to those used for the atlas (which plotted only a selection of species) is the stability in the distributions - there are no great surprises such as shrinking or expanding ranges, except for little-known species such as *Dioctria cothurnata* which seems to be more frequently recorded now than ever before. Our previous intention of including maps in the book has had to be dropped owing to its ever-increasing length of the book, but we will incorporate a few representative examples.

Some of the more interesting records from 1998 are *Haematopota subcylindrica* from Town Common near Christchurch, Hampshire (Mick Parker, 2 July), several for both *Bombylius minor* and *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* from the Dorset heaths, and a female *Thereva handlirschi* from Linn of Dee, Aberdeenshire (Andrew Halstead, 8 September 1998). If the last record is correct, it will be the first for *handlirschi* since the 1940s.

British Soldierflies and their Allies is in the final stages of editing, although it takes an unimaginable amount of time to make sure that c. 300 pages of A4 are right (this is why there's still no newsletter).

We ought to give up setting ourselves deadlines since we keep missing them so wildly, but at least we now have settled on the printer we wish to use so type-setting can start soon (another labour of love, this time undertaken by Malcolm Storey).



Tephritidae Recording Scheme

Laurence Clemons

Laurence requests that recorders keep sending records in. He is planning to produce an atlas in 5 years time.

Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme

Ian McLean

Interest in this group is currently high and discussions between Ian, Alan Stubbs and myself has resulted in an offer being made to assist with compilation of newsletters. It will need material from recorders so if you've been hanging on to interesting stuff, awaiting the right moment, now is that moment

Darwyn Sumner

Small Acalypterate Families Recording Scheme

No organiser as yet

That's small in terms of numbers of species. This is just a suggestion for a new recording scheme at this stage, it would include the Neriodea and Diopsoidea (Families Pseudopomyzidae, Micropezidae, Tanypezidae, Strongylophthalmidae, Megamerinidae & Psilidae), the princely sum of 39 species, most of them Psilids. There is some interest in these groups amongst members. Perhaps there is a feeling that this should be expanded to include Ephydriids and Chloropids (that was Michael Ackland's immediate response when I mentioned "Small Acalypterate Families"). I await other responses to this suggested scheme. All snippets of information will find their way into the "News from the schemes" section in the first place. Just to start it off, can I ask what the overall "bag" for Micropezidae was on our Dorset week ?

Darwyn Sumner

Other schemes

Mosquitoes

Prof Keith Snow,

Dept Environmental Sciences, University of East London, Romford Road, London E15 4LZ; email k.r.snow@uel.ac.uk

European Mosquito Bulletin Number 3 (January 1999) contains three papers which should be of interest to British recorders. There are keys to the adults, larvae and some pupae and eggs of the species of Portugal, Azores and Madeira. The distribution of species across Europe is shown in a huge matrix which the authors suggest is photocopied, trimmed and arranged to form a single sheet, perhaps so that it's easier to get under your microscope to read it. An appendix to this paper lists numerous references to the distribution of European mosquitoes. And if you want to know why mosquitoes are so troublesome, it's because they're only trying to live up to their name (as I discovered in the article on the names of European mosquitoes). Anyone interested in contributing to or receiving the European Mosquito Bulletin should contact Keith Snow.

Martin Drake

Joan Morgan: an appreciation

JOAN MORGAN, 1921-1998

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Joan Morgan on 28th December last year after a long period of ill health. A stalwart of Dipterists Field Weeks from their commencement until the early 1990s, and a regular at Dipterists Day and Supper until very recently, Joan was a demonstrator in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of North Wales, Bangor until her retirement about 15 years ago. She had a substantial knowledge of the north Wales invertebrate fauna and was particularly interested in Neuroptera and Lepidoptera, running a Rothampstead trap for over 30 years. Her published work covers a wide range of entomological topics including a review of the robberfly fauna of north Wales in 1981. She also recorded many species new to Wales including *Anopheles algeriensis* from Cors Goch on Anglesey in 1987, a mosquito which had not been seen in the UK for over 50 years.

Joan nurtured an interest in entomology in many students passing through the University, several of whom are now firmly embedded in the ranks of the Dipterists Forum. A stickler for correct setting techniques, she was always enthusiastic about her subject and would quite happily deal with schoolchildrens' caterpillars in jars with the same attention to detail as a request for information from a learned institution. One of the very few ladies in the professional entomological world, her dedication and knowledge was an inspiration to the rest of us.

Joan amassed a large entomological collection at the University for teaching purposes and, as regional invertebrate recorder for north Wales and Wales recorder for Neuroptera, she collated and maintained a card index of over 60,000 records which have recently been entered on the Recorder database at the Countryside Council for Wales. Her collection is likely to be housed at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

Joan's enthusiasm, knowledge, guidance and friendship will be sadly missed by her many friends and colleagues.

Mike & Liz Howe

David Clements

26 January 1999

Membership Matters

Happy New Year to all of you. There are quite a few bits of information to pass on in this Bulletin.

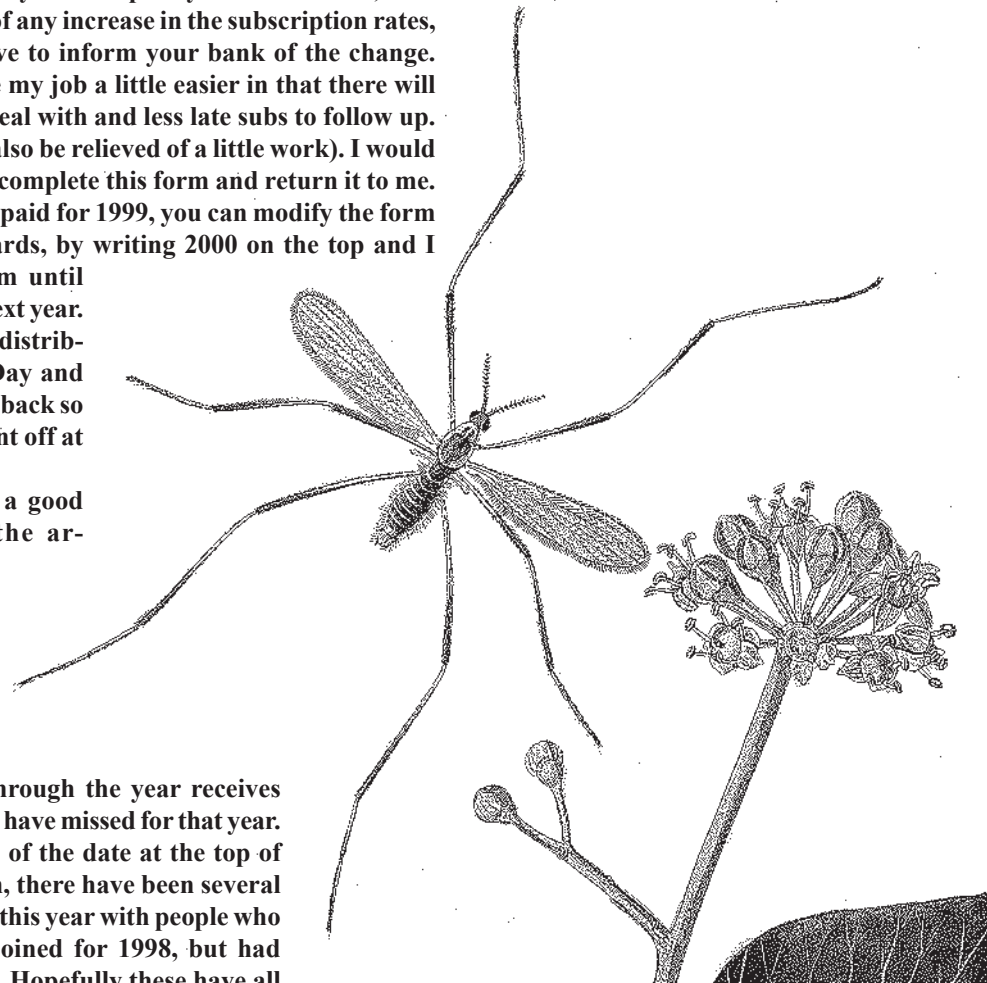
Firstly, you will have noticed a blank standing order form included in the mailing. This should prove to be a very useful way of paying your subscription to the Forum and Digest. It will mean that you never have to think about whether you have paid your subs or not, ever again. In the event of any increase in the subscription rates, you will merely have to inform your bank of the change. It should also make my job a little easier in that there will be less cheques to deal with and less late subs to follow up. (My postman may also be relieved of a little work). I would ask all members to complete this form and return it to me. If you have already paid for 1999, you can modify the form to cover 2000 onwards, by writing 2000 on the top and I will retain the form until after 5th January next year. These forms were distributed at Dipterists Day and I have had about 20 back so far which will be sent off at the end of January.

Secondly, it seems a good idea to re-state the arrangements for subscriptions. These run from 1st January to 31st December. Anyone

joining part way through the year receives any back issues they have missed for that year. Please do take note of the date at the top of a membership form, there have been several misunderstandings this year with people who thought they had joined for 1998, but had filled in 1999 forms. Hopefully these have all been sorted out now.

Finally, thank you to all those who have already returned their subscriptions for 1999, I look forward to the rest arriving soon, especially if they are on standing order forms.

Liz Howe

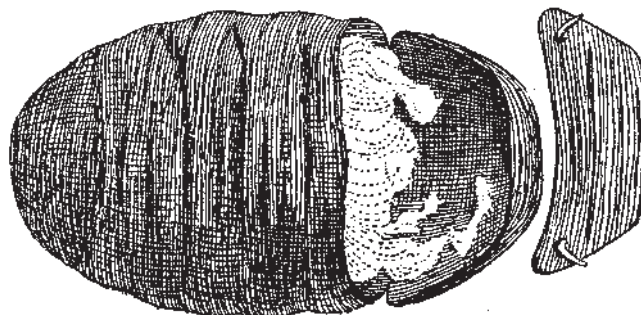


Liverpool Museum in Dock

An exciting time for our friends and colleagues at Liverpool Museum whilst their department is in dry dock having a refit. They've benefitted from a huge Heritage Lottery Fund grant which will allow them to move out of the famous "Horseshoe Gallery" to a more central location within the museum. The title of their proposed new invertebrate gallery, "The Bug House" reflects the interest of their leader, Steve Judd. What might it have been called were he a Siphonapterist

("The Flea Pit"?) or a Dipterist. Their usual program of entomological events and lectures has subsequently been disrupted somewhat, although they've still managed to squeeze in a Eumenidae (Hymenoptera) session in February and one on Chloropidae in March.

Darwyn Sumner



Review

Microscopical Societies

MANCHESTER MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

Overheard at the Dorset Meeting this year was a conversation concerning the Manchester Microscopical Society which brought to mind the vast amount of interesting and useful material on the subject of microscopes I had obtained over my long years of association with Microscopical Societies. Foremost amongst these, in terms of valuable information, was the Manchester Microscopical Society. I make no excuse for the inclusion of such information in this Bulletin, one only had to look around the classroom at the Agricultural College in Dorchester to see that members have made a substantial investment in their instruments. I telephoned Manchester Microscopical Society's Hon. Secretary and Editor of their Newsletter *Micro Miscellanea*



recently and he tells me the Society still thrives in the years since my move down to the Midlands. They have a membership of 261, such high numbers having been achieved partly by the quality of their thrice-yearly newsletter. Roy was kind enough to send me copies of their May and August newsletters and, probably of greatest interest to Dipterists Forum members, their *Microscopists Sales & Wants* list (also thrice-yearly).

The newsletter articles cover a range of topics. The majority are concerned with transmitted light microscopes rather than the incident light stereo microscopes which we would tend to use. Much space is devoted to the subjects of obtaining good results from condensers and objectives and to descriptions and discussions of specific microscopes. The actual subject material tends, as one would expect, towards the truly microscopic such as protozoa, animalcules, micro-fungi and histology although there are the occasional items on arthropods. Amongst the other items are an intriguing design for a device to cut discs of material using a home-made device clamped to a ringing table (this just might have an application relating to Jon Deeming's genitalia preparation technique demonstrated at Cardiff) and a gentle staining technique using livestock placed into agar gel impregnated with stain. Previous newsletters have also covered pollen techniques and identification, and microphotography.

