



BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum



Bulletin No. 50

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

August 2000



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Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

In an attempt to revive the happy times Lance and myself had hunting through North Lancashire before my move to the East Midlands he very kindly travelled all the way down here to take me to spend a few days in Longridge earlier this year. From there we made excursions to a few sites now made famous by the 1999 Dipterists Forum expedition. Lounging in the car on one such excursion, consuming Marie's excellent lunch packs and contemplating a stroll through Gait Barrows a packed car pulled up alongside and gurgitated Stuart Ball and family - all the way from the East Midlands.

My wife has long had a reputation for picking the only nice week for her holidays in years which are otherwise poor, and thus it was that we found ourselves on Thompson Common on a rare nice Saturday in June. Regulars there will know the park bench which conveniently faces a sunny bramble bank buzzing with insects, so after muttering the usual thanks to the person to whom the bench was dedicated I left her to her crossword and snooze with the remark that my most likely find would be a fellow entomologist. It was without surprise therefore that within seconds of this remark I met Ivan Perry hunting for Ceratopogonidae. Who next I wonder ?



Thanks for the picture

An unsolicited cartoon arrived in the post in March. David Carstairs, whom many may know as the cartoonist who illustrates the "Twitcher in the swamp" series in British Wildlife was kind enough to send me a piece of his work for use in the Bulletin.

A promising start

The Preston Montford records probably don't warrant an "Occasional Publication" like Mike & Liz Howe and Mick Parker's splendid production but the weather was good enough (can anyone remember so far back) to entice a few early Diptera and their pursuers out into the field. I didn't obtain everyone's records but on 19th March Malcolm had *Cheilosia albipila* at SJ 43324 14489 (+/- 100m) at blackthorn blossom and I had *Criorhina ranunculi* in the same situation on the previous day.

Diptera data

As the manager of large quantities of species data in a busy Local Records Centre (as we are known by the National Biodiversity Network Trust) here in Leicestershire it frequently crosses my mind how best to make this data available to the people who have good use for it. Now that we have the recent excellent reports from Mike Howe and his team and I am handling the Diptera records from two more Dipterists Field Meetings I feel it is time we turned our attention to making the data amassed over many years much more readily available to the Dipterists Forum. The imminent release of Recorder 2000 should make the aggregation and dissemination of such data a reasonable prospect soon. I haven't yet spoken to the people who can best indicate what the prospects for better access are, perhaps they would look upon this note as an attempt to solicit contributions for the next Bulletin!

Darwyn Sumner

Fly hijack

If I am following Tim Birkhead's reasoning correctly in his piece in New Scientist on June 24th then speciation would appear to proceed more rapidly as a result of females of species exercising a greater amount of sexual selection than Darwin's long unchallenged female monogamy assumption would suggest. Birkhead's article "She knows what she wants" summarises some of the ideas and work contained in his book "Promiscuity" (Faber & Faber) and draws, in part, upon observations of "golden coloured flies on warm dung pats" by Geoff Parker (Liverpool) in the late 1960s. Undoubtedly this is our own dear *Scathophaga stercoraria* which our Dipterists Field Week participants seem intent on recording in every site visited. The main thrust of the theory is that females are looking for males whose genes complement their own rather than selecting the most visibly suitable mate, and this selection process extends right down to the behaviour of the female pronucleus in the multipenetrated egg which, as observed in comb jellies, visits all the male pronuclei before returned to fuse with the best one. Work on pseudoscorpions has shown that there are a higher number of aborted embryos in monogamous females than in those which had copulated with two or more. Ubiquitous they may be but the behaviour of *S.stercoraria*, especially that of the male "runts" is far more interesting than spotty maps bespeak. In the same issue Rob Edwards reports on the special kind of "jumping gene" element called "mariner" which genetic engineers are currently researching. Mariners have the ability to excise themselves from the genome in an individual species and reinsert themselves elsewhere. This skill has enabled them to jump the species barrier, in one case between flies and man. Reminds me of a movie.

www.newscientist.com

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News from the schemes

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Alan Stubbs

Good progress has been made with compiling an abstract bibliography for British craneflies. One of the main needs is a list of Scottish journal references.

Despite a rather indifferent season, some useful records have been made, especially in Yorkshire where craneflies seem to abound. The summer field meeting produced the first record of *Tanyptera nigricornis* from SW England and a number of other good records among 106 species. In Essex, the lists for Epping Forest and Hatfield Forest have been improved. *Tipula helvola*, which used to be regarded as rare until recent years, has now turned up even on the clay soils of Monks Wood, Huntingdonshire, despite its normal preference for well drained sand.

The Malloch Society has successfully bred out the BAP *Lipsothrix ecucculata* and *L. errans* from wet rotten wood and is in a position to work out key characters for larvae and pupae (SNH and WWFN funded). Andrew Godfrey has made some advance with *L. nigristigma* in Shropshire (EN funded).

John Kramer also writes with "SOME CRANEFLY RECORDS FOR 2000 *Dicranomyia goritiensis* (RDB3) was recorded on May 1 on Bardsey Island where it turned up occasionally at a few coastal sites. They were swept from typical habitat, as described in Alan Stubbs' test key, ie small cliff seepages with over-hanging vegetation. On Flitwick Moor SSSI, Bedfordshire, a single male *Tipula yerburyi* (Notable) was recorded, and *Thaumastoptera calceata* (Notable) were frequent at one site on the reserve. *Atypophthalmus inustus* (Notable) has been found at Flitwick Moor, and at another three woodland sites in Leicestershire (VC55). Also in Leicestershire *Molophilus niger* (Notable) has been recorded by the brook in Bradgate Park on May 9th. *Dicranomyia didyma* was also found by the waterfalls during the same visit. Though common elsewhere, due to the lack of suitable habitats, this species is not often found in VC55. The same may be said of *Metalimnobia bifasciata*, and what I believe is the second record for VC55, was made in Launde Big Wood on July 19th.

I'VE GOT YOUR SUN-HAT WHICH WAS IN THE BOOT OF THE CAR !! I'LL BRING IT WHEN I NEXT SEE YOU"

Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme

Peter Chandler

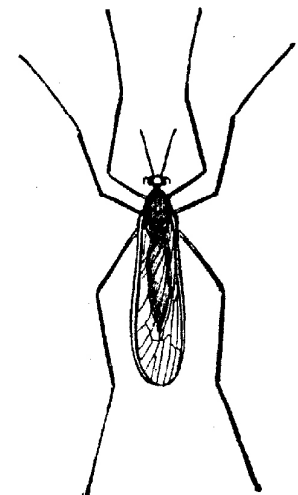
The forthcoming paper on changes to the British list mentioned in last year's Report required some revision which is now being completed. It was also found that a *Sciophila* species collected at Rannoch by Ivan Perry, which was to be described as new in this paper, was already being described from Finland by Alexei Polevoi. Although submitted some time ago, Alexei's paper has yet to appear and we must await that before assigning a name to the Scottish specimen.

