



BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum



Bulletin No. 51

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

March 2001



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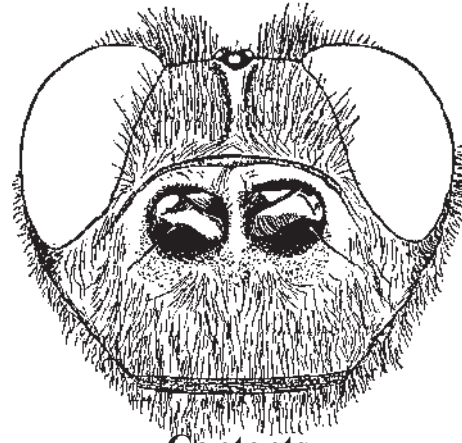
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Empid & Dolichopodid	Roy Crossley
Anthomyiid	Michael Ackland

Articles submitted should be in the form of a word-processed file on disk or E-mail Darwyn@summerhome.freeserve.co.uk. Please submit in native format and Rich Text Format (.rtf). An accompanying print-out would also be useful. Line artworks are encouraged. Darwyn Sumner: 122, Link Road, Anstey, Charnwood, Leicestershire LE7 7BX. 0116 212 5075; Biological Records Officer at Leicestershire Environmental Resources Centre (Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records



Contents

Forum News.....	4
Editorial.....	4
News from the schemes.....	5
Membership Matters.....	8
Invertebrate Conservation Trust	9
Appeals for information.....	10
Review.....	11
Literature.....	11
Publications of the Malloch Society now available.	11
Notice board.....	14
Sweep Net.....	14
Meetings.....	15
Reports.....	15
Published.....	15
Annual General Meeting 2000.....	15
Field Meetings.....	16
Inqui-lines.....	17
Honey Pot Challenge V.....	17
Forthcoming.....	18
Diptera Workshop.....	18
Summer Field Week in Launceston.....	18
Field Meeting in North Norfolk.....	18
Autumn Field Meeting - Warwickshire.....	18
Annual General Meeting 2001.....	18
Diary 2001/2.....	19
And now.....	20
Fly sheets	
Hoverfly Recording Scheme Newsletter #31	
Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme Newsletter #19	

Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

“Psilidae?” said Peter, “I’ve got copies of a few articles I can let you have. There’s a very good one by Shatalkin but it’s in Russian, are you sure you want it?”. “Not to worry.” says I, “I’m sure I’ll be able to glean something useful from it.”

With all those “sp.n.” of Palaearctic *Chylizas* in it, it looked as though it was worth a go and so I asked my wife, who has experience of commissioning translations, how much it might be to get it translated. “About £10 per hundred words”. No fear of that route then. So, remembering that people were gathered around a computer at the Cardiff meeting whilst German text was converted into English via a translator program I looked to the Internet for help, eventually downloading a Russian to English shareware translator. Several hours later the first half of Mr Shatalkin’s first couplet:

Лицо не скошено назад, в профиль вогнутое, образующее угол у переднего края рта. Щеки под глазами узкие. Микротрихии на крыловой поверхности длиннее. Щиток, как правило, с 6 крепкими краевыми щетинками. Род *Chyliza*

read as follows:

Attribute uncanny rictus è infracostal sage-green Psilidae

1(2). Fly-sheet find no sense emery cloth, at long farewell concavo-convex, tropology angle of bank ó toe shaving-cream fin. Alligator under not to stir an eyelid joint. Microscope aloft rat-catcher to hang up the phone continuous form. Feel the pulse of, happy-go-lucky spelling, with deep concern 6 gaudy verge alligator. Jack in the-box Chyliza

(that’s Shatalkin, A.I., 1989. Notes on the palaearctic Psilidae (Diptera). Archives Zool. Mus. Moscow State Univ. Vol.27. p88-113 if anyone out there has a translation and some compassion)

Recording schemes

There are initiatives currently under way regarding the Recording Schemes. John Kramer has made contact with the Recording Scheme organisers to ascertain the backlog of data awaiting computer input. He suggests that there may be other “treasure troves” of Diptera data languishing somewhere and unknown to the scheme organisers. The Secretary asks that if members are aware of such data, could they please contact the Scheme Organisers about this as soon as possible as it is hoped that a start may be made in this huge task of data input.

I would add that we would also be interested in comments from members other than the Scheme Organisers. Input from the study group organisers and newsletter editors would be particularly valuable as would that from other initiatives such as the scheme by Adrian Plant to push forward and get distribution maps for the Dolis and Empids under way (details available at the Preston Montford meeting). Information from the various regional groups and specialist sections within recording sections of Natural History and Entomological Societies will also be of value. I am not aware of the Dipterists Forum having any kind of comprehensive list of these groups.

In a recent conversation with Paul Harding of the Biological Records Centre he indicated that he would be particularly keen to meet up with the Recording Scheme Organisers of the Dipterists Forum on the matter of the various recording initiatives currently under way. Nothing firm has been mentioned as yet but it may be useful for the scheme organisers to consider ways in which the Biological Records Centre might be of assistance with our efforts in anticipation of this matter being pursued in the near future.

Darwyn Sumner

“It is indeed wonderful to consider, that there should be a sort of learned men who are wholly employed in gathering together the refuse of nature, if I may call it so, and hoarding up in their chests and cabinets such creatures as others industriously avoid the sight of.” [Joseph Addison, 26 August 1710.]

via Adrian Pont



News from the schemes

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

David Iloff

Newsletter number 31 included with this bulletin

Alan Stubbs informs us:

“**British Hoverflies** has been reprinted, with an up-date. DF members are reminded that they can ask for BENHS members discount. The Up-date was published also in the BENHS journal and the Hoverfly Newsletter is also a source for this information.

The assumption is that any further bolt-on up-dates to British Hoverflies will become unwieldy. The job of a full revision will take some years, taking in the splits for *Melanostoma*, *Xanthogramma* etc which have yet to be published by others. The initial planning for how best to proceed will be shaped-up later this year.

Jeremy Thomas recently gave a talk to BENHS on the association between ants and some other insects. He has been studying *Microdon mutabilis* with Boyd Barr and others. In wet habitat certain *Myrmica* ants are the hosts (one in particular) but on well drained sites *Formica* is the host; there are small taxonomic differences in larvae (adult differences are unknown: Alan Stubbs has subsequently had a look and found a few potential leads). There is a need to clarify the habitat and which species of *Formica* are involved as hosts in different parts of the range of the hoverfly. Jeremy has triggered a lot of focus on *Microdon* - there is even a PhD student starting to work on *Microdon* eggs. Hopefully Jeremy will be publishing some of his work soon.”

David Iloff Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 4HW

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Simon Hayhow

Newsletter number 19 included with this Bulletin.

Alan Stubbs adds:



“The main excitement last autumn was David Gibbs’ photo of his specimen of *Villa*, of an ‘extinct’ species. He will be publishing information on this.”

“The book *British Soldierflies and their allies* is in final proof. Hopefully it will go to the printers soon. The price and publication date has still to be finalised for this BENHS publication (DF members will be eligible for BENHS members price). the protracted gestation has been from various causes, one of which has reduced publication price and another to check accuracy. The book will be almost twice the length of *British Hoverflies*.”

