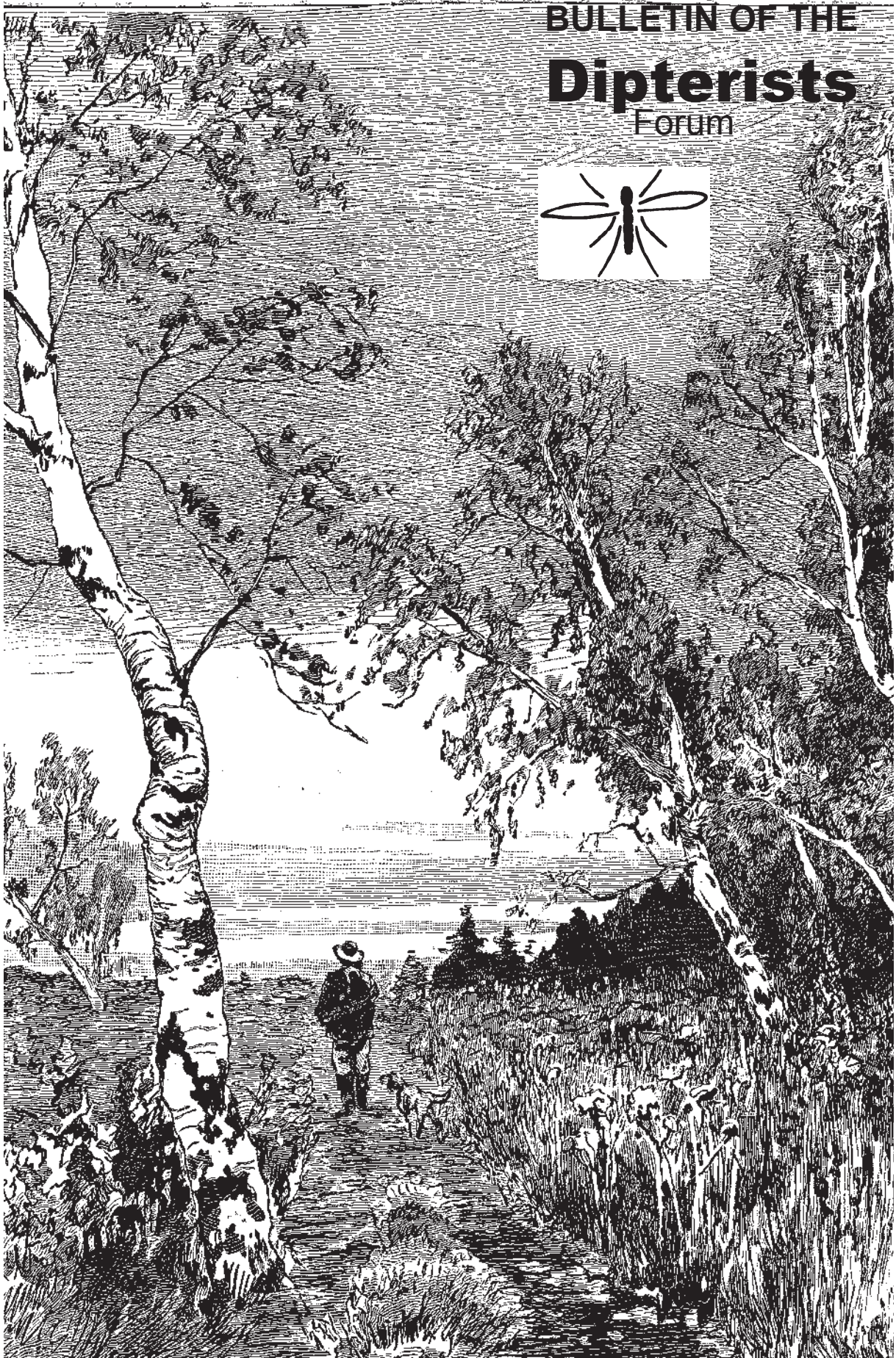


BULLETIN OF THE  
**Dipterists**  
Forum



**Bulletin No. 48**

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

**August 1999**

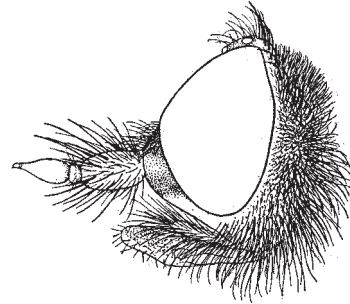




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|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Bulletin No. 48</b>  |                  |
| <b>August 1999</b><br>ISSN 1358-5029  |                  |
| Bulletin Editor Darwyn Sumner   |                  |
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| Dipterists Digest Editor  | Peter Chandler   |
| <b>Recording Scheme Organisers</b>  |                  |
| 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 (darwyn_sumner@hotmail.com). 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> |                  |



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## Forum News

# Editorial

### Darwyn Sumner

Just a little later than I had anticipated, the launch of my first effort at the Bulletin was achieved at the Preston Montford Larger Brachycera Meeting thanks to the efforts of Martin Drake and his team. Many helpful suggestions and comments were received there whilst chewing over the lamb, salmon and tabanids. By the end of the first week I had enough letters and E-mails to start a letters page. One thing that has surfaced is the major gaffe I made in confusing Scheme Organisers and Newsletter Editors. Apologies to Stuart Ball and Roger Morris who are, of course, the Hoverfly Scheme Organisers, whilst David Illife is the Newsletter Editor - several people pointed this out. Paul Harding of BRC kindly sent me their definitive list which I have reproduced in this Bulletin.

I should also have said "except Peter Chandler" when I issued the challenge for anyone to spot more errata in the Diptera Checklist. He sent me a three page list of "Corrections and changes..." and asked for anyone who spotted any more to let him know. All these amendments have now found their way into Dipterists Digest (1999 Vol. 6 No. 1)



### Records wanted

For the Dipterists Forum Grange-o-Sands Field Week. On this occasion your Bulletin Editor has volunteered to collect together all the records. Electronic format is preferred, be it database or spreadsheet; failing this a comma delimited text file with the headers forming the first record. If you send typed or handwritten lists, please arrange them in date order and not in species sequence. This is because it is much, much harder to type a different locality name, grid reference and date for each record as one works down a list than it is to simply make twenty or so copies of all this information and add the species names in afterwards.

### Photographers' Fizz

Photograph enthusiasts sometimes narcotise their subjects with carbon dioxide. At one time the easiest dispenser was a device for opening corked wine bottles by injecting CO<sub>2</sub> from a soda siphon sparklet bulb through a needle into the cork. When this was used for jabbing people, it was withdrawn from sale. Now, however, you can buy a similar dispenser made especially for insect photographers. The EDME CO<sub>2</sub> gas injection insect stunner can be obtained from EDME, Mistley, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1HG (tel 01206 393725) for £15.95 + 1.30 p&p + VAT (=£20.27).

Martin Drake

### Planning succes

A Tephritid fly last recorded in 1995 at Honor Oak, Lewisham, London has been instrumental in safeguarding the site against housing development. At the public enquiry, reported in "Planning" 26/3/99, an appeal to commence a housing development there was dismissed on the grounds that the need for housing in London did not outweigh the loss of the nature conservation site.