Some new synonymies suggested in the checklist also proved to be incorrect and these were corrected in the latest issue of Dipterists Digest.

The results of the 1999 autumn field meeting have already appeared in the February Bulletin. The new *Mycetophila* reported there has been found again in last year's Malaise trap material from Epping Forest where it is evidently well established. This species will be described in the paper mentioned above.

The summer field meeting at Launceston was not very productive of fungus gnats with little over 80 species being recorded and nothing remarkable. The south-western speciality *Mycomya pectinifera* was among them but was expected. The highlight was the finding by John Harper of the large larvae and cocoons of *Keroplatus testaceus* in their web on encrusting fungi on a wet fallen branch. One adult female emerged from its cocoon during the week.

K. testaceus was also a new record for Epping Forest on the survey meeting there in June. The best find of this meeting was a male of *Neoempheria bimaculata*, the first British record of that species since 1974. Last year's Malaise trap material from Epping included *Mycetophila caudata*, until recently only known in Britain from Caledonian pine forests. This species and *Trichonta bicolor*, found at Epping two years ago, are otherwise known in England only from Ivan Perry's records at King's Forest, Suffolk.



Forum News

Hoverfly Recording Scheme**David Iliff**

Alan Stubbs reports that ... "Richard Jones has been getting very excited about a *Heringia* he has reared that may be new to Britain. The taxonomy is none too reassuring for this *H. heringi*-like beast.

With *Xanthogramma*, keep a look out for Coe's var. *flavipleura*. In addition to the vertical yellow strip in the pleurae, just in front of the wing, there are additional equally strong yellow spots in the front half of the pleurae. Always keep voucher specimens for further taxonomic study..

The Hoverfly Atlas is awaiting final formatting for publication at BRC."

David Iliff's Newsletter is included with this issue

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme**Simon Hayhow**

Simon sent me the following just after the last Bulletin, I hope he hasn't repeated it all in his newsletter ...

"Having taken over from Martin as Scheme Organiser I would like to thank him for his hard work over the past ten years with some notable achievements in promoting the study of Larger Brachycera.

After the initial surprise at being offered the chance to take over the reins, I am now feeling suitably honoured and enthused at the chance to carry on the work of developing the Recording Scheme and working towards a new atlas for this fascinating group of flies.

I think there is no doubt that interest in the group will certainly increase after the publication of the eagerly awaited book, 'Soldierflies and their Allies', and maybe some division of labour or partnership on the lines of the Hoverfly Recording Scheme may be more efficient. I am committed to chasing up and inputting all the available records but if there is anyone particularly keen to take on the production role for the L.B.R.S. Newsletter please get in touch.

I am aiming to have a Newsletter out with the next Dipterists' Forum Bulletin and have already received an interesting contribution on Yorkshire Horseflies from Andrew Grayson. Please support the L.B. Newsletter and send me any articles, short notes or interesting records."

Simon Hayhow, 15 Brookfield Road, Thornton Clevelleys, Lancashire FY5 4DR

Alan Stubbs reports that "Matthew Oates has seen and photographed a *Villa* in the Cotswolds, where no *Villa* has been recorded before. Sight of the photo is eagerly awaited (no net was at hand!!!!). A few weeks later, David Gibbs saw three *Villa* at a site in the Cotswolds, and has a specimen. Could this be *V. cingulata*, last recorded in

Britain in 1938 and believed extinct? David Gibbs has had difficulty identifying his specimen so all we can say is that it is definitely not *V. modesta* of sand dunes. Any more reports please?

A larva of *Oxycera pardalina* has been found at Dancer's End NR, new to the Chilterns.

The book *British Soldierflies and their Allies* is in late proof stage. Whether it will be in print by the autumn meeting is uncertain but at worst will be a near miss."

Small Acalypterate Families Study Group

(NERIODEA: *Pseudopomyzidae*, *Micropezidae*. DIOPSOIDEA: *Tanypezidae*, *Strongylophthalmidae*, *Megamerinidae* & *Psilidae*)

Darwyn Sumner

Finally I've taken my first *Megamerinia dolium* at Oaks-in-Charnwood near some ancient woodland managed by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. Rather than bagging it through random sweeping I got a brief chance to observe the behaviour of the thing first. In pretty intense sunlight where insects are most active on well-illuminated bramble and fern there were several aculeates of the small, narrow and black variety. *M.dolium* was amongst these, tending to remain in the lower canopy and lacking the typical aculeate "jizz" - not as strong a flier. Easily recognised when captured since there are so few Diptera with that aculeate body form (the rest are probably *Loxocera*) and the hind femora have the spines illustrated in the old Key to Families.



Membership Matters

Congratulations, we now have well over 130 standing orders made out to DF. I sent a large pile of them to your banks in early January. You can tell if you have paid by standing order by checking your address label. If there is a * followed by a number that is your standing order number. There is a standing order form in this mailing for those of you who haven't made use of them yet, although I do understand that some of you will not want to complete them. I have



not included a membership form for 2001 though. Many of you are very conscientious and return them with cheques in advance and then forget when the February Bulletin comes out and pay again leading to much confusion! The best solution is of course to use the standing order form for payments.

Also with this issue is an address list and a list of the e-mail addresses (see Sweep Net) that I have received. This includes **all new members and changes of address** since the last list up to the end of June this year. I will do a completely new list next year. I would like to include phone numbers and e-mail addresses if possible, so remember that for next years membership form. It is useful if you continue to fill these in even if you have a standing order, as I like to work with bits of paper!

Forum News

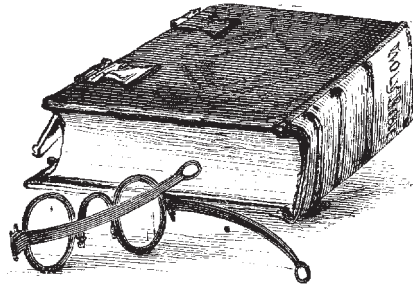
Addresses

Liz Howe has asked people for their E-mail addresses and the following people have kindly agreed to them being made available to the wider readership of the Dipterists Forum. If your first instinct is to make them into some sort of Diptera batch-mailing group please think again, it's best to build these things up gradually from people you know want to receive everything you send out.