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

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Alan Stubbs

Mike Edwards has *Ormosia ruficauda* from Abernethy Forest (Scottish Highlands pine wood, RSPB) new to Britain. This is a yellowish species related to *pseudosimilis* and *staegeriana*. Mike also has yellow females from southern England, like *O. pseudosimilis* but with broader wings, that may or may not be the same species. Details will be published.

Laurence Clemons has updated his provisional atlas for Kent craneflies. He now has 5,200 records in his computer data base, from 188 taxa and from 53 collectors. The commonest species is *Limonia nubeculosa* with 320 records. The maps display 1km square distribution, and the coverage of the situation map at this scale is quite impressive, though most such square have few records as yet. It is a double vice-county and Laurence will be pleased to have some help with improving the recording coverage.

Alan Stubbs has nearly finished going through the NHM collections abstracting data, checking identifications *en route*, including previously unidentified accessions.

Various data and material has been sent in to the scheme during the last year - thanks to all who have contributed.

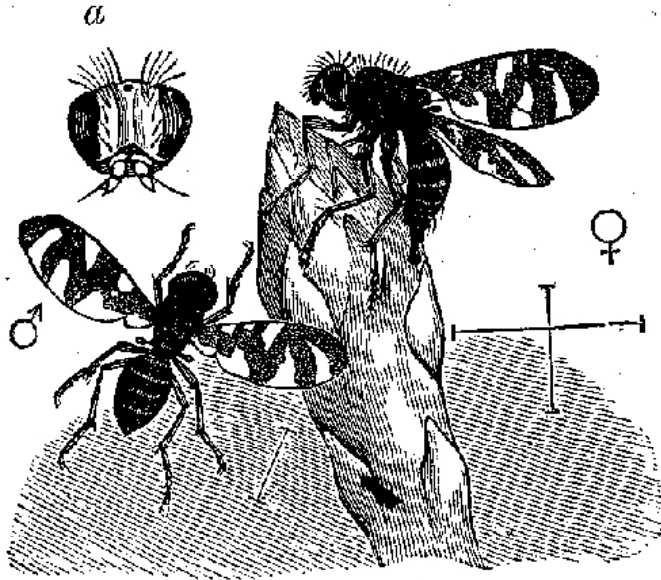
Alan Stubbs 181 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 4DS

Forum News

Tephritid Flies Recording Scheme

Laurence Clemons

2000 was quite a remarkable year as far as tephritids as concerned. In April *Tephritis matricariae* (Loew) was discovered new to Britain from Sandwich Bay in East Kent (Clemons, L. 2000 *Tephritis matricariae* (Loew, 1844) (Dip.: Tephritidae) new to Britain and breeding in East Kent. *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 112: 225-230). It was subsequently found to be breeding there in the capitula of beaked hawkbit *Crepis vesicaria* var. *taraxacoides* and in *Crepis capillaris* elsewhere in the County. It resembles *T. ruralis* but has small hyaline wing spots next to vein R_{4+5} but not M. In June Richard Jones rediscovered *Rhagoletis meigenii* (Loew), after a hundred years' absence, at Battersea Park in London, apparently on *Berberis thunbergii* (Jones, R.A. 2000 *Rhagoletis meigenii* (Loew, 1844) (Dip.: Tephritidae) rediscovered in Britain. *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 112: 253-256). In Kent *Campiglossa malaris* was at last found in Vice-county 16 on the Isle of Grain and I would be very surprised if it is not already



present in South Essex, whilst *Merzomyia* (= *Ictericia*) *westermanni* has now turned up in Yorkshire (Coldwell, J.D. 2000 *Merzomyia westermanni* (Meigen) (Diptera, Tephritidae) new to Yorkshire. *Dipterists Digest (Second series)* 7: 102). Again in Yorkshire, Roy Crossley recorded *Acanthiophilus helianthi* at Jeffrey Bog and this represents the most northerly record for the species which I know of. Maybe you know better!

I have a small backlog of records still to process and hopefully this will be out of the way soon. Please note that the only batch of records which I have received regarding one of the summer field meetings relates to that held in Surrey in 1990 so I would be very grateful for those from subsequent meetings. Perhaps then an updated atlas will be a reality within two years. All the data are still being stored on Recorder 3 and I have no plans to upgrade to Recorder 2000. All records should therefore be sent as hard copy for manual input.

Laurence Clemons (Tephritidae) 14 St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE

Stilt & Stalk Fly Study Group (formerly the Small Acalypterate Families Study Group)

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

Darwyn Sumner

There is a paucity of readily available literature regarding these two Superfamilies in Britain and the little there is actually introduces new Families which are not keyed out in the usual keys to British Families. This somewhat thwarted my plan to put together a decent key to what otherwise would be a fairly manageable small group of flies. I have thus taken a step back and begun researches into the World fauna in order to gain a broader picture of the group, from which point I shall later be able to narrow in on the British fauna, brimming with information. This task will also be made somewhat easier after the kind loan by Cardiff Museum of a couple of *Strongylophthalmyia* spp. Several additional things of interest have now crept into my purview; a handful of Family identification keys and several more Diptera, notably the Diopsidae (namesake of the Superfamily) those fascinating stalk-eyed flies, a few of which I picked up in South Africa. From this new perspective the Family groupings take on the following aspect (British families are underlined):

Acalyptratae

Nerioidea

Pseudopomyzidae

Micropezidae (stilt-legged flies, Stelzfliegen)

Neriidae (Stalk flies)

Cypselosomatidae

Diopsoidea

TanypezidaeStrongylophthalmyiidae

Somatiidae (precious few references to this and no Family key so far)

Megamerinidae (Schenkelfliegen)

Nothybidae

Gobyridae (Hinge flies)

Syringogastridae

Diopsidae (stalk-eyed flies, Stielaugenfliegen)

Psilidae (rust flies, Nacktfliegen, and including the carrot rust fly, not the carrot fly - which is a

beetle)

Stalk talk

It would take a bit of a stretch of the imagination to expect see any of the currently non-British Family members getting to these islands, perhaps a Diopsid hitch-hiking in a bit of plant material (some are minor pests in Graminae stems). Similarly, if John Maunders (New Scientist, 17th Feb 2001) is getting reports of things as big as black widow spiders and scorpions coming in on imported organic produce (Californian grapes, Australian bananas, guava, dodgy tomatoes, China pear, pumpkin) then a hunt for decaying stalk ends and fruit in the supermarkets might add a Neriid to our collections. Finding additional species in some of our indigenous Families seems a better prospect, particularly the phytophagous Psilidae.

Sharp-eyed readers will notice the new snappy title to the study group, even more sharp-eyed ones might have suggested "The rusty hinge" or how about joining forces with a Bracket Fungus Gnat group and we'll have a Hinge & Bracket Study Group. I notice that English, German and Dutch writers are prepared to give colloquial names to the Families which least need them, can I suggest "Ant flies" for the Strongylophthalmyiidae since Oosterbroek informs us that the New Guinea collectors observed that they mimicked the behaviour of ants - or is this name already taken?

