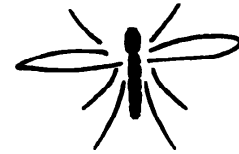


BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum



Please notify Paul Harding of changes:
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This year will see some substantial changes in the ways in which some Recording Scheme Organisers archive and exchange records. Whilst all will readily accept records in written form the following symbols are used to indicate some of the known (or surmised) methods by which Scheme Organisers may currently receive records electronically:

 **Recorder**

 **MapMate**

 **Microsoft Access**

 **Spreadsheet (Excel)**

Square brackets indicate that the organiser can handle records in the format indicated.

Potential recorders really need to know your preferred recording format so please inform the Bulletin Editor in time for an update of this guide in the Autumn 2003 issue

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Would the individuals listed above please check that I have all their details correct and contact me if there is anything they wish to be added or amended.

The last full address list was published in Bulletin #50



BULLETIN OF THE Dipterists Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin No. 55

Spring 2003
ISSN 1358-5029

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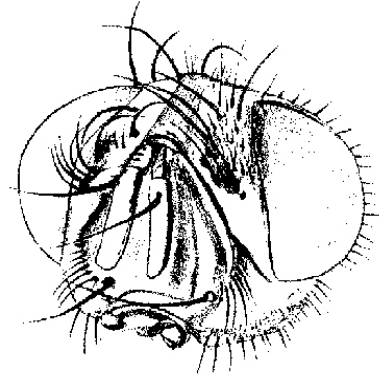
Unelected Members

BENHS rep.	Ken Merrifield
Dip. Digest Editor	Peter Chandler
co-opted	Alan Stubbs

Recording Scheme Organisers

Crane-fly	Alan Stubbs
Fungus Gnats	Peter Chandler
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Culicidae	K. Snow
Sepsidae	Adrian Pont
Tachinid	Chris Raper
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 Resources Centre (Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service), 0116 267 1950 ext 24.



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Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

“A man outstanding in his own field”, it was said of the late Rev. C.E. Shaw when he was awarded the MBE. Despite many occasions out standing there with him it is to my regret that very little of his botanical expertise had been absorbed over the years. Various items in this Bulletin suggest that some level of Botanical skills will prove to be very useful in Dipterological pursuits this season; time to blow the dust off the identification guides I think before the true depth of my ignorance in this area is rumbled.

Vice County boundaries

Funds have now been allocated to the Vice-County boundary digitisation scheme. The pilot, co-ordinated by Charles Copp may justifiably be considered as a “new initiative” because of the approach which has been taken. The project, spearheaded by the NBN under the leadership of James Munford, was formulated a year or so ago when various interested parties were assembled to look at the feasibility of bringing the Watsonian Vice County boundaries up to date. What will result from this project will be what is termed a “geo-referenced data set” which the NBN will provide freely to amateur recorders, mapping scheme organisers, local records centres etc.. It will consist of a complete set of the boundaries re-interpreted from the original Dandy maps kept at the British Museum of Natural History and will be spot-on at a scale of 1:10,000 (Dandy’s were 1:63,360) according to carefully devised rules. It will be available in popular GIS formats (including Recorder) and will now include extensions out to sea so that all coastal and maritime regions will be definable for the first time. For progress consult www.nbn.org.uk.

Equipment

Curiously I rarely get any responses from the occasional item about equipment that I pop into the Bulletin. Either it’s considered too trivial or people are still puzzling over a use for their battery powered vacuum spider catcher gadgets. Oh well, here goes again. Supplier of the tough glass bijoux used by many for collecting (about the only thing they don’t fit is *Echinomyia grossa* but for single specimens they are very handy) has changed, product code 39503 from Bibby Sterilin, Tilling Drive, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 0SA they work out at £85.30 per 1,000. Preservation Equipment Limited (Vinces Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 4HQ www.preservationequipment.com), offer a range of curatorial materials including a metal entomology cabinet with sealed door edges able to take 20 (wooden) drawers. A cool £379 but a little cheaper than wooden cabinet prices. With drawers at £46 I might not have my sums right unless you’ve spare drawers, store boxes at 446 x 443 x 57mm or can make your own.

Favourite timbers for this are the *Tilia* spp.; the American species, termed “basswoods” are *Tilia americana* and white basswood, *Tilia heterophylla*. Both are soft and of low density with a faint musty odour whilst our European Lime (*Tilia vulgaris*) is more dense (s.g. 0.48 compared with *T. americana*’s 0.37). All are a bit pricey as they are favourites with wood carvers. Watch out for any Lime trees about to disappear down the maw of the Council’s chipper.