The *Microscopists Sales & Wants* list has numerous items for sale including objectives, condensers, mechanical stages and the like. Roy states that some items are snapped up very rapidly so I doubt that the "*Leitz Elvar Stereo Zoom Microscope, circa 1970s. Magnification x6 to x50, trinocular head. SVx10 Leitz paired widefield eyepieces, SVx10 Leitz camera eyepiece, 6v 15w transmitted light source with Swift p.s.u. fibre optic incident cold light source coupled to above lamp. Mint condition. £400*" would still be available by the time this Bulletin is distributed. **Honorary Secretary** - Roy Winsby 214 East Lancs. Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 5QJ Membership subscription £4 (Europe), £6 elsewhere.

Darwyn Sumner

The British list in brief

The following species have been added or are about to be added to the British list since the publication of Chandler's "Checklists of Insects of the British Isles" Vol 12 Part 1: Diptera (RES). **Emboldened species are already in Chandler where they are marked as being "in press"** This column is intended as a guide only, you should consult the original publication and look out for more detailed comments from the appropriate Scheme Organisers in their Newsletters.

Syrphidae:

***Platycheirus splendidus* sp. n.**

Rotheray, 1998. Br.J.Ent.Nat.Hist.

Braulidae:

***Braula schmitzi* Orosi Pal, 1939,**
New GB

Dobson, J.R. Br.J.Ent.Nat.Hist. Vol 11, Jan
1999

Pallopidae:

***Pallopia anderssoni* sp.n.**

Rotheray & McGowan Br.J.Ent.Nat.Hist. Vol
11, Jan 1999

Agromyzidae:

***Aulagromyza lucens* New GB**

Deeming, J.C. Br.J.Ent.Nat.Hist. Vol 11,
Jan 1999

Tephritidae:

***Bactrocera cucurbitae* Coquillett**
New GB

Allen, A.A. Entomologists Record & Journal
of Variation. Vol. 111 Part1. Jan/Feb 1999. A
pest species of cucurbitaceous fruits taken at
m.v. light in London. For checklist purposes
it would be useful to know the Subfamily
and Tribe of this.

LAKELAND MICROSCOPES

are located close to our base for the next
Dipterists Field Week:

Holly Bank, Windermere Road, Lin-
dale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria,
LA11 6LB. 015 395 34737

Publications

New Checklist of Diptera of the British Isles

Chandler, P. *Checklists of Insects of the British Isles (New series) Part 1: Diptera. Volume 12. Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects. Royal Entomological Society. 1998.*

We Dipterists are a fortunate lot. If, like me, you have to deal with checklists for other groups you would realise just how fortunate we are since no other specialist group has a checklist which remotely resembles the quality of the list recently prepared by Peter Chandler. Of the handful of other specialist groups keeping their lists up to date few even get as far as publishing the full authority name. In view of the thoroughness with which Peter has dealt with this checklist and the sheer volume of work involved it's a constant surprise to keep discovering that he has found the time to be involved in other major projects. The care and attention to detail is remarkable, it is so useful to have the various accounts of why names have been changed and who added species to the British list. He has even anticipated its being bent over countless photocopiers by giving us a sturdy binding and its getting lost on our shelves by choosing a bright pink cover. Hard to quibble about anything really; I challenge anyone to discover the two instances I have so far spotted where taxa are out of alphabetical order and the absence of a Genus name for the *Leptogaster* species is a little problematic. It's a disappointment also that there are not accepted Subfamilial and Tribal arrangements for some groups (notably Syrphidae). Perhaps Peter's work will be the spur for the experts to make progress in these areas.

All in all a terrific piece of work, something to be envied and hopefully emulated by workers in other specialist groups.

Darwyn Sumner

A checklist of Irish aquatic insects

Ashe, P., O'Connor, J.P. & Murray, D.A. *Irish Biogeographical Society. Occasional paper No. 3 (80pp). 1998*

This review has involved considerable effort and it is very useful to have these authors analyses available. By their estimate, there are 1499 species of aquatic insects in Ireland, and 2342 species in Great Britain: 26 species are known only from Ireland. As regards Diptera, 929 such species are known from Ireland, 1525 from Great Britain: 17 are known from Ireland only.

There are many practical difficulties in defining such a list. The authors do not discuss the basis of their decisions in the introduction although there are some comments within Family summaries. It is not always easy to define the cut-off between fully aquatic and wet soil species, including seasonally wet situations; a generous inclusive approach seems to have been adopted at least in Diptera. For many Diptera there is no direct knowledge of the early stages or certainly not their precise ecology so some guesstimates have undoubtedly been made.

Thus the limoniid crane fly list is generous but has been annotated where terrestrial situations are likely to be more typical. Then, looking at the Sciomyzid list, the genus *Tetanocera* seems mainly associated with snails on emergent vegetation. Should one count such species as aquatic or not, albeit that the puparia may be able to float? The list includes leaf-mining Ephydriids of the Genus *Hydrellia* but omits reference to the Agromyzids and various other flies, such as the Dolichopodid genus *Thrypticus*, which mine floating or emergent plants (perhaps these are not recorded in Ireland?).

Inconsistencies were perhaps inevitable at first attempt. The Diptera list for Great Britain would have been longer had a fully inclusive approach been taken.

Such a list has long been needed. Publication in its present form is an important service in providing a basis on which others should be challenged to improve the evaluations in their respective specialist Families. Any such future list needs a classification of aquatic situations, including river bank communities whose conservation has been neglected for so long.

Alan Stubbs

Sweep Net

The Editor would welcome any small items of Internet interest for this column, even if it only amounts to alerting me to an interesting Web site.

Dipterists Forum:

www.ex.ac.uk/~gjramel/dipfor.html

Hoverflies:

majordomo@nottingham.ac.uk

British Hoverfly Recording Scheme:

members.aol.com/hovrechs/index.htm

Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society:

www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/lces/

Set up by Steve McWilliam (stevemc@consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk) who now returns to the job of Newsletter Editor for the LCES.

Asilidae (Fritz Geller-Grimm):

www.th-darmstadt.de/~fgeller

BENHS:

www-dept.cs.ucl.ac.uk/staff/A.Young/benhs

Voorlopige Atlas van de Nederlandse Zweevliegen

(Provisional Atlas of the Dutch Hoverflies)

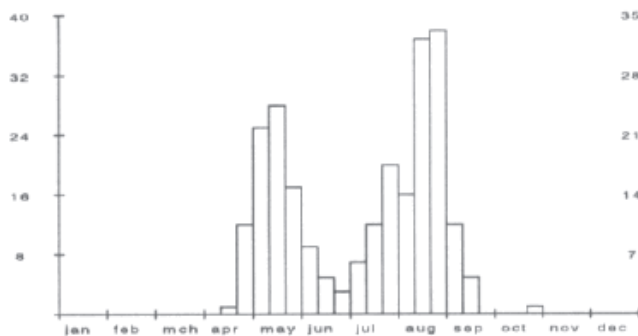
I have received a copy of this excellent little (178 page) soft-bound book for review. After a 16 page introductory section, the distribution and flight period of each of 308 Dutch hoverfly species is presented, 2 species per page, in the form of a map (showing records by 10 km squares in the Netherlands) and bar chart. The latter is particularly interesting as it clearly shows that many species have bimodal flight periods. Virtually every species found in Britain is covered. A short description of the important aspects of the records included is given for each species. The text is, of course, in Dutch but the main value of the document lies in its graphical content which can be understood by anyone.

Copies are available to order at the price of N.fl. 12.50 (about £5.00) plus postage/delivery. I have volunteered to collect orders and arrange a bulk shipment of copies for any Dipterists Forum members who are interested. Several people already indicated their interest at the November meeting. If anyone else is interested in obtaining a copy, they should write to me as soon as possible at the address below. I will send the order off at the end of march 1999.

I am prepared to assist anyone who purchases copies with the translation of small sections of text which may be of special interest to them (e.g. text relating to particular species).

**Malcolm J. Smart, "Southcliffe", Pattingham Road,
Perton, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV6 7HD, Tel:
01902 700228.**

Cheilosia vernalis - CHILVERN



Conservation

The effect of drainage on Diptera faunas

Survey: Alan E Stubbs

The droughts of the 1990s almost certainly caused many wetland sites to be too dry to support viable populations of many species of Diptera. Often man made things worse by lowering water tables, notably by groundwater and river abstraction. The fact that 1998 was a wet summer (what used to be typical) does not mean that faunas will immediately bounce back, the 1975/76 droughts seemingly taking crane-fly faunas 10 years to recover numbers. The big problem is that once species have died out, there may be no source of recolonisation within range of a conservation site that used to contain scarce species.

In my early crane-fly days, I soon recognised that even minor ditching can have a marked effect on crane-fly faunas. Whilst such minor ditching may accompany 'improvement' of pastures and crop fields, more often substantial deepening is easily achieved with modern machinery. The really frustrating ditching is that carried out on reserves and amenity areas since no visitor from town must risk getting muddy shoes. In general it is doubtful if site managers realise the significant reduction in species richness that can result from even minor ditching.

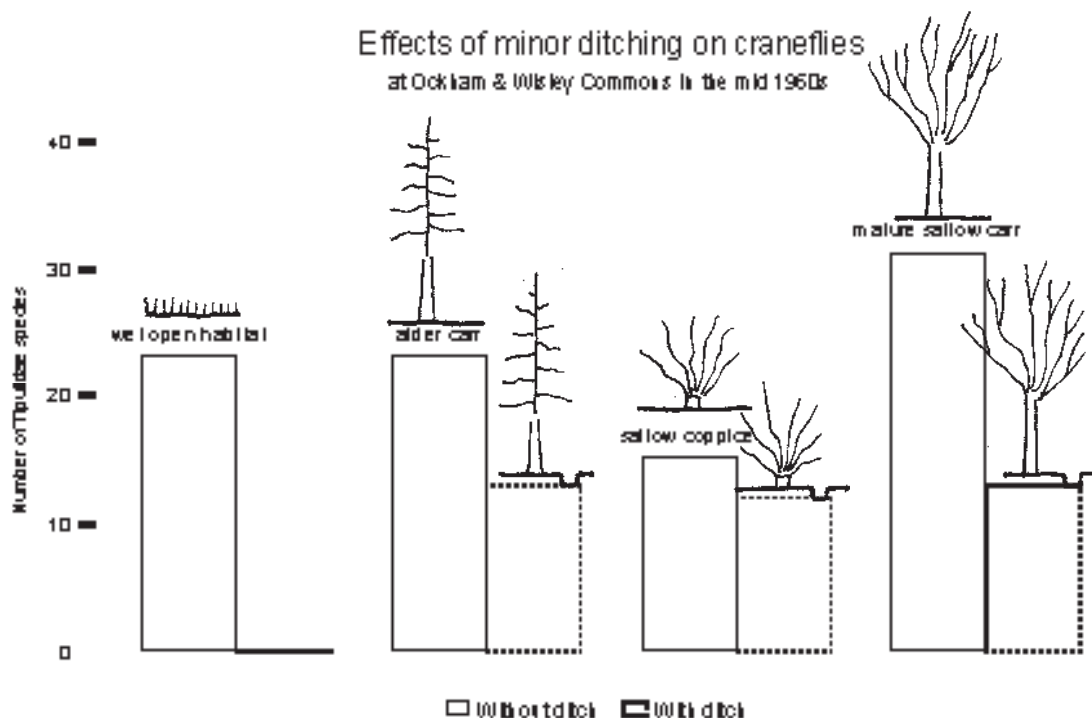
The accompanying histogram stems from the initial phase of a survey of Ockham and Wisley Common, Surrey, during the relatively wet and cool period of the mid 1960s. It was based on a sampling programme of available habitat options and the results are clear enough.

Even minor ditching results in a species loss of about 50% in wet carr (which was still reasonably wet). It may be noted that coppicing carr causes an immediate reduction in fauna, a minor ditch not making much difference. The crane-fly fauna of mature sallow carr was richer than that of alder carr, and in the former habitat the effect of ditching was particularly severe.

Further survey showed that there were about 100 species of Tipulidae ss at this site (only a pingo site in Norfolk has more). However, the site has substantially deteriorated and is now a very poor looking crane-fly site. The reasons for deterioration are varied, including poor management of public damage to Bolder Mere and drought plus water level problems effects.

El Nino or some such factor has given us a respite, but the assumption must be that drought will return. We need more examples of what happens to invertebrate faunas of wetlands as a result of drought, and more especially as to how man makes things worse. Factual examples are most likely to influence land managers and those who will seek ever more ground water.

Effect of minor ditching on crane-flies at Ockham and Wisley Commons, Surrey, in the mid 1960s. Number of species occupying seven habitat options: wet open habitat, alder carr without ditch, alder carr with minor ditch, sallow coppice without ditch, sallow coppice with minor ditch, mature sallow carr without ditch, mature sallow carr with ditch. The ditches were only c. 15cm deep. Even before the droughts of the 1990s, minor ditching reduced faunal richness during relatively wet summers.



