



BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum



Bulletin No. 54

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Autumn 2002



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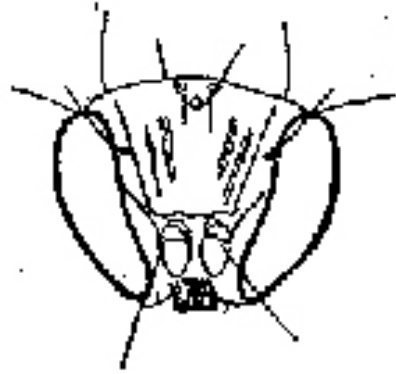
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Stilt & Stalk Darwyn Sumner

Articles submitted should be in the form of a word-processed file on disk or E-mail Darwyn.sumner@ntlworld.com 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



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Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

Scottish Edition

Following a fairly successful field week, I've received several accounts from those Dipterists Forum members who attended. This, together with book reviews covering Scottish conservation matters gives this issue of the Bulletin a very distinct northern flavour. Alan Stubbs reported on the trip in **British Wildlife**, his preliminary check on the findings gave us a list of 163 species with 4 Psychodidae new to Scotland. Some of the more interesting finds were on sand coated shingle shoals, Alan took *Tipula bistilata* by the River Spey and I had *Cnodacophora stylifera* at the Spey/Nethy confluence, spurred on by Alan's finding of it the previous day in a new location on the River Glass. Chris Spilling gives a full account later in this Bulletin.

Quantities of modern technology were dragged up to Tarradale House in an attempt to record the habitats/biotopes and locations via GIS (maps). The precise value of all this effort is debatable, Stuart Ball tried recording species on a previous trip and I notice he never tried it again. Having attempted it myself I can now say that whilst a laptop might prove of some value (e.g. for downloading digital photographs as well as GIS) the demands of the field work are considerable and the projector and printer were excessive. We are indebted to Andrew Ferguson of Aberdeenshire Council for helping out with maps, hopefully some benefit will accrue from these in due course when all the records have been gathered in.



Equipment

Net doctor, Chris Spilling, was surprised to learn that I was unaware of a technique for repairing torn nets in the field. Rolls of Micropore tape, which are presumably obtained from Chemists, should be in your kit bag. Use the stuff on dry nets by burnishing small pieces onto both sides of the tear.

I was tempted by a totally different design of net and handle at Lydie Rigout's stall at the Midlands Entomological Fair this spring. The design is a European one and pretty well all of it, except the bag (I actually used a Marris House Nets one) differs from English designs. The thread is different, the net frame collapses and locks differently and the telescopic handle sections lock in a different way. After a season's use I have found it extremely dependable (in other words I haven't broken it yet). The handle I chose was the short, three-section metallic one which, at full extension, only permits the sweeping of nearby vegetation (for ditches and higher trees you will need a longer pole). Whilst its lack of weight means that more force is needed to work the less yielding vegetation, on the whole it is less tiring on the wrists after a full day. The thread attaching to the net frame is longer and of a shorter pitch and so the tendency for the frame to come unscrewed, as found in our English thread, is insignificant. Similarly the locking mechanism on the telescopic sections is very positive and I found no tendency for these to rotate whilst sweeping. In use the whole kit is much lighter in weight than our usual kit and packs down to almost pocket size.

Dichlorvos warning

Approved in the USA (Environmental Protection Agency) for the purposes of "disinfecting" pest-ridden cabinets, this organophosphate was never approved for such a purpose in the British Isles and whilst many amateurs here may have done so it was certainly never used in Museum collections. Even in the USA warnings were issued that it "can cause serious damage to Museum objects". A large freezer provides safe disinfection in our museums. Those amateurs using Dichlorvos and wanting to restock will by now have found that it has disappeared from shop shelves.

Following a high court judgment (3 December, 2001) concerning pesticide products containing dichlorvos, the Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) Chairman, Professor David Coggon, said: "In July 2001, we advised Ministers that there could be a small risk of cancer from dichlorvos in those people who use it over prolonged periods and that the sale, supply and use of products containing dichlorvos should therefore be revoked as a precautionary measure." Should disappointed ex-users be tempted to obtain it through other sources I suggest they first acquaint themselves with the risks, a good site may be found at <http://ace.ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet/pips/dichlorv.htm>

News from the schemes

“Putting Biological Data to Use” (National Specialist Societies Conference)

Held in July this year, the conference presented four different perspectives on the use to which Biological Data, originating from the various national recording schemes could be put.

Introduced by Trevor James and Paul Harding to representatives of some 35 schemes, the four perspectives were dealt with by Nick Donnithorpe (volunteer perspective), Mark Telfer (analytical and research), Derek Lott (the Planning system) and Ian McLean (conservation). A follow-up conference is due to be held in November this year and two of the above will be speaking at our Annual Meeting

Darwyn Sumner

Syrphidae - Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Newsletter number 34 included with this bulletin