David Heaver

### Fly hijack

When Robert Belshaw presents his Tachinid workshop next March our minds will turn to the fascinating world of parasitism. Mind turning indeed, because one particular aspect of parasitism which has captured the interest of New Scientist readers lately (24 July) has been the mechanisms by which parasites affect the behaviour of their hosts. Bryant Furlow's article ("The body snatchers") provides a number of invertebrate examples of this phenomenon. Parasitic worms which produce chemicals in their amphipod hosts causing them to adopt a parody of their mating behaviour and making them more vulnerable to predators and thus, presumably, providing the parasite with a better chance of completing its own life cycle. Examples abound in medical dipterology with the leishmaniasis protozoan blocking the sandfly's gut and causing it to feed more often and the malarial mosquito's parasite which uses biochemicals to achieve the same objective. Behavioural responses of the hosts of both Conopids and Tachinids are dealt with and speculation about behaviour modification even extends to man and *Toxoplasma gondii*. An opportunity missed however with New Scientist's illustrations, for the Conopids we are treated to yet another bumblebee picture and for the Tachinid story - you guessed it - a pretty caterpillar shot. A stimulating article which should get us pondering a wide range of examples from the world of Diptera.

From the same popular science weekly (7/8/99) an item on super-sensitive infrared detectors unlike anything else in nature (admittedly in Coleoptera) is of interest. After all, if there are Diptera which can detect smoke perhaps somewhere in the world they have also evolved a similar receptor which would enable them to more rapidly take advantage of newly sick and suffering trees.

www.newscientist.com

# News from the schemes

## Cranefly Recording Scheme

### Alan Stubbs

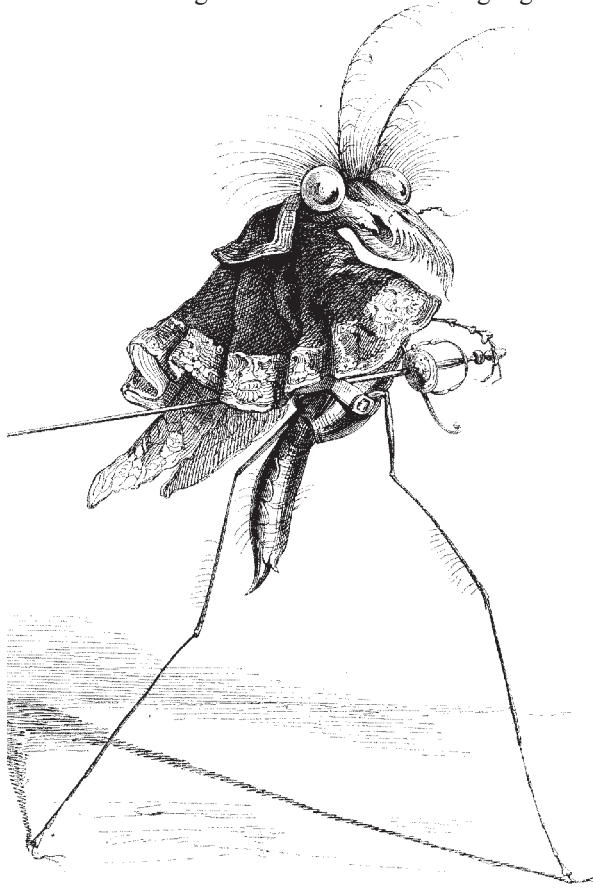
A survey of the Diptera of Epping Forest, arranged by the City of London in May, led to the discovery of *Ctenophora flaveolata* in several places - about 7 specimens in only a few days. It is virtually unheard of for more than one specimen to be seen in one locality in a single year. There has also been a Surrey record this year.

Roy Crossley has referred a *Tipula* to the scheme organiser. It is from a small apparently non-special wood on the Yorkshire Wolds. It is a *Pterelachisus* with entirely pale femora (as *submarmorata*) and tergite 9 without an apical notch (more extreme than *luridirostris*). As yet it defies identification.

## Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme

### Peter Chandler

A number of changes to the British list of fungus gnats were introduced in the new Checklist published last year and



several new species were stated to be awaiting description. Papers explaining these changes and including descriptions of most of the new species have now been drafted. The species in groups covered by the RES Handbook are also figured, to bring coverage of these groups up to date.

A new genus has been proposed for the species provisionally assigned to *Grzegorzekia*, which was found during Malloch Society surveys. This is described as *Creagdhubhia mallochorum* sp. n. and will appear shortly in the BENHS Journal. Another paper will cover the other changes; in addition to new species of *Sciophila*, *Brevicornu* and *Mycetophila*, it is also necessary to describe *Mycetophila gratiosa* and *Phronia longelamellata* of the British list as new species since both were misidentifications, the first by me and the second an old misidentification by Lundström.

Other new changes include the recognition that the *Dynatosoma* included in the British list as “*thoracicum* sensu Landrock” is *D.norwegiense* Zaitzev & Okland, 1994. I found further specimens of this rare species during a survey of part of the National Trust’s Ashridge Estate in Bucks on 8 July this year.

I have also only recently recognised that the fairly common “species” *Sciophila hirta* actually comprises two species, the second being *S.parviareolata* Santos Abreu (described from the Canary Islands), which had been treated as a synonym. About a quarter of British specimens so far examined have proved to be *parviareolata*, so it will be necessary for

all specimens identified as *hirta* to be re-examined. Specimens of the recently added *S. baltica* (Ashridge Estate 2 years ago) have also been found masquerading as *hirta* in my own and the BMNH collection, from the New Forest and Wilton, Wilts respectively. These species are only separable on male genitalia, e.g. a slender blunt ended median process (as shown in the RES Handbook) in *hirta*, while this process is broader and bifurcate in *parviareolata*.

The summer field meeting at Grange-over-Sands was often slow going for fungus gnats, with only a few localities productive and a final total of only 95 species (compared to 105 in Epping Forest, Essex at the end of May and more than 150 in Scotland the week after Grange). The best find was on the last day at Esthwaite North Fen, i.e. *Urytalpa macrocera* which is new to England (only four previous British records from the Spey Valley and Dumfries; the latter site at Castle Loch, Lochmaben bears some resemblance to the Cumbrian site). The carr on the Esthwaite site, although small in extent, also produced the Local species *Macrocera fascipennis* and *Mycomya vittiventris*.

Finally, I have recently examined a large Kentish collection of pinned specimens accumulated over several years by

## Forum News

Laurence Clemons. This included 20 species new to Kent, the most surprising being *Mycomya occultans* from two sites (Long Wood, Basted and Wrotham Water Downs). This species has only been recorded from Windsor Forest and Burnham Beeches since the original British records from two sites in Wales.

### Hoverfly Recording Scheme

**David Iliff**

Newsletter accompanies this issue

### Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

**Martin Drake**

There's been little to report recently. Progress on British Soldiers has slowed yet again at the final post-editing hurdle, although we are almost there. A newsletter is included after a lengthy silence, but as it is brief I will not repeat much here.

### Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme

**Ian McLean**

Peter Chandler informs me: "The sciomyzid at Esthwaite was *Anticheta brevipennis*. Ian McLean says that he has found it at a few sites in East Anglia by searching amongst tussocks so perhaps it was just by chance that I managed to sweep one. New to Cumbria anyway." (Darwyn Sumner)

### Small Acalypterate Families Study Group

(NERIODEA: Pseudopomyzidae, Micropeziidae, DIOPSOIDEA: Tanypeziidae, Strongylophthalmiidae, Megameriniidae & Psilidae)

**Darwyn Sumner**

There has been an encouraging response to my suggestion that such a group be formed. As Martin Drake pointed out, however, it is a study group rather than a recording scheme. Suggestions were made at Preston Montford as to who might be interested in such a scheme. In June I wrote to DF members from that list who were likely to attend the Summer Field Week, providing some sort of progress report and begging specimens off them. Many thanks to those people who have responded. Peter Chandler has been particularly generous with specimen loans and copies of relevant papers; Jon Cole and Ivan Perry have also been kind enough to loan me some material and Lita Greve sent me some very useful European articles. I now have access to a fairly useful reference collection which I am able to study with a view to producing a key, it is missing only *Strongylophthalmia ustulata* (I'm told the Malloch Society have bred out lots of these so I'm hopeful that I can borrow a pair from them) and some Psilidae (*Loxocera nigrifrons* & *Chamaepsila buccata* and Peter was only able to loan me one sex of *L.fulviventris*, *C.clunalis*, *C.limbatella*, *C.luteola*, *C.nigricornis*, *C.persimilis* & *Chyliza nova*)

Chris Spilling took *Megamerinia dolium* at Gait Barrows and was kind enough to give me the specimen and surprisingly had the very similar looking *Loxocera* at the same site.

Peter Chandler relates: "One of the highlights of my week in Scotland was finding two more females of *Pseudopomyza* at Craigmore woods in Perthshire." and in response to my request for information about catches on last year's Summer Field Week: "I only collected *M.corrigiolata* in Dorset (at The Spittles)."

## Membership Matters

It is that time of year again, when the thud of membership renewal requests on doormats sounds through the house of every entomologist. So why not beat the rush, throw caution to the winds and stop having to remember whether the latest moan about non-payment of subs



**Scheme organisers:**

This is the list that Paul Harding sent to me. It is the one which the Biological Records Centre understands to be correct. If there are errors, such as a change of address, then please contact him.

**DIPTERA - Flies**

Dipterists Forum - Secretary

Mr A E Stubbs 181 Broadway Peterborough  
PE1 4DS

**ANTHOMYIIDAE (Study Group only)**

Mr M Ackland 24 The Moors Kidlington  
Oxfordshire OX5 2AJ

**CHIRONOMIDAE (Study Group only)**

Dr P P Roper South View Sedlescombe Battle  
East Sussex TN33 0PE

**CONOPIDAE, LONCHOPTERIDAE and OTITIDAE**

Mr D K Clements 7 Vista Rise Radyr Cheyne  
Llandaff Cardiff CF5 2SD

Paul Harding comments that the address in the most recent address list is the correct one for David

**CULICIDAE - Mosquitoes**

Prof. K Snow Dept. Environmental Sciences  
University of East London Romford Road  
London E15 4LZ

**DIXIDAE - Meniscus midges**

Acting scheme organiser

Dr R H L Disney University department  
of Zoology Downing Street Cambridge  
CB2 3EJ

**DROSOPHILIDAE - Fruit flies**

Dr B Pitkin Dept of Entomology  
Natural History Museum

Cromwell Road London SW7 5BD

**EMPIDIDAE and DOLICHOPODIDAE (Study Group only)**

Mr R Crossley 1 The Cloisters Birker Lane  
Wilberfoss York YO4 5RF

**LARGER BRACHYCERA - Horse flies etc**

Dr C M Drake 22 Park Road Deeping St  
James Peterborough PE6 8ND

**MYCETOPHILIDAE and allies - Fungus gnats**

Mr P J Chandler 43 Eastfield Road Burnham  
Slough Berkshire SL1 7EL

**PIPUNCULIDAE (Study Group only)**

Mr A E Stubbs 181 Broadway Peterborough  
PE1 4DS

**SCIOMYZIDAE - Snail-killing flies**

Dr I F G McLean 190 Miller Way Brampton  
Huntingdon Cambs PE18 8TZ

and

Mr A P Foster 23 The Dawneys Crudwell  
Malmesbury Wiltshire SN16 9HE

**SEPSIDAE**

Mr A C Pont 38 Gatehampton Road Goring  
on Thames RG8 0EP

**SIMULIIDAE (Study Group only)**

Dr R Crosskey c/o Dept of Entomology  
Natural History Museum Cromwell Road  
London SW7 5BD

**SYRPHIDAE - Hoverflies**

Dr S G Ball 255 Eastfield Road Peterborough  
PE1 4BH  
and

Mr R K A Morris 241 Commonsides East Mit-  
cham Surrey CR4 1HB

**TEPHRITIDAE**

Mr L Clemons  
14 St John's Avenue  
Sittingbourne  
Kent ME10 4NE

**TIPULOIDEA and PTYCHOPTERIDAE - Crane flies**

Mr A E Stubbs 181 Broadway Peterborough  
PE1 4DS

Paul Harding

Biological Records Centre

ITE, Monks Wood,

Abbots Ripton

Huntingdon

PE17 2LS UK

Tel: 01 487 773 381

Fax: 01 487 773 467

Email:p.harding@ite.ac.uk

by the memb.sec. applies to you....FILL IN A STANDING ORDER FORM NOW. I have had a good response to the previous plea with about 40 standing orders in operation for 1999 and a big pile of 62 awaiting January 2000. I know some of you do not like them and I can understand your feelings, but for those with no objection it really does make life easier for you and me and my postman. You will find both standing order forms and membership renewal forms in with this package. Please fill in both as I need to keep a paper copy.

I am afraid that overseas subscribers will still have to send international orders/cash/gold bullion etc. It may make economic sense to send two or three years subs at a time or club together with your compatriots and deprive the banks of their ill-gotten exchange fees. The best news is that the subscription remains the same for an astonishing fifth year- just to remind you of the details:

Dipterists Forum £5.00 (£6.00 overseas)- gives you two copies of this marvellous Bulletin and all the Newsletters

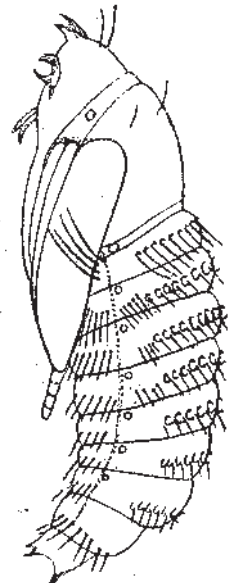
Dipterists Digest £7.00 (£8.00 overseas)- gives you two copies of our renowned journal

Membership runs from January to December and late joiners get the back issues they have missed.

I hold stocks of back issues of the Digest (some in short supply) and Bulletins and can supply these at the usual rate.

New members continue to join up, presumably due to word of mouth from you all. I will set up stall at Dipterists Day for those that wish to pay in cash!