Notice board

Incorporating "exchanges & wants", "advice", "questions and answers", "requests", and so on. Items for inclusion might comprise the following:

Appeals for records from specific field meetings, regions, habitats or taxonomic groups. *Providing these were kept brief there would be no harm in these appeals being repeated (in shortened form) through several issues of the Bulletin.*

Compilations of and requests for useful lists of references.

More detailed statements of interests by Forum members. *Such statements are made by members during Alan Stubb's initial interrogation on Dipterists Field weeks but they are soon forgotten or misinterpreted. Serious attempts to detail areas of interest within the published address list were attempted at one time but are no longer published, peoples interests change over a period of time. It is hoped that such declarations of interest might lead to improved communications between acolytes and experts.*

Accounts by Museums and other institutions of the relevant reference collections and libraries which they have available.

Specific requests for Dipterists Digest and Bulletin material.

Advice on equipment & techniques

Requests by Local Records Centres for regional data. *Perhaps we could compile a list of regional lists; not all of them finish up as a book like Roger Morris's, some are in obscure society newsletters. Similarly it would be useful to compile a list of regional recording schemes.*

Miscellaneous requests.

One or two examples of the above are included in this section, I look forward with interest to contributions from the wider membership for future Bulletins. Repeat requests are shortened and italicised. If you have any success with your requests please let the Bulletin Editor know about it.

REFERENCE STANDARDS

There are standard abbreviations for scientific journal names. Has anyone compiled a list of those appropriate to Dipterology which they could let me have?

Darwyn Sumner

National Distribution Atlases

Since it is easy to lose track of what has been published, the following list may be helpful:

Ball, S.G. & McLean, I.F.G. 1986. Preliminary Atlas: Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme Newsletter No.2, 36pp.

Clemons, L. 1997. A provisional atlas of the Tephritidae (Diptera) of Britain and Ireland. Tephritidae Newsletter No. 6, 42pp.

Disney, R.H.L. 1975. A key to British Dixidae. Scientific Publication No. 31. Freshwater Biological Association. 78pp.

Drake, C.M. 1991. Provisional atlas of the larger Brachycera (Diptera) of Britain & Ireland. Biological Records Centre. 131pp.

Entwistle, P.F. & Stubbs, A.E., 1983. Preliminary atlas of hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae) of the British Isles. Biological Records Centre. 34pp (30 maps, 34 selected species)

Goldie-Smith, E.K. 1990. Distribution maps for Dixidae in Great Britain & Ireland. Dipterists Digest 3: 8-26.

Pont, A. 1987. Provisional atlas of the Sepsidae (Diptera) of the British Isles. Biological Records Centre. 33pp.

Snow, K.R., Rees, A.T. & Bulbeck, S.J. 1998. A provisional atlas to the mosquitoes of Britain. University of East London. 50pp.

Stubbs, A.E. 1972. A review of the information on the distribution of the British species of *Ptychoptera* (Diptera: Ptychopteridae). Entomologist 105: 23-38, 308-312.

Stubbs, A.E. 1992. Provisional atlas of the long-palped craneflies (Diptera: Tipulinae) of Britain and Ireland. Biological Records Centre. 134pp.

Stubbs, A.E. 1993. Provisional atlas of the ptychopterid craneflies (Diptera: Ptychopteridae) of Britain and Ireland. Biological Records Centre. 34pp.

Alan Stubbs

RECORDS WANTED

Liz & Mike Howe have taken on the responsibility of assembling the data from the 1995 Ayr and 1998 Dorset meetings. They did such a good job with the 1997 Abergavenny records that they have a reputation to maintain, so please send them your records.

Status report on the Diptera summer field meetings: Dipterists Bulletin #46 p 8.

KEY IMPROVEMENTS

Wanted: Suggestions for improvements to FBA Dixidae key (1975) plus ecological data & reared material. (Bulletin #45)

Henry Disney

REFERENCES WANTED

I am just starting to look at some of the smaller Acalypterate families and I have the following references (thanks to Mike Howe):

Chamaemyiidae

Collin, J.E. The British species of *Chamaemyia* Mg. (*Ochthiphila* Fln.) (Diptera). Transactions of the Society for British Entomology. Vol. 17 Part IV. pages 121-128. October 1966

Smith, Kenneth G.V. A short synopsis of British Chamaemyiidae (Dipt.) Transactions of the Society for British Entomology. Vol. 15 Part VI. pages 103-115. June 1963.

Coggan, B.H. genus *Acrometopia*. beitrage zur entomologie heft 2 1978 band 28 pp223.

Coe, R.L. The British species of the Genus *Chamaemyia* (Dipt. Chamaemyiidae). Ent. mon. mag. p173-180. August 1942.

Coe, R.L. *Chamaemyia juncorum* Fall. and *C. herbarum* R.-D. (Dipt., Chamaemyiidae): A correction to my recent paper on the British species of the Genus. Ent. mon. mag. p128-129.

Micropezidae

Collin, J.E. "British Micropezidae" Entomologists Record. 15/10/45

Krivosheina. (Raineria) Studia dipterologica 3 (1996) Heft 1

Psilidae

Collin, J.E. Ent. mon. mag. v80 pp214-224. 1944

Wakerley. 1959. Proc. Royal Ent Soc. v28 p107-108.

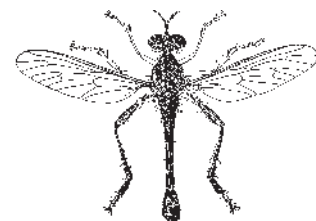
Are there any other publications on these subjects which will help with identification?

Darwyn Sumner

EUROPEAN ASILIDAE

Loans of specimens still required. (from Bulletin #43)

Malcolm Smart



“QUICKIE” DISTRIBUTION MAPS

If you don't have access to DMap or Recorder but are in possession of a reasonably complete set of data and wish to show distribution for use in one of the Dipterists Forum publications (e.g. Alan Stubb's map on p25) then I have the facilities to produce a simple distribution map. Provide me with a computer list, two or more columns (name and grid reference - the "or more" would be a category) in a spreadsheet, database or ASCII file. I can currently do county-based maps for Lancashire, Cheshire, Dorset and a large number of counties centred around the Midlands, others I might be able to negotiate. No major projects please.

Darwyn Sumner

HAMPSHIRE INVERTEBRATE GROUP

The Hampshire Wildlife Trust has taken the initiative to set up a group to stimulate work on invertebrates in their county. Hampshire ranks as one of the most exciting counties for entomologists since it contains a diverse array of habitats amenable to warmth-loving species that do not thrive even a short way north. Despite the wealth of insects, there is a surprising deficiency of records, especially away from the New Forest, although even this honey-pot could be better-worked.

The Trust held an exploratory meeting in January to discuss what the group should aim to achieve. About 30 people attended. The main outcomes were resounding support from local entomologists for the group to be set up, the Trust's offer to produce a newsletter that will advertise meetings and keep the group informed of goings-on, and a commitment to organise some field meetings, perhaps mainly by combining effort with existing programmes such as that of the BENHS.

Any dipterists interested in becoming involved in the group and to be on the mailing list for the group's newsletter should contact Debbie Wicks, Hampshire Wildlife Trust,

8 Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 9AL.

Martin Drake

COMPILATION OF KEYS

Working group to produce "cut & paste" (high-tech or low-tech) keys on obscure groups for distribution to members. (Bulletin #43)

Martin Drake

Although I am unaware of the formation of any formal working group so far, there are quite a few such keys in circulation. Some of these you might have missed if you didn't attend the particular lecture, workshop or field meeting, others are released to only tiny groups of workers whilst their authors work towards a finished publication. These authors have their own very good reasons for not publicising these keys more widely and so I will leave it to them to announce what they have. Since Steve Falk offered to provide copies of his "Provisional key to British Cheilosia" at the Cardiff AGM I have no misgivings about repeating his offer. Beyond that I can only present my own attempts. I have a "high-tech" Sciomyzid key. This is hopelessly filled with copyright breaches and cannot really be distributed, but Alan Stubbs thinks it could be a sound basis for a British key if we could get the relevant figures redrawn. A similar one is under way on the Micropezids & Psilids etc. to which it is hoped that Stuart Ball and Steve Falk will provide expertise. Some drawings are required for this; it's small so the copyright problems are far fewer and consequently the prospect of publication higher. I also have some text to the Chamaemyiidae key (see Hoverfly Newsletter #21 for a sample of the style). Without drawings or knowledge of the Chamaemyiidae I can go no further so I should be pleased to hear from experts on how to make progress with this one. Martin says that typing keys out is tedious but contact me if you have a key you wish to develop.

Darwyn Sumner

LITERATURE & COLLECTION RECORDS (#41)

Requests for data to be abstracted. (Bulletin #41)

Alan Stubbs

REQUESTS FOR CONTACTS WITH COLLECTORS OF TACHINIDAE

An amateur American dipterist, who has been specialising in Tachinidae for about three years wishes to make contact with fellow tachinid enthusiasts in the British Isles. He is willing to exchange specimens of North American brachycerous (in the broad sense) Diptera, whichever groups desired, for specimens of Tachinidae from the British Isles. No doubt he would also be interested in making contact with collectors in other parts of Europe.

Contact Daniel Hansen, 736 Pierce St. NE, Minneapolis MN 55413. e-mail genbirch@aol.com

CARR WOODLAND SURVEYS

Offers: To provide Malaise traps, gain access permissions, aiding in sorting & distributing catches for identification purposes. (Bulletin #41)

Martin Drake

DIXIDAE

Dr Wesley Nowell, a long standing member of the Forum has written asking for help in tracking down a paper he is interested in with reference to Dixidae. If anyone has a copy or knows where to get it please let him know:

Shcherbakov, D.E., Lukashovich, E.D. & Blagodarov, V.A. (1995). Triassic Diptera and the initial radiation of the order. *International Journal of Dipterological Research* (2): 75-115.

Dr W. Nowell, 357, Reindollar Avenue, Marina, CA 93933-3639, USA. www.wrndixid@aol.com

SAPROXYLIC DATA

Rearing records in order to compile list of dead wood species.

Keith Alexander

Meetings

Annual General Meeting

Dipterists Forum, 14-15 November 1998, The National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Agenda: as published in Dipterists Bulletin #46

Chairman: Roy Crossley

Apologies: Mike Ackland, Antony Bainbridge, Austen Brackenbury, Henry Disney, Simon Hayhow, Joan Morgan & Derek Whiteley.

1. Secretary's report. Approved, no questions

2. Treasurer's report. Approved, no questions

3. Membership Secretary's report

4. Dipterists Digest Editor's report

Graham Rotheray suggested that Dipterists Digest needs to be covered by more abstracting services.

When asked to elaborate on the possible changes in format, the Editor said that the General Committee had already decided to investigate costs.

Stuart Ball felt that the existing format should be retained since changes will not help the established image Roy Crossley invited comments (to him or the Editor) on paper quality

5. Election of officers

The list as published in Dipterists Bulletin #46 (August 1998) was voted in.

The vacant post of Forum representative to BENHS was filled by Roger Morris during the proceedings. He was then separately voted on to the General Committee.

Graham Rotheray was inaugurated as the new Chairman. He warmly thanked Roy Crossley for so ably acting as Chairman during the first years of the Society. He additionally thanked all those who had helped with the running of the various affairs of the society, including Martin Drake who has just stepped down as Bulletin Editor and representative to BENHS.

Best exhibit prize

An announcement was made that judges would be looking for the best exhibit, the winner to be announced later in the afternoon. The judging panel were Andrew Godfrey, Peter Skidmore and the Secretary. There was ready agreement that Malcolm Smart was the winner for a display of specimens largely from the Dorset field meeting, arranged with comment by habitat, including colour habitat photographs. This style of presentation was felt to be attractive and informative, especially for non-specialists.