Mike Ackland	dm.ackland@btinternet.com
Gill Arnott	garnott@hantsmus.demon.co.uk
Robert Belshaw	r.belshaw@ic.ac.uk
F Bennett	Fdb@Thecrofton.freemove.co.uk
M Blythe	YDN27@DIAL.PIPEX.COM
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Darwyn Sumner	Darwyn@sumnerhome.freemove.co.uk
Chris Thompson	cthompso@sel.barc.usda.gov
Derek Whiteley	derek@kangaroo92.freemove.co.uk



New Literature



British Journal of Entomology and Natural History (13: 1-39) has a review on mimicry between British hoverflies and bees/wasps, including colour photos. There are three authors, the initial core of the work being the PHD study by Bridget Howarth (ne Peterek) who is well known to some of us (she is now in Saudi Arabia where her husband works). Though

hoverfly mimicry has been loosely spoken of for many years, this is the first detailed analysis, taking into account not only appearance but also behaviour.

Moccas: an English deer park, published by English Nature, includes a chapter on Diptera and a full species list by Andy Godfrey. This is an important review of one of the top saproxylic sites in Britain, and reveals that apart from the dead wood fauna, some of the special species occur beside the main pool and along a stream. No doubt there is still plenty of scope to extend this list.

Alan Stubbs

I was also sent a couple of changes of address as follows (Ed.):

Paul T Harding

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PE17 2LS UK
Direct: +44 (0) 148 777 2405
Switchboard: +44 (0) 148 777 2400 or +44 (0) 148 777 3381
Fax: +44 (0) 148 777 3467
Email: pha@ceh.ac.uk

CHANGE OF WORK ADDRESS

Steven Falk has moved on from Coventry Museum and is now Senior Keeper of Natural History at Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA (tel. 01926 412481; E-mail stevenfalk@warwickshire.gov.uk). Steven spent ten years at Coventry, initially as Keeper of Natural History and latterly as the full-time City Ecologist. In the latter role he doubled the number of designated wildlife sites (SINCs) in the City, including the designation of several sites where insects were the main source of interest. He has just completed a major ten year study of the flies, bees and wasps of Vice-county Warwickshire which will be published as a series of county atlases over the coming years. This has resulted in some impressive county lists, many exciting records and good data on habitat assemblages and distribution patterns. Steven's new role will include care and cataloguing of the large biological collections, helping to maintain the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre, dealing with natural history enquiries, supervising museum volunteers, facilitating research and producing exhibitions.

Notice board

Sweep Net

Contact Darwyn Sumner on

Darwyn@sumnerhome.freemove.co.uk

The Preston Montford meetings also provides a useful opportunity for debate on Dipterists Forum issues. One which was raised again (I believe Stuart Ball also mentioned it some time ago) was the suggestion that the Dipterists Forum have its own Website. This idea found much favour amongst one debating group (Malcolm Smart, Derek Whiteley, Mike Howe and myself) and, though he wasn't involved in that debate, Mike Pugh's immediate response to Alan's "which way forward" item in the last Bulletin was to e-mail me with the same suggestion. The issues involved would seem to be those of cost, labour and expertise (both in terms of understanding the technology and ensuring acceptability of its content)

Stuart Ball comments:

It is dead easy to set something up and I am sure there are many members including those you mention

who could do it. It wouldn't cost anything if done via freemove or the

like. The big problem is maintaining it thereafter. One or more people need to be responsible for:

1. keeping it up to date with news and events. If it is set up and just sits there with this sort of material months or years out of date then I think the result would be negative PR - which is not what we want!
2. responding to feedback it generates - requests for information, membership etc.

These are ongoing jobs which need at least weekly attention. Unless somebody is willing to take this on I think we would be better to leave it.

Stuart Ball

Musical flies

If people want to hear some fly music it is worth going to:

www.bayarea.net/~kins/AboutMe/Bartok/mikro142.mid

It is part of the Diary of a Fly from Bela Bartok's Mikrokosmos.

(Give a little while to load)

Patrick Roper

Picture update

Since we last spoke I've got a proper url:

<http://www.bioimages.org.uk/> which is a bit easier to remember than the numbers of the IP address! I've also redesigned the front page to encourage people to use the "shortcuts" link rather than working through the hierarchy.

Though they'd miss the tardigrades this way!

Malcolm Storey

Who's who

The Directory of World Dipterists has recently been updated and made available on the web.

Go to www.diptera.org, and then look under Who's Who.

Yes, there will be errors, omissions, and even names of people who have long-since passed on, so please send all comments and corrections to Chris Thompson at

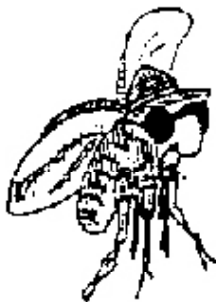
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Hi



SNH SURVEY TEAM DISCOVERS HARMLESS DANCE FLY

Letters

Checklist Family Index

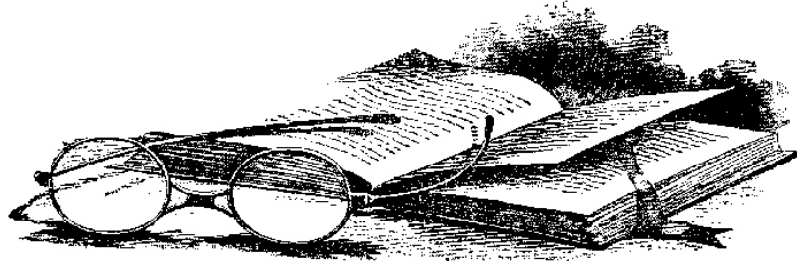
Richard Underwood spoke to me at Preston Montford regarding an index he had prepared which would help one navigate through Peter Chandler's checklist by Family name. He e-mailed me a copy and it is usefully wedged into my "Checklist". I agree with Richard that it is sufficiently useful to be offered more widely to the membership so I have included it. Out of politeness I wrote to Peter Chandler first and he replied: "Yes, no problem about the index. There is of course a list of families in the introduction, in the order that they appear, but it might have been helpful to have included family names in the index. However, the way it was compiled every page on which a family name was mentioned (including in References) would have been listed and it would have taken more editing time to go through and delete all but the main page number for that family."



Reports

Published

Dorset, Summer 1998



The Report is complete and has been distributed by Mike Howe.

Grange-o-Sands, Summer 1999

If I am to work approximately to the same timetable as Mike Howe did with the last Report then I need to have all the records in fairly soon. A year seems a reasonable length of time and certainly one or two gave me their records from the previous year at this year's Dipterists Field Week. Anyone still hanging on to records should now be wracked with guilt. The same goes for anyone who walked off with any of Malcolm's original site guides which, as you can imagine, are essential for my write up. If you find any you can post them to me (anonymously if you wish), perhaps Yealand Hall Allotment will ring bells with someone.