**Liz Howe**



## Forum News

# Update on BAP programmes

The first tranche of Species Action Plans, published in 1995, included *Asilus crabroniformis*, *Chrysotoxum octomaculatum* and *Callicera spinolae*. The second tranche of plans for invertebrates has now been published and it covers 103 species of which 12 species are flies (UK Biodiversity Group, 1999. *Tranche 2 Action Plans. Volume IV - invertebrates*. English Nature, Peterborough).

| Species in Second Tranche         | Lead Partner                            |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Blera fallax</i>               | RSPB                                    |
| <i>Bombylius discolor</i>         | English Nature                          |
| <i>Bombylius minor</i>            | BENHS                                   |
| <i>Clorismia rustica</i>          | Environment Agency                      |
| <i>Doros profuges</i>             | English Nature                          |
| <i>Dorycera graminum</i>          | English Nature                          |
| <i>Eristalis cryptarum</i>        | Dartmoor National Park & English Nature |
| <i>Hammerschmidtia ferruginea</i> | RSPB                                    |
| <i>Lipsothrix ecucullata</i>      | Scottish Natural Heritage               |
| <i>Lipsothrix nervosa</i>         | Countryside Council for Wales           |
| <i>Lipsothrix nigristigma</i>     | English Nature                          |
| <i>Thyridanthrax fenestratus</i>  | BENHS                                   |

There are species statements for four flies, *Lipsothrix errans*, *Rhabdomastix laeta*, *Tipula serrulifera* and *Myolepta potens* (i.e. action is confined to searching or monitoring known populations only).

I have set up contracts for several species, with the aim of getting a better handle on the whereabouts of key populations for further autecological studies. These contracts cover *Lipsothrix nigristigma*, *Eristalis cryptarum* (run jointly with Dartmoor National Park), *Bombylius discolor*, *Doros profuges* and *Dorycera graminum*. Work on *Callicera spinolae* has been going on for two years and will continue with a greater emphasis on establishing the ecology of the larvae. Only two reports have been received so far (see below); they are available from English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA). Interim or final reports for other species will be ready by spring next year.

BENHS continues to lead on *Bombylius minor*, *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* and *Chrysotoxum octomaculatum*, which are wrapped up as the 'Heathland Flies' project. CCW leads on *Asilus*, as summarised in Larger Brachycera Newsletter No 16 (Spring 1998).



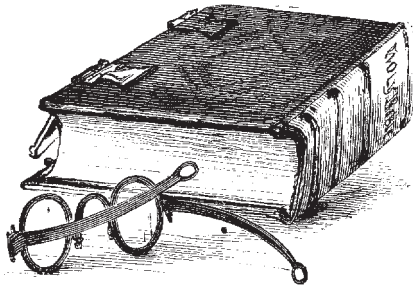
Ismay, J. W. 1999. A review of the ecology and distribution of *Bombylius discolor* Mikan (Diptera, Bombyliidae). *English Nature Research Report* No 309. Peterborough.

Rotheray, G. E. & Perry, I. 1999. *Callicera spinolae* 1998 survey for extant populations and a species recovery plan. *English Nature Research Reports* (number not assigned yet).

**Martin Drake**



## International Code of Zoological Nomenclature



The fourth edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is currently with the printer and will be available in two months.

The new Code will supersede the current third edition by January 1st, 2000.

Main distributors of the Code will be the ICZN Secretariat c/o The Natural History Museum - Cromwell Rd. - LONDON SW7 5BD - UK (contact person J D D Smith; e-mail: [jdds@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:jdds@nhm.ac.uk)) and, in America, the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature - MRC-159 - National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. 20560-0159 - USA (contact person D G Smith; e-mail: [smithd@nsmnh.si.edu](mailto:smithd@nsmnh.si.edu)).

The Commission will be grateful for any help in spreading this new

through electronic or printed newsletters.

Thank you for your attention. Alessandro Minelli ([almin@civ.bio.unipd.it](mailto:almin@civ.bio.unipd.it))

via **Adrian Pont**

## BENHS Research Fund

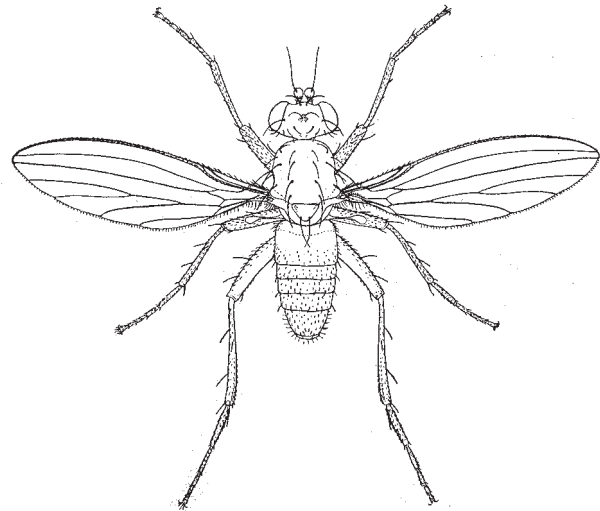
The Society invites applications for grants, from its Research Fund, to be awarded in December 1999. Awards will be made to support research on insects and spiders with reference to the British fauna, and with emphasis on:

- (a) the assistance of fieldwork on insects with relevance to their conservation,
- (b) work leading to the production of identification guides and distribution lists.

Travel to examine museum collections and to consult taxonomic specialists would be included. The work and travel is not limited to the British Isles but must have a demonstrable relevance to the British insect or spider fauna. Grants are likely to be in the region of £400 and the total available will not exceed £2000.

Preference will be given to work with a clear final objective (e.g. leading to publication or the production of a habitat management plan). Work on leaf miners and gall forming insects should be submitted to the Society's Professor Hering Memorial Research Fund.

Applicants should send seven copies, if possible, of their plan of work, the precise objects, the amount for which an award is requested and a brief statement outlining their experience in this area of work, to Dr J. Muggleton, 30 Penton Road, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 2LD, as soon as possible and not later than 30 September 1999. Further information may be obtained from the same address (email: [jmuggleton@compuserve.com](mailto:jmuggleton@compuserve.com))



## Notice board

### Sweep Net

#### European Dipterists

Those with access to the Internet will be interested to know that there is a list of European dipterists available, that may be searched by name, town, country, or sphere of interest. It has been compiled by Fritz Geller-Grimm in Frankfurt a.M., Germany, and may be seen on:

<http://www.geller-grimm.de/address/europe.htm>

Visit it, if only to check that your own entry is comprehensive and accurate!

**Adrian Pont**

*And on the same subject:*

You might be on it! .... if so, could you check that your details are correct and send Fritz any corrections. See also the details in the Larger Brachycera Newsletter about translations of foreign papers on asilids by Bob Lavigne.

[fritz@geller-grimm.de](mailto:fritz@geller-grimm.de)

**Martin Drake**

### STUDIA DIPTEROLOGICA

This journal, one of the very few devoted solely to dipterology, is rapidly acquiring a first-class international reputation. It now has its own web site at:

<http://www.studia-dipt.de>

The contents of the journal and of the Supplement series can be seen at this site, including titles and abstracts of all the articles, and also further details concerning preparation of manuscripts, subscriptions, etc.

The price is extremely reasonable, and every serious dipterist in this country should be on the list of subscribers!

**Adrian Pont** [pont.muscidae@btinternet.com](mailto:pont.muscidae@btinternet.com)

### PICTURES

You appealed for piccies. Copyright, of course, is 75 years after author's death, not just publication. You're welcome to use any images from my web site:

<http://195.166.55.201/vfg-uk/>

These are mostly colour scans of freshly-killed insects. The larger spp. (eg Tipulids, brachycera, Syrphids etc) fill more pixels. I have printed a few off as a background on a laserprinter and they look quite good. You'd have to experiment in converting to black and white. Anyway, you're welcome to use them on a single-use copyright-retained basis. Please credit them: Copyright (c) 1999 Malcolm Storey

Minor comment here: Hoverflies ([majordomo@...](mailto:majordomo@...)) is presumably a discussion group, rather than a web site.