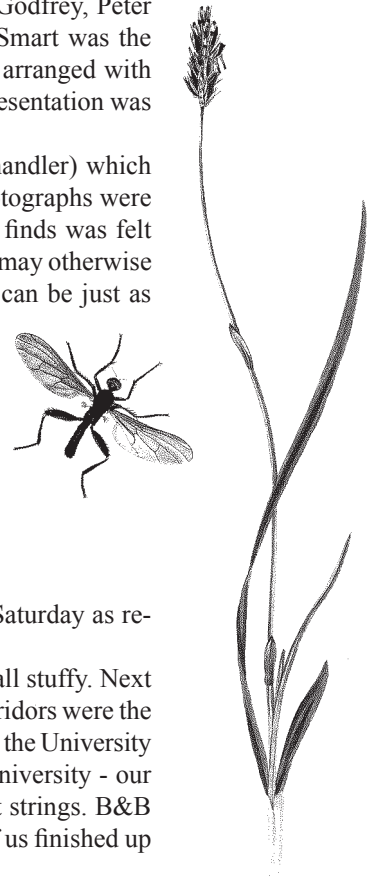
The judges noted a good number of exhibits (to be reported by Peter Chandler) which included many very interesting finds that were well worth exhibiting. Photographs were not deemed essential, and rarity was not the main criterion. Meaning of finds was felt important since this helps the non-specialist to learn something about what may otherwise look like drab flies on a pin. Incidentally, displays of photos, charts etc can be just as relevant and open to judging.

The prize was to have been a store box but Pemberley Books (who had a stall at the meeting) generously offered to give a book of equivalent value. Malcolm has swooped at that offer.

Meeting venue overall

Our thanks go to Mike Wilson, Head of Entomology at the Museum, who invited us and was our host, also to John Deeming, Curator of Diptera, for being such a warm host in the collections rooms. We also have to thank Dave Clements who so ably acted as meeting organiser, no mean task, and to his wife Anne who sat in isolation during much of Saturday as receptionist for booking in.

The meeting room was fine, and though without daylight it did not get at all stuffy. Next door was the public canteen where we could get staff rates. Down some corridors were the collections, easy to find once the layout was understood. The buffet dinner in the University was very good and we also had a room for our committee room in the University - our thanks go to Mark Jervis of the Zoology Department for pulling the right strings. B&B accommodation was plentiful about a mile away, indeed quite a number of us finished up in a particularly large and inexpensive guesthouse.



Lloyd Knutson attended the dinner. He may not be known to many of you, but his name is familiar on the world stage for his studies on Sciomyzidae. His Danish key to Sciomyzidae was for many years the essential means of identifying the British species, and he was one of the first to try to gather the British data together and was the catalyst behind an embryonic recording scheme that still runs. After some years in America, somewhat distracted onto other things, he is now retired in France and is active again on Sciomyzidae.

One innovation was the presence of Pemberley Books, a well-established entomological supplier of new and second-hand books. For most dipterists this was a rare chance to see and purchase the books on display and many non-diptera books were also available, some at special cut price. Judging from the bee-hive cluster of dipterists on one wall of the meeting room this was a very popular facility. Ian Johnson and his wife, who joined in the dinner, deserve our thanks for coming from West London for the event. If anyone wants to contact them, the address is Pemberley Books, P.O. box 334, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 0XX (tel/fax 0181 561 5494).

Alan Stubbs

Secretary's Report

Given to the Dipterists Forum AGM, 14 November 1998.

As promised last year, there have been some new initiatives during the year and more are planned.

This year's Annual General Meeting was in Cardiff, the first time the event has been held outside London (since 1972). As an experiment, it covered both the Saturday and the Sunday. It was reassuring to see good attendance. Our thanks go to Cardiff Museum for their offer to host the meeting without charge, to the co-operation of Mark Jarvis of Cardiff University for help in arranging a committee room and smoothing the way to holding the Dipterists Supper in the university, and to Dave Clements as local organiser for our event.

Fortunately David Heaver stepped in to take over the vacant post of workshop organiser. Last March our weekend workshop at Preston Montford had good attendance for the course on craneflies though the introductory course on recording flies did not attract as many new people as we had hoped. Next March a workshop on larger Brachycera is planned. Our wider advertising of events needs improving.

The main summer meeting at Dorchester was very well attended and proved a very pleasant occasion. The weather was cool but fairly typical of 1998. Results seemed to keep everyone happy and already two possible candidate species new to Britain have been reported. Our thanks go to Mick Parker who as local organiser did a magnificent job in having over 100 sites all arranged and mapped out for us.

The autumn field meeting was one of the best attended. The venue was moved to Herefordshire to fit in with the National Trust sequence of surveys. Despite almost daily doom on the weather forecasts, we had pretty good conditions. Twenty three 10Km squares were visited, probably an autumn meeting record.

The long vacant post of Field Meetings Secretary was filled by Malcolm Smart at the last AGM. Summer field meeting venues have to be booked a year in advance. Thus he has concentrated on planning for the 1999 meeting which will be held at Grange-over-Sands.

The Bulletin and Dipterists Digest have kept to schedule; various newsletters and some keys have also been produced. The new Dipterists Digest Editor, Peter Chandler, deserves particular thanks for taking over so efficiently and for ensuring such interesting content. The provisional atlas to hoverflies is still being polished, though delayed.

The Forum needs to better promote itself and the Dipterists Digest. Our Publicity Officer has placed advertisements in Butterfly News (journal of the Butterfly Conservation with about 10,000 readers) and the Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologist's Society.

The 4th International Dipterological Congress at Oxford in September also gave opportunity to promote the Forum, and our Chairman did a grand job as sales agent for Dipterists Digest. The British Entomological & Natural History Society and its publication British Hoverflies, was also promoted.

At the last AGM there was anguish over the delay within JNCC over publication of four National Reviews on the status of parts of the British Diptera fauna. Accordingly your Secretary wrote to the Chief Executive of JNCC about the concern expressed by our membership (both authors and the many who had given information). The existing reviews are rapidly becoming out of date and the Forum would prefer rapid publication in current form without editing delays. The reply from JNCC pointed



to lack of staff resources and insisted that editing was necessary but gave hope that at least one review would be polished by March 1998. Since nothing has visibly happened, the Chief Executive was invited to state the JNCC position for this AGM. The response is much as last year, with a re-statement that one review would be progressed soon. JNCC has also sat on the Starter Pack, held up for about a year (BRC is under contract to JNCC) but I have been offered a meeting to discuss substantial reformatting (!). In essence progress is in the hands of one very busy person in JNCC who lacks the appropriate support staff and who will have to spend much of his own time to shift these documents.

A meeting with BRC and JNCC on the National Biodiversity Network has unfortunately been postponed. The idea is to review the state of the schemes and see how the NBN may assist. Whether any meaningful help can materialise within the next 3-5 years remains to be seen. Processing data, back-logs included, will be a central issue.

There have been a number of conservation issues that have cropped up which I have dealt with in a multi-hatted fashion. Hard lobbying led to entomological points being accepted within The Wild Mushroom pickers Code of Conduct and associated booklet *The Conservation of Wild Mushrooms*, prepared by a consortium of organisations and published by English Nature in late August 1998. The code is not tough enough but notes the threats to insect faunas (~700 Diptera are currently dependent upon fungi, mostly in soft fungi). Scottish National Heritage has been carrying out consultation over re-introducing the European Beaver to Scotland. Beaver are likely to relish the aspen stands supporting *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* and other rare saproxylic Diptera. However, the recently issued consultants report fails to even mention that a BAP Priority Action Plan species, and associated fauna, would be threatened, nor was any measure suggested to avoid impact on the key aspen stands. A rocket has been sent to the SNH. There have been many other conservation issues and I shall shortly be attending a meeting on the limitations and need for revision of legislation. John Dobson represents the Forum on the Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Invertebrates. The Forum will shortly be invited, in common with many other Societies and conservation organisations, to give its blessing in principle to the setting up of an Invertebrate Conservation Trust or other mechanism for advancing the cause.

The new British Checklist of Diptera, prepared by Peter Chandler and officially a Forum project, has just been published by the Royal Entomological Society. Arrangements have been made for Forum members to obtain the RES members discount.

Administration of membership needs improving. There have been too many people that have had to be chased for forgetting renewal of subscriptions and subsequent difficulties in ensuring that all late payers receive the printed material that they expect. Accordingly, a mechanism for Standing Orders is to be introduced with effect from 1999. Taken overall, the Forum has had a good year both as regards events and publications.

Alan Stubbs

Forthcoming

Preston Montford Larger Brachycera Workshop



Several places were still available on this course at the end of January so contact David Heaver **now** if you want to try for a last minute booking.

Persons booked on the course should already have the Preston Montford "glossies" and be aware of the arrangements. Dave tells me that you should aim to arrive at around 5:30 p.m. on Friday 12th March. The evening meal commences at 6:30. The event tends to wind down between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

It will cost you £80 for the weekend (all inclusive) and if you want to just visit for the day there is a charge for a day's laboratory use of £12.50 (i.e. non-residential rate)

There are advanced and introductory workshops run by Martin Drake, Alan Stubbs and Stuart Ball with Roger Morris also being a

distinct possibility - so now is the time to begin searching through your collection for the difficult specimens. David tells me that the Larger Brachycera book is unlikely to be ready in time for this event.

Summer Field Week 1999

Grange-over-Sands (Cumbria) - 12 to 20 June 1999

Preparations are well in hand for a very exciting meeting with a large number of potential recording sites already identified in a very wide range of habitats.

As announced in the previous bulletin, the 8 night meeting (Saturday 12/6/99 - Saturday 19/6/99 inclusive) will be based at the Castle Head Field Centre (operated by the Field Studies Council). Firm bookings have been made for all those who have already paid their deposit.

The Field Centre have now offered their remaining rooms to another Group, but it may nevertheless still be possible for some additional interested dipterists to be accommodated, either in the Field Centre or in nearby B & B accommodation. Anyone considering joining the party is urged to contact me urgently to enable me to find them accommodation. For accommodation in the Field Centre, the following charges will apply:

	Total Price	Deposit Due Immediately	Balance due 12/04/1999
Shared Room	£240.88	£50.00	£190.88
Single Room	£299.63	£60.00	£239.63

The Castle Head Centre prices quoted above are inclusive of full board and lodging with a packed lunch each day (self served/packed buffet-style after breakfast from provided ingredients) and use of a laboratory. The centre has confirmed that at least 1.5m of laboratory bench space plus one electric socket will be available per person. The establishment also has a bar (opening time to suit group, e.g. for pre-dinner drinks, closing time 23.00 hrs).

Anyone staying in B & B accommodation will have to pay the going rate at the establishment involved.

Castle Head can provide full or partial meal service and use of facilities for anyone wishing to attend as a nonresident or staying in outside accommodation. The charge will depend on the meals required but would be of the order of £11 per day (incl. VAT @ 17.5%) for packed lunch & dinner.

Enquiries should be directed to me at the following address: "Southcliffe", Pattingham Rd., Perton, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV6 7HD. Tel.: 01902 700228

Field Meetings Secretary: Malcolm J. Smart

Need some microscope gear whilst you are in Grange-over-sands ?

By a fortunate coincidence we are staying in the same village, just outside Grange-over-sands that the mail-order company "Lakeland Microscopes" are based. An opportunity too good not to take advantage of, I have contacted their representative, Joyce Best. They do not have a showroom but Joyce tells me that the company is prepared to bring some equipment into the Castle Head Field Centre whilst we are there and give us a demonstration. From their catalogue it appears that they deal with the Zenith range plus fibre optic lighting and CCD camera systems. She obviously cannot demonstrate everything they have available so some sort of feedback from Forum members about the kind of things they would like to see would be useful. Call me on 0116 235 5524.