There’s a real feast of entomological equipment in the online American Bioquip (bioquip@aol.com) catalogue if you can gather together a few friends to make the shipping costs practical. If you are buying a GPS this year, watch out for the new models with WAAS which gives you positional accuracy to less than three meters (www.garmin.com)



Bar flies

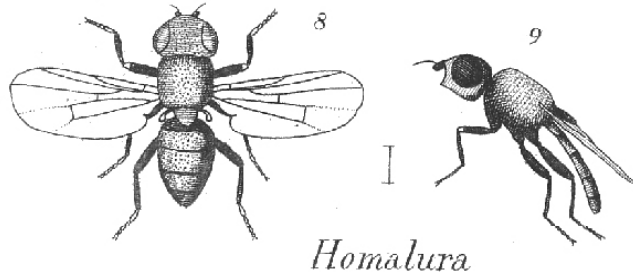
According to *The Independent on Sunday* the shortage of morphological taxonomists has become so acute that some of them are setting up a system of bar-coding (as in tins of baked beans) for new species - based on DNA as a substitute for the Linnaean system in order to shorten the task of full cataloguing of the world’s species from 1,000 to 20 years. Resources needed to read the information in this way amounts to the mere equivalent cost of a transmission and scanning electron microscope (review of prices in the next Bulletin).

Time to rethink our collecting equipment, then. I suspect what’s needed is a tiny phial containing some preservative medium and a bottle of liquid nitrogen. Simply snap a leg or something off your fly, bung it in the phial, drop that in your nitrogen flask and then it’s off to your local DNA facility where you can get them done at about £3 per sample. Results in the form:



News from the schemes

Several members have pointed out that (with notable exceptions) there is currently an unacceptable recirculation of records back to the agencies and land-owners who were kind enough to grant access on various Dipterists Forum field meetings. This problem of manpower and data exchange methodology has confronted all national recording schemes and local records centres for many years and is one which both Recorder and MapMate were in part designed to address. There are very good signs of improvement in the circulation of our records via these two applications, not just for the schemes but also from various field weeks and our efforts at the Preston Montford meeting will, it is hoped, prove to be a turning point. Hopefully, by the end of this year, the situation will have improved considerably.



Darwyn Sumner

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Newsletter #22 with this Bulletin

Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

Stuart Ball tells me he has not personally got a version of the records which were entered on Recorder 3.1 (presumably the batch which allowed maps to be made up in 1986). Ian McLean is in possession of the master copy and is converting them into Recorder 2002 format. Interestingly, Ian states in a recent note to me "plus also with the work on new keys".

As reported in a previous Bulletin there are currently about 3,000 records on Gen 7's and paper, awaiting processing - which I shall do just as soon as I obtain them. Regular attenders of Field Weeks will also be aware that there is currently a lot of interest in this group, from personal collections and various Field Week endeavours I've amassed over 1000 records. I hope that we shall be in a position to announce progress with the scheme following the Preston Montford meeting. Perhaps we might even get a few maps in the next Bulletin. So now is the time to start getting your records and specimens in order and to collect furiously in the 2003 season.

Darwyn Sumner

Syrphidae - Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Newsletter number 35 included with this bulletin

Tachinid Recording Scheme

Presentation made by Messrs. Raper & Smith at the Annual Meeting

Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Crane-fly Recording Scheme

At the last AGM, Tom Mawdesley brought *Phylidorea heteropygna* specimens to be checked. They were from Cumbria, a very important discovery.

The Crane-fly book text is progressing. There are now drafts for Trichoceridae, Cylindrotomidae and much of the Tipulidae.

Alan Stubbs

Empid Study Group

Adrian Plant is continuing with his data trawl. Following appeals by email to various people he now tells me that he's chasing up various leads, in particular hopes of details from museum collections have been realised to some extent, in one message he tells me "I have made only limited museum searches so far; the exception being the NM Wales which has been done pretty well." and later exclaims: "I have now assimilated most of the Welsh data so now have 35,000 records in the system. The analyses are getting more meaningful by the month." - that's an increase of 8,000 since last August.