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

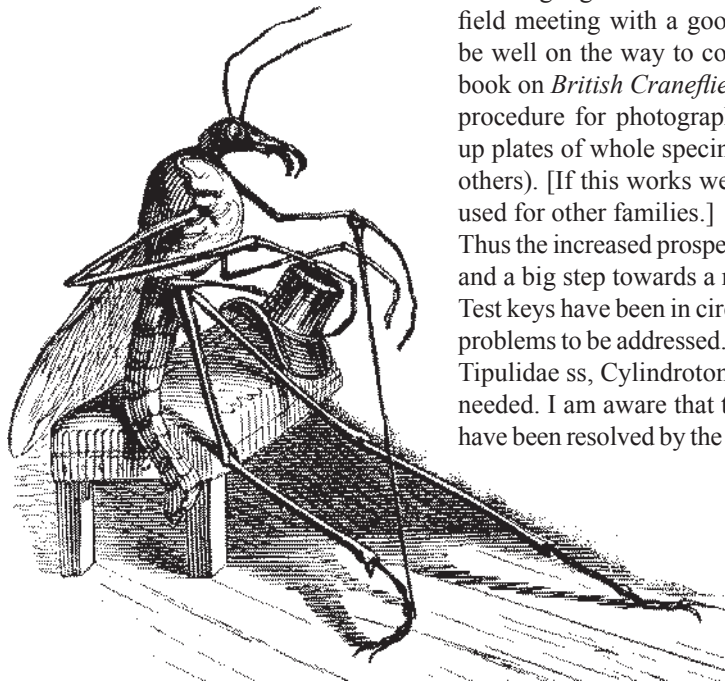
Newsletter number 21 included with this bulletin

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

Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Cranefly Recording Scheme

Cranefly Recording Scheme/British Craneflies Book

Chris Spilling, in consultation with Ken Merrifield and John Dobson, has trialled a good method for computer scanning high definition images of cranefly wings. He left the Tarradale field meeting with a good array of species and by next winter should be well on the way to completing that task for the development of the book on *British Craneflies*. The next challenge is to sort out an efficient procedure for photographing whole specimens as a route to building up plates of whole specimens (no doubt he is open to the experience of others). [If this works well for a cranefly book, the procedure could be used for other families.]



Thus the increased prospect of collation of data about the status of species and a big step towards a resolution of doing the plates is encouraging.

Test keys have been in circulation for all but the Trichoceridae (still some problems to be addressed. May I please have any additional comments on Tipulidae ss, Cylindrotomidae and Pediciidae so as to tighten up where needed. I am aware that the *Tipula* key had some quirks (which should have been resolved by the addenda). This will allow me to develop revised

test keys for next field season.

One option is to split the project into two books, part 1 with the above families plus Ptychopteridae, and part 2 covering Limoniidae plus Trichoceridae. No decision is imminent, but a split would mean earlier publication for nearly half the fauna and an easier pacing on those involved in editing and production.

There is the suggestion that the book should contain whole genitalia illustrations for all species. Possibly we could negotiate to reproduce existing published figures (a copyright matter) but the standard of draftsmanship varies from excellent to crude, which would look a weird assortment on plates. Sometimes illustrated specimens from Russia or other eastern European countries look rather different from typical British ones (a problem with some of the Russian figures used in the Pediciidae test key). One option is to draw all in a standard fashion from British material, or to redraw and adjust existing illustrations, which would be a major undertaking. If other aspects of developing the book are not be held back, it would need a volunteer with accurate drawing skills to concentrate on this if the matter is to be pursued.

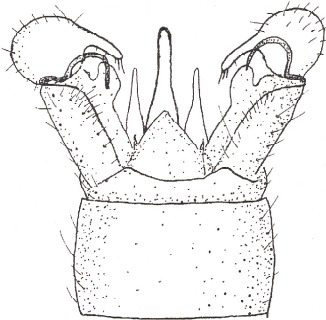
Newsletter 12, circulated with this Bulletin, comprises a further key which completes the first draft of test keys

Alan Stubbs

A brief note on the Summer Field Week.

Forum News

A good variety of craneflies were seen. Although access to open moorland streams was often prevented by deer fences, species recorded from peat bogs included *Tipula subnodicornis*, *Triogma trisulcata*, *Tricyphona schummeli*, *Eleophila trimaculata*, and *Dicranomyia distendens*.



The sandy riverbanks also provided many interesting species, eg *Tipula bistilata*, *Tipula montium* *Hexatoma bicolor* and *H. fuscipennis*, and *Nephrotoma dorsalis*. Northern species included *Ilisia vicina*, *Gonomyia edwardsi*, and *Dicranomyia halterata*. This latter species was found on the bank of the estuary at Tarrandale, and there was some evidence that their larvae were feeding on the Algae (Cladophorophyceae) which was growing on and in the mud. This Baltic species is found inland, by streams in Sweden, and is known in the UK from only two coastal Scottish sites. The male genitalia, not figured in Edwards or Coe, are illustrated.

Other species worthy of note in Scotland were *Tipula flavolineata*, which feeds on dead wood, and *Molophilus pusillus*.

John Kramer

Empid Study Group

Adrian Plant has been in touch, he's got about 27000 records entered onto his system and is pretty keen on receiving more. There are plenty of gaps in the coverage as can be seen on his map opposite. I've just sent Adrian the 1,004 Empid records from the 1999 Field Week meeting. Note his new address:

9 High Street,
Bishops Lydeard, TAUNTON Somerset TA4 3AX

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme (formerly Study Group)

(NERIOIDEA: Pseudopomyzidae, Micropezidae. DIOPSOIDEA: Tanypezidae, Strongylophthalmyiidae, Megamerinidae & Psilidae)



Mark Telfer of CEH categorised the Stilt & Stalk Fly recording group as a full recording scheme recently. Probably a good idea since it coincides with quite a flood of records (now totalling 949) and has allowed me to get involved in the national conferences (see above). In response to my request for records in the last bulletin, data has been received from Laurence Clemons, Del Smith (various collectors), David Gibbs, John Ismay (Invertebrate Site Register records, lacking dates) and Phil Withers together with Dipterists Field Week data (note that the records sent in for this field week are now being used) and data extracted from a few recent articles, notably Jonty Denton's. Museum collections still need looking at, I've extracted some information from the Edinburgh collections but I know of material in Oldham, Liverpool, Cardiff and BMNH which need data extraction and I would be grateful for suggestions of other sources. Records are welcome in any format, of course, but if you have them in electronic form it's quicker to convert directly rather than via printouts.