Regarding the British fauna, I have an enquiry from David J. Gibbs who tells me "*I have taken Micropeza lateralis in vc 34 Bristol this year and would be interested to know if there are any records of this species from Somerset or Gloucestershire. Any idea of its habitat/ecological requirements?*" Oosterbroek summarises Micropezidae habits by stating that they are found on low foliage and are attracted to broken fruit and faeces, larvae have been found in ginger and other rhizomes and, confusingly, oviposition has been observed on borer holes in fallen logs. A high moisture content seems to be a common thread (lake edges, seepages) so I would suggest that some sort of rhizome search might be rewarding - Overstrand Cliffs in Norfolk has a good colony, is there anything growing there that fits the bill? No luck so far on the distribution front, Steve Falk's 1985 "Provisional review ..." suggests there was a trawl for records during the heyday of the Invertebrate Site Register but this group wasn't included in the final 1991 report, I shall know more when I've obtained a facsimile of the as-yet-unpublished report.

References

To keys to Families only:

Oldroyd, H. 1970. Diptera 1. Introduction and key to families (3rd edition). Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects. IX (1)

Unwin, D. 1981. *A key to the families of British Diptera*. Field Studies. 5: 513-553

Grimshaw, P.H. 1933. Introduction to the Study of Diptera, with a Key for the Identification of Families. Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society. (4) XXII: 187-215

Oosterbroek, P. 1998. *The families of Diptera of the Malay Archipelago*. Fauna Malesiana Handbook. 1

McAlpine, D.K. 1981. *Key to Families - adults* in Manual of Nearctic Diptera 1: 89-124

(also try the Manual of Palaearctic Diptera - but I don't have that yet)

Readers are welcome to my current full lists of World species (insofar as my current investigations have determined) and the relevant references, only by email and only as Snapshot files (see www.microsoft.com/accessdev/a-prodinfo.htm), please specify the taxon (Superfamily or Family). Contributions of offprints would also be gratefully received, especially those of Shatalkin, McAlpine and Iwasa (my skills in Japanese are about the same as my Russian ones).

Invertebrate Conservation Trust

This is to be launched within the scientific and conservation community at the end of March. The current four trustees are David Lonsdale, Stephen Miles, Tony Pickles and Alan Stubbs.

The aim is to fill the big gap in the voluntary conservation movement and to promote invertebrate conservation much as PlantLife and Butterfly Conservation operate as professionally staffed organisations. Butterfly Conservation now covers moths, but that still leaves a lot of invertebrate groups to handle.

In early February ICT issued the following Position Statement to societies (things have moved fast in developments since then).

1. ICT will be run by a board of trustees as a Limited Company with charity status. Start up funds of c.£200k should be in hand later this year.
2. It will not be a membership organisation (competitive with subscribers to existing societies and not cost effective, but a future option).
3. Street credibility will stem from the alignment of wide invertebrate society support. To that end some of the major entomological societies have already agreed to their name being listed and it is hoped that many other national and local societies will do likewise, which in turn should lead to some big NGOs and agencies coming on board. This will have clout.
4. Aims (as expressed by the Feasibility Committee) are:-
 - To promote and advance invertebrate conservation
 - To be proactive (taking initiative) as well as responsive
 - To be professionally run
 - To enhance society efforts, enabling them beyond their own resources, and to co-ordinate activities with those of other organisations
 - To represent invertebrate needs in professional circles
 - To provide expertise and training where needed
 - To raise funds to effect action
 - To manage contract projects
 - To be able to make fast decisions as needed
5. Some societies are already taking effective conservation action. Butterfly Conservation, for instance, is already strong enough to lead for Lepidoptera. ICT is more concerned with concentrating on the weak areas, and assisting where help is needed, together with promoting co-ordination among societies and the wider conservation movement.
6. Whilst GB is the initial locus, future wider involvement is possible.
7. Marine may be included (a matter still to be discussed with the marine societies). The Conchological Society, for instance, is concerned with terrestrial, freshwater and marine faunas.
8. ICT cannot do everything and it will take several years to gain strength. Societies could be more proactive were they to take on some of the following ideas, if they have not already done so:-
 - Embrace invertebrate conservation as a responsibility and organise accordingly.
 - Make sure that important sites are recognised and acted upon by the conservation movement. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan may have gaps in emphasis on key species and habitats.
 - Aim to get at least 5% of members as eyes and ears, advisers, monitoring etc, for significant sites (e.g. via Wildlife Trusts etc).
 - Adopt at least one key issue, and thence a rolling program of issues, relevant to the needs of your specialist group of invertebrates. (e.g. resume of special needs/actions required).
 - Establish lines on communication with ICT and Invertebrate Link and ensure awareness and involvement of members.
 - Promote invertebrates by giving talks to wider naturalists/public

Alan Stubbs

Forum News

Appeals for information

Chrysotoxum octomaculatum - an appeal for site information

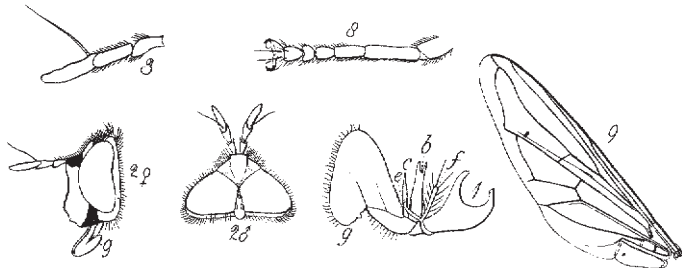
As a part of English Nature's Species Recovery project and the UK Biodiversity Action Programme, volunteer members of the British Entomological and Natural History Society and the Dipterist's Forum committed themselves to five years of study of *Thyridanthrax fenestratus*, *Bombylius minor* and *Chrysotoxum octomaculatum* in 1999. During the course of this work on a site on the Surrey heaths it has been found that both *Chrysotoxum octomaculatum* and *Chrysotoxum cautum* occur together in one small area where the Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* Ehrhart occurs. This grows in a semi-shaded, summer dry, winter wet site in the middle of the heathland, female *Chrysotoxum cautum* have been observed ovipositing on the leaves of these plants. The *Chrysotoxum octomaculatum* have been seen flying through the area, resting on the sedges, visiting *Ranunculus* sp. flowers growing near the sedge and also visiting Broom *Sarothamnus scoparius* (L.) flowers some 100m away.



In order to further investigate the biology of *C. octomaculatum* we desperately need to know the whereabouts of other sites, ideally on lowland heathland but this may not be absolutely essential, where the combination of *Carex* sp. occur in dry, loose soil situations. If such sites are found we will need to search the *Carex* plants and their underground root systems for evidence of hoverfly larvae activity feeding on root-aphids or interacting with ant sp. If you have any relevant site location information as to such *Carex* colonies, or even if you would like to be involved in the Heathland flies project, please contact

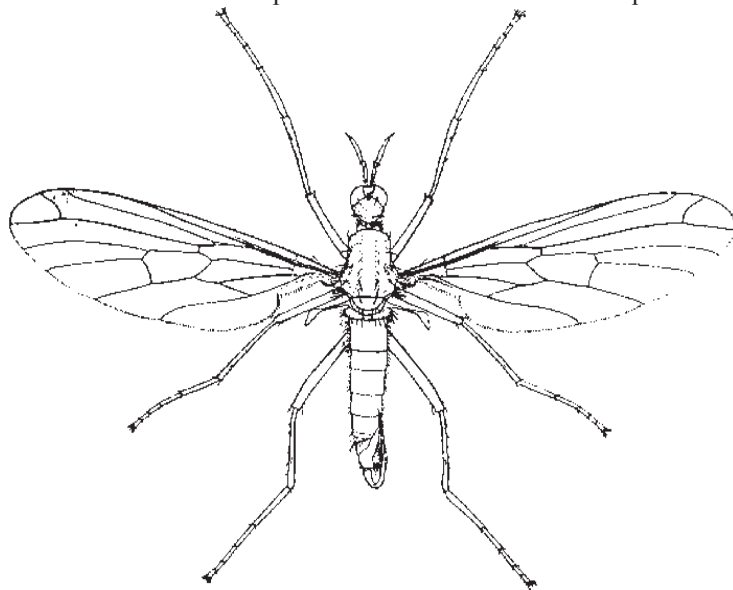
Stephen Miles

01784 252274 srmiles@btinternet.com 469 Staines Road West Ashford Middlesex TW15 2AB