Out of the 26 people attending this field meeting, I have received records so far from 23, although I don't think I have a full set from each. Some contributors are on my list since they gave records or specimens to other people such as Alan Stubbs. There are a total of 4055 records now on the database, I have two more batches in my possession (Richard Underwood & Andy Halstead) which I have yet to enter, plus my own. The list so far includes 81 Notables, 14 RDB3s, 4 RDB2s and 2 RDB1s. Detailed work on analysing this data begins after the summer and ends before the year is out. You will shortly be receiving summaries of your submissions in the post, part of the validation process will be your confirmation that I have transcribed your data correctly.

Darwyn Sumner: Darwyn@sumnerhome.freemove.co.uk

Cornwall, Summer 2000

Not a popular job then, since I seem to have landed it again. Congratulations to Ken Merrifield for being the first with his and Rita's records (it was Mick Parker last year). Plans to visit the same region again next year might suggest that there is less of a rush to submit records since a double issue would seem to be the best treatment. We do have our hosts to consider though (e.g. Keith Alexander who arranged many of the National Trust permissions), so I think it might be nice to make at least the A.D. 2000 notables available to him before the likely publication date of 2003. If this year's records come in in time I can readily respond to such enquiries long before full publication.

Darwyn Sumner: Darwyn@sumnerhome.freemove.co.uk

Meetings

Field Meetings



Preston Montford

Dave Heaver has submitted his report towards the end of this Bulletin via a warp in the space-time continuum. Dave, don't do that.

HAL

Summer Field Week 2000

Cornwall & Devon

The one-time capital town of Cornwall, Launceston, offered a welcome three-dimensional opportunity to exercise long forgotten leg muscles to those of us forced to spend our days without hills. From St. Joseph's school situated a healthy strenuous walk away from the main town we were able to contemplate the striking skyline with its castle and fortifications and the agreeable tea and chip shops therein as we awaited the arrival of our fellow Dipterists. Malcolm's list reveals there were 25 in all. The hospitality from the staff there was absolutely tremendous, as first arrivals I confess that perhaps Lance and I did a little better than everyone else since we appeared to have been allocated a bowl of plums and cherries each. The accommodation was much better than I had anticipated, the little boarders rooms adjoined a kitchen and lounge which the staff kept fully supplied with goodies. The laboratory facilities comprised several classrooms. One of these was devoted to the centre of operations where Malcolm exhibited his extraordinary skills at organising, with maps of the whole of the South West spread over classroom tables in the middle of the floor, charts on the notice boards and boxes full site permissions and details by the blackboard. An immense task which he is undoubtedly pleased not to have to repeat next year (that's wrong, he does have to repeat it - but you see what I mean). The area available for us to explore was immense, covering the Vice Counties of East Cornwall and North and South Devon and a little more besides. I would accuse the weather of being a little disappointing, good spells of sunshine were a rare feature and several promising-looking sites just didn't produce the goods as a result.

Malcolm has sent me his list of sites and visitors to each which were entered upon his wall chart (or not) during the week. He lists some 255 visits to the 192 sites he listed. Taking into account multiple visits to some sites this amounted to 72 from his list which were visited and 120 which were not. There were quite a few people who did not complete his list (making the above figures inaccurate) and it would be very useful to have this information, especially to me as a double check on incoming records, now that I am compiling the data from the trip. Many people forgot to do the last day, there's a high probability that you forgot Friday if your surname begins with letters G to P and Thursday seems to have influenced most of the C to G's and one person didn't use the chart from Monday onwards (how's that for not embarrassing anyone?). Please let Malcolm know where you were on those days, not me otherwise we have problems with version control.

The various social gatherings throughout the week were very enjoyable, the nearby pub being perhaps a little more frequented than is usual on these trips since the paucity of specimens reduced the number of late night pinning sessions. We now have a tradition of the "Dipterists Last Supper", 13 people attending a surprisingly good Indian Restaurant in Launceston. Any suggestions that there is any resemblance between this event and Wodehouse's "Drones Club" may be dispelled now that our first lady attendee, Elizabeth Douglas, can vouch for us.

So we're back there again next year, I'm looking forward to it, I only hope they don't investigate the contents of the ink-wells too closely.

 Forthcoming

Autumn Field Meeting

Wednesday to Sunday (11th to 15th) October 2000

As promised in the previous Bulletin, arrangements have been made to hold the 2000 Autumn Field Meeting in South Essex, which is much more exciting than it sounds as the area includes several ancient forests and many other interesting habitats. This will begin on Wednesday 11th October and conclude on Sunday 15th October.

We will be using the laboratory facilities at the Warren in Epping Forest for evening sorting of material. This is the headquarters of the Corporation of London in the Forest and their ecologist Jeremy Dagley will be accompanying the party. In return for use of these facilities some of those attending will spend two of the days visiting a range of sites within Epping Forest, which is a large diverse area. A survey of the Diptera over the past three years has already confirmed that a rich ancient forest fauna survives there, with finds of the syrphids *Pocota*, *Mallota* and *Myolepta*, the craneflies *Ctenophora flaveolata* and *Metalimnobia quadrimaculata* and the wood soldierfly *Xylomya maculata*. The fungus gnat list is approaching 200 species. Two Malaise traps are being run there but no surveying in the autumn has yet been done.

There is a BENHS field meeting at Hainault Forest on 14th October, which some of us will attend and we will also visit Hatfield Forest, another rich old forest area near Bishop's Stortford. We will also benefit from the local knowledge of Colin Plant and David Henshaw who have recommended a wide range of other sites that can be visited if we have a large enough attendance.

The party will stay in guest house accommodation in Waltham Abbey. A booking has been made for all rooms at The Woodlands Guest House and others nearby can be utilised if required. The maximum price is likely to be £25 per night for a single room and £45 for a double room.

Could anyone wishing to attend please let me know as soon as possible so that arrangements can be finalised.

Peter Chandler (Tel 01628-664111, e-mail chandgnats@aol.com)

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday/Sunday 25/26 November 2000, Cardiff

On the principle of alternating between London and another venue, we return to Cardiff following the very successful meeting in 1999. The National Museum of Wales has kindly invited us through Dr Mike Wilson, and Dave Clements has nobly offered to be meeting convener again. [While Cardiff is ideal for some people, we hope by 2002 that an option in another part of the country will become possible].

The programme will be similar to 1998. The Bulletin includes suggested guest houses etc for those needing accommodation on Friday or Saturday nights, and there is a notice about the Dipterists Supper on the Saturday evening (a social buffet).

SATURDAY 10:00 AM

Museum opens: Registration then refreshments in the canteen

11:00 AM

Syrph the Net

Stuart Ball (site assessment etc.)