No testkeys available for the moment, the sandpaper emulation mode on my hard disk kicked in recently and set me back several weeks. Progress is being made, however; Alan Stubbs has made helpful suggestions after seeing a draft at the Autumn Field Meeting. My habit scrounging specimens of everything off everyone is paying off (latest is a loan of *Strongylophthalmyia ustulata* from Graham Rotheray - many thanks); one rainy morning Alan pounced upon the drawer I took to Scotland and constructed a key for the British

Chamaepsila. Peter Chandler has helped out with some more offprints, he's quite amused by the fact that I've picked a group in which all the key authors are Russian (A.L. Ozerov this time). I'm looking for a good Russian dictionary now.

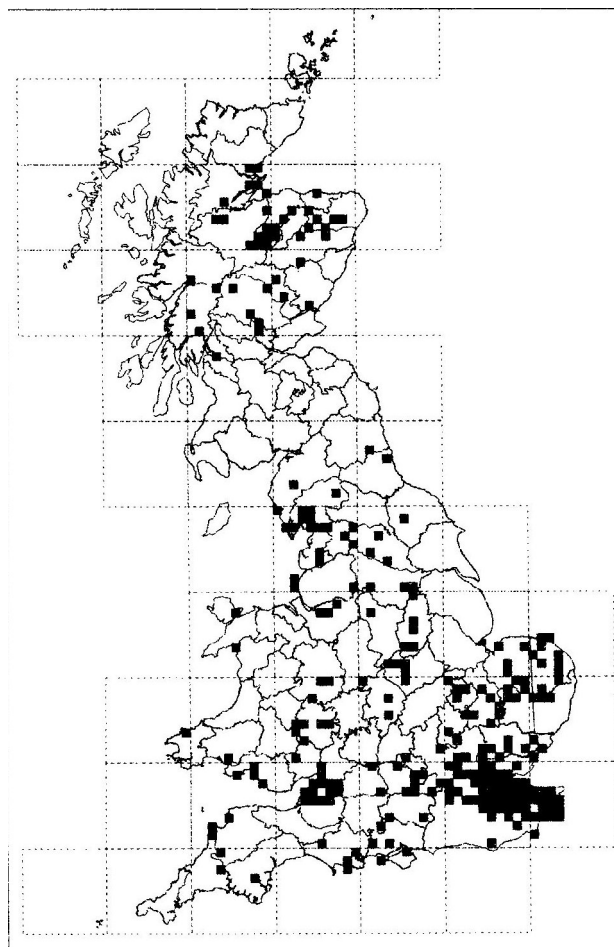
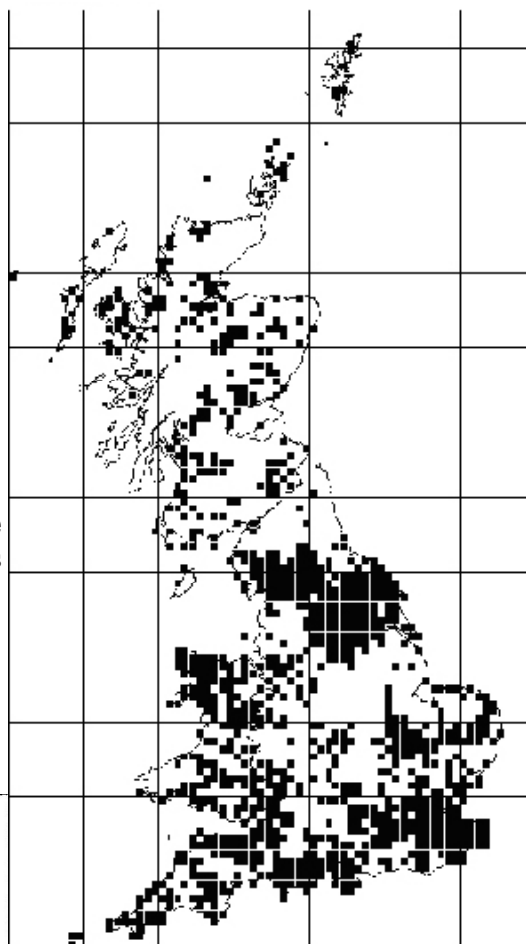
A new representative of the Calobatinae (Micropezidae) has been found in Britain this year, a species of *Neria* will be announced shortly. The available keys are very sparse and not one of them covers all of the species adequately. The possibility that others might turn up seems reasonably high, now that our 6 has gone up to 7 and Ozerov lists 19 in the USSR. Many thanks to Phil Withers for help with a translation and Bernhard Merz for comments which helped confirm the new *Neria*.