Appeal for records - Empidoidea

I am hoping to begin work soon on an account of the Empidoidea of Yorkshire, with publication planned for 2003. In this connection I shall be pleased to receive records from Dipterists who have collected in the county whilst on visits



here; some colleagues have generously sent me records in the past, but there may be others who have not yet done so, and I shall be very grateful to receive these as soon as possible. Due acknowledgement will be made.

In addition to Empidoidea, I shall also be pleased to receive records of Tipuloidea, for which group I maintain the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union records although there are no immediate plans to publish a similar account to that envisaged for Empidoidea.

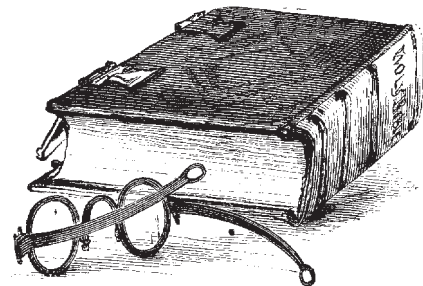
**Roy Crossley, 1 The Cloisters,
Wilberfoss, York YO41 5RF (01759
388809)**

Note that Adrian Plant is also keen on coordinating data on Dolis and Empids, more about this in the next Bulletin or even

the website if it's up and going before then

Literature

Oosterbroek, P. 1998. *The Families of Diptera of the Malay Archipelago*. Brill. ISSN 1388-3895, ISBN 90 04 110534. First in a new series of Fauna Malesiana Handbooks, this useful volume was brought to my attention by John Ismay (one of the contributing authors) at the Cardiff meeting and I immediately dashed out and placed an order for it with Ian Johnson of Pemberley Books. The appeal of such a volume may not be immediately obvious to workers on the British fauna and indeed I had to do a little persuading to get my boss at Leicestershire Museums to agree to this purchase. However, consider the richness of the fauna in that part of the world and you will realise that such a treatise with its excellent keys is nearly a full account of the World list of families, certainly that I have ever come across. The only exceptions are listed as Thaumaleidae, Lonchopteridae, Coelopidae, Dryomyzidae, Diastatidae and Scathophagidae. Regarding the latter it would be instructive to arrange a Malaysian Dipterists Field Week to see how the "ubiquitous *Scathophaga stercoraria*" recording crew managed in its absence. Its stated aim is to encourage further research into Diptera in the region, I suspect that it will extend its influence over a much wider area than that.



Darwyn Sumner

Wicken Fen

Ivan Perry's list for Wicken Fen is now published in *Checklist of the Flora and Fauna of Wicken Fen*, Harley Books. Though there is no figure for the number of flies, Ivan has now counted them up - 1813 species (and even now he has about 10 extra's). So, for anyone doing a locality list, there is a target to aim for, and it will be hard to beat.

Alan Stubbs

Publications of the Malloch Society now available.

The Malloch Society and its work

The 'official' existence of the Malloch Society can be traced to an Annual General Meeting held in Perth, Scotland, in 1987. It is a group of Scottish-based dipterists who come together for the purposes of field work, study and some socialising. Their particular aim is to study a number of species exclusive to the country and to look more closely at some of the habitats that make Scotland a distinctive part of the British Isles. Since that time a number of investigations have resulted in reports which are available as follows:

Report No 2. Insects from Shingle banks and Riverside Habitats in Strathspey by Graham E. Rotheray & David Robertson. 1993. 26pp. (£5.00; £7.00 overseas; incl. p & p.).

Report No 3. An Assessment of the Distribution and Status of Montane Brachycera (Diptera) in Scotland by David Horsfield & Iain MacGowan. 1998. 69pp. (£9.00; £11.00 overseas, incl. p & p).

Report No 4. John Russell Malloch (1875-1963), his early life and contribution to entomology in Scotland. by E. Geoffrey Hancock. 1998. 18pp. (£4.00; £6.00 overseas; incl. p & p.).

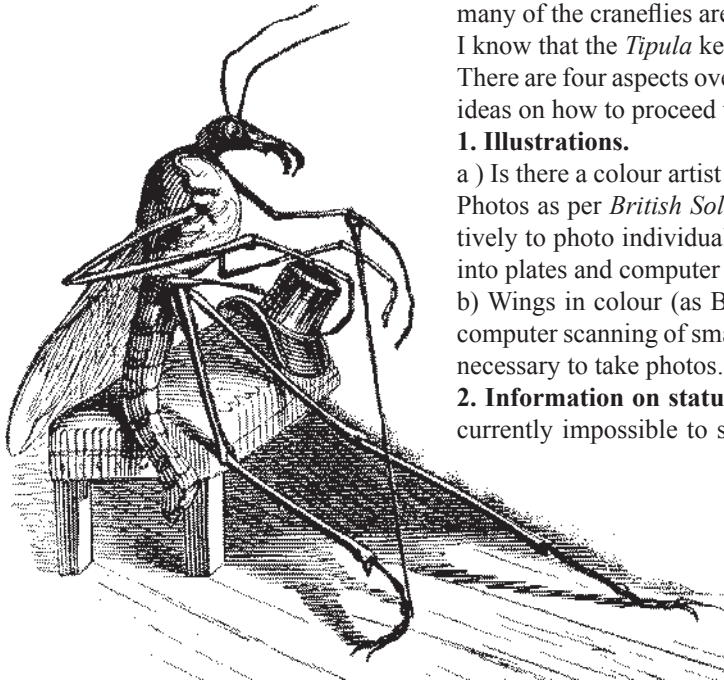
Other titles are in preparation. The first report (The Entomological value of Aspen in the Scottish Highlands by Iain MacGowan, 1993) is out of print and undergoing revision after which it will be submitted for formal publication to an appropriate journal. New information on this important habitat will thus become available to a wider audience.

Orders should be sent to:

Geoff Hancock, Zoology Museum, Graham Kerr Building, University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ, Glasgow, Scotland, UK., accompanied with a cheque in £Sterling, payable to 'The Malloch Society'. Geoff Hancock, Entomology Collections Manager ZIP (Zoology Museum Insect Project) Tel: 0141 339 8855 ext0232 Fax: 0141 330 5971 Snailmail: Zoology Museum, Graham Kerr Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, Scotland.

Review

Book on British Craneflies in preparation - help needed



A book on the lines of *British Hoverflies* is in preparation. Test keys for many of the craneflies are in circulation, and the rest are in preparation. I know that the *Tipula* key needs further thought.

There are four aspects over which some help would speed things up, and ideas on how to proceed will be welcome.