Syrph the Net is a computer data base on NW European hoverflies developed by Martin Speight and others, adapted as an interrogative Windows version on InterNet by Stuart Ball. Even if you lack a computer, Stuart's outline of the principles of site evaluation and faunal prediction should be relevant to your home area, and a format that could be applied to other Diptera.

11:30 AM

Flies and archaeology

Peter Skidmore

Peter Skidmore is an all round Dipterist and a specialist on muscid flies and their early stages. In recent years he has become a leading light in the use of Diptera remains in archaeological deposits as an aid to interpreting the past of man and his environment.

Meetings

12:00 PM**Aspects of Yorkshire Diptera** Roy Crossley

Roy Crossley is well known to many of us, not least for assuring us that Yorkshire is the most wonderful county, so he has half an hour to convince us.

12:30 PM**Hoverfly studies in the Tropics** Graham Rotheray

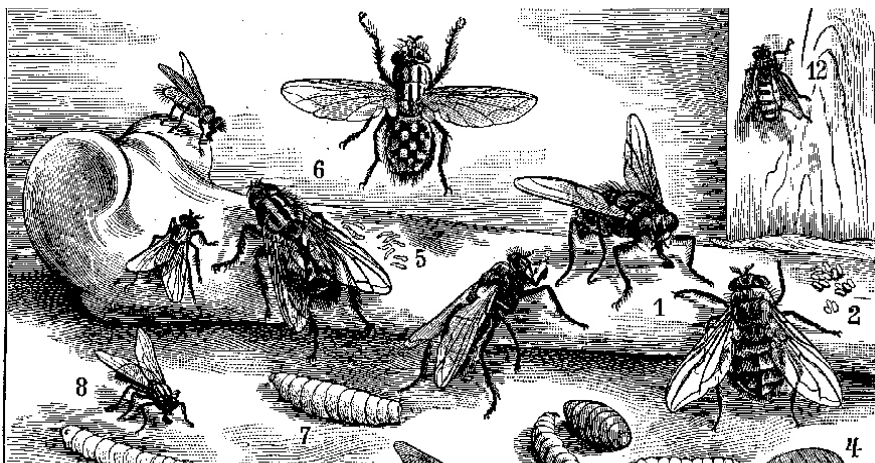
It is a rare event to have the same speaker three years running, but Graham Rotheray always has plenty of interest to tell us about, and this year he will be giving a talk as his closing contribution as Chairman of the Dipterists Forum. Last time at Cardiff he had us spell bound with his then newly developing studies on the life history and evolution of some Middle American tropical hoverflies - those studies have continued apace and we shall be privileged to be brought up to date on his findings.

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Lunch (Museum canteen available)

2:00 - 2:45 PM

Informal, setting and looking at exhibits.



PLEASE BRING AN EXHIBIT if you can since it helps the meeting 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).

2:45 PM**Annual General Meeting and Elections**

We try to keep the formal business as brief as possible.

Agenda

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.45pm

1. Secretary's report.
2. Treasurer's report. (see below)
3. Membership Secretary's report.
4. Dipterists Digest Editor,s report.
5. Election of Officers (see below)

2. Treasurer's report**DIPTERISTS FORUM**

Income & Expenditure Account to 31st December 1999

	1999	1998
£	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions		
Forum 1998	38	826
Forum 1999	641	725
Forum 2000	320	6
Forum 2001	34	-
	<u>1033</u>	<u>1557</u>
Dipterists Digest 1997	-	64
Dipterists Digest 1998	60	1140
Dipterists Digest 1999	702	852
Dipterists Digest 2000	433	22
Dipterists Digest 2001	46	-
	<u>1241</u>	<u>2078</u>
Net Interest		
Alliance & Leicester plc	96	140
Girobank	211	1
	<u>308</u>	<u>141</u>
Dipterists Digest back issues	67	240
Donations	12	219
Countryside Council for Wales-Grant	-	<u>1350</u>
Total Income	2661	5585
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Dipterists Digest		
Volume 5	113	(1207)
Volume 6	1229	-
	<u>(1342)</u>	
Bulletin 45	-	(238)
Bulletin 46	309	
Bulletin 47	383	
Bulletin 48	430	
	<u>(1122)</u>	
AGM room hire	(250)	-
Autumn field meeting	(25)	-
Workshop tutor	(80)	-
Bank charges	(10)	-

Meetings

Disbursement of CCW grant	-	(1350)
Secretary	-	(17)
Membership Secretary	(98)	(162)
Workshop Secretary	-	(5)
Treasurer	(7)	(8)
Sundries	-	(158)
Total Expenditure	2934	3145
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	(273)	2440

DIPTERISTS FORUM

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1999

	1999	1998
	£	£
CASH DEPOSITS		
Alliance & Leicester Building Society	-	7151
Giro Bank	9904	3026
	9904	10177
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1st January 1999	10177	7737
Surplus for the year	(273)	2440
	9904	10177

Jonathon Cole
Honorary Treasurer

Auditor's Report

We have examined the books and records of the Dipterists Forum for the year ending 31st December 1999 and confirm that the above accounts are correct and in accordance therewith.

A.S.Harmer
Honorary Auditor

A.J.Pickles
Honorary Auditor

29th February 2000

3. Election of Officers

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer require annual election. The post of Chairman, the equivalent of President, is for a two year stint only; this time **Graham Rotheray** completes his term of Office. The General Committee has decided in principle that the Chairmanship should alternate between amateur and professional to foster a balance of leadership. The committee at Launceston has proposed **Chris Spilling** to stand for Chairman. Chris has been one of the stalwarts of most types of event for a number of years so is well orientated in our functions. He is an amateur, very experienced in society affairs through his membership of the British Arachnological Society Council and of our General Committee, and importantly has the experience of having developed as a competent Dipterist through the style of events programmes maintained by the Dipterists Forum. His interests largely centre on the main-stream recording groups. The Secretary, **Alan Stubbs**, stands down, having reluctantly continued in office after the last

AGM whilst a replacement was found; he needs to devote time to establishing the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, but is willing to stand as an Ordinary Member in order to assist continuity. **John Kramer** has agreed to stand as Secretary. He is a retired school teacher who has been involved with many of our events in recent years so knows what makes us tick. He lives in Leicestershire which is very convenient in maintaining close liaison with the Bulletin Editor, Darwyn Sumner.

(John was introduced to the Forum in 1979 by Peter Skidmore and participated in the Hoverfly Recording Scheme during the 1980s. He has been recording craneflies since 1997 when he retired from his teaching post.)

The Constitution (4b) requires re-election of officers with specific responsibilities (annually, 7h), which is loosely defined apart from Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary; in practice, there is a need to include essential posts covered by difficult-to-replace people. Ordinary Members of the Committee (6), can serve for no more than 2 years without re-election, applying to **Stuart Ball & Steven Falk**. As new members, Council proposes **Ken Merrifield** (as DF representative on BENHS Council), and **Mick Parker** (stalwart of field events and co-writer of "Occasional Publications").