Information on how to subscribe would be useful and perhaps a guide as to how much traffic to expect.

**Malcolm Storey**

I heard today from Frank Menzel (Eberswalde, Germany) about a new entomological resource on the web: "New Entomological Taxa", which is the equivalent of the Zoological Record for entomology. There is a listing of new titles, new descriptions, taxonomic changes, etc, and the information can be accessed by author, group, region, etc.

The NET address is:  
<http://www.sciref.org/net/index.htm>

**Adrian Pont**

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

E-mail address that is:

It's a bit easier to handle E-mail for Dipterists Forum etc. at home than at work so could you also add my home address to your list:

[darwyn\\_sumner@hotmail.com](mailto:darwyn_sumner@hotmail.com)

They're both being mucked about with so can you use both addresses for a while.

**Darwyn Sumner**

### CERATOPOGONIDAE

I've just come across a good Diptera website and information source on the Ceratopogonidae. It is

<http://www2.gasou.edu/facstaff/hagan/cie.html>

**Patrick Roper**

### Notices

#### Syrphid mimics

I am just starting a joint project with someone at Newcastle University on models and syrphid mimics. I am really only advising. We would like to contact someone in or near Newcastle who might know some good local sites for things like *Chrysotoxum*, *Criorhina*, *Sericomyia* and *Arc-tophila*, or any of the decent mimics, or even who might be interested in joining in with us and helping to collect live material. Do you know of anyone who could help.

[Francis.Gilbert@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Francis.Gilbert@nottingham.ac.uk) at Internet

**Francis Gilbert**

### BARGAIN BOOK

The Oxford University Museum of Natural History is offering signed copies of "The Type-material of Diptera (Insecta) described by G.H.Verrall and J.E.Collin" by A.C.Pont (1995, Oxford University Press) at the reduced price of £40. If you are interested, please contact: Dr G.C.McGavin, University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW, UK E-mail Address:

[george.mcgavin@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:george.mcgavin@oum.ox.ac.uk)

**Adrian Pont**

### Spring fever

**Malcolm Smart has spoken to me a few times about what he is after, regarding his wish for someone else to take over the organising of the Summer Field Week for a while. He is after a spring holiday. He finds himself buried in work for Dipterists Forum during the few weeks he wants to get away and would like brief break - just for the one year. Will someone please step into the breach for a single year. Were it a less selfless person than Malcolm we were talking about, the alternative might be to look for a new Field Meetings Secretary, and such well-organised organisers are not exactly thick on the ground.**

**Darwyn Sumner**

## Letters

### Errata

Congratulations on achieving a new look to the Bulletin so quickly.

One small correction. I don't produce a newsletter for the Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme, only a few paragraphs to include in the main Bulletin, which I will let you have in time for the next one.

The date of 10 March was wrong on the BENHS meetings card and should have been 16 March so was still to take place at the time of issue of the Bulletin. It has now happened and was a good meeting (attendance 20). I don't know if anyone turned up on the 10th but as all meetings are on Tuesdays that is unlikely.

I see that you are including a section on changes to the list. *Bactrocera cucurbitae* is also in the checklist under "Imported species" (Page 26) where the subfamily and tribe are given (Trypetinae, Dacini). Although I haven't seen the specimen (or any other of this species) I suggested this identity based on a description sent to me by Tony Allen (compared with an illustration in Ian White's book on pest species) and this was later confirmed by Ian White.

I am also including a section on corrections and additions to the checklist in the next issue of Dipterists Digest.

There are at least five cases of names not in alphabetical order so I don't know if your two are included. They are in the following genera: SCYTHROPOCHROA p. 23, BRYOMYIA p. 25, TETHINA p. 144, CAMPICHOETA p. 157, MACRONYCHIA p. 180. In the case of Tethina it resulted from transferring species between subgenera at the proof stage. I haven't spotted any genera in the wrong order but I am sure there are some.

Sorry about the lack of subfamilies and tribes in Syrphidae. I expect that most people will still follow Stubbs & Falk but it was impossible to reconcile this either with Martin Speight's views or the totally different classification proposed by Graham

Rotheray based on larvae.

I have just compared the British list with the new German checklist published in February and have found about 200 differences affecting British species but I think that most are due to errors in the German list. It does, however, include a few new synonymies which result in further name changes and loss of a few names from the British list.

Regarding your request about keys to various acalypterate families, ..... Wang's paper on European *Chamaepsila* is the most relevant. Lyneborg's paper is well illustrated but in Danish. I have added two other recent references on European *Chamaepsila*.

**Peter Chandler**

*I hope my editing of Peter's letter hasn't reduced the sense of it, he was responding to a variety of points and I've tried just to retain those brought up in the last Bulletin*

**Darwyn Sumner**

### *Chrysotoxum cautum*

I have been looking up one or two points regarding *Chrysotoxum cautum*. You mention it on p18. I also note that Alan Stubbs in his Second supplement p18 states that references to Lancashire appear to be in error. Do you know on what grounds he bases this statement? I have the diaries kept by the late J.D.Ward of Grange in which he gives rather full notes on the circumstances of the capture of his specimens near Arnside. These notes make interesting reading and I am intending writing them up for the Digest possibly. Now J.D.Ward's collection was incorporated in that of A.E.Wright's collection - which I believe is in the Bolton Museum (*actually it's in the Oldham Museum - Ed*). I therefore wondered if you had checked up on any specimens of *C.cautum* in that collection and could confirm the identity of them? J.D.Ward was a very good entomologist and I am sure he would not have stated the specimens he got to be wrongly determined.

**Dr. Neville L. Birkett**

*I worked on the Wright/Ward col-*

*lection some years ago, cataloguing and checking the identification of all 3,500 specimens and saw no reason to argue with the identification of the C.cautum specimens nor their place of capture as they were all clearly labelled. As you may recall you were kind enough to loan me some of A.E.Wright's note books at the time and whilst I did not borrow the relevant Ward note books it is gratifying to hear that he too kept a proper record of his adventures. A timely warning to us all, with our increasing reliance on computers, to keep proper records; who knows which of our current records may have doubt cast upon them in 80 years time.*

**Darwyn Sumner**

### **Alan replies .....**

I welcome the advice that the status of *Chrysotoxum cautum* has been checked. The Second Supplement was a bit of a rush job ahead of the hoverfly atlas. My main concern was recognition of 'new' species and simply threw in any extra comment that came to mind. At the time there seemed to be various anomalies with initial draft hoverfly maps, including various *Chrysotoxum* in northern England. With the passage of time, the scheme organisers, Stuart Ball and Roger Morris, have resolved most of the problems with the data set for the genus. The atlas will be the first vetted national overview, all previous position statements being a mixture of knowledge, inference, and facts/rumour of uncertain reliability. I (a southerner) now realise that it is much more certain that various southern species do indeed have a disjunct distribution that includes the climatic hot spot in the corner of Morecambe Bay.