1. Illustrations.

a) Is there a colour artist yearning to illustrate craneflies? I suspect not. Photos as per *British Soldierflies* may be the next best option; alternatively to photo individual specimens at high quality, then to scan them into plates and computer arrange legs efficiently.

b) Wings in colour (as B & W photo plates in Edwards 1938). Direct computer scanning of small wings leads to poor quality. Hence, it seems necessary to take photos.

2. Information on status, distribution, flight periods, biology etc is currently impossible to summarise - an atlas to all species is needed.

Some data is on Recorder but there is a huge backlog. Help via NBN may or may not arise in time - a start soon would be expedient.

a) Can anyone give a hand putting data onto Recorder/compatible data base?

b) Literature abstraction is very near complete for national journals. Apart from a response on the *Naturalist*, my plea for help in listing papers in local journals largely

failed. I can look up the details in London if need be, but this is only efficient if I am told which pages to abstract. It is worthwhile - I have come across invaluable 'unknown' information.

3. Organiser: For most of the time since the start of the scheme in 1973 I have been sole organiser. There are increasing numbers of interested Dipterists, which is super, but if the scheme is to step up a gear and leave me with time to do the book, I shall need some help - ideally an assistant organiser to learn the ropes.

a) Administratively dealing with requests for keys, general advice etc.

b) Identifying pinned and enveloped samples (at least to cream off the easier ones which tend to predominate).

4. Museum collections need to be checked and data abstracted. NHM, RMS Edinburgh and Leeds are the main ones covered so far. The chances of ever examining all collections seems remote, but it would be nice to feel that significant progress has been made. Checked collections will be helpful to further generations of dipterists.

Alan Stubbs

Annual summary of Diptera references

It was recently brought to my attention that the editors of the *Zoological Record* no longer wished to receive copies of the annual *Bulletin of the Kent Field Club*, of which I am editor, on the grounds that it was on the margins of their brief. No doubt other local natural history societies have been notified likewise. Having just received a request for offprints from a Continental worker who could only have heard about them via the *Record* I thought that this was a retrograde step in these times of supposed Biodiversity awareness.

What is proposed here is an annual summary of references to flies in the British Isles from the British literature, be they from books, journals or newspapers. Ideally the reference should have an ISBN or ISSN number but 'in-house' documents will also be useful. The list below summarises those references that have been brought to my attention as of 24th December 2000 and is clearly biased towards southern-based publications. I have set up a very rough and ready MS Access v. 7.00 database for the purpose and which can be provided to any interested party on receipt of a blank, formatted diskette and self-addressed envelope. It currently takes up about 1.3Mb of disk space and some parts are slow even on a computer with 128Mb RAM and so suggestions for improvement will be most gratefully received. If this idea takes off I will notify readers in the next *Bulletin*.

Laurence Clemons 14 St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE

I've included Laurence's opening paragraphs here but not his actual list as it is huge. Another example of something which would be ideal on a website - if you wanted it you could download it.

In the meantime please contact Laurence if you desire a copy of it. I too have a references database in MSAccess 97. Sharing ideas on such databases and coming up with a system which would allow us to share our efforts would really be rather useful. Is anyone else doing this kind of thing? Please get in touch. Ed

Snippets from the journal *DIPTERON*

Volume 3 has been issued for the year 2000. (as parts 1 and 2 separately: total 218 pages) The journal is produced to a very high standard. Price DM 54 (+ DM 5.5 p & p).

This fairly new journal is produced by Christian Kassebeer, one of the new generation syrphid enthusiasts in Germany. Though papers are mainly by Kassebeer, there are contributions by other authors.

Most papers concern Syrphidae, including new species in Europe, Aberbaidjan and North Africa, and, reflecting Kassebeer's widening interests, in Madagascar, Reunion, Nearctic, Neotropics and sub-Saharan Africa. Some papers concern faunal reviews for areas in Europe; one on Greece includes 126 species of which 25 are additions to the fauna of that county; another paper on part of Lower Saxony reviews new data for 135 species; and for an area in middle Sweden 129 species are listed.

Apart from syrphids, there are short papers on Sciaridae, Anisopodidae and Aulacigastridae, plus a detailed review of 57 species of Sciomyzidae & Phaeomyiidae found in the Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg areas.

New hoverfly species in the Western Palaearctic comprise:-

Brachyopa grunewaldensis sp. nov. Kassebeer from the Grunewald in Berlin. It is allied to *insensilis* but the third antennal segment is much broader and parts of the pleurae are darkened (metepisternum and metameron = sternopleuron & mesopleuron), among other differences. A key to European species with a bare arista is provided. (pp.7-12).

Brachyopa atlantea sp. nov. Kassebeer was discovered in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco where it breeds in slime flux sap runs on poplar trees. The larva is illustrated. (pp. 141-148)

Parhelophilus crococroronatus sp. nov. Kassebeer. This resembles *frutetorum* but the male process under the hind femur is shorter and has some of the bristles about three times the length of the tubercule (in *frutetorum* the bristles are of fairly uniform length, about one and a half times the length of the tubercule); in the female the dust spots on tergite 3 meet (clearly separated in *frutetorum*). This species has been found in Portugal and SW France. (pp. 1-6)

Up to the present *Dipteron* has contained a useful content of European syrphid papers. To an extent it reflects Kassebeer's extraordinary energy in collecting widely in Europe and beyond. The present volume clears some of the European backlog and reflects his increasing emphasis on the fauna of Africa and more widely. The journal has already established its credentials for high quality of content and production, and will no doubt continue to be of high relevance for hoverfly papers world wide. It remains to be seen where the future balance of European hoverfly content lies. Christian Kassebeer is too be congratulated on this private initiative.

Alan Stubbs

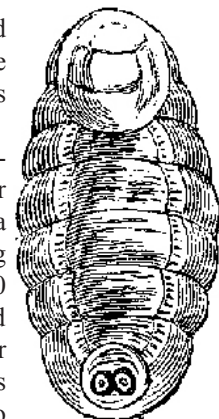
Provisional Atlas of British Hoverflies - an appreciation

By now many of the hoverfly addicts will have received an impressive A4 green covered atlas of 167 pages. It is enough to say that this is a superb achievement and I do not propose to review it in the normal sense.

Since I am largely to blame for the many hours of dedication that so many of you have put into this project, I feel you all deserve a vote of thanks.

The list of recorders is so long it's boggling. Perhaps some of those names come from old collections, and include casual recorders, but the maps clearly show that a lot of people have packed an awful lot of effort into the atlas project, and moreover the spread of recording is impressive - 2,361 ten km squares in GB.

The preface says that the data base has 374,784 records (precisely!), including some in Ireland. As a matter of interest, I looked up the recent Carabidae atlas (one of the most popular beetle families, in an order that historically has been much better studied than flies) - the data set has 140,000 records. The carabid scheme had substantial data entry at BRC. The amazing thing about the hoverfly atlas is that BRC help with input in the past was only of about 60,000 records, which need much checking, implying that well over 300,000 records were computerised by the recorders themselves and by the scheme organisers. In practice, Stuart Ball and Roger Morris have had an immense chore getting the data in, and validating it where potential errors needed follow-up. We all, owe Stuart and Roger immense gratitude for bringing the dream to fruition.