Darwyn Sumner

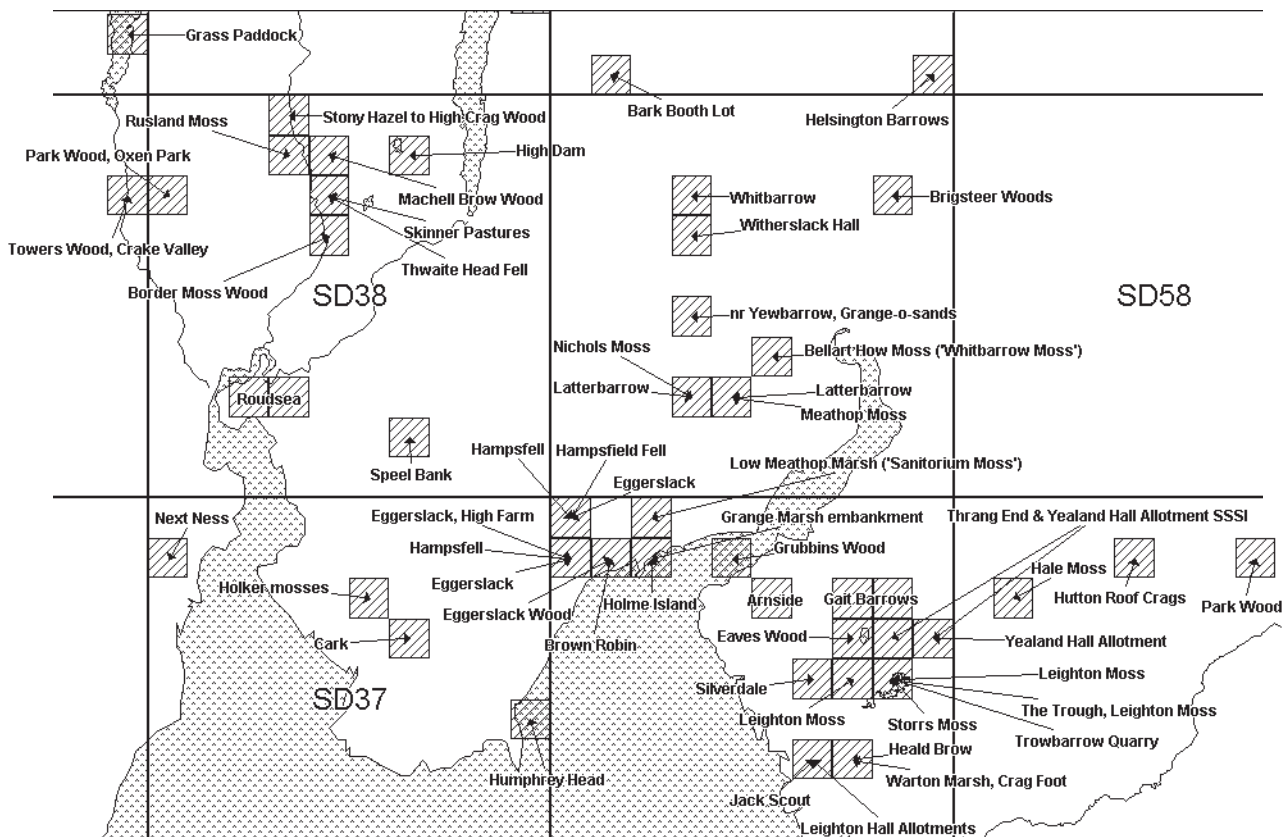
Quo vadis ?

I've heard the location variously described as "Cumbria" and "Lake District" but this is one of the regions that has suffered from changes in administrative boundaries over the years. Grange-over-sands is situated on the eastern edge of a region once part of Lancashire (now Cumbria, never Cumberland) and many of the older indigenes I have spoken to still consider themselves Lancastrians. Its status as a legitimate target for the North West Invertebrate Recording Scheme initiative set up by the Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society was debated in 1993. This region comprises the whole of the Furness peninsula, bounded in the west by the River Duddon and to the north by the River Brathay until it meets the top end of Windermere. The eastern border is a little trickier, running along the western edge of Lake Windermere and then half way up the eastern edge, descending to the Kent estuary via the western borders of the parishes of Crosthwaite, Witherslack and Meathop. All of it is in Vice County 69, as are the parishes of Witherslack, Meathop and, curiously - since it is on the other side of the Kent estuary - Arnside. These three parishes were also considered legitimate Lancashire targets by past Lancastrian entomologists. East and south of Arnside still is Lancashire, Vice County 60. No doubt there will be much straying outside these areas but the regional recorders will still like to be kept informed of your finds; that's Simon Hayhow (15 Brookfield Road, Thornton, Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 4DR) for Lancashire Diptera except Hoverflies - which I suppose is still me.

Darwyn Sumner

Lancashire Hot-spots

The potential area which we might cover on the Dipterists Field Week is vast; there are innumerable sites worthy of visiting from our base in Lindale. A number of people are busily contributing to the compilation of lists of sites likely to be the most fruitful and this task is being coordinated by Neil Robinson under the watchful eye of Malcolm Smart. Should you wish to buy a useful set of maps before setting off then Neil suggests that at 1:50,000 you can cover every eventuality with Nos. 89, 90, 91, 96, 97, 98, 102 & 103. Conversely, since there are a large number of excellent sites very close to base (a selection of which are illustrated below), a good coverage can be obtained at the higher definition with the Outdoor Leisure No. 7 (S.E. Lake District) and Pathfinder Nos. 626, 627 and 636 which cover the area south from the Lake District map towards Morecambe Bay. You will probably have to order these last three well in advance. There will, of course be the usual plethora of maps at the venue but there's nothing like being able to scribble on your own.



The map shows 1Km squares containing localities drawn from Neil Robinson's recommendations, only the central area is shown, there are plenty more further afield. In addition, sites are shown from expeditions mounted by contributors to the North West Regional Hoverfly Recording Group on which Nationally Notable or scarcer Syrphidae have been taken. These include sites at which Albert E. Wright & J.D. Ward found "goodies" between the Wars; some, alas, not so pristine as when they hunted. Ward recorded *Chrysotoxum cautum* at Arnside on 8th June 1922 and 27th July 1922; this the last historical rarity remaining unrecorded in recent years. I offer this as a challenge to this year's hunters.

Malloch Society

Fieldwork in 1998 was dominated by trying to find breeding sites of various saproxylic Diptera. These included *Blera fallax* for which we were grateful to David Phillips of SNH for continued financial support. We had mixed success in the field, finding larvae of several Lonchaeid and other species on our hit list but were unable to discover more sites for *B. fallax*. Nonetheless, we have written a species recovery plan for *B. fallax* and are hopeful of further support from SNH in 1999 to put this into action.

1998 was a special year for the Malloch Society. It was our 10th anniversary and with our visitors and special guests which included Peter Chandler selling the new checklist, we celebrated in style at our usual venue for the AGM and Meeting - Perth Museum, for which grateful thanks to Mike Taylor. We enjoyed a lively round of afternoon talks from our guest speakers, Keith Alexander and Francis Gilbert followed by a discussion on the conservation of saproxylic Diptera. During the evening dinner the DOTY (Dipterist of the Year) was presented by last year's winner, Sabine Bressin, to Kenn Watt, the originator of the award. Kenn is now to look after it on behalf of the Society.

We are now well into publishing results and descriptions of new species have started to appear. Plans for fieldwork in 1999 include visits to Deeside, Wester Ross and Nairnshire, all looking for rare saproxylics and following up on previous leads. However, David Robertson knows better, he manages to find rare species only metres from his front door in the middle of Edinburgh!



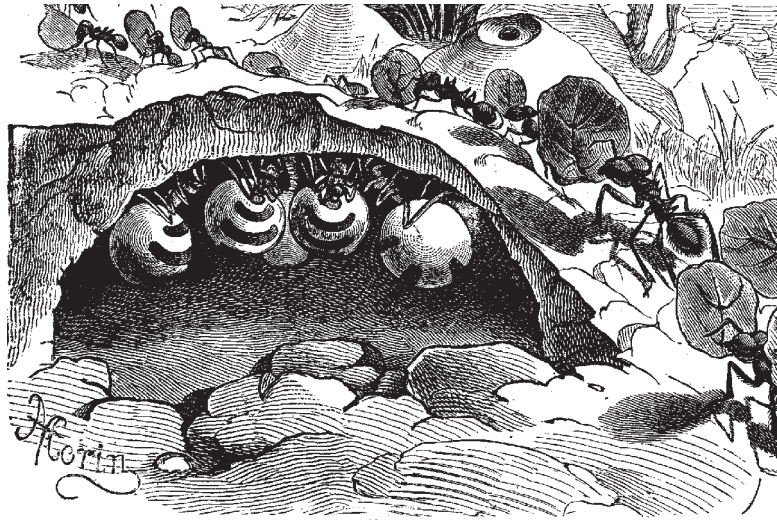
We shall, in 1999, continue to be concerned and make representations to SNH and others about the possible **reintroduction of the beaver** to Scotland which, because it is likely to cause extensive damage to aspen, is a real threat to the richest saproxylic Diptera community (including *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* - Ed.) we know - fallen aspen. It would be tragic to lose aspen, just after having discovered how important it is, and to a project led by the very agency which is supposed to protect the environment!

Graham Rotheray

Inqui-lines

Honey Pot Challenge III

During 27 June-3 July 1998, 28 entomologists gathered at Kingston Maurwood College in Dorset to compete for the fabulous honey pot prize. For the uninitiated, this is a cunning plan to divert the dipterists and aculeate hymenopterists that attend the week-long field meeting from their usual interests and get them to record sawflies (Hymenoptera: Symphyta). Specimens of adults, larvae or recognisable signs of sawfly feeding are brought back to the Lab for identification, with points being scored for each species collected from a site. Bonus points are awarded for the less common species. The prize for the person with most points at the end of the week is a one pound jar of honey.



In 1998 a record 20 entomologists were persuaded to become sawfly hunters but despite their best efforts the sawfly list was disappointing. Seventy three species were recorded compared with 112 at Abergavenny the previous year. This was due to some days with cool weather and it being a generally poor year for sawflies rather than the quality of the sites visited. Altogether 230 sawfly records were made from 83 sites (500 from 103 sites during the Abergavenny week). Star find of the week was a female *Cimbex luteus* at Winfrith Heath. This golden yellow bumblebee-sized sawfly is much less common than the identification key suggests and was the only specimen I have seen in some 20 years of studying sawflies. Several sites produced *Athalia rosae* which seems to have had a good year in 1998. This is a migrant species that is often absent but in the past has occasionally produced some mass invasions of Britain of biblical proportions. It has a common name of turnip sawfly as the larvae feed on the foliage of this and other Cruciferae plants. Other noteworthy species were *Tenthredo mandibularis* at West Compton Meadows, *Rhogogaster chambersi* at Lyscombe Hill and *Pristiphora geniculata* (larvae) at Meritown Heath. The last mentioned site was also the most productive with 15 species (c.f. Blaen y Cwm, Mynydd Du Forest in 1997 with 38 species).

Tension mounted as the week progressed and the scores edged forwards. Careful selection of sites can make all the difference - do not, as one contender did, spend your last collecting day in sawfly-barren terrain such as shingle beds! At the final count the placings were Brian Formstone and Ivan Perry (equal 6th), Chris Spilling (5th), Alan Stubbs (4th), Malcolm Smart (3rd), Richard Underwood (2nd) and the winner at a canter, Peter Chandler. In 1999 the honey pot challenge moves north to Grange-over-Sands - practice your sawfly collecting techniques now!

Andrew Halstead

BWARS Field Trip to Ireland, Summer 1999

The Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society, (BWARS) would like to extend an offer to Dipterists to join them on their Summer 1999 field trip to the Republic of Ireland. There are a few places still available and if any Dipterists would like to join this meeting, then they should register with Stuart Roberts by the end of February at the latest. The trip is scheduled to take place from Saturday 10 July until Saturday 17 July 1999.

The location is the south east of Ireland (i.e. Cos. Wexford, Waterford, Wicklow and Carlow). The meeting will be based in Ballyhack, a short distance from the ferry port of Rosslare.

The aim is to visit many of the coastal sites visited earlier this century by A.W. Stelfox. Detailed up-to-date knowledge of this corner of Ireland is largely lacking for all groups of insects,

Cost is expected to be in the region of £200 (Sterling). This does not include ferry charges. Details of projected costings available from Stuart Roberts.

Allocation of places will be on a strictly first come first served basis.

A deposit of £50 will be required with your registration (cheque made payable to BWARS).

The balance of the payment will fall due on 26 March 1999.

If there are any questions that need to be answered, please contact Stuart Roberts in the first instance.