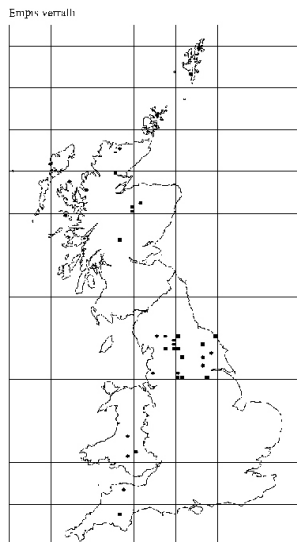
Forum News

A Provisional Note on the Distribution of *Empis* (sens.lat.) [Empididae] Species in Britain

During the last decade there have been two attempts by the Empid & Dolichopodid Study Group to 'call up' and collate records for *Empis* spp. By August 2002, 7211 individual site records had been received and this note provides feedback on the distribution and phenology for *Empis* spp in Britain. Geographical coverage is far from complete but is sufficient for a meaningful (but provisional) interpretation of the geographical range of most species. Limitations of space do not allow the presentation of distribution maps for all 40 species; instead the total number of sites and 10 KM squares is given and a brief description of the distribution and phenology is provided. Similarly, although a considerable amount of information on ecology and epigamic behaviour has accumulated, discussion of this is kept to a minimum. It is to be hoped that further recording will plug many of the gaps and answer some of the many problems posed by this incomplete analysis.

E. (Anacrosticus) lucida (44 sites in 28 10 KM squares). An boreo-alpine species with a northern and western distribution in Britain. It is frequent on moors in Scotland, North Yorkshire and the Lake District. In Wales it has been found on Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons. The most southerly records are from Exmoor where it is quite common on moorland flushes. Adults emerge from mid April until late June.

E. (Anacrosticus) verralli (51 sites from 36 10 KM squares). Distribution similar to *E. lucida* but also found in lowland woods and wet peatland sites. It has been recorded as far north as the Shetland Isles and as far south as Dartmoor. Adults emerge from late April until early July, peaking in late May.



E. (Coptophlebia) albinervis (259 records from 153 10 KM squares). Although there are a few Scottish records from VC's 75 and 80, this species is of decidedly southern occurrence, being common throughout England and Wales from Yorkshire southwards. Adults have been recorded from early May until well in to September but there is a very pronounced peak in late May and early June.

E. (Coptophlebia) hyalipennis (25 records from 14 10 KM squares). This species has a northern distribution occurring as far south as Yorkshire and the English Lakeland although Colin (1961) reported a single specimen from south Wales and there is a single record from Kent. Flight period extends from late June to late August.

E. (Coptophlebia) impennis (2 records from 2 10KM squares). A widespread species in temperate Europe occurring from Germany and the Netherlands southwards. In Britain it is evidently a rare species, at the limit of its range, found only in the south and east of England. Collin (1961) recorded this species from Purley (Surrey) on 26 June 1878 and also from Hampshire. The two recent records are from Foxhole Heath (VC 26), 30 July 1982 (J. H. Cole) and Lydden LNR (VC 15), 20 July 1985 (L. Clemons). In Europe the species is on the wing from early June until late July, and possibly August (Chvala 1994).

E. (Coptophlebia) vitripennis (65 records from 44 10 KM squares). In Britain this is an exclusively English species, widespread east of a line drawn between Cumbria and Dorset but not yet reported from the SW peninsular, or Wales. It has an Atlantic and central European distribution, being absent from much of Scandinavia and the eastern Mediterranean countries. Although there are two records from mid May, this is a late summer or early autumn species on the wing from late June until mid September, peaking in mid August.

E. (Coptophlebia) volucris (39 records from 20 10 KM squares). This is a central and southern European species, widespread in southern Britain to the south of a line connecting Essex with Monmouthshire. Although it is sometimes on the wing as early as mid May it is essentially a early summer species, peaking in early July and persisting throughout most of August.

E. (Empis) aestiva (530 records from 269 10 KM squares). One of the commonest *Empis* sp. occurring from Sutherland to Cornwall but not yet found from the Outer Hebrides or the Northern Isles. Peak emergence takes place in late June to early July but the flight period extends from mid April until the end of September.

E. (Empis) bicupidata (62 records from 42 10 KM squares). Widespread but perhaps rather local from Central Highlands of Scotland to the south coast of England and throughout Wales. *E. bicupidata* is a characteristic spring species emerging from late April until the end of June.