Notice board

Sweep Net

Contact Darwyn Sumner on Darwyn@sumnerhome.freeserve.co.uk

Dipterists Forum Website

A number of items which have been submitted to me for inclusion in this Bulletin, even including items I have penned myself, have been excluded from this issue. For a variety of reasons they have seemed less appropriate to a printed Bulletin and more appropriate to a website. Items included in this category were things such as long lists (at least 2), technical discussions and issues on computer technology (3), keys (1) and coloured pictures (many). Whilst a Forum may be defined as a "publication serving as a medium for debate", I would suggest that the scope of this printed Bulletin is of essence somewhat restricted. The constraints are several, including size, appropriateness and cost. For example the raising of detailed debates regarding the use of current computer technology seem to belong to a more appropriate medium - the Internet - than to a printed Bulletin. Other publications seem a more legitimate arena for some such discussions, so the National Federation for Biological Recording (NFBR), for example, will happily debate the pros and cons of particular recording software (www.nfbr.org.uk).

A Morrisman recently drew my attention to the large amount of information about the Dipterists Forum on the Internet. I had been talking to him about how one sets about erecting a website and in his more general investigations he came up with at least the following two sites - www.earthlife.net/insects/dipfor.html and www.sel.barc.usda.gov/Diptera/tdipforu.htm. One of these is so elaborate and detailed it could be mistaken for our own home page. Search for "dipterists+forum" in the Google search engine and you will find many pages of Dipterists Forum information. Some of it is so old that it is wrong, some if it very gratifying like the note by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and if you connect to <http://www.sciref.org/links/EntSoc/recschem.htm> you will find "Note: According to their website, the Dipterists' Forum encompasses the following Recording Schemes (RS): Chironomid RS, Conopid RS, Cranefly RS, Dixidae RS, Empidae RS, Dolichopodid RS, Fungus Gnat RS, Hoverfly RS, Larger Brachyura RS, Mosquito RS, Pipunculids RS, Sciomyids RS, Sepsids RS, Tephritid RS" - Brachyura eh? - those crabs get everywhere.

So other people are saying all sorts of things about us on the Internet, yet we are not.

For an example of a website of a Society with aims similar to our own try the Fly Times at <http://res.agr.ca/ecorc/program2/entomology/flytimes/flytime.htm>

We also get enquiries about our website as the following message sent to Liz Howe indicates:

Could you tell me, please, whether the Dipterists' Forum has an own URL address on the internet or not?

Thanks in advance. With kind regards, Marc

Dr Marc Pollet

Scientific Advisor sr., Grant Co-ordinator

Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders (IWT-V)

Bischoffsheimlaan 25

B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

To conclude, then: we're not short of material, there are people interested enough to think it worthwhile publishing some contact information about us, some people who want to find a website about us and some people who need to be given the correct information about us. All that is missing is the manpower and the will to set about it.

It's been raised on several occasions at Dipterists Forum gatherings recently, so how do we set about it? The suggestion which has been made to me by, amongst others, Nick Moyes (Derbyshire LRC) who has just set up the NFBR website is firstly to construct a demonstration site on one's PC. This site must then be uploaded to one's free site that one gets space for with one's Internet Service Provider (ISP). This initial step allows for Dipterists Forum to provide comments, suggestions and approval. Next step is to buy the domain name (e.g. dipteristsforum.org.uk) for £9.99 but this has to be done in combination with the acquisition of a proper site, Nick Moyes got one for the NFBR at £50 per year.

There are many problems to be addressed. Stuart Ball's stated reservations are that material would need frequent updating and I suspect that he also knows that it takes up a lot of time. Many thanks to Jill Mears who offered to host the site for us way back in August last year. My guess is that the Dipterists Forum would want to elect someone to take on the editorial responsibility. Such an editor (webmaster) would require a good deal of **regular** support from contributors, particularly those who could submit material which required the minimum of manipulation by such an editor. I do hope that by the time the next Bulletin is published I shall be able to report to members that all the above matters are resolved and that we are free of crabs.

Darwyn Sumner

Reports

Published

Annual General Meeting 2000

Dipterists Digest Report (abridged version)

The first issue for 2000 appeared on schedule in May and included a record number of items, especially short Notes, so previous requests for more Notes appear to have met with some response. For various reasons there was a delay in the appearance of the second issue, but publication by the end of the year was achieved.

Rapidity of publication after submission is remaining good. There were already several items to carry over to the 2001 issues and a few longer papers

have been promised, but we are still in the situation of the next issue only beginning to come together after the last has appeared. It is therefore still essential that enough material, including more longer papers, is submitted during the winter and similarly in successive years, to continue to guarantee two issues each year.

As previously, notes on the exhibits at the annual meeting will be published and notes from exhibitors, who did not also exhibit at the BENHS Exhibition, are requested [**some of the exhibitors in Cardiff have still not submitted these notes; could exhibitors this year please compile notes to submit when they prepare their exhibit**].

Corrections and changes to the Diptera checklist will continue to appear. Information on any corrections or changes is welcomed.

As mentioned last year, after having introduced a change of paper in the first issue, the wrong paper was then used for the second issue for which the printers provided a discount to compensate. The previously agreed paper was used again for the 2000 issues.

I would again like to thank all contributors for maintaining the standard of the Digest and to express my gratitude to members of the editorial panel and others who have assisted with refereeing and editing papers. Mike Pugh has again dealt efficiently with proof reading and I thank him for all assistance provided.

Peter Chandler

Secretary's report

It is a matter of debate whether the new Millenium has started yet, but this *Dipterosaurus* did not succeed in retiring at first attempt. This AGM is definitively the Millenium boundary!

The Forum has successfully maintained its calendar of events. It is especially pleasing that the workshop on tachinids was so well attended, and enthusiastically received, giving a boost to confidence in maintaining these events. David Heaver has been doing sterling work arranging workshops. Our summer field meeting at Launceston was an ideal venue, even if the weather was not up to the same standard, and meticulously arranged by Malcolm Smart. The autumn field meeting, centred on Epping Forest and led by Peter Chandler, had one of the smaller contingents, and was dry by day despite the prevailing weather; it was an enjoyable occasion and filled some useful gaps in recording. And, this year we have the pleasure of returning to the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, for our AGM.

The core events are, of course, only part of the Forum activities. Many members contribute in various ways to the recording schemes, and to the overall effort to improve knowledge of our Diptera fauna. This year your Secretary has met with Paul Harding, head of BRC, to review progress and to outline the data handling problems affecting the majority of schemes. In principle the National Biodiversity Network is now a major player in addressing the resourcing problems but, as yet, there is no sight of new help for Diptera recording schemes. However, the hoverfly atlas should be published by BRC soon.

Regrettably, the long running saga of delayed publication of the National Reviews of Diptera has continued at JNCC, though the Empidoidea volume at long last is ready for publication. The Dipterists Forum Starter pack is also in limbo.

Meetings

The Forum has taken some new initiatives this year. Notably, we have started a series called *Occasional Papers* for the items that are too big for *Dipterists Digest*. Also a Data and Archive Group has been formed and has given a preliminary report to the General Committee. Policy on field meetings has also been reviewed, mainly with regard to logistics of arrangements. The Committee has welcomed the imminent formation of the Invertebrate Conservation Trust. The next AGM is scheduled for London.

Lastly, I should like to thank the officers and members of the General Committee for their support, and indeed those other members who have helped keep the show on the road. I have enjoyed my time as Secretary and thank John Kramer for agreeing to take over.