Stuart Roberts, 22 Belle Vue Road, Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 3YG. E-mail [spm@msn.com](mailto:spmr@msn.com)

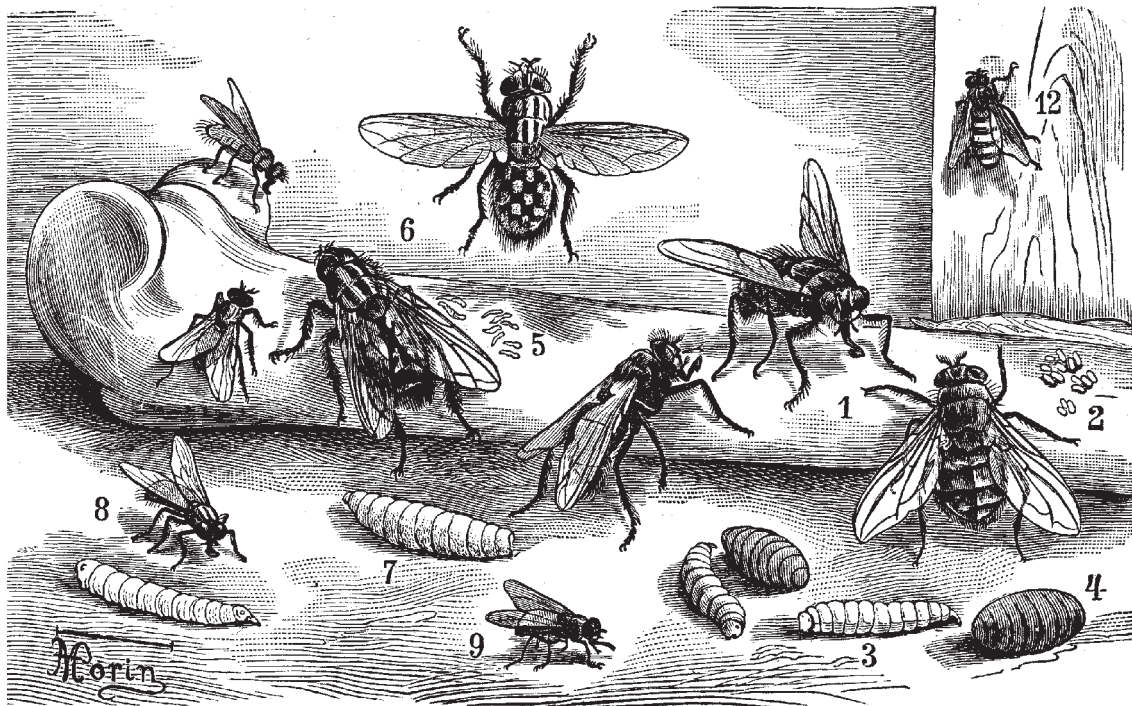
A Review of field meetings

held by the Diptera Recording Schemes, including an analysis of species added to the British list.

Alan Stubbs

Since field meetings began in 1973, there have been 68 of them to the close of 1998. It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of all these events so a collated list should prove a useful reference. The opportunity is also taken to list the species new to Britain and some other outstanding finds gained on these meetings

The history of the origin of such field meetings has already been outlined (Stubbs, 1990, Dipt. Dig. No 6:2-6).



For the first three years the Crane-fly Recording Scheme arranged the meetings, continued subsequently under the auspices of the wider range of recording schemes that were launched in 1976. As from 1995, the Dipterists Forum have run the meetings. Throughout, a wide range of Diptera families have been recorded, the more so in latter years as more people's interests have broadened.

Production of this list will hopefully prompt correction to any errors.

It is uncertain whether all the listed day meetings actually took place. In particular there must have been more species new to Britain (including phorids).

New to Britain is here taken to mean that a species was recognised as a direct consequence of the meeting (even if earlier specimens were subsequently located in collections) or literally the first specimen taken in Britain as revealed from more recent studies.

Other important finds deserving recognition are species new to a country (England, Scotland or Wales), 2nd or third British records, or species re-found after a long gap in British records. There may be other deserving categories.

I am trying to annotate the size of party, number of sites/10km squares visited and species totals for some schemes. At present the figures given are erratic (and it is likely that uniform treatment cannot be achieved).

Our endeavours are without precedent in scale of survey. After all that effort, it would be nice to think that a proper record is left to posterity. A reasonable objective should be to complete a revised statement embracing the 1999 field meetings, thus rounding off the century. To that end I shall welcome note of any corrections or additions.

We have of course the great task of trying to assemble data as a whole from as many meetings as possible, but that is a different objective. I am currently assembling maps illustrating the coverage of 10 km squares from our field meetings, which are quite impressive.

18-24 Aug - Forest of Dean (Glos/Heref/Gwent) 11 people

<i>Dicranomyia frontalis</i> (Staeger)	Lim	New GB (A Stubbs)
<i>Platycephala umbraculata</i> (F. Cole: Cole & Ismay, 1976)	Chlor	1st firm GB (J)
<i>Neoempheria winnertzi</i> Edwards & Kidd, 1975	Mycet	New GB (Hutson)

18 May - Darenth Valley, Kent**18-34 July - Rogate W Sussex c. 20 dipterists**

<i>Mycetophila autumnalis</i> Lundstrom	Mycet	New GB (Chandler, 1977)
<i>Tasiocera jenkinsoni</i> Freeman	Tip	2nd GB (A Stubbs)
<i>Geranomyia bezzii</i> Alex. & Leonard	Tip	3rd GB (A Hutson)
<i>Hemyda vittata</i> (Meigen)	Tach	2nd GB (P Chandler)

9-13 Oct - Dolgellau, West Central Wales 8 dipterists

<i>Agathomyia lundbecki</i> Chandler	Platy	New GB but 1 earlier record located (A. Stubbs)
<i>Anatella dampfi</i> Landrock (Chandler, 1977)	Mycet	New GB
<i>Phronia egregia</i> Dziedzicki (Chandler, 1987)	Mycet	New GB
<i>Phronia electa</i> Dziedzicki	Mycet	New GB (Chandler, 1992)
<i>Exechia styriaca</i> Strobl	Mycet	New GB (Chandler, 1977)

11-17 July - Maentwrog, N Wales**7-10 Oct - Ashdown Forest, E Sussex**

<i>Microsania straeleni</i> Collart	Plat	New GB (I McLean: McLean & Chandler, 1982)
-------------------------------------	------	--

21-28 May - Hereford

<i>Docosia setosa</i> Landrock	Mycet	New GB (Hutson, Ackland & Kidd, 1980)
<i>Docosia sp</i> indet	Mycet	New GB (Hutson, Ackland & Kidd, 1980)
<i>Chalcosyrphus eunotus</i> (Loew)	Syrph	3rd GB

2-10 July - Dundee, E Scotland**10-17 July - Ballater, Dee Valley, E Scotland****20-21 Aug - Breckland & N. Norfolk coast****7-12 Oct - Brecon Beacons, S Wales**

<i>Agathomyia lundbecki</i> Chandler	Platy	3rd GB
--------------------------------------	-------	--------

27 May - 4 June - Bovey Tracey, S Devon

<i>Monocentrotta favonii</i> Chandler	Mycet	2nd GB, paratype
<i>Eurina lurida</i> Meigen.	Chlor	1st since 1933 (Cole, 1980)

5-8 Oct - Newbridge on Wye, Radnorshire

<i>Agathomyia lundbecki</i> Chandler	Platy	4th GB
--------------------------------------	-------	--------

8-15 June - Rogate, West Sussex

<i>Nephrocerus scutellatus</i> (Mcq.)	Pip	New GB (Stubbs, 1980)
---------------------------------------	-----	-----------------------

23-24 June - Breckland and Broadland, Norfolk**6-21 July - Newton Stewart, Galloway****10-14 Oct - Nympsfield, Glos**

<i>Brevicornu sp.</i> nov.	Mycet	New GB, undescribed sp.
<i>Allodia westerholii</i> Caspers	Mycet	New GB
<i>Gymnophora integrals</i> Schmitz & McLean: Disney, 1981	Phor	New GB (Chandler)

June - July Isle of Wight

<i>Dicranomyia lackschewitziana</i> Edw.	Lim	New GB (A Stubbs)
--	-----	-------------------

July - Forest of Dean (8, incl hym)**8-12 Oct - Bovey Tracey, South Devon****20-27 June - Middleton in Teesdale, North Pennines**

<i>Oxycera dives</i> Loew	Strat	rare England (P Skidmore)
---------------------------	-------	---------------------------

18-25 July - Ashford, Kent**15-18 Oct - Monmouth, Gwent**

55 craneflies, 110 gnats

12-20 June - NETHY BRIDGE, Spey Valley

<i>Platypalpus melancholicus</i> (Collin)	Hybot	1st since 1910?
<i>Medetera veles</i> Loew	Doli	New GB (Cole, 1989)
<i>Ernoneura argus</i> (Zetterstedt)	Scath	1st since 1933?
<i>Alliopsis albipennis</i> (Ringdahl)	Anth	2nd GB
<i>Hydrotaea pandellei</i> Stein	Musc	2nd GB (Cole, 1985)

25-26 Sept - Epping Forest**6-10 Oct - New Forest**

13? gnats

4-5 June - Hainault Forest, Essex**2-10 July - St Agnes, Cornwall****16-17 July - Suffolk Coast****12-16 Oct - Norwich**

111 gnats

2-3 June - New Forest

20 dipt/col

9-17 June -Tarradale, Muir of Ord

18 dipterists

<i>Dicranomyia halterata</i> Osten-Sacken	Lim	2nd GB (Vane-Wright & Stubbs)
<i>Oedalea sp.</i>		New GB [check]
<i>Botanophila fonsecai</i> Ackland	Anth	3rd GB record from only site; described as sp. nov. 1989.

18-19 Aug - Otley and Ashberry Pastures, Yorkshire**11-14 Oct - WYRE FOREST (based at Stourport-on-Severn)****5 May - Brannets Wood, Essex****18-19 May - Great Breach Wood, Dorset****1 June - Thompson Common, Norfolk**

<i>Priocera subserricornis</i> (Zett)	Tip	2nd GB record (J Stubbs)
---------------------------------------	-----	--------------------------

Odontomyia angulata (Panz.) Strat Larvae, 1st GB
for c. 50 yrs

1-2 June - New Forest**22-23 June - Woodwalton & Bedford Purlieus, modern Cambs****29 June- 7 July - Charterhouse in Mendip, Somerset**

132 gnats (one site with 78 species)

2-9 Oct - Leyburn, North Yorkshire 1 2 5 gnats

Trichonta brigantia Chandler Mycet New GB sp.
nov. (Chandler, 1992)
Mycetophila czizekii Land. Mycet 3rd GB

23-26 May - Wyre Forest, Worcestershire**5-13 July - Carmarthen**

Monocentrotta favonii Chandler Kero New GB, sp. nov.
(Chandler, 1987)

6-7 September - Thornham Magna, Suffolk**15-19 Oct - Mendips, Somerset**

Anatella ahkeli Plassmann Mycet New GB
(Chandler, 1994)
Exechia chandleri Caspers Mycet New GB
Sceptonia pilosa Bukowski Mycet New GB
(Chandler, 1991)

30-31 May - Weald Edge Hangers, Hampshire**5-7 June - Wyre Forest, Worcestershire****6-7 June - New Forest****4-12 July - Bangor, Caernarvonshire & Anglesey**

Anatella alpina Plassmann Mycet 2nd GB
(Chandler, 1994)
Phronia sudetica Dziedzicki Mycet New GB
(Chandler, 1992a)
Leia longiseta Barendant Mycet New GB
(Chandler, 1992b)
Neurigona biflexa Strobl Doli New GB
(Cole, 1991)
Paregle atrisquama Ringd. Anth New GB
(Ackland, 1989)

14-18 Oct - Newcastle, Shropshire**28-29 May - Weald Edge Hangers, Hampshire****4 June - Whippendell Wood & Cassiobury Park, Watford****4-5 June - New Forest****18 June - Sutton Park, Warwickshire****25-26 June - Rye Harbour, East Sussex****2 July - Chippenham Fen****9-17 July - Galashiels, SE Scotland**

Orthoceratium lacustre (Scop.) Doli 1st Scottish rec.
Dorylomorpha haemorrhoidalis Zett. Pip New GB (R. Crossley;
Stubbs, 1988)

[16-23 July - Carmarthen BWARS meeting, mainly dipterists]**12-16 Oct - Bideford, N Devon****21 May - Pamber Forest, N Hampshire****10-18 June - Bideford, N Devon**

Mycetophila uliginosa Chandler Mycet 3rd GB

Sphaerophoria potentillae (Claus.) Syrph New GB
(Stubbs, 1989)

Pherbellia rozkosnyi Verb. Scio New GB
(Perry, 1990)

25 June - Winnal Moors, S Hampshire

Syneches muscarius (F.) Hybot. 3rd GB

8 July - Wicken Fen,**22 July - Sutton Park, Warwickshire****5 Aug - Allerthorpe Common, Yorks [with YNU]****11-15 Oct - Rogate, W. Sussex**

Agathomyia lundbecki Chandler Plat new to England

12 May - Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire**19 May - Sutton Park, Warwickshire****3 June - Cothill Fens, Oxfordshire****7-15 July - Winchester, Hampshire**

32 dipterists (+ 5 local & Hym), 37 sq, 101 tips, 97 gnats, 100 syrph etc.