E. (Empis) caudatula (273 records from 141 10 KM squares). A southern and predominantly lowland species which is widespread and often abundant through much of England and southern Wales but apparently absent from north Wales and Scotland. It is a spring species occurring from late April to late July peaking in May until early June. There is a small number of records from late September suggesting that there may sometimes be two generations.

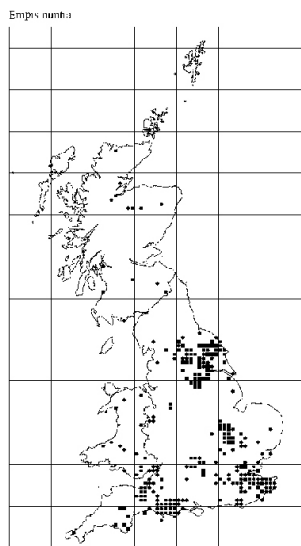
E. (Empis) chioptera (282 records from 163 10 KM squares). Widespread and often extremely common in England, Wales and Scotland. A spring species occasionally found as early as the end of March but peaking from mid May to mid June and usually 'over' by early July. There are a few records from late September suggesting that, like *E. caudatula*, *E. nuntia*, and *E. planetica*, this species may sometimes have two generations.

E.(Empis) decora (12 records from 7 10 KM squares). A local species with a southern distribution. All records are south of a line connecting Essex with Somerset. Its habitat requirements are not clear as it has been found in ancient woodland, flower meadows, woodland bogs and coastal marshes. In Europe it occurs along an Atlantic front from Spain to Belgium and the Netherlands and is absent from central Europe (Chvala 1994). It may be significant that most English records are from localities on or near the coast. Flight period from late May until late June.

E.(Empis) limata The only contemporary records of this species are of two males taken on 11/7/1985 and 12/7/1985 from flowers of Ground Elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*) on the banks of the River Monnow at Clodock, Herefordshire (Ivan Perry). The only other records are of a male taken at Painswick, Gloucestershire on 27 June 1989 and two pairs taken at Stoke Wood, Herefordshire on 17 July 1908, 12 August 1909 and 4 July 1913 (Collin 1961). The species is unknown in Europe and it is possibly endemic to Britain.

E.(Empis) nigripes (484 records from 239 10 KM squares). One of the commonest *Empis* sp. occurring throughout much of England, Scotland and Wales but not yet recorded from the outer or northern Scottish islands. Peak emergence is from mid May until early June but adults are on the wing from early April to late July.

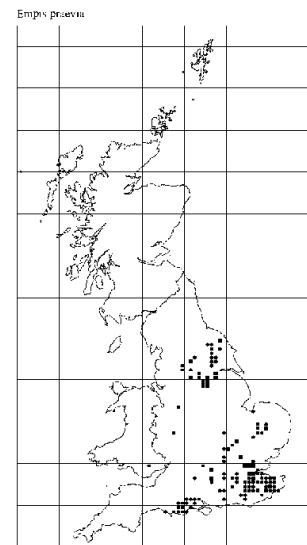
E.(Empis) nuntia (661 records from 260 10 KM squares). Widespread from Orkney to Cornwall but apparently commoner south of the Scottish borders. A characteristically spring species active from early April to late July but peaking in mid May when it can be extremely abundant. A single record in late September suggests that exceptionally, it can be bivoltine.



E.(Empis) pennipes (104 records from 63 10 KM squares). Although Collin (1961) recorded *E. pennipes* from Perthshire, all recent records are from England and Wales from localities south of Durham. It seems to favour well wooded localities where, in the south of England at least, it can be very common. Flight period from late April to early July with a peak of activity in the latter half of May. There is a single record from the end of October.

E.(Empis) planetica (108 records from 62 10 KM squares). Although records are scattered throughout England, Scotland and Wales, they are largely clustered in Kent, Dorset and Yorkshire. The species is probably widespread and overlooked by observers outside these clusters. Flight period extends from early May until mid July, peaking in late May. A single record for late August may indicate that it sometimes has two generations.

E.(Empis) praevia (255 records from 117 10 KM squares). Occurs throughout much of England and SE Wales but apparently absent from the English SW peninsula, and Scotland. There is a long flight period stretching from mid April until mid September but it is essentially a spring species, peaking from mid May until early June.



E.(Empis) prodromus (9 records from 5 10 KM squares). Formerly known only from a handful of Breckland sites (where it still persists) but recently discovered at three localities in Yorkshire (VC 61). All known sites are dry sandy heathland with trees. Although common in warm lowland sites across southern Scandinavia and central temperate Europe, it is probably at the limit of its range at the eastern edge of England. It has been recorded on the wing from mid May until late June at its English localities.