**Alan Stubbs**

## Meetings

# Summer Field Week 1999

## Grange-over-Sands (Cumbria)

Greeting all the friendly faces as they arrived in the courtyard of the Castle Head Field Centre as I lounged on the old



coach seats set in the porch of the classroom/sports annexe will be an abiding memory of this year's field week. The porch provided some practical use that week with the weather conditions being a little less than optimal for our activities. The early part of the week found some participants chasing south for the sun but conditions improved after the weekend to give us a perfectly adequate mid-week, only to decline to rain again as we rushed around on Saturday, trying to squeeze in the last couple of sites.

What a lot of sites there were too. Particular thanks are due to Neil Robinson who put in a sterling effort organising the vast majority of the access permissions and to Simon Hayhow for fixing the bulk of the remainder. Neil came up with the majority of ideas for individual sites with Darwyn Sumner, Lance Gorman, Simon Hayhow, Alan Stubbs and Martin Drake making a number of suggestions.

An eventful week for all of us except Andy Godfrey who turned up on the first night to say he wasn't able to attend due to work commitments. These events ranged from delightful in the form of Megan's first fly (an accidentally squashed Anthomyid, I believe, carefully rescued by her parents and treasured forever) and Neville Birkett's joining us for an evening meal and chat to sadder ones such as Stuart Ball's injury and Alan Stubbs' illness. The week was also punctuated with the usual social gatherings with the tiny bar and the rather opulent library offering tranquility at the end of a hard day's hunting and evening's pinning. A breathless hush descended upon the library on the last evening as Andrew Halstead, now persuaded to read out the results of everyone's efforts at collecting Symphyta throughout the week in ascending order kept all the contestants on the edge of their seats. Despite frantic last-minute efforts by the runner-up Malcolm Smart, Peter Chandler was again the proud possessor of the Honey Pot Challenge prize of the jar of honey. The end-of-week Indian Restaurant expedition now seems to have become a tradition on our field weeks, we are indebted to the Castle Head Field Centre for providing us with transport to and from Kendal for this occasion. Commerce too played its part with the local "Lakeland Microscopes" turning up one evening; they weren't able to show much equipment as they are mainly a distribution operation but several Dipterists Forum members,

it appears, had equipment bought from them and the tables soon filled up with gear as the air filled with chat. It seemed a successful session but I suppose only those who clinched deals will know for certain.

Now to some statistics, kindly provided by Malcolm Smart. Surprisingly he managed to get almost everyone to fill in their destinations and other details on the huge list he had brought for this purpose and so for some things we don't have to wait until all the actual species records are in:

A total of 26 individuals (not counting Little Miss Megan) took part, of whom 22 stayed at the Castle Head field centre and 3 local residents joined part time.

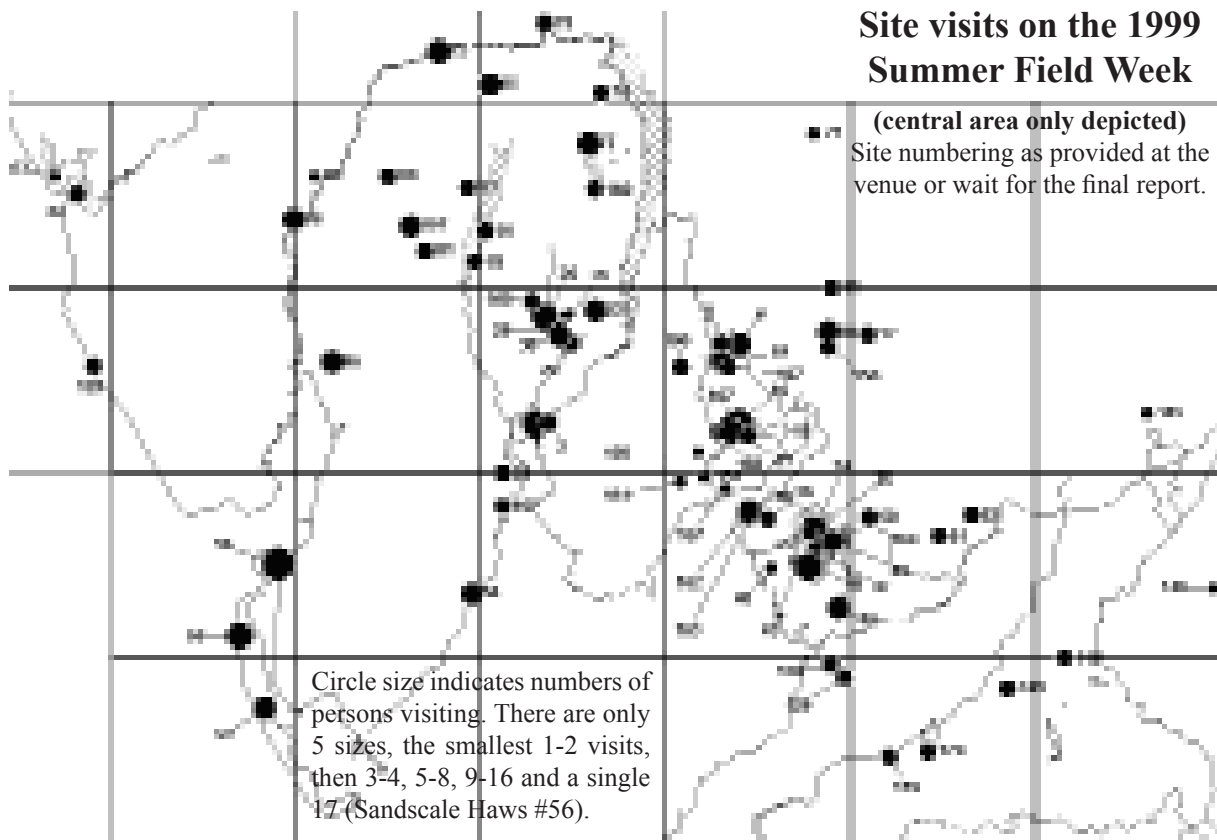
A list of 143 specific possible sites was offered to participants, but the access permissions obtained from organisations such as the National Trust offered scope for investigation of numerous other environmentally interesting sites.

Preliminary data indicate that a total of at least 95 sites were visited, including 25 not on the original list.

Despite the extra day (8 nights instead of 7) in this year's Field Week, several people were unable to attend/record for the full week so that the average number of recording days per person was similar to previous years! However, people seemed to spend more time at each site visited so that fewer individual sites were visited than in recent years.

It appears that participants preferred to spend more time at each site than in previous years, so less sites were visited each day - probably a reflection of the large size and high quality of many of the sites!

The table below compares figures for Abergavenny (1997 - the last year for which a full data set has been fully



compiled) and Grange-over-Sands (1999).

|                  |  | G-o-S |       |
|------------------|--|-------|-------|
| Totals           | Abergavenny  |       |       |
|                  | Participants   | 26    | 28    |
|                  | Participant site days (excluding arrival/departure days) | 142   | 152   |
|                  | Different sites visited                                  | 95    |       |
| 131              | Site visits by individual participants                   | 324   | 459   |
| Averages<br>5.43 | Recording days/person                                    | 5.46  |       |
|                  | Site visits/person                                       | 12.46 | 16.39 |
|                  | Sites visited/person/day                                 | 2.28  |       |
| 3.02             | Persons/visit party                                      | 3.41  | 3.50  |

Malcolm also provided me with the statistics concerning numbers of visits to the various sites which I was able to plot onto a map of the area as illustrated above

As regards the species found, Alan Stubbs provides the following account:

**Despite the scheme organiser largely being out of action, 109 species of cranefly have so far been listed for the meeting. *Nephrotoma quadristriata* was discovered at Sandscale Haws NNR (National Trust), the first record of this RDB species from the dunes of Cumbria. *Tipula marginella* was found at National Trust land within Blelham Bog NNR, near Ambleside. This record is 300 km from the nearest known sites in the Scottish Highlands and South Wales, and even further from the sites in southern England and the far side of East Anglia. *Tipula alpina* was found in various limestone woods around Morecambe Bay, one of it's few known districts in Britain. *Phylidorea longicornis* (ex. *glabricula*), a pretty orange cranefly with darker markings, was**

## Meetings

found at 4 sites, providing important regional records for this RDB species. However, the most significant crane-fly was a specimen of *Symplecta scotica* from soft cliffs on the coast a few miles south of St Bees Head: this species is only known from an old specimen from Dingwall in NE Scotland and recently from soft cliffs at Speeton, Yorkshire.