Recorded 10Km squares

Maps of the current recording status provide a useful feedback to contributors to the Recording Schemes and Study Groups. They stimulate recording effort in areas which are poorly covered. For example, as a Lancastrian I am embarrassed to note how poorly my county is covered for Empids in comparison with Yorkshire. If you have anything approaching a national dataset on computer and are unsure about how to set about making a map then I shall be happy to do it for you, all that's needed is a list (e.g. spreadsheet) of 10Km square names (e.g. "SD90").

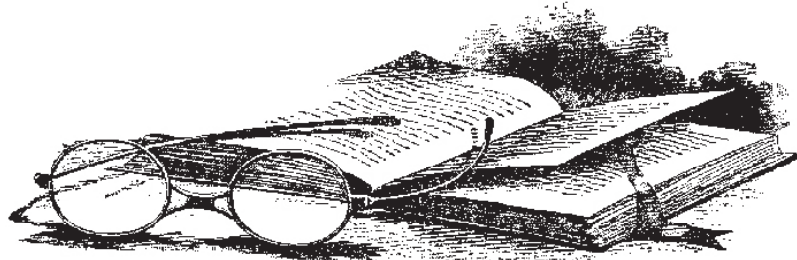
Darwyn Sumner

Empidae
August 2002. 27,000 records



Stilt & Stalk flies
October 2002. 949 records

Review



The Biodiversity and Conservation of Aspen Woodlands

Generously donated to DF members attending the Inch RSPB base this summer, this report provides a multi-disciplinary account of the current status of Aspens in Scotland.

The case for the introduction of Beavers is discussed by Dave Batty of SNH and makes some interesting observations of the threats to Aspen that this might present. Graham Rotheray's article in *Dipterists Bulletin* #47, expressed concerns that such a reintroduction would be "a real threat to the richest saproxylic Diptera community we know". Batty states "The return of European beavers to Scotland might be hell for an individual Aspen, but potentially heaven for Aspen resource as a whole" and it is encouraging to note that the concerns of Graham and others are fully appreciated by Batty and his team and actually form part of the overall plan to "increase the quantity and quality of Aspen resource".

Iain McGowan discusses habitat fragmentation using *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* dispersal in his case study and makes some firm recommendations regarding the creation of linked woodlands in his Balliefurth case study. Iain, in fact, joined the Dipterists Forum field week team one day this year and I spent an interesting hour or so discussing Aspen Diptera whilst observing a freshly emerged *H. ferruginea* perched on a prime Aspen log which had been felled some years previously as part of the management regime specifically aimed at retaining this habitat. Tom Prescott elaborates on management specifically for *H. ferruginea*.

Graham Rotheray writes in more general terms about saproxylic flies, listing the notable insects bred from Aspen. I was fortunate enough to observe one of them, *Homalocephala biumbratum*, freshly emerged from a log at the Spey Bridge site, flicking its wings alternately in the manner of many "picture wings"; a species a little less susceptible to the poor weather conditions than the *Strongylophthalmyia ustulata* which I sought.

All in all a very useful account; I've even got our local Fungus Study Group in Leicestershire interested in looking out for unusual fungi on our Midlands Aspen. The "Aspen action" initiative is hosted at the Trees for Life website at www.treesforlife.org.uk and the account is published by The Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2002. 14 The Square, Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire PH26 3HG although I daresay you might obtain it through the RSPB.

Darwyn Sumner

Nature Conservation - Peter Marren

Putting together course notes for a new A-level in Environmental Science some 10 years ago was no easy task with starting materials of simply a syllabus and an incomplete book list. Chart-topping such a list today would be this latest offering in the New Naturalist series, from the author of *British Wildlife's* "Twitcher in the swamp". This is a notoriously difficult subject matter to put across in a readable style but Marren's humour and sharp turn of phrase brighten it up considerably.

The work of Dipterists receive several mentions, Alan Stubb's observations concerning the number of species at risk being chosen as a good example of species decline and the Beaver/Aspen debate featuring our concerns about dead wood species.

It is disappointingly thin in the area of biological recording. The work of only a handful of the National Recording Societies receive attention whilst the network of Local Records Centres, through which the effort of so many of our talented naturalists guides conservation at the local level, receives little acknowledgement.

All the conservation debacles of recent years are recounted, however, and Marren does an excellent job of placing them into the political context of their time and provides us with the ends of these stories by indicating just how they influenced fresh thinking and improved attitudes to conservation.

A worthy successor to the series of books on this topic by authors such as David Evans and L. Dudley Stamp, I look forward to the next one in a few years time recounting how species and habitat decline have been arrested and reversed.

Darwyn Sumner

British Hoverflies - second edition

Autumn Publication of the second edition of British Hoverflies

We have been informed that the revised and much larger (approx 450 pages) British Hoverflies book is likely to have been published by the time of Dipterists Day and could therefore be available to participants on the day. This is the second edition and is a substantial revamp of the first publication by Alan Stubbs & Steven Falk printed in 1983.

This edition contains much new relevant data on biology, distribution (utilising data from the recent Stuart Ball and Roger Morris Hoverfly Atlas); revised keys which include those possible European species likely to be encountered in the UK (new names from Peter Chandler's RES Diptera Checklist are used) plus illustrations for *Cheilosia* genitalia (Steven Falk) and *Sphaerophoria* genitalia (Stuart Ball).