Eudorylas fuscus Zett. Pip New GB (Ackland)

Microcephalops vestitus Becker Pip New GB (Stubbs, 1992)

Pipunculus oldenberi Collin Pip New GB (Dobson;
Dobson & Stubbs, 1992))

10-14 Oct - North York Moors**6-13 July - Skye**

Eudicrana nigriceps (Lundstrom) Mycet 2nd GB
(Stubbs)

Mycomyia denmax Vaisanen Mycet New GB
(Stubbs: Chandler, 1992)

Szaboiella hibernica (Tonnoir) Psych New to Scotland

Stemonocera cornuta (Scopoli) Teph New to Scotland

13-20 July - Tarradale, Muir of Ord, E Ross

Stratiomys chamaeleon (Linnaeus) Strat 1st recent
Scotland

9-13 Oct - Bakewell, Peak District**13-20 July - Stirling**

17 dipterists, 60 sq, 115 hoverflies, 152 craneflies

7-11 Oct - Bowness, Lake District**23-26 April - Gower [with BWARS]****4-11 July - East Norfolk**

34 people, 40 sq.

Clastobasis alternans (Winnertz) Mycet New GB

Odontomyia angulata (Panzer) Strat 1st recent Broads

Germaria angustata (Zetterstedt) Tach 1st since 1937
(Cole)

13-17 Oct - Dorset**20-27 May - Preston Montford, Shropshire**

25 people, 126 craneflies

Lipsothrix nigristigma Edwards Tip 3rd GB

12-16 Oct - Mold, NE Wales

Exechia cincinnata Johannsen Mycet New GB
(Chandler)

2-9 July 1995 - Ayr

20 dipterists, 60+ sq,

Micropygus vagans (Zett.) Doli New GB
(Crossley)

Meetings

Sciapus maritimus Becker Doli New GB
(Crossley, 1998)
Chrysopilus erythropthalmus Rhag New Scotland
Lyciella mihalyii Papp Laux New GB, 2nd
spec. (Cole)

11-15 July - Llandeilo, S Wales

7 people, 20 sq,

13-20 July - York

c. 20 people, 59 sq, 137 tips, 135 gnats

Tasiocera halesus Tip New GB
(Stubbs)

Allodiopsis korolevi Zaitzev Mycet New GB
(Stubbs)

Clastobasis alternans (Winnertz) Mycet 3rd GB
Mycetophila stricklandi (Laffoon) Mycet New GB
(Chandler)

16-20m Oct - Southwold, E Suffolk

19 dipterists, 45 tips, 99 gnats

7-15 June - Abergavenny, S Wales

Symplecta pusilla (Schiner) Tip 1st GB since
1911

Tasiocera muscula (Schmid) Tip New GB
(Perry, det A.S.)

Chrysopilus erythropthalmus Rhag New Wales
Sciapus basilius M. & G. Doli New GB
(Cole)

Sphegina sibirica Stackelberg Syr New Wales
Cosmetopus dentimanus (Zett.) Scath 1st outside Hants

Loewia submetallica (Macquart) Tach 1st post 1960

10-15 Oct - Staffordshire

1998

27 June - 4 July - Dorchester. Dorset

Campsicnemus umbripennis (Loew) Doli New GB (Perry)
Atherigona varia Musc New GB
(Grainger)

9-13 Oct - Herefordshire

Important records by Family totals

sp. nov	new GB	2nd GB	3rd GB	1st recent	New country
------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---------------	----------------

Limoniidae	4	3	2	1		
Keroplastidae	1					
Mycetophilidae	2	19	3	3		
Psychodidae					1	
Rhagionidae					2	
Hybotidae				1		
Empididae			1			
Dolichopodidae	6				1	
Platypzeidae	2		1		1	
Phoridae	1					
Syrphidae	1		1		1	
Pipunculidae	5					
Tephritidae					1	
Sciomyzidae	1					
Lauxaniidae	1					
Chloropidae	1			1		
Scathophagidae				1	1	
Anthomyiidae	1	1	1			
Muscidae	1	1				
Tachinidae			1	2		
TOTALS	2	44	9	9	6	8

Main long Field Meetings by Country

Meetings are repeated where they straddled more than one country (England and Wales).

Time of visit is shown as:- May (for very early ones), S = summer, A = Autumn. Where there are return summer visits, a different time period has been chosen

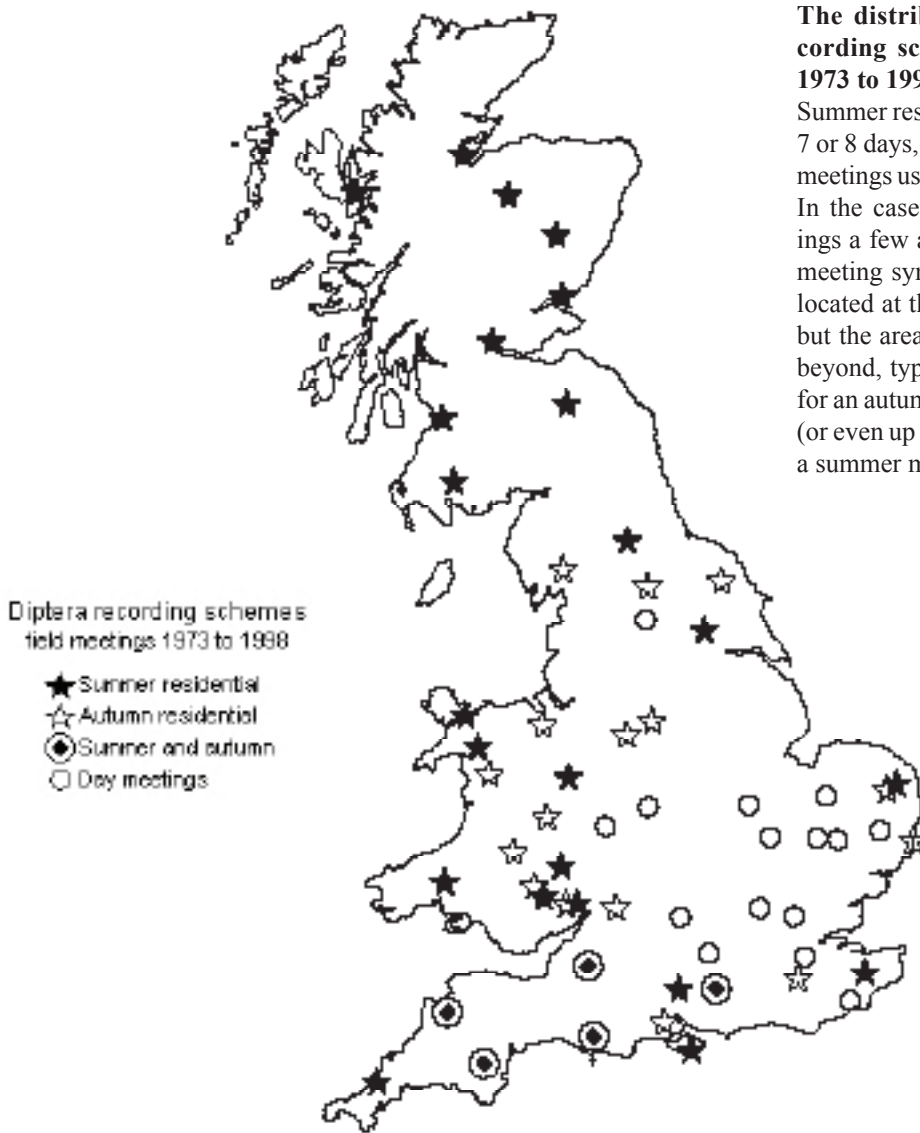
SCOTLAND

1977	2-10 July 1977 -	Dundee, E Scotland
S		
	10-17 July 1977 -	Ballater, Dee Valley, E Scotland
S		
1979	6-21 July 1979 -	Newton Stewart, Galloway
S		
1982	12-20 June 1982 -	NETHY BRIDGE, Spey Valley
S		
1984	9-17 June 1984 -	Muir of Ord (Tarradale) E. Ross
S		
1988	9-17 July 1988 -	Galashiels, SE Scotland
S		
1991	6-13 July 1991 -	Skye
S		
	13-20 July 1991 -	Muir of Ord (Tarradale) E. Ross
S		
1992	13-20 July 1992 -	Stirling
S		

WALES

1973	18-24 Aug 1973 -	Forest of Dean (Glos/Heref/Gwent)
S		
1975	9-13 Oct 1975 -	Dolgellau, West Central Wales
A		
1976	11-17 July 1976 -	Maentwrog, N Wales
S		
1977	7-12 Oct 1977 -	Brecon Beacons, S Wales
A		
1978	5-8 Oct 1978 -	Newbridge on Wye, Radnorshire
A		
1981	15-18 Oct 1981 -	Monmouth, Gwent
A		
1986	5-13 July 1986 -	Carmarthen
S		
1987	4-12 July 1987 -	Bangor, Caernarvonshire & Anglesey
S		
	14-18 Oct 1987 -	Newcastle, Shropshire
A		
1994	12-16 Oct 1994 -	Mold, NE Wales
A		
1995	11-15 July 1995 -	Llandeilo, S Wales
A		
1997	7-15 June 1997 -	Abergavenny, S Wales

S			1982	6-10 Oct 1982 -	New Forest
			A		
			1989	11-15 Oct 1989 -	Rogate, W. Sussex
			A		
			1990	7-15 July 1990 -	Winchester, Hampshire
			S		
ENGLAND (by Regions)					
South East, Hampshire & Isle of Wight					
1974	34 July 1974 -	Rogate, W Sussex			
S					
1976	7-10 Oct 1976 -	Ashdown Forest, E Sussex			
A					
1979	8-15 June 1979 -	Rogate, West Sussex			
S					
1979	10-14 Oct 1979 -	Nympsfield, Glos			
A					
1980	June - July 1980	Isle of Wight			
S					
1981	18-25 July 1981 -	Ashford, Kent			
S					
South West					
			1978	27 May- 4 June -	Bovey Tracey, S Devon
			S		
				8-12 Oct 1980 -	Bovey Tracey, South Devon
			A		
			1983	2-10 July 1983 -	St Agnes, Cornwall
			S		
			1985	29 June- 7 July -	Charterhouse in Mendip, Som.
			S		
			1986	15-19 Oct 1986 -	Mendips, Somerset
			A		
			1988	12-16 Oct 1988 -	Bideford, N Devon
			A		



The distribution of Diptera recording schemes field meetings, 1973 to 1988.

Summer residential are of a week of 7 or 8 days, autumn residential field meetings usually of 4 or 5 field days. In the case of the day field meetings a few are masked by the main meeting symbols. The symbols are located at the accommodation base but the area of survey extended far beyond, typically 16 10km squares for an autumn meeting and about 30 (or even up to 60) 10 km squares for a summer meeting.