**NB *Hybomitra micans* from Rusland Moss was the best horsefly. *Pamponerus germanicus* from Sandscale Haws dunes the best robberfly, though already known here.**

Until everyone submits all their records to me (yes, that's right, we've let Mike & Liz off this time), I cannot hope to match Alan's usual skill at summarising all the goodies from such expeditions but the following recollections seem exciting enough for me:

Lance-shaped hollows around the shrubs on Yealand Hall Allotment were ample evidence of the time he spent searching for *Doros profuges* for 3 days solid - two sightings only. Chris Spilling had *Megamerinia dolium* at Gait

## Autumn Field Meeting

**13-17 October 1999, Oxfordshire**

The planned location of the meeting is near Oxford, arriving Wednesday 13 October and finishing on Sunday 17 October. Accommodation will be in B&B or Guest Houses, with the possibility of a lab for evening use being investigated. As usual the emphasis will be on recording crane-flies, fungus gnats and other species associated with fungi, as well as those species in other groups which are still on the wing. The Autumn Meeting is traditionally a small but friendly event, with the chance to learn something about families and species you may not have investigated previously. You are very welcome to come along and join in the fieldwork whether or not you can identify these groups of flies!

The contact person for further information is:

**Peter Chandler, 43 Eastfield Road, Burnham, Slough, Berkshire SL1 7EL.E-mail: chandgnats@aol.com**



**Peter Chandler now writes up an account of exhibits taken to the AGM so don't forget to**

# ANNUAL MEETING

## Dipterists Forum, Saturday 6 November 1999, Demonstration Room, Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London from 10:20 a.m.

We are back to our old venue, the Demonstration Room at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. Though not ideal, it is the most practical place in Central London. The present thought is to alternate London with another part of the country if possible.

This year the meeting is free, the cost of hire being met from DF funds (most societies offer their AGM meeting free if they can afford it). This will hopefully encourage a few more people to come and saves manning an entry desk. There is the extra traditional lure of 10% discount on purchases from the museum bookshop.

To get past the museum pay desks you had best have a means of showing membership, such as a DF membership card or this Bulletin. There is no Dipterists Supper since no one has volunteered to organise it. There is the option of informal groups heading for pubs and restaurants.

### Morning Program

As from about 10.20am the Demonstration Room should be manned for access (ring bell at end of gallery with fossil marine reptiles, beyond bookshop).

11.00 am Studying Lonchaeidae. Graham Rotheray

11.30am The Biodiversity Action Plan: progress with Diptera. Martin Drake

12.00 am An introduction to Chloropidae. John Ismay

12.30 am Changes in status and distribution of Tephritidae and some other flies. Laurence Clemons

1.00 -2.15 pm LUNCH (choice of cafes, pubs /or bring sandwiches to avoid the crush)

2.15- 2.45 Informal. Set up and view exhibits, identification service.

2.45. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

c. 3.15 -6 pm. Informal. Discussion session if there is a general wish for a theme. View exhibits, identification service. Best exhibit selection and prize giving.

The morning lecture programme hopefully has wide interest. Our Chairman has offered to tell us of some new insights into the ecology and taxonomy of saproxylic Lonchaeidae stemming from the Malloch society saproxylic Diptera project in Scotland. These flies are familiar as mainly dumpy shining black acalypterate flies but few of us have done much with them - some enthusiasm may well spread. Progress with BAP Diptera has been quietly going on out of sight, with Martin Drake and other the agency entomologists (including Mike Howe) steering, and with BENHS having the initiative of taking responsibility for 3 of the flies. Here is the chance to find out what is going on and how to be part of the action on hoverflies, larger Brachycera crane flies and some other Diptera. John Ismay is our leading specialist on Chloropidae and has been advancing knowledge and keys on these acalypterates (mainly black or black & yellow species). Thanks to his efforts the family is now much more do-able and there are aspects of ecology and biology that should be of general interest. The final talk, by Laurence Clemons, should be an eye-opener for everyone. As organiser of the Tephritid recording scheme he has assembled maps showing remarkable rapid shifts in national distribution of a number of species. We know that various butterflies, dragonflies and Orthoptera are changing distribution rapidly, in part fashionably linked to global warming, but this is about the best evidence of a group of flies responding similarly. Also Laurence has some intriguing analysis of changing status among some hoverflies and other Diptera stemming from his focus on the fauna of his home county, Kent. The afternoon programme is left fairly loose and flexible, apart from the AGM. Most people like time to informally talk to each other, look at exhibits and corner a specialist or two to seek advice on identification of specimens. If there is the demand, we can arrange a discussion session on a theme.

**PLEASE BRING AN EXHIBIT** if you can since it helps the day to be as informative as possible for everyone. As encouragement, there will again be a prize for the best exhibit (specimens, display panels, photos etc are eligible).

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.45pm

1. Secretary's report.
2. Treasurer's report.

4. Dipterists Digest Editor,s report.
5. Election of Officers (see below)

## Meetings

### 3. Membership Secretary's report.

## Elections

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer require annual election. The post of Chairman, the equivalent of President, is for a one or two year stint only, and Graham Rotheray is willing to serve for a second year. The Secretary feels it is time that someone else to take over and hopes to stand down.

Ordinary Members of the Committee, plus those with specific roles can stand for no more than 2 years without re-election. Those who will have served for two years since election and stand for re-election are Peter Grainger and John Dobson: the field meetings secretary, Malcolm Smart stands down for a break to attend to other commitments.

The Constitution (7c) requires nominations 120 days in advance of the AGM (i.e. well prior to the August Bulletin circulation). No such nominations have been received by the Secretary. Apart from elected Members with specific roles (4b), six Ordinary Members of the General Committee are allowed for (4c). It is open to the AGM to elect vacant positions lacking prior nomination. Also it is open to the AGM to recommend that the General Committee should co-opt up to three additional members.