Alan Stubbs

Field Meetings

a further note about the Cornwall & Devon Summer Field Week 2000

To those critics who mentioned that I had managed to compile a report for the last Bulletin which entirely failed to mention a single fly can I just point out that that was a fair reflection of the week's finds and that they should have inspected the ink wells more closely.

This note is included as a reminder that everyone agreed it would be a nice idea to rotate the task of writing up a few notes about the Summer Field Week amongst those members attending

Autumn 2000 Field Meeting in Essex

The meeting from 11 to 15 October was based on Waltham Abbey and covered sites in Essex and Hertfordshire, with particular attention being given to Epping Forest. Six people attended the entire meeting and four others joined for one day in Epping Forest. On 14 October the party joined the BENHS Field Meeting at Hainault Forest led by Ian Sims.

Seventeen subsites within Epping Forest, two areas in Hainault Forest and nineteen other sites in Essex were visited. In addition Hatfield Forest and four other sites in Hertfordshire were covered. Weather conditions were generally good during the day but there was much overnight rain and, due to lack of wind, vegetation remained wet till the middle of the day, hampering sweeping.

Overall numbers of insects were low compared to other recent autumn field meetings and fungus gnats were particularly sparse, with only 64 species recorded, probably the lowest ever total for an autumn field meeting. On the other hand some other mycophagous Diptera, such as Heleomyzidae and Drosophilidae were more numerous than usual; 8 and 10 species respectively of these families were recorded. Six species of Platypezidae were also recorded.

Among other Diptera craneflies were fairly well represented with 39 species plus 5 species of winter gnats. Other better recorded families were Psychodidae (7 species), Sciomyzidae (8 species), Anthomyiidae (7 species) and Muscidae (12 species). Altogether 228 species of Diptera in 42 families were recorded.

Relatively few uncommon species were found. Among fungus gnats only *Exechia cincta* at Hainault Forest and the second record of *Keroplatus testaceus* from Epping are worthy of note. Also at Epping *Drosophila picta* was recorded at Wake Valley and the chloropid *Camarota curvipennis* at Long Running. Both *Tipula* of the subgenus *Platytipula* were found at Epping, *melanoceros* abundant in a grazed enclosure and *luteipennis* around a small woodland pond. Five species of the tephritid genus *Tephritis* (*cometa*, *formosa*, *hyoscyami*, *neesii* and *vespertina*), which pass the winter as adults, were found in numbers at several locations at Epping Forest sheltering among heather and other long vegetation.

In addition 85 species of other insects, other arthropods and molluscs were recorded, among them 33 species of Coleoptera. The mycophagous slug *Limax tenellus*, found associated with fungus encrusted rotten wood at Epping Forest was the first recent record for the area. At Hatfield Forest hornets *Vespa crabro* were observed to be nesting in a large isolated oak.

A full report has been compiled including species lists for all sites visited.

Peter Chandler

Inqui-lines

Honey Pot Challenge V

Shortly after I arrived at St Joseph's School, Launceston, on 27th May 2000 for the Summer Field Meeting it began raining. This set the pattern for a week that had more than its fair share of rain and mists. This was not particularly conducive to the recording of flies or, more importantly, sawflies (Hymenoptera: Symphyta). As in the four previous Challenges, the assembled entomologists were exhorted to go out and bring back sawflies for which points would be awarded, with the highest scorer at the end of the week winning the prize of a jar of honey.

Sixteen people managed to produce at least one sawfly. Although the meeting took place at peak time for sawflies, the poor weather restricted the total of species recorded to 90, most of which were common widespread species.

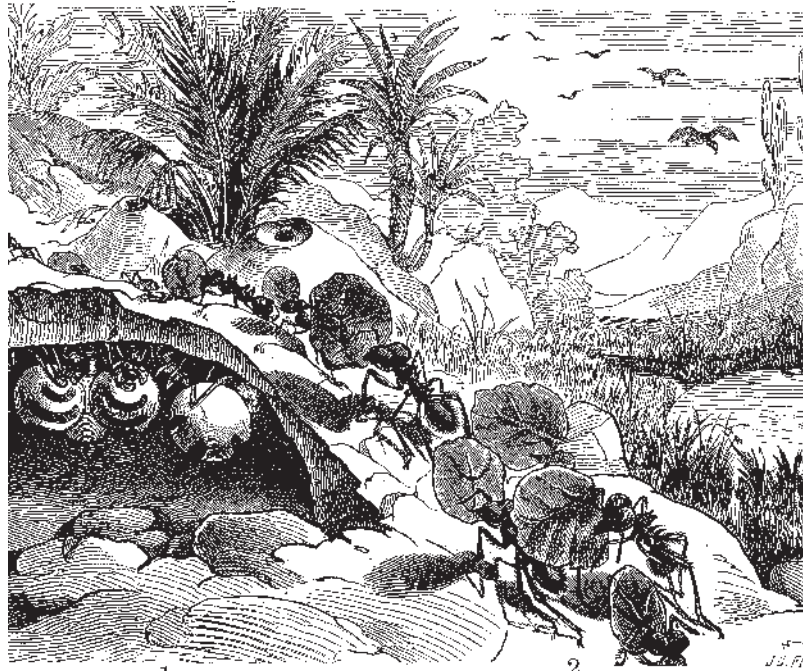
The best site of the week was the meadows at Mambury Moor SSSI, which on 31st May produced a list of

17 species. By comparison the Abergavenny week in 7-14 June 1997 produced a list of 112 species with 38 at the best site. During the 2000 week, sawflies were recorded from 74 sites, comprising some 304 sawfly records. Forty four of the 90 species would not have been recorded without the help of the honey pot chasers. The only sawfly worth getting excited about during the Launceston meeting was *Pamphilius sylvarum*.

This oak-feeding sawfly was taken at Welcombe and Marsland SSSI in my last sweep before the increasingly heavy drizzle soaked the net. This was on the first morning of the week so it was all down hill from then on.

Poor weather did not dampen the excitement of the Honey Pot Challenge. For the first time there were two winners with Alan Stubbs and Richard Underwood both on 49 points. The runners up were Chris Spilling (30), Mick Parker (25), Ken & Rita Merrifield (23) and Keith Alexander (20). Others with double figure scores were John Harper (19), Liz & Mike Howe (17), Malcolm Smart (14), Lance Gorman (11) and Martin Drake (10). 2001 sees a return to Launceston when, hopefully, the sun will shine and there will be an abundance of interesting insects to record.

Andrew Halstead Senior Entomologist RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB.



Meetings

Forthcoming

Diptera Workshop

Preston Montford 16-18 March 2001

Summer Field Week in Launceston

July 7 – July 14/15 (7 or 8 nights).

Arrangements are now well in hand for our return visit to this delightful area. Accommodation and laboratory/classroom facilities will be in St. Joseph's school (supplemented by guesthouse accommodation for couples)

I can now confirm that all the organisations who arranged or granted us site access last year have agreed to cooperate again this year. We can therefore expect to have access to virtually all the same sites that we had last year (with maybe a few extra goodies). We hope that the later dates will mean that the weather will be better this year!