E.(Empis) rufiventris (14 records from 10 10 KM squares). Evidently a very local English species occurring from Hampshire to as far north as NW Yorkshire and Cumbria. Many, but not all records are from sites with an underlying limestone geology. It has a NW European distribution occurring, rather rarely, from the Alps northward and westward into the extreme southern extremities of Scandinavia. In England, adults have been reported on the wing during May and early June but it appears to be episodic in occurrence, being absent in some years at sites where it is known to occur.

E.(Empis) woodi (38 records from 20 10 KM squares). Most records are from the east of England in a line stretching from Kent through Surrey, Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire to as far north as Lincolnshire. There is an old record from Herefordshire and it has been found more recently in the New Forest (Hampshire) and on the Quantock Hills (Somerset). It apparently favours ancient woodlands but has been taken in a variety of biotopes including an old chalk pit, gardens and calcareous grassland. Flight period from early April until early June, peaking in late April to early May.

E.(Euempis) picipes (30 records from 20 10 KM squares). Despite there being two records from Speyside, this species has a predominantly south eastern distribution as the rest of the records are SE of a line drawn between the Tees and Exe estuaries. It tends to prefer dry open habitats and can be particularly common on the scrubby chalk grassland although it also occurs on a variety of other habitats including neutral grassland, acidic bog and heathland. Adults are on the wing from early May until early July.

Forum News

E. (Empis) tessellata (662 records from 333 10 KM squares). This large species is one of our commonest empids and is well recorded, presumably as it is familiar to many non-specialists. It is widespread from the Shetlands to Cornwall but there are relatively few records from Scotland. Flight period from late April until late September, peaking between mid May and late June.

E. (Kritempis) livida (852 records from 362 10 KM squares). Our commonest *Empis*, recorded from Cornwall to the North of Scotland, the Isles of Scilly and the Outer Hebrides, but not the northern isles of Scotland. It has a protracted flight period from late April until late September, peaking in late June.

E. (Leptempis) grisea (225 records from 145 10 KM squares). Widely distributed throughout England, Wales and Scotland but not recorded from the outer or northern isles of Scotland. The flight period is from early May until late August peaking from mid June until mid July.

E. (Lisempis) nigritarsis (107 records from 64 10 KM squares). Widespread and often common in woodlands south of a line between the Wash and Severn; more sporadically in Wales and in northern England as far north as Yorkshire. Adults active from late April until mid July, peaking in May.

E. (Pachymeria) femorata (216 records from 103 10 KM squares). Although Collin (1961) recorded a specimen from Angus, all recent records are from south of the Scottish border where it is widespread and common in England and Wales, particularly in the south. Flight period from late April until late June, mostly May and early June.

E. (Pachymeria) scotica (61 records from 37 10 KM squares). A boreo-alpine species occurring in Scotland, northern England, Wales and Dartmoor. Although perhaps more frequent on upland moors, it is not confined to high ground, and sometimes occurs in valley woodlands. It is a characteristic summer species with a flight period extending from mid June to mid September.

E. (Pachymeria) tumida (38 records from 26 10 KM squares). This species seems to have a preference for chalk or limestone soils although it is sometimes found elsewhere. All records are south east of a line connecting the Tees and Exe estuaries. It is typically a summer species on the wing from late June until the start of September.

E. (Platyptera) borealis (12 records from 12 10 KM squares). A boreo-alpine species found in upland regions of Scotland, northern England and north Wales, it is probably under recorded. It is typically found along streams, flushes etc. on the upper slopes of higher hills but also occurs at lower elevations. Capture dates range from mid April to late June.

E. (Polyblepharis) opaca (114 records from 71 10 KM squares). Widespread but seldom particularly common from Cornwall as far north as Sutherland. Prefers relatively open situations such as grassland, woodland margins and hedgerows. The flight period extends from late April until early July, peaking in May and early June.

E. (Xanthempis) aemula (44 records from 37 10 KM squares). Widespread but local from Hampshire to the north of Scotland. Most records are from northern England and Scotland. Peak activity is from late June and throughout July but it has been recorded as early as Late April and as late as mid August.

E. (Xanthempis) concolor (54 records from 32 10 KM squares). Although widespread from the south coast to the Scottish highlands, this species may be rather local. Adults are on the wing from June until mid August.