The Officers and General Committee proposed is as follows, displaying an ; asterisk against those standing for re-election and vacant posts.

|                            |                 |   |                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| Chairman                   | Graham Rotheray |   |                   |
| Secretary                  | VACANT          |   |                   |
| Treasurer                  | John Cole       |   |                   |
| Membership Secretary       | Liz Howe        | [re-elected Nov 1998]                   |                   |
| Field Meetings Secretary   | VACANT          |   |                   |
| Indoor Meetings Secretary  | David Heaver    | [co-opted March 1998, elected Nov 1998] |                   |
| Bulletin Editor            | Darwyn Sumner   | [elected Nov 1998]                      |                   |
| Publicity Officer          | Patrick Roper   | [re-election Nov 1998]                  |                   |
| Ordinary Members           | John Dobson*    | JCCBI rep [elected Nov 1997]            |                   |
|                            | Peter Grainger* | [elected Nov 1997]                      | Stuart Ball [re-  |
| elected 1998]              |                 |   |                   |
|                            | Steve Falk      | [re-elected 1998]                       | Roger Morris [re- |
| elected 1998]              |                 |   |                   |
|                            | Chris Spilling  | [re-elected 1998]                       |                   |
| Unelected representatives: |                 |   |                   |
| BENHS representative       | Peter Chandler  |   |                   |
| Dipterists Digest Editor   | Peter Chandler  |   |                   |

## Dipterists Forum Workshop 2000



The first Preston Montford workshop of the Millennium is to be a little different, featuring only one event on a little promoted family. The workshop is to be devoted entirely to Tachinid flies, that interesting group of parasitic insects that often turn up in general sweeping in many types of habitat. The workshop will be led by Dr Robert Belshaw, the author of the recent RES key to the family. Robert is currently at Imperial College working on hymenoptera, but he is dusting off his expertise in key construction and will be examining the strategies adopted by this group, as well as helping us run through the key. We hope to have a reference collection to examine and

would hope that those problem flies sitting in store boxes at home can at last have firm names appended to them. The date for the workshop is 18-19 March, 2000, with the usual arrival on the Friday (17th) for dinner at 6.30. There will be around 23 places available. The cost of the weekend is slightly up on the last event, at £85 per person for full attendance, with a £15 supplement if you wish a room (very rare resource) to yourself. For those who live close by and will not need accommodation, a day rate of £12.50 is payable. Cheques are payable to **Dipterist**



Forum : Workshops, and sent to me.

David Heaver

## Summer Field Week 2000

### JULY 2000 - DEVON/CORNWALL

Plans are now well in hand for our millennium Field Week to be held in the SW Peninsular. Tentative arrangements have been made to stay in a boarding school at Tavistock in the Devon/Cornwall border area.

Because we have to use a school, we are limited to the school holiday period, but I hope to get the week immediately after the school closes in early July. I am trying to book a 7 night (6 full day) period with the option for some participants to stay an extra night if desired.

Indications are that the cost may be less than we paid at Grange-over-Sands (between £25 and £30 per night inc. VAT for shared rooms full board = £175-£210 for 7 nights) but the accommodation is described as 'simple' twin bedded rooms - none are 'en suite'! The brochure shows magnificent old buildings in beautiful grounds!

The location is well placed to access the full variety of habitats in the area. A 25km circle around Tavistock encloses virtually all of Dartmoor and a good chunk of Bodmin Moor. The entire South coast between St. Austell and Torquay, plus the North coast between Port Isaac and Sharpnose Point lie within a 50km radius.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending (by returning the form with this bulletin) so that I get an early indication of numbers for planning purposes. I will then let you have full details as soon as they become available. Final bookings and deposits will be requested at the November Annual Meeting.

## Diary 1999/2000

- 
- 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](mailto: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 **AES Annual Exhibition & Trade Fair**, Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road, Sunbury, Middlesex 11:00
- 13-17 **DF - Autumn Field Meeting**, Oxford
- 16 **BENHS** Bladon Heath Wood, OXON. MV. **Martin Townsend** (01865 777810)
- 

- 6 **DF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Natural History Museum, London  
No Dipterists supper
- 20 **BENHS** Annual Exhibition, Imperial College, London
- 

18-19 **DF Tachinid Workshop** at Preston Montford

**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**

**AES** = Amateur Entomologists Society, PO Box 8774, London SW7 5ZG. [aes@theaes.org](mailto:aes@theaes.org) <http://www.theaes.org>

*Meetings for inclusion in this diary: 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.*



## And now ...

### ..... ertia and galloping inertia

If you look at the academic ecological journals, there are plenty of research papers on the foraging and hunting activities of vertebrates and invertebrates. Statistical analyses via complicated formulae demonstrate the pros & cons of different strategies. But, as yet, foraging dipterists have not been treated as experimental animals to the same degree of rigour.

Where is the balance between standing at one patch of flowers for hoverflies or marching up and down looking at lots of patches of similar flowers? Certainly I sometimes see more species of hoverflies in a day in my urban garden than walking miles in the countryside.

In his later years Cyril Hammond would often stand for ages by some flowers he felt should attract a certain 'goodie'. Often he would succeed, whilst Peter Chandler and myself, in our more youthful days, were rushing about like speeded-up Charlie Chaplin dipterists, not always getting the best find.

My wife, Jane, often points out as I hurriedly sweep through vegetation, that there is a delay before clouds of craneflies rise to surround her as she follows me. Or at times I am requested to sit down beside her, with the claim that interesting insects may be seen by being still. Though I would not countenance that she is always right, sometimes she is, but I am hopeless at this strategy since within moments I am up again with net in hand because I have seen something out of reach.

I have clearly not taken the inertia strategy to its ultimate logic, but I know a man who has. In Epping Forest Roy Crossley had had a hard day collecting empids and craneflies, when he sat down and fell asleep, dreamingly. Exactly what dreamy vibes he radiated through the ether is probably crucial — it must have been about Yorkshire puddings or something else that a Southerner's brain is unlikely to ponder upon. Lo, he awakes to a vision of the spectacular wasp-mimicking cranefly *Ctenophora flaveolata* passing by. Like a cat that had pretended to be asleep, he picked up his net to convert a dream into reality. In all my years of rushing about I have never found this species.

There is, however, a brand of galloping inertia that is being honed to unprecedented levels. During field meetings, we are used to Peter Chandler sitting very still at his microscope. The only sign of life is the rapid twitch of a pair of tweezers as fungus gnat mountains move a few centimetres from point A to point B, interspersed by the occasional grunt, and brief animation as gnat names are scored off a BRC card. He already holds the British National, Native and All-comers Record for speed of gnat identification per hour, and no doubt the World Record as well. However, at Grange-over-Sands he put a clock on his desk, so it is becoming really serious now, raising speculation that he is revving up for officially claiming an unassailable 24 hours Guinness Book of Records entry. There is one problem though. Who is going to officiate to confirm identification of that vast mountain of gnats?

**Alan Stubbs**

### The Hunting of the Smoke

The sun was shining on Sea Woods  
A bonfire of great size  
Raged on the beach as Michael Howe  
Dreamed up an enterprise  
Holding his pocket handkerchief  
Before his streaming eyes

This Welshman and the Editor  
Were trying not to choke  
They wept like anything you see  
From quantities of smoke:  
Which curled up from the bonfire.  
When up the Welshman spoke:

"If seven men with seven nets  
Swept it for half a year,  
Do you suppose," the Welshman said  
"Platypozidae would be here?"  
"I doubt it," said the Editor,  
"Let's nip off for a beer"

with apologies to Lewis Carroll

### Contributors

Thanks to all those contributing to this issue and all the other expressions of support. Authors who take a quick nap at the end of each sentence are reminded to keep their nodding heads away from the space bar. The deadline for contributions to be included in the March bulletin 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. Would contributors please note that it takes a minimum of 4 weeks to compile, edit, reproduce and distribute each issue.