At the time of writing we have 22 confirmed attendees but there are a number of places still available (including one room suitable for a couple). If you are interested in attending please contact me as soon as possible stating whether you would wish to stay 7 or 8 nights and enclosing a deposit cheque for £70 made out in favour of St. Joseph's School. That deposit will be refundable in the event that you have to cancel before 30th May.

Malcolm J. Smart, Southcliffe, Pattingham Road, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7HD.

Tel: 01902 700228, e-mail: malcolm@smart-home.freeseve.co.uk



~~Field Meeting in North Norfolk~~

I received notice on 28th February from Chris Spilling that this had been postponed until 2002.

Autumn Field Meeting - Warwickshire

Wednesday to Sunday (10th to 14th) October 2001

The 2001 autumn meeting will be held as usual in the second week of October, starting on Wednesday 10 October and continuing until Sunday 14 October. This year we will cover another area not previously visited, as we will be based in Warwickshire. Details of the meeting have not yet been finalized, but Steven Falk is making arrangements for us to use facilities at a college near Wellesbourne for evening sorting. Bed and breakfast accommodation will be arranged in the area. Steven will also be assisting with site access and advising on those to visit. The county has plenty to offer for autumn collecting, with soils ranging from calcareous in the south (with some good damp woods) to more acidic and peaty in the north (with some good alder woods). More details will appear in the August Bulletin but early expressions of interest in attending will be welcome. Could anyone wishing to attend this meeting please let me know.

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

Annual General Meeting 2001

November 24th

The Annual Meeting of the Dipterists Forum will take place on Saturday November 24th in the Palaeontology room at the Natural History Museum, London. The AGM will take place at 2.30pm, as usual. More details will be in the August Bulletin.

John Kramer

Diary 2001/2

2001**MARCH**

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

APRIL

3-5 **BES** Annual Symposium on dispersal. University of Reading-
includes various invertebrate presentations

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

MAY

5 **BENHS** Wisley Common SSSI, Surrey

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

JUNE

23 **BENHS** Cloddymoss, Culbin Forest, Morayshire

23 **BENHS** Frencham Common, Hampshire

JULY

7-14/15 **DF** Field Week, Launceston (pronounced "lanson")

SEPTEMBER

30 **BENHS** Bedgbury Forest, Kent

OCTOBER

10-14 **DF** Autumn Field Meeting - Warwickshire

NOVEMBER

24 **DF** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2002**SEPTEMBER**

5 **Fifth International Congress of Dipterology.** University of
Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. Organiser: Dr David
Yeates.

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 Waring. Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington,
Peterborough, PE4 6LS e-mail Paul_Waring@btinternet.
com. Please note I have excluded their MV trips for reasons
of brevity.

BES British Ecological Society general@ecology.demon.co.uk or
www.demon.co.uk/bes/meetings/dispersal/index.html

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.

Solutions to crossword Issue #50

8, 3 The spot bellied jumping parrot gnat
Polylepta guttiventris

7, 17 The doubtful prisoner
Lypha dubia

1, 25 The beheaded fly
Gonia capitata

5, 21 Red Ernie
Ernestia rudis

5, 8 ... and his wild young dog, Lily
Ernestia puparum

16, 11 Irritable bowel fly
Billaea irrorata

13, 19 Spotted soda fly
Siphona maculata

14, 2 Candleless fly
Nowickia ferox

18, 24 Wagners silent fly
Wagneria gagatea

17, 22 Dexias midnight runner
Dexia vacua

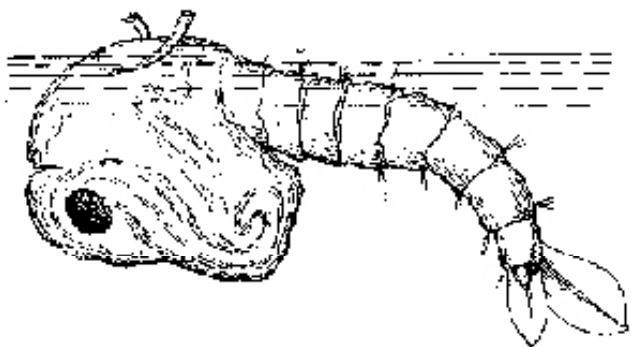
6, 4 Broken bristle fly
Vibrissina debilitata

23, 20 The shortened vestigial
Appendicia truncata

15, 9 The red bellied polo
Mintho rufiventris

12, 10 Raymond's dried fruit
Ramonda prunaria

More such clues required for the next one, please. I guess the next subject will be mainly Dolis and Empids.



Fly leaf



And now ...

.....Des Res B & B

When you go into a tourist office, and ask for B & B in the area, what type of accommodation do you ask for? I ask for somewhere of modest price and quiet location, then consider parking and where one would have to go to get an evening meal. Of course, the most unfathomable criterion, that baffles tourist office staff, is the logistics for going to the most implausible places that no tourist has ever sought before. Never mind the number of stars as to facilities, or bumper breakfasts.

However, what would other dipterists select? Take Peter Chandler for example, who booked the B & B for the last autumn field meeting. At breakfast he exclaimed that it was the first place he had stayed without *Musca domestica* on the table and *Fannia canicularis* circling the ceiling lamp. Well, that says a lot about the establishments he normally selects for himself.

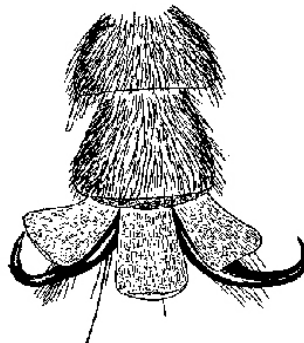
But would such desirable B & B residences be on the tourist office lists anyway? And if they are listed, how would one know which ones were best for flies. Does one look for one fly symbol or two? Perhaps even a four fly symbol if *Scenopinus fenestralis* is a special feature.

No wonder I consider *Musca domestica* and *Fannia canicularis* to be great rarities. I have obviously been staying in the wrong B & B's. Perhaps Peter should be required to publish a B & B guide to his fly ridden accommodation so that we can all join in.....or perhaps not!

Alan Stubbs

Help is at hand (and foot)

Now there's an opportunity too good to be missed, an eminent Tipulidologist asking for suggestions as to what to do about crane fly legs (p12). Have you considered commissioning the production of long gelatin capsules, Alan. These could then be arranged in the collection in a star-shaped pattern centred around the body and wings (unless they've dropped off as well) - perhaps colour-coded to show where they came from. The illustrations would be a bit of a problem, though. No matter where they were drawn on the page, once the book had passed through the postal system they would arrive all jumbled together near the book's spine. Can anyone else lend a hand?



Contributors

Many thanks to all those contributing to this issue and all the other expressions of support. Please note the following deadlines for the next two bulletins:

August bulletin; contributions by first weekend in July 2001 (note early deadline caused by Dipterists Field Week) and I am reserving a single page for the write-up of that trip. Printed in August.

March bulletin by the end of January 2002, this is printed in February.

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.

Spare copies

I receive the occasional request for spare copies of this and that from time to time. I'm really not best placed to provide anyone with such things here in the remote reaches of Leicestershire. I'm lucky if I manage to hang on to the single copy of the Bulletin that Liz lets me have. Can the holders of all these bits and pieces let me have a list of what they've got and how to obtain them in time for the next Bulletin. I've currently got Adam Wright looking for the Provisional Tephritid Atlas and Chris Raper looking to give away Tachinidae.

Ed