The Constitution (7c) requires nominations 120 days in advance of the AGM (i.e. 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 (seemingly none this year). 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	Chris Spilling
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	John Cole
Membership Secretary	Liz Howe
Field Meetings Secretary	Malcolm Smart
Workshops Secretary	David Heaver
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Publicity Officer	Patrick Roper
Ordinary Members	John Dobson JCCBI rep [re-elected Nov 1999]
	Peter Grainger [elected Nov 1999]
	Stuart Ball* [re-elected 1998]
	Steve Falk* [re-elected 1998]
	Ken Merrifield [first election, rep to BENHS]
	Mick Parker [first election]
	Alan Stubbs [co-option, extra to 6]

Unelected representatives

BENHS representative Peter Chandler

Dipterists Digest Editor Peter Chandler

4:00 PM -ISH AND BEYOND (AFTER THE AGM) NOTE: MUSEUM CAR PARK CLOSES 6:00

Informal Exhibits: expert help with the season's catches

Prize Exhibits: storebox for the best exhibit

Poster Exhibits: space is available for these (to include answers to crossword)

Books. Ian Johnson (Pemberley Books) plans to display new and second-hand books for sale. This was an enormously popular facility at Cardiff two years ago on Saturday and Sunday. He will no doubt anticipate the sort of items that Dipterists are interested in, as well as a wider range of entomological and other books. If you have any item that you like to see/buy if possible, then his new address is 18 Bathurst Walk, Iver SL0 9AZ; tel. 01753 631 114 ; FAX 10753 631 115.

Meetings

There is not a great deal of time for a formal programme and most people will want social time. However, there can be access to the Museum collections and expert help with identification queries (specimens and slides).

5:00 PM GALLERIES CLOSE ABOUT NOW SO IT MUST BE CLOSE TO KICKING OUT TIME

SATURDAY EVENING (SEE SEPARATE NOTICE)

6:30 PM

Dipterists Supper

Book your tickets in advance

SUNDAY (DETAILS TO BE FINALISED AT THE VENUE)

10:00 AM TO 3.30 PM

Recorder 2000 demonstration Stuart Ball

Syrph the Net demonstration Stuart Ball

Photography workshop [led by some experienced close-up photographers]

Identification assistance

Museum Collections

It is assumed that people will wish to disperse by mid afternoon on Sunday.

STOP PRESS !

The enclosed details from Cardiff Museum are more recent. Alan Stubb's details were correct and thorough when he sent them to me but David Clements has thought up a few additional things since then which augment rather than contradict the above. Particular things to note from Cardiff are:

1. The emphasis on making their facilities available - which means you will miss much if you don't take some specimens to exhibit and work on.
2. How to get there (map), where to park and where to stay.
3. Arrangements for Dipterists Supper (you must book)
4. Opening times and facilities within the Museum (e.g. lunch)

Diptera Workshop 2001



2001 - A Doli Odyssey

Preston Montford 16-18 March 2001

Whilst we might not be able to promise enigmatic black monoliths, faster than light travel, meetings with a Star Child or a HAL9000 series computer, we do have **Roy Crossley** enlightening us on the those empids and dolis. The date for the next Preston Montford Workshop is now fixed on **16-18 March 2001**.

The exact content of the Workshop will be driven by interest of those attending, but may well fix on empids **or** dolis but probably not both because of the size of the Empidoidea.

We hope to again secure the excellent services

of Liverpool Museum and access their collection to practice those newly found id skills. The cost has risen again (but then it did start from a very low rate and is still low compared to standard FSC courses) to **£90**. For those of you chasing the relatively rare single occupancy rooms then you need to add **£15** on top of this. Anyone living in striking distance can attend at a full day only rate of £25 (though you might miss out on the some of the social aspects). Cheques are payable to **Dipterists Forum: Workshops** and sent to me.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND GENERAL MATTERS

I will endeavour to cash your cheques as soon as possible, though I like to batch them up a bit. Life is easier if you can pay the whole lot up front, though a £20 deposit will see you home and dry. Getting payment in early allows me to "subsidise" those who I know are coming but have not payed with respect to getting PM's deposit into them. Because I would rather spend Forum money on flies rather than stamps, I generally will not send out little notices saying you are on the course. Those of a nervous disposition can e-mail me (david.heaver@english-nature.org.uk) or supply a nice SAE. Only in the event of real cancellation will it be canceled - if you do not hear then it is on. Dinner is served at 6.30 on the Friday evening so aim to arrive before then. Usual rules of bringing kit applies, though PM does have some we can borrow. If I know you have not been before or not for a while, I will send you details.

That Tachinid Workshop

Whilst I am not sure it is allowable under the Constitution to sing one's own praises, it was a very good event. Deep and public thanks to Robert Belshaw for coming out of dipteran retirement and dusting off his skills, to Tom Mawdsley and Stephen Judd at Liverpool Museum for organising the transfer of the Day tachinid collection and sorting out the insurance (a bargain at £26), to Richard Underwood whose combination of tachinid collection struts, braces and buffers in the back of his car would put Millennium Dome engineers to shame, to Derek Whitley for starting off the silliness over tachinid names, and for the staff at Preston Montford for making it run so well. For those who enjoy a bit of future gazing, I'm toying with an introduction to muscids after this, along with a general dipteran family intro. And as a final plea we are still only getting 10% of the membership attending, and generally the same 10%. Not that it's not splendid to see "my regulars" all but where are the rest of you? Must dash, someone has just closed the airlock on me.

David Heaver, 5 Albert Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2DN

Summer Field Week 2001

A combination of circumstances has led us to take a different approach to next year's field week.

I was left with the impression that most participants in this year's Field Week were very happy both with the range of sites and habitats available to us and with the accommodation. Launceston seemed to be just about ideally situated for fast access to the widest possible variety of sites in the general area. The awful weather that marred the week this year meant that relatively few, if any, sites were fully surveyed and many of the potentially most interesting were not surveyed at all. The organisations that were so helpful in granting/organising site access for us (in expectation of receiving useful record lists) will be large disappointed. In recognition of this, your committee discussed before leaving Launceston the possibility of returning to the same area in 1 or 2 year's time.

When I came to make final settlement with St. Joseph's School, I learnt that they had firm plans to close their boarding unit at the end of the Summer 2001 term. On further enquiry, I was informed that if we did wish to use their facilities again, it would have to be either during next summer's half term (roughly at the same dates as this year) or at the end of that term (i.e. July 7 – July 14/15 2001). From my research this year I know that there is no other accommodation so well suited to our needs in the area, so I referred the matter to your Committee for guidance.