No firm price is available yet but I understand that it is likely to be in the region of £20 - £25. This is outstanding value for a book which will be similar in size to the BENHS book British Soldierflies by Alan Stubbs and Martin Drake. You will also save on postage if you collect one on the day.

Alan Stubbs

DIPTERON

The two parts for 2001 were distributed in May. Since this journal is as yet is not widely subscribed in Britain, the following notes on contents may be of general interest. It is privately published to a very high standard by Christian Kassebeer, www.dipteron.de, ISBN 1436-5596.

Author C Kassebeer unless otherwise indicated. Only West Palaearctic papers are mentioned and only the full title is given for hoverfly papers as those of most popular concern. Most papers are in German with English summary.

Dipteron 4 (1) 2001 [publication date 12.11.2001]

pp.1-6. *Lonchoptera scutellata*: in Germany only in the north (map), probably restricted to highly flooded areas with sedge and reed.

pp. 7-10. *Lyciella stylata* (Lauxaniidae): new to Germany. All specimens at dried up sap runs on oak, probable larval habitat.

pp. Asilidae: 15 species from Steinburg district of Germany, 8 exclusive to heathland. By L. Lange.

pp. *Aulacigaster*. Key and illustrations to 3 species in Germany.

pp. 37-42. Über eine ungewöhnliche *Brachyopa* Meigen, 1822 (Diptera, Syrphidae) aus Tunesien. [*Brachyopa* (*Trichobrachyopa*) *tristis* sp. & sg. nov. from Atlas Mountains, Tunisia.]

pp. 43-56. Nielsen, T.R. & Claussen, C. 2001. On *Cheilosia ingrae* spec. nov. (Diptera Syrphidae) from northern Fennoscandinavia. [With map.

Very similar to *gigantea*. Key to Fennoscandinavian *proxima* group, including *velutina* and *rufimana*. In English]

pp. 57-64. Tephritidae; 16 species from a Malaise trap in Rhineland-Palatinate. By R. Merz & M. Niehuis.

pp. 65-108. Sciomyzidae & Phaeomyiidae. 72 species from the Berlin area; 4 historic species not refound. Detailed review.

Dipteron 4 (2) 2001 [publication date 15.4.2002]

pp.109-124. Sciaridae; 66 species found in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. By K. Heller.

pp. *Callopium splendidum* (Lauxaniidae). New to Germany. In list of 18 species in family.

pp. 131-156. Zur Schwebfliegenfauna (Diptera, Syrphidae) der Balearen. [Survey of hoverflies of Balearic islands = Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza. 46 species including *Neoascia balearensis* spec. nov.

pp. 157-162. *Psacadina* (Sciomyzidae). European female key.

pp. 163-168. Schwebfliegenfunde (Diptera, Syrphidae) aus Ludvika in Mittelscheden. II, Malaisfänge. [141 species of hoverfly based on a Malaise trap in middle Sweden.]

pp. 169-172. Diastatidae. *Diastata cervinala* and *D. flavicosta* from Berlin area; new to German list.

pp. 173-192. Kassebeer, C.F. & Hilger, S. Zum Vorkommen von Schwebfliegen (Diptera, Syrphidae) in Alt Brieselang bei Berlin. [127 species from a meadow in Brandenburg district of Germany.]

pp. 193-198. *Sylvicola stackelbergi* (Anisopodidae); Middle Sweden, new to Fennoscandinavia. Female genitalia illustrations/key for *punctatus*, *stackelbergi*, *fuscatus* and *fuscatooides*.

pp. 199-200. *Rachicerus tristis* Loew, 1869 (Rachiceridae). Correct name for Spanish species originally allocated to *Atherix* by Loew, then described by Enderlein, 1921 as *Xylomyia nubila*.

pp. 201-208. Eine weitere *Brachyopa* Meigen, 1822 (Diptera, Syrphidae) aus Tunesien. [*B. tabarkensis* spec. nov. from NW Tunisia is allied to *atlantea* of Morocco and *quadrimaculosa* of Israel. A key and illustrations are provided for this group.]

pp. 209-212. Sciomyzidae; a review of the 5 species known from Iceland.

Alan Stubbs

Meetings

Reports

Workshops

Preston Montford - March 2002

Muscids :-Tutor - Peter Skidmore

Muscids were the topic for the annual DF workshop at Preston Montford over the weekend of 23rd - 24th March and attracted 18 participants, many of whom are regular attendees of these workshops.

The course was ably and enthusiastically led by muscid expert Dr Peter Skidmore and we were able to use his reference specimens plus those of several other participants, most notably those brought along by Mike Pugh.



“BLOW FLY FISHING.”

reference specimens plus those of several other participants, most notably those brought along by Mike Pugh.

Arrangements for accommodation were somewhat different this year with field centre beds being taken up by colleges and schools. The centre had therefore arranged that we be put up in suitable hotels within Shrewsbury and they then provided an efficient and flexible transport system to get us to and from Preston Montford. Flexibility being required at the end of the day to allow suitable imbibing of local liquor. However, we did have our usual laboratory in which to conduct the course.