E. (Xanthempis) digramma (104 records from 59 10 KM squares). Widely distributed throughout Britain but local in the south and much commoner in northern England and Scotland. Adults emerge in May and June.

E. (Xanthempis) laetabilis (5 records from 4 10 KM squares). The contemporary records are from woodland sites on limestone in Gloucestershire and Yorkshire although Collin (1961) found it at Aviemore, Scotland. In Europe it known from Slovakia, the Swiss Alps and southern Scandinavia (Chvala 1994) but is rare throughout its range. Adults have been recorded from late April to late June.

E. (Xanthempis) lutea (253 records from 140 10 KM squares). Common and widespread in England and Wales but absent from Scotland apart from a single record from Roxburghshire (VC 80). It is a common species in central temperate Europe but rare in the north and absent from north of the Baltic (Chvala 1994). The flight period is long, extending from mid May until late August, peaking in late June.

E. (Xanthempis) punctata (195 records from 135 10 KM squares). Widespread from Orkney to Cornwall but somewhat less frequent in south east England. Adults may be found between late April and late July, peaking in June. There are a few records from early autumn, suggesting that there may sometimes be a second generation.

E. (Xanthempis) scutellata (261 records from 140 10 KM squares). This species is absent from Scotland and has a southerly distribution similar to *E. lutea*. The flight period extends from late April until late July, peaking in the latter part of May. A few records in September suggest that, like *E. lutea*, there may sometimes be two generations.

E. (Xanthempis) stercorea (282 records from 200 10 KM squares). A common species widely distributed from Cornwall to the north of Scotland and the Inner Hebrides. It may be found from early May until the middle of August, peaking in late May and early June.

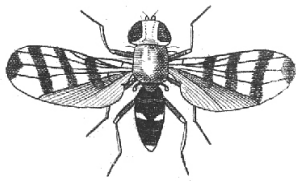
E. (Xanthempis) trigramma (379 records from 208 10 KM squares). Widespread and often common throughout Britain as far north as the Shetland Isles. Peak emergence is in May but the flight period extends from mid-April until the start of August.

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- Chvala, M. (1994). The Empidoidea (Diptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. III, Genus *Empis*. *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* 29, 187 pp, E.J.Brill, Leiden
- Collin, J. E. (1964). *British Flies: Empididae*, 782 pp, CUP, Cambridge.

Adrian R. Plant

Tephritid Flies Recording Scheme

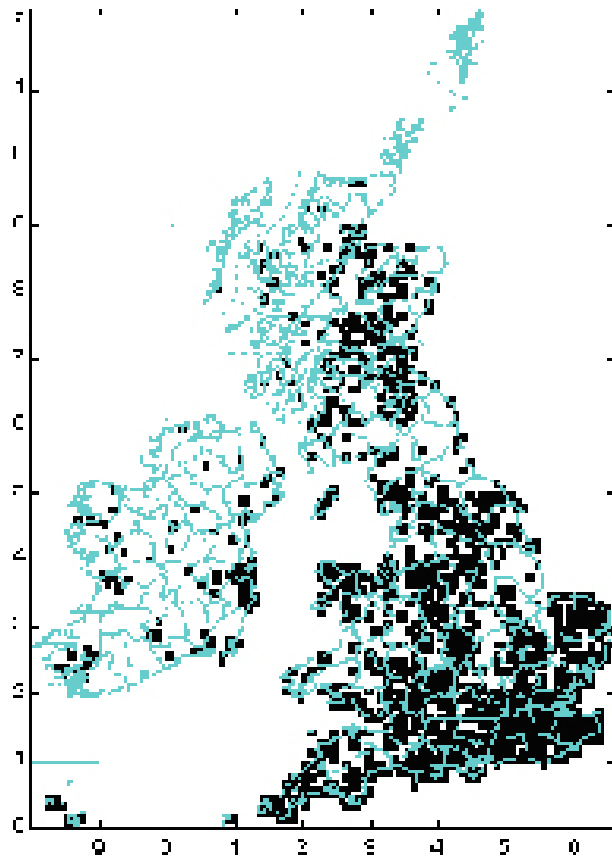


With the introduction of *Terellia fuscicornis* by Andrew Whittington (Whittington, A.E. 2002 *Terellia fuscicornis* (Loew, 1844) (Dipt., Tephritidae) new to Britain. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **138**: 119-120) the number of breeding species of tephritid in the British Isles is raised to 75. Specimens were reared in August 2000 from the heads of Globe Artichoke *Cynara scolymus* grown from seed at Dunglass Estate, Scotland NT763722 and besides this *C. cardunculooides* and *Silybum marianum* are also host plants. Unfortunately none was found in 2001.