It was decided that we should take up the option to use St. Joseph's again, but at a later date. For what I believe is the first time ever, we shall therefore return to the same centre for a second year in the fervent hope that the weather will be kinder to us this time. Provisional bookings have been made.

The 2001 Summer Field Week will be based at St. Joseph's School, Launceston during the period July 7 – July 14 or 15 (7 or 8 nights).

Accommodation for single individuals will be in the School, for couples and families in Newport guesthouse. Costs are expected to be similar to this year (i.e. £30.00 per night for accommodation, 3 meals and use of classroom facilities) adjusted for inflation. Please fill in and return the enclosed reply slip or (preferably) e-mail me giving the same details if you are interested in attending. I will then keep you informed of further details as they arise, firm bookings with deposit payments will be sought after the November meeting in Cardiff.

**Malcolm J. Smart Southcliffe, Pattingham Road, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7HD, Tel: 01902 700228,
e-mail: malcolm@smart-home.freeseerve.co.uk**

Meetings

Diary 2000/2001

AUGUST

- 5 **BENHS** Tilshead, Salisbury Plain, WILTSHIRE
 12 **BENHS** Formby Sands, LANCASHIRE
 12 **BENHS** Dingle Marshes RSPB Reserve, SUFFOLK
 18 **BENHS** Old Hall Marshes, Tollesbury, ESSEX
 19 **BENHS** Bentley Wood, WILTSHIRE
 20-26 **RESL** 21ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY, IGUASSU, BRAZIL
 26 **BENHS** Brede High Wood, SUSSEX

SEPTEMBER

- 2 **BENHS** New Forest, HAMPSHIRE
 8 **BENHS** Marks Hall Country Estate, Coggeshall, ESSEX
 12 **BENHS** "Finding London's Insects" Dr. Daniel Hackett
 14-15 **RESL** ENTOMOLOGY 2000 at **Liverpool Hope University**.

Convenors: Mr J Delf e.mail add: delfj@livhope.ac.uk and Dr M Speed.

- 16 **BENHS** PERTSHIRE (further details awaited)
 23 **BENHS** National Moth Night: Rushy Moors, Kidlington, OXON
 23 **BENHS** National Moth Night Hamsterley Forest, Co. DURHAM

OCTOBER

- 4 **RESL** "The evolutionary ecology of insect - natural enemy interactions" Convenor Dr Mark Fellowes
 7 **AES** Exhibition 2000. Kempton Park Racecourse. 11am - 5pm
 10 **BENHS** Recent work on the ecology and conservation of *Carabus intricatus*. David Boyce
 11-15 **DF** Autumn Field Meeting
 14 **BENHS** Lambourne End, Hainault, ESSEX

NOVEMBER

- 12 **BENHS** Annual Exhibition
 11 **BENHS** Annual Exhibition at Imperial College, South Kensington, followed by the Annual Dinner.
 14 **BENHS** Monitoring insect migration using radar. Dr. Jason Chapman
 25-26 **DF** Annual General Meeting. Cardiff

DECEMBER

- 6 **RESL** INSECT CONSERVATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
 Convenor: Dr Alan Stewart
 14 **BENHS** Long term changes to British woodlands - where have all the flowers gone? Dr. Keith Kirby

2001**JANUARY**

- 9 **BENHS** English Nature and invertebrates. Dr. Roger Key

FEBRUARY

- 13 **BENHS** How to infiltrate ants' nests: strategies used by social parasites. Dr. Jeremy Thomas

MARCH

- 13 **BENHS** Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address.
 16-18 **DF** Preston Montford. Roy Crossley on Dolichopodids

APRIL

- 10 **BENHS** The Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. Nick Greatorex - Davies

MAY

- 15 **BENHS** An evening of wildlife photography. Richard Revels

JULY

- 7-14/15 **DF** Field Week, Launceston

LCES = Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society. Exhibition Secretary Julia Hancell, 4 Priory Close, Halton, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2BN stevemc@consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk

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

DF = Dipterists Forum

RESL = Royal Entomological Society of London

BENHS = British Entomological & Natural History Society.

Contact **Peter Chandler**. Field Meetings Secretary, Dr. Paul Harding. Tel: 01 487 773 381 Fax: 01 487 773 467 Email: p.harding@ite.ac.uk

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

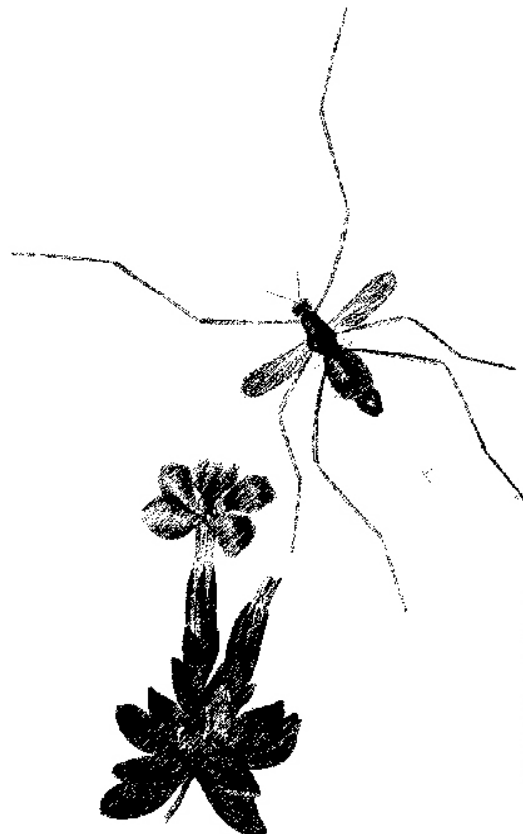
Details of events of several societies can be obtained from their websites:

BENHS (www.benhs.org.uk).

RESL (www.royensoc.demon.co.uk) &

AES (www.theaes.org).

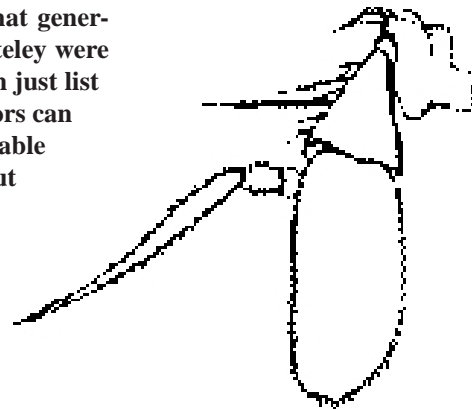
Meetings for inclusion in this diary: our own, our affiliate's, any Society which makes specific arrangements with the Dipterists Forum or our affiliates for a joint meeting, major events and exhibitions of a broad entomological nature (e.g. the AES exhibitions) and any Societies lecture on the subject of Diptera. Please contact the editor with details of any such event.