Following previous formats the course started after dinner on Friday evening with Peter Skidmore providing an introduction to Muscids. Peter also distributed documentation that covered relationships with other families; biology and ecology; a list of features that would assist in the identification of muscids and updates and amendments to Fonseca (1968). The rest of the two days was spent identifying material with Peter in constant attendance to guide us through the difficult parts of the keys. As an interlude to laboratory work a field trip was arranged for Saturday afternoon. The field centre had located a suitable, local, Ivermectin free farm and most of us were transported

to one of their cow fields to see what we could find amongst the wet tussocks of grass and cow pats. Amongst the bits I collected were Phorid larvae and Muscid pupae around the cow pats and Bibionid and *Rhagio scolopaceus* larvae at the tops of old mole hills. I haven't heard what other people reared out.

During the course Darwyn Sumner delved into a large bag and produced an assortment (job lot) of frightening surgical instruments to sell at a small profit. I purchased one particularly useful instrument that was good for poking around in cow pats and mole hills. It wasn't until later that my partner told me that this useful instrument was a cervical dilator.

Our thanks to Peter Skidmore for running the course and to Dave Heaver for making the arrangements.

Chris Spilling

Field Meetings

Scotland Field Week 2002

Summer Field meeting Tarradale House May 25 - 31, 2002.

This years field week was a return trip to the Inverness area after a gap of 10 years. It was hoped that the slightly



earlier period of time from May 25th to 1st June would cover some of the seasons earlier Diptera. We were looking forward to good, sunny, warm weather, but as we drove across the A9 to Inverness the accumulations of snow on the northern slopes of the Cairngorms did raise some doubts. As it was we were subjected to the usual mix of northern weather i.e. wind, heavy showers, sunny periods and one or two storms.

In the absence of a field meetings secretary we were thankful to Malcolm Smart for arranging the accommodation and Chris Spilling for arranging the various site visits

Our accommodation and lab space was based in Tarradale House (an old manor house located on the shores of the Beaully Firth), a field centre of the Geography and Environment Department of Aberdeen University. Sleeping quarters and dining hall were spacious and the more limited lab space was provided in the magnificent Library, adjacent lounge and corridor. A total of 17 people attended the field meeting, most for the whole week. Although most participants were Dipterists there were those with other interests e.g. Hymenoptera and Coleoptera.

The recording and collecting sites covered a large area of NE Scotland and our thanks go to the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the National Trust for Scotland who gave permissions, or

arranged for permits to be generated, for access to many of their sites ranging from high glens to coastal dunes. The inclement weather and long driving distances meant that we couldn't cover all the sites available to us but, despite the weather, some recording and collecting was managed on each day which resulted in a number of interesting records. Hymenopterists were hard done by with few aculeates recorded. Malaise traps were set up in the grounds of Tarradale House and received quite a soaking. However, our intrepid Editor took the resulting catch and it will, no doubt, take a winters work to sort out all the identifications.

Amongst the interesting Diptera records that I have been told of so far were several craneflies; *Triogma trisulcata*, from Craigellachie NNR; *Tipula bistilata* from the River Spey and River Orrin; *Dicranomyia halterata* from saltmarsh at Tarradale; the micropezid *Cnodacophora stylifera* from the River Glass; the hoverflies *Parasyrphus nigratarsis* and *Microdon anilis* from Rothiemurchus Forest; plus four mothflies (Psychodidae) new to Scotland, *Telmatoscopus longicornis*, *Telmatoscopus consors*, *Philosepedon humeralis* and a *Sycorax* species (probably *silacea*). Not surprisingly our resident fungus gnat expert, Peter Chandler, recorded a total of 163 species on this trip with the following as good records, *Mycomya lambi* from Loch Fleet; *Rymosia acta* from Craigellachie NNR; *Mycetophila schnablii* from Corrimony; *Ectrepesthoneura pubescens* from Migdale; and *Diadocidia valida* from Torrachilty Forest. Malcolm Smart and myself visited Doire Donn SWT reserve below Fort William as we headed south at the end of the field trip. Apart from photographing Chequered Skippers, which I hadn't seen before, we recorded *Physocephala nigra* and *Cephenomyia auribarbis* (the deer bot fly). No doubt other interesting records may arise as participants find the time to fully identify their specimens.

The field week ended with our traditional trip to a local Indian restaurant and Darwyn had found a rather good one in Inverness, overlooking the River Ness. Most of the Cardiff contingent came to the meal which was impressive as they had a very early morning start to get back to Cardiff in one long drive. The furthest trip was made by Paul Gatt who flew back to his home in Malta.

Chris Spilling

Meetings

Forthcoming

Annual Meeting

Dipterists Forum, Saturday 23rd November 2002

Flett Events Theatre, Earth Galleries entrance, Exhibition Road (same exit from the tube as the Natural History Museum, different point of the compass, half the distance), South Kensington, London. Entry from 10.00am

The meeting is free to members, being paid for out of DF funds. Once again the bookshop is offering a 10% discount to members, so **MAKE SURE THAT YOU BRING ALONG YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS** if you wish to purchase any books. Your card, or a copy of this bulletin will also be needed to get past the museum pay-desk, to reach the meeting venue. To gain access to the Flett Theatre, please enquire at the Earth Gallery desk. There will be no Dipterist's Supper and no refreshments, but for those with time, there will be the opportunity for informal groups to meet in local pubs and restaurants.

PLEASE BRING AN EXHIBIT IF YOU CAN

As usual, there will be a book-voucher as a prize for the exhibit judged to be the best.

 _____ Flett Theatre foyer open to members. Please try to stage your exhibits as early as possible. Note that your exhibits will out of your sight whilst you are in the theatre.