Diary 1999

-
- 6 **NMG**M Identification & biology of British Chloropid flies. **Dr. John Ismay**
- 10 **BENHS** How midges play a key role in our understanding of global climate change. RES rooms, London. **Steve Brooks**
- 12-14 **Dipterists Forum** Preston Montford Larger Brachycera workshop.
- 20 **LCES** Exhibition Frodsham Community Centre. Fluin Lane, off the A56 Warrington to Chester Road.
-
- 1 **BENHS** Icknield Way, The King's Forest, SUFFOLK. MV. **Tony Prichard** (01473 270047). 20:00 @ TL788716
- 8 **BENHS** Wye Valley woodlands, GLOS. MV. **Roger Gaunt** (01594 530475). 11:00 & 20:00 @ ST553984
- 15 **BENHS** Marks Hall Estate, Coggeshall, ESSEX. MV. **Joe Firmin** (01206 241389), **Nigel Cuming & David Warner**. 11:00 & 20:30 @ TL839252
- 29 **BENHS** South-east Scotland. MV. contact **Keith Bland** (0131 6677013)
-
- 5 **BENHS** Cranwich Camp, NORFOLK. MV. **Gerry Haggett** (01953 483526). 14:30 & 20:30 at TL775942
- 12-20 **Dipterists Forum Summer Field Week** Lindale, Grange-over-Sands (Cumbria/Old Lancashire/Furness plus bits of Yorkshire)
- 12 **BENHS** Simonsbath, Exmoor National Park, SOMERSET. MV. **Keith Brown** (01963 32763). 20:30 @ SS774393
- 19 **BENHS** Tuddenham & Cavenham Heaths, SUFFOLK, MV. **Tony Prichard** (01473 270047)
- 19 **BENHS** Chippenham Fen, CAMBS. **Adrian Colston** (Property Manager, 01353 720274). 14:00 & 21:00 @ TL757727
- 20 **BENHS** Wicken Fen, CAMBS. **Adrian Colston** (Property Manager, 01353 720274). 09:30 @ TL565705
- 25-27 **BENHS** Isle of Arran. CLYDE ISLES. MV. **Mark Young** (w: 01358 789631, h:01651 872395)
- 26 **BENHS** Great Torrington woodlands, DEVON. MV. **Roy McCormick** (01626 779543). 20:30 @ SS522171
-
- 3 **BENHS** New Forest, HAMPSHIRE. MV. **David Green** (01264 735385)
- 9 **BENHS** Newton Abbot Racecourse, DEVON. MV. **Roy McCormick** (01626 779543)
- 10 **BENHS** Hartslock BBONT reserve, OXFORDSHIRE. MV. **Martin Harvey** (01491 671889) and **Chris Raper** (0118 9843574). 11:00 & 21:00 @ SU603806
- 10 **BENHS** Gilfach Farm SSSI, RADNORSHIRE. MV. **Tony Davis** (01252 874346). 14:00 & 20:30 @ SN965716
- 10 **BENHS** For venue contact **Michael Salmon** (01725 513165) and **Alan Stewart** (01273 476243)
- ? **BENHS** DERBYSHIRE, For date & venue contact **Ian Viles** (0115 9179219)
- 17 **BENHS** Martlesham Heath, SUFFOLK. MV. **Tony Prichard** (01473 270047). 20:30 at TM243453
- 24 **BENHS** Wicken Fen, CAMBRIDGESHIRE. MV. **Adrian Colston** (Property Manager, 01353 720274) & **David Wilson** (01353 624843). 10:30 & 20:30 @ TL565705
- 24/25 **BENHS** Hamsterley Forest, Co. DURHAM. MV. **Alan & Jeri Coates** (01388 488474)
- 31 **BENHS** Castle & Hightae Lochs LNR, DUMFRIESSHIRE. MV. **Richard Mearns** (01387 710031). 14:30 & 20:30 @ NY087812
-
- 7 **BENHS** Stonefield Farm, KINTYRE. MV. **Graham Irving** (0141 579 1088). 14:00 & 20:00 @ NR674865
- 14 **BENHS** New Forest, HAMPSHIRE. MV. **David Green** (01264 735385)
- 21 **BENHS** The Gower, GLAMORGAN. MV. **Barry Stewart** (01792 539447)
- 28 **BENHS** Cock Marsh, BERKSHIRE. MV. **Martin Harvey** (01491 671889). 11:00 & 19:30 @ SU870860
-
- 4 **BENHS** Minsmere RSPB reserve, SUFFOLK. MV. **Tony Prichard** (01473 270047). 19:00 @ TM473671
- 11 **BENHS** Slapton Ley Nature Reserve, DEVON. MV. **Roy McCormick** (01626 779543). 19:30 @ SX825447
- 12-14 **RES** Entomology 99 & RES 20th Symposium - Insect Movement, Imperial College, London. ian.woiwod@bbsrc.ac.uk
- 18 **BENHS** Walton Naze SSSI and nature reserve, ESSEX. MV. **Joe Firmin** (01206 241389), **Chris Gibson** (01206 796666) & **Kevin Marsden** (Tendring District Council's Conservation Officer). 11:00 & 19:30 @ TM264233
- 25 **BENHS** Moor Copse, BERKS. **Ian Sims** (0118 9665583). 11:00 @ SU634739
-
- 2 **Amateur Entomologists Society Annual Exhibition**, SW London
- 16 **BENHS** Bladon Heath Wood, OXON. MV. **Martin Townsend** (01865 777810)
-
- 6 **DF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Natural History Museum, London
No Dipterists Supper unless there is a volunteer organiser
- 20 **BENHS** Annual Exhibition, Imperial College, London

BRITISH ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY - FIELD MEETINGS PROGRAMME 1999

May 1 Icknield Way, The King's Forest, SUFFOLK. MV. **Tony Prichard** (01473 270047)

LCES = Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society. Exhibition Secretary Julia Hancell, 4 Priory Close, Halton, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2BN

NMGM = Liverpool Museum. National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN. Contact **Steve Judd** on 0151 478 4233.

DF = Dipterists Forum

BENHS = British Entomological & Natural History Society. Contact **Peter Chandler**

Whose meetings get included in this diary? Unless I am strongly urged otherwise I shall include our own, our affiliate's, any Society which makes specific arrangements with the Dipterists Forum or our affiliates for a joint meeting, major events and exhibitions of a broad entomological nature (e.g. the AES meeting) and any Societies lecture on the subject of Diptera. Please contact the editor with details of any such event.

Fly leaf

Fly on the window

Do you find it annoying when the phone rings, just as you are sitting down to eat, or watching your favourite TV programme? Especially when the voice at the other end says “ This is something or other replacement windows, and we have a special offer...”

At first you think that it might be Bill Gates drumming up sales of the latest software, but quickly realize it is the glass variety. “No thanks” you reply, or “please don’t ring again.” Depending on the number of times this has occurred recently, you might say, “I’ve just had them done”, or “I live in a subterranean house,” or even just put the phone down.

The last time it happened, I thought: here is a good opportunity to try something new.

“Hullo” the voice said.

Before the sales pitch started, I re-

plied “Can I interest you in subscribing to the Dipterists Forum ?”

“What’s that?”

It’s a group of people who are interested in flies; they go to each

able scientific research, and I expect we could persuade English Nature to allow you to put ‘By appointment’ on your letter heading.

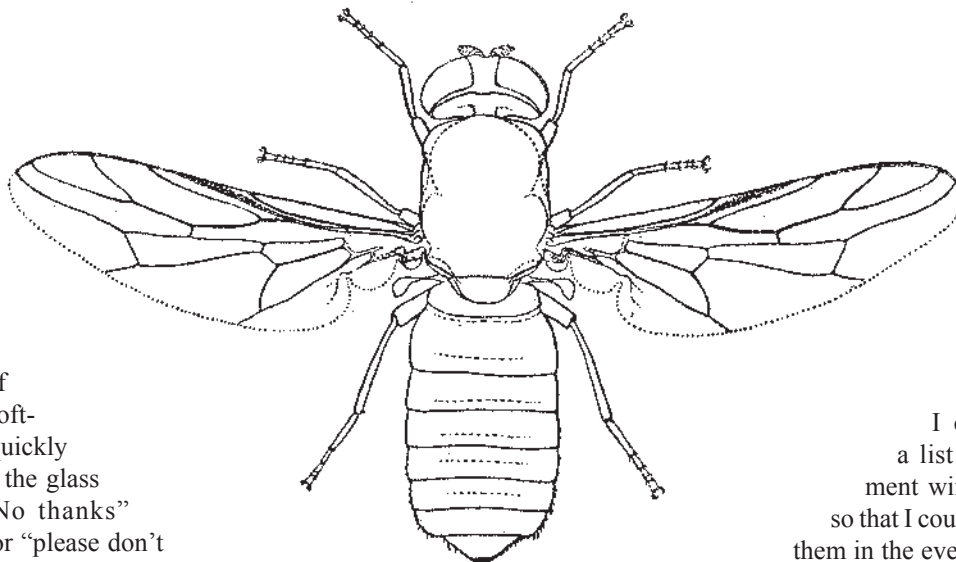
I suddenly realized that the caller had rung off. This has happened several times in the past week. I am beginning to feel slightly unwanted, and wonder if

I could start a list of replacement window firms, so that I could telephone them in the evenings to see if they are interested in my idea.

Of course, as I am so busy sorting out all the flies I have collected by this method, I would not be able to ring them until very late, perhaps even after midnight.

Did I hear the phone ring ?

Michael Ackland

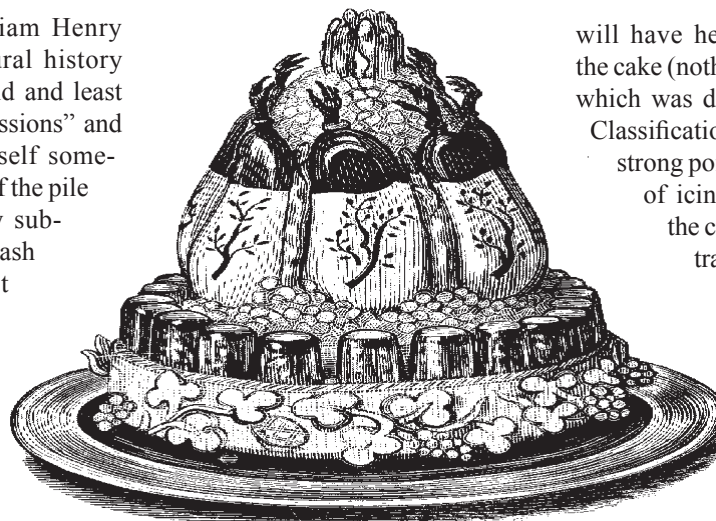


other’s houses, and, using a little sucking device, remove all the flies from their windows. Some of them are quite rare.”

Sounds of choking at the other end. I continued “Perhaps you could get your fitters to suck up all the flies when they do their survey ? Its valu-

The icing on the cake

In the 1890s Sir William Henry Flower described natural history as “about the worst paid and least appreciated of all professions” and taxonomy still finds itself somewhere near the bottom of the pile of such natural history subjects when it comes to cash and understanding. It would appear to be this century-old principle which influences the BBC’s taxonomic guidelines. Listeners to Radio 2 just after our Cardiff meeting



will have heard comments about the cake (nothing else, just the cake) which was described as “sponge”.

Classification of cakes is not my strong point, but surely the form of icing necessary to obtain the crisp, well defined illustrations thereon, requires a much firmer substrate than cakes of the “sponge” family and that it was, in fact, of the family “Dundee”.

Darwyn Sumner

And now ...

..... a domicile fit for a fly

That long-running radio programme, Desert Island disks, asks famous people for their choice of favourite records and what special item they would take to a desert island. I sometimes wonder what a dipterist would choose; perhaps a recording of the hum of their favourite hoverflies and a fully equipped laboratory with all the field equipment one could possibly need.

But what if you were invited to come up with the highest profile, ultimate choice to put in the Millenium Dome. There has been no shortage of hype about some of the 'good' ideas. Will you go to the Dome because it has two huge figures embracing with an escalator going up one arm? Wow!! Anyway, you can stop thinking because the choice has already been made for you - maggots.

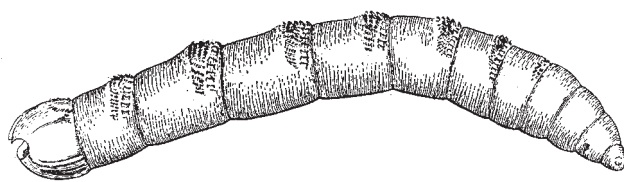
According to a newspaper article, so it must be right, especially since it is in the Independent (Nov. 3rd 1998), "*larvae of the green-bottle will be displayed as an example of a ground-breaking product that will change the way we live in the 21st century*".

Product indeed! Have maggots now been patented? Even the fishermen did not think of patents, but perhaps they could offer a choice of colours, or a wriggling kaleidoscopic confusion. And what are they the product of, surely millions of years of evolution or the hand of God, or both? Well they are still looking for a Spirit Zone theme, though green-bottles have been doing their thing for much more than 2,000 years. Perhaps there is to be a Maggot Zone.

So there we have it. You will be celebrating the Millenium of the Maggot. Those brilliant highly paid designers have, it seems, just caught up with the fact that maggots can be used to clean up wounds and ulcers. I rather thought that was well known in pre-computer, pre-man-on-the-Moon days. However, to be fair, none of us dipterists put in an alternative suggestion for Diptera to be part of the Millenium Dome Experience.

There is an alternative option. Ignore the Dome, and instead use the time to go out and look for the flies, or indeed maggots, of your choice. No hype, no escalators, no maddening crowds, no fancy lighting and definitely no Experience musik.

Alan Stubbs



Acknowledgements

There are several organisations to whom thanks should be expressed, they have been providing assistance with the production of the Dipterists Bulletin for some time now. Particular thanks are due on this and future occasions to Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service, where your Editor works as Biological Records Officer, who have been kind enough to allow some of his time and their resources to be spent on the production of this Bulletin.

Contributors

Many thanks to all those contributing to this issue and I do hope that the new format will encourage contributions from a whole new batch of readers.

Authors are reminded that the deadline for contributions to be included in the March bulletins is the end of January, it is printed in February (in time for the Preston Montford Meeting). Deadline for August bulletin; contributions by 24th July, printed in August.