English Names Crossword

If you are one of the 10% who has ever attended the Preston Montford sessions you will be aware of the kind of infectious humour that generates from time to time. This year Dave Heaver and Derek Whiteley were applying contrived English names to the Tachinids. Rather than just list them I've stuck them into a crossword so that even the originators can squeeze further fun from the idea. There's two additional irresistible clues from Peter Chandler (one a gnat) and can anyone work out Liz Howe's "Grommit Fly"?

Each clue refers to two names, the Genus and species. Just to make it difficult I have removed the clue number of one of each pair.



8, The spot bellied jumping parrot gnat

7, The doubtful prisoner

1, The beheaded fly

, 21 Red Ernie

, 8 ... and his wild young dog, Lily

16, Irritable bowel fly

13, Spotted soda fly

14, Candleless fly

18, Wagners silent fly

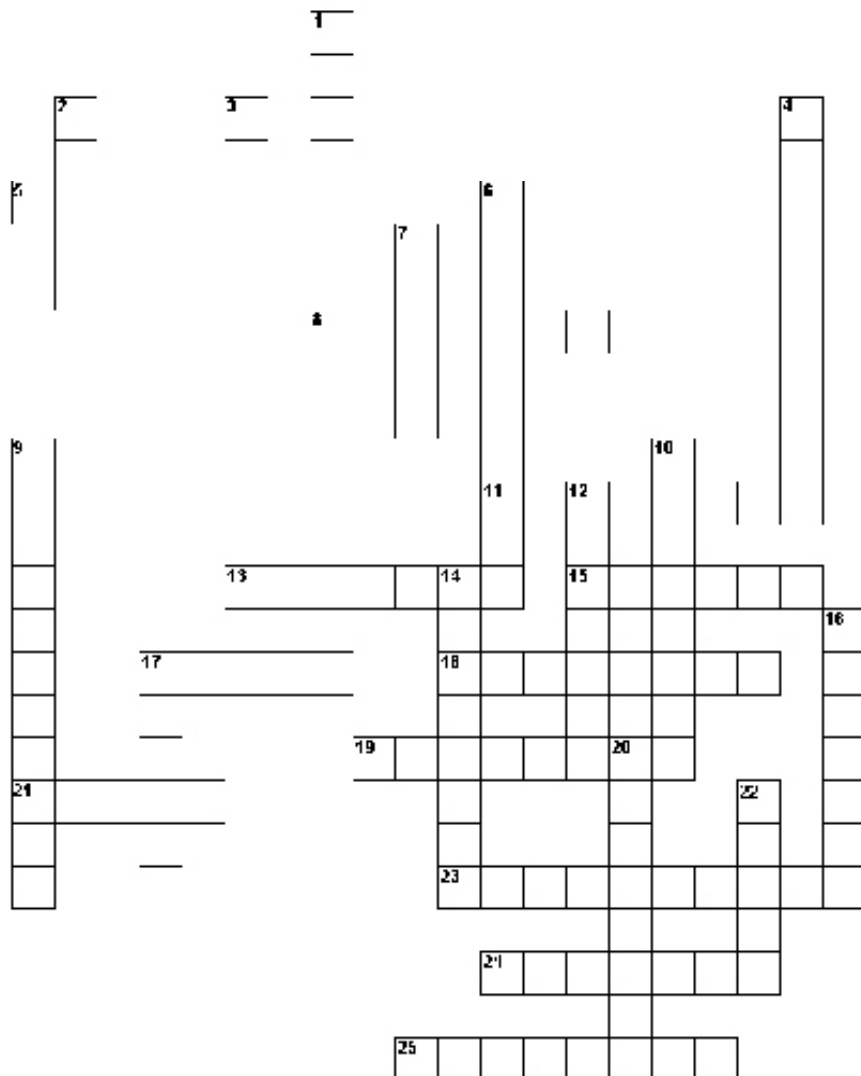
17, Dexias midnight runner

6, Broken bristle fly

23, The shortened vestigial

15, The red bellied polo

12, Raymond's dried fruit



Many thanks to the superb "Crossword Compiler" downloaded from <http://www.netword.demon.co.uk/ordering.html>. and distributed by Antony Lewis, 16 Townley Rd, London SE22 8SR, UK.

Fly leaf



And now ...

.....Quantum Flies

It is just possible that everyone assumed I had been invited, by now, to Stockholm to receive a prestigious prize in science. Alas, my startling theory on the spontaneous creation of flies does not seem to have yet reached acclaim in wider scientific circles.

The absence of an explanation of the mechanism may have caused others to doubt the logic of the theory. To remind you, the conundrum is that adult flies appear in immense numbers despite evidence that larvae do not occur in commensurate plenty, if at all.

To achieve this 'impossible' trick, larvae must exist in something akin to a quantum state. Until one looks for them, each larva simultaneously exists in two states - both present or absent. It is not until an observer looks, that in the instant its hide-away is opened, the state of the larva is decided in our reality. Thus if I look for a larva, it does not exist (except for the chance fluke), but if I do not look for the larva it exists and goes on to become an adult fly that I can observe. You see - it's simple.

In essence, the adults which we can see in our universe are derived from larvae in another universe. That's all very well, you will say, but the adults are now trapped in our universe. No problem. One minute you see lots of buzzing flies, then a cloud obscures the sun, and there are none. Where have they all gone? That's right, back into the larval universe to lay eggs.

So how is it that Scottish dipterists in the Malloch Society can find larvae when I cannot? In some fashion, and inevitably consistent with quantum theory, members of that society have found a way of ensuring that when they look, the larval state flips to presence, and once in this state goes on to become an adult. It is this control over the outcome of quantum states that I have not been able to resolve, so I fear it will not be me heading for Sweden.

Alan Stubbs

Contributors

Again many thanks to all those contributing to this issue and all the other expressions of support. Particular thanks to those who met the deadlines detailed in the last issue. Please note the following deadlines for the next two bulletins: March bulletin by the end of January 2001, this is printed in February, August bulletin; contributions by last weekend in July 2001, printed in August. Would contributors please note that it takes a **minimum** of 4 weeks to compile, edit, discover the missing bits and write them myself, reproduce and distribute each issue. Minor amendments or insertions may be negotiated during the 2 weeks following these deadlines but major items must be in by the deadline. Please let me know if you are about to contribute a Newsletter or other separate, even if you send it directly to Martin Drake, as I need to include it on the "Fly sheets" list on the Contents page. Irregular Newsletter producers are herein warned that they are about to be subjected to severe persuasion regarding their first Millennial issue.

Regarding the above missing bits, how about rotating the job of writing up the