_____ **Roger Crosskey** _____ Distribution of blackflies in SE England (Simuli-
 _____ ids)

_____ **Chris Raper & Matt Smith** _____ Tachinids - progress with the recording
 _____ scheme

_____ **Trevor James** _____ Title

_____ **Mark Telfer** _____ Using your biological records

_____ **BREAK FOR LUNCH**
 _____ Bring sandwiches, use the Museum cafeteria, or local cafes or pubs.

_____ Informal session, a time to meet people and view the exhibits.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

_____ Informal session. Viewing (and judging!) of exhibits.

Chairmans Request

Dipterists Day is much enlivened by the exhibits that you bring along. I would encourage you to bring along anything that is Diptera related and that you think would be of interest to those attending. The range of possible exhibits is probably endless but could, for example, include photographs, drawings, site collections, new or uncommon species; projects undertaken or being undertaken; requests for help with identifications; progress on the various recording schemes; new keys or keys that you want tested; demonstration of new techniques/new apparatus etc; breeding techniques (for Diptera); new publications or articles available; update on software and websites available; news of Diptera related courses and workshops. This is just a small number of suggestions so I look forward to a busy Dipterists day.

Please also see Chris Spilling's notification of the revised British Hoverflies book due by the AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.45pm

1. Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising.
2. Secretary's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report. (accounts enclosed with this Bulletin)
4. Membership Secretary's Report.
5. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report.
6. Election of Officers.

Elections

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and other elected officers with specific responsibilities (detailed below) require annual election. The constitution (7c) requires nominations 120 days in advance of the AGM. No such nominations have been received by the Secretary.

Ordinary elected committee members serve for two years, half of the team standing down each year (7f) Those due for re-election this year are indicated with an asterisk.

The Officers and General Committee proposed is as follows:

Chairman	Stuart Ball	
Secretary	John Kramer	
Treasurer	Jon Cole	
Membership Secretary	Liz Howe	
Field Meetings Secretary	VACANT *	
Indoor Meetings Secretary	David Heaver	
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner	
Publicity Officer	Patrick Roper	
Ordinary Members	Mick Parker	[elected Nov 2000]
	Alan Stubbs	co-opted
	Malcolm Smart	
	Chris Raper	
	Chris Spilling	
Un-elected Representatives	Peter Chandler	Dipterists Digest Editor
	Ken Merrifield	BENHS Representative

7. Any other business

John Kramer

Meetings

Diptera Workshop 2003

Introduction to Flies

Preston Montford 28-30 March 2003

Though it was my intention of running 2 workshops this spring, I have, to date, been unable to get confirmation of a leader for either my first or second choices and so will fall back to running just one. This workshop will be an "Introduction to Flies", with an emphasis on **hoverflies** and the **larger brachycera**. The Forum has not run one of these for some time and this situation does little to encourage new starters, either within the ranks of the Forum or for people as yet outside of it.



The date is the weekend of **28-30 March 2003**, and the cost is held at £90 for Forum members. It is likely that a little more will be charged for outside attendees, to help offset Forum costs. Simon Hayhow and myself will lead the workshop.

Anyone wishing to attend should write to me and make cheques payable to **Dipterist Forum Workshop**. Apologies to my "regulars"; if anything materialises in the autumn I will see if we can set something up.

David Heaver

Summer Field

Week 2003

Suffolk 11-18 July 2003



After several years of trying we have finally managed to secure a booking at the Hengrave Hall Centre near Bury St Edmunds. Please note that to fit in with the centre's established programme we have had to book from Friday to Friday, but it is hoped that most people will be able to join on the evening of the 11th July or alternatively the following day. The Centre's location and the proximity of the A14 should allow easy access not only to the whole of Breckland, but also to the Suffolk coast and important sites in East Cambridgeshire.

Details of costs and other arrangements should be available by the November Annual Meeting and early indications are that costs will be in line with those of Field Studies Council prices.

Ivan Perry, 27 Mill Road, Lode, Cambridge, CB5 9EN Tel: 01223 812438

Diary 2002/3

8	BENHS Buglife (The Invertebrate Conservation Trust) - a new opportunity! - Matt Shardlow	13	BENHS The work of Scottish Natural Heritage in invertebrate conservation - Iain MacGowan
13	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures	8	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures
27	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures	10	BENHS The search for sibling species in Simuliidae and other Diptera - Dr Rory Post
9	BENHS Annual exhibition at Imperial College, South Kensington.	11-18	DF Field Week: Suffolk
10	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		LCES = Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society. Exhibition Secretary Julia Hancell, 4 Priory Close, Halton, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2BN stevemc@consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk
12	BENHS Of Cabbages and Kings: Lundy Cabbage and its associated insect fauna - Dr. Roger Key		NMGM = Liverpool Museum. National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN. Contact Steve Judd on 0151 478 4233.
15	NBN 2nd NBN Conference for Societies & Recording Schemes. Flett Theatre, NHM London.		NFBR National Federation for Biological Recording
24	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		DF = Dipterists Forum
8	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		RESL = Royal Entomological Society of London
10	BENHS The future of the Spider Recording Scheme - Peter Harvey		BENHS = British Entomological & Natural History Society. Contact Peter Chandler , Field Meetings Secretary, or Dr. Ian McLean Indoor Meetings Secretary (workshops) 109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 4TZ. E-mail: ianmclean@waitrose.com
12	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		BES British Ecological Society general@ecology.demon.co.uk or www.demon.co.uk/bes/meetings/dispersal/index.html
14	BENHS Two Potter Wasps: their ecology and conservation - Mike Edwards		AES = Amateur Entomologists Society, PO Box 8774, London SW7 5ZG. aes@theaes.org http://www.theaes.org
26	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		BRC Biological Records Centre - Paul Harding
9	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		NBN Development Officer for National Societies & Recording Schemes - Trevor James tjj@ceh.ac.uk
11	BENHS Chasing wild geese from the British Isles to Greenland - David Stroud		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).
15	BENHS Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Identifying Sawflies workshop - Dr. David Sheppard		
23	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		
1	BENHS Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Life after death: conservation of dead wood invertebrates workshop - Dr Roger Key, Matt Shardlow and Dr Ian McLean		
9	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		
11	BENHS AGM and Presidential Address		
15	BENHS Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Pemphredoninae identification workshop - Mike Edwards & Andy Davidson		
23	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		
28-30	DF Workshop: Introduction to Flies. Preston Montford		
29	BENHS Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Oxytelinae identification workshop - Derek Lott		
5	BENHS Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Planthopper (Fulgoro-morpha) identification workshop - Mike Wilson and Alan Stewart		
8	BENHS The future of hoverfly recording - Dr Stuart Ball and Roger Morris		
13	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		
27	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		
3	BENHS Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Anthomyiidae identification workshop - Michael Ackland		
11	BENHS Open day at Dinton Pastures		

A useful site to gain news of various Entomological Shows and Fairs is <http://www.buzzbugz.co.uk/> - I have no dates for the following:

The Kettering Shows (Spring and ?Winter)

Kettering Leisure Village, Kettering.
Contact: Jack Harris. Tel: 01455 444 792;
E-mail: exotica@madasafish.com

The Creepy Crawly Show (Oldham).

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham, Lancashire.
Contact: Bruce Langridge. Tel: 0161 911 4657.
E-mail: ELS.Museum@oldham.gov.uk

West of England Creepy Crawly Show

Newton Abbot Racecourse, Newton Abbot, Devon.
Contact: Joe Rogers. Tel: 01803 762 674;
E-mail: sales@bugsdirect.Co.uk

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.

Fly leaf



And now ...

.....A cheating vegan

What is cute and cuddly, and only eats nuts and salad? Well if your answer is the dormouse, you had best think again.

Views, the inhouse magazine of the National Trust, issue 36, reports that the dormouse lives in hedgerows and patches of coastal scrub in farmland behind Chesil Bank, Dorset. This news comes as a shock to those who assumed that dormice are arboreal in ancient coppice woodland and have a strong passion for hazel nuts, supplemented with other fruits and flowers. There is no hazel in the Dorset locality, the scrub is recent and mainly wind-blasted blackthorn, and the most reliable food source is bramble. This adds to the longer standing anomaly of dormice occurrence in oak woods and plantations with no scrub layer. So much for the vogue for coppicing hazel woodland and putting up lots of dormice boxes there.

Its only a mammal, so who cares anyway? The unwelcome news is that these wretched things are eating insects. Apparently a pet dormouse escaped and in one night ate someone's pet stock of 151 hawkmoth caterpillars, and wild dormice have been known to Hoover up aphids. It now looks as though insects may not only be part of the regular diet, but provide a major banquet in the race to put on weight just before hibernation. At last, a new scape-goat for the low numbers of autumn craneflies. Perhaps we should all stick up one of those wildlife magazine dormouse pictures, and then stick pins in it when flies to pin are too scarce.

To bird-nest boxes and bat boxes we now need to add dormice boxes to the unbalance of nature on nature reserves. At the very least one would have thought those responsible would have had equal concern for providing saproxylic breeding containers. The only consolation is to view birds and bats as mobile habitat for hippoboscids, and to applaud the likes of specialist mosquitoes and *Protocalliphora* for getting their own back on behalf of Diptera. Then there are the nest scavengers, plus guano and pellet feeders. But, apart from carrion, what use are dormice? Perhaps someone can explain in the next Bulletin.

Alan Stubbs

Membership Matters

Well the subscriptions keep coming in and the number of standing orders creeps up slowly. We now have 270 members - the same as last year, even though there are a lot of new names on my lists. There must be some of you out there who know people who haven't resubscribed, so please remind them! Watch out for the subscription reminders in the Spring issue.

You may experience a few delays (what's new?) in the next few months as a second young Howe emerges from its pupa in late October. Apologies in advance, but I shall try to keep up with the post.

best wishes, Liz Howe

Contributors

I'm grateful to the people who rallied round during production difficulties caused by my recent computer troubles - apologies for the delay by the way.

Please note the following deadlines for the next two bulletins:

Spring bulletin

Aims to be on your doorstep in the first two weeks of March, contributions by the end of January, this is printed in February in time for the March workshop meeting.

Autumn bulletin

Aims to be on your doorstep in the middle of September, contributions by the end of July. Printed in time for the Autumn field meeting and the AGM.

Would contributors please note that it takes a **minimum** of 4 weeks to compile, edit, reproduce, collate 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 as I need to include it on the "Fly sheets" list on the Contents page.

Field Week Records

The tally for these currently stands at:

1999: 5640

2000: 40

2001: 59

I've a few hand-written lists not yet entered onto computer but contributors to the Launceston trips are the exception rather than the rule.

Darwyn Sumner