The key to *Terellia* by White (White, I.M. 1988. Tephritid Flies (Diptera: Tephritidae). *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* **10 (5a)**: 1-134) may be modified to accommodate this species thus:

- 2 a) First flagellomere dark brown to black*fuscicornis* (Loew)
- b) First flagellomere pale*serratulae* (Linnaeus) and *longicauda* (Meigen)

At the time of writing (1st February 2003) the database stands at just over 13 400 records and data for 2002 have been received from Pat Allen, John Badmin, Ian Beavis, Charles David, Jonty Denton, Andy Godfrey, Norman Heal, John Hunnisett, Tony Irwin, Malcolm Jennings, Anthony Russell-Smith and Adam Wright. Justin Gant, Peter Hodge, Ken and Rita Merrifield and Jim O'Connor kindly submitted data from previous years. Further records of *Acinia corniculata* were found by Andy and Adam from West Kent and the Isle of Wight respectively whilst Adam and Tony recorded *Chetostoma curvinerve* from the Isle of Wight and Norfolk. Adam also recorded the first *Campiglossa producta* from the Isle of Wight in August and provided further records to substantiate that the Salisbury Plain area of Wiltshire is currently the stronghold for *Chaetorellia loricata* in Britain. Further records of *Tephritis matricariae* came from Kent where Norman found it at Richborough Fort near Sandwich on 12th June and I noted it at Barton's Point, Isle of Sheppey on 30th June and at Whinless Down, Dover on 14th July. Malcolm reared several *Urophora cuspidata* from galled capitula of *Centaurea scabiosa* at Dover and Adam swept it at Orcheston Down, South Wiltshire. *Urophora quadrifasciata* is now known from at least 128 ten km squares.



Last year's table of administrative and vice-county distribution contained several errors. Since then I spent some time trying to correct the more obvious mistakes in vice-county designation and hope that the following list gives a more accurate picture.

Surrey (17) 56 species, East Kent (15) 52, Dorset (9) 51, South Hampshire (11) 50, West Kent (16) 50, Isle of Wight (10) 49, Warwickshire (38) 45, East Sussex (14) 45, Berkshire (22) 41 and Cambridgeshire (29) 40.

Whilst the Channel Islands are now being extensively surveyed by Charles David nothing new has emerged from Ireland, despite letters to those who may hold information, and therefore the current summary map is as shown.

Coverage map for Tephritidae February 2003

Laurence Clemons

Forum News

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme

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

The group as a whole does not lend itself to a cohesive collecting strategy and it is unsurprising that this fact is reflected in the records which I am currently receiving, with a skew towards the larger Micropezidae. The list of recorders in this group grows; Martin Harvey, Peter Boardman, Mike Pugh, Steve Crellin & Chris Palmer have sent records whilst Geoff Hancock tells me there are lots in the Glasgow collections. One or two people are finding the more obscure species and I would dearly like to hear from Andy Godfrey and Jonty Denton who must have lots since they have both published their more interesting records, whilst the indefatigable Laurence Clemens apologises for not having recorded more.



Chasing up the literature has proved interesting, many thanks to Lita Greve Jensen and Mihaly Foldvari for help with reprints. The biology of many species is currently unclear but two clues which might help us track this down have emerged from recent observations. Rohacek (1990) tells us that our new British species, *Neria femoralis*, occurs in lowlands along rivers and large brooks; the site where

it was found fits this description but Steve McWilliam adds that “all the streams into and out of the flash are heavily polluted” and the area receives drainage from old lime beds and calcareous flashes/settling grounds. This might suggest that the species has a high tolerance to or preference for such “pollution” so do make a special note to look for *Neria* spp. if you find yourself in such areas. The other clue comes from Rohacek’s observations of *Micropeza* spp., *M. corrigiolata* has been reared from root nodules of several leguminous plant species (Ferrari, 1987) and Steve Falk tells me to look for *M. lateralis* under Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). This species also has root nodules caused by *Rhizobium* and the new British Plant Gall book tells us that “recording these nodules on wild plants in Britain is unusual”. An examination of unhealthy Broom nodules might well prove rewarding.

Darwyn Sumner

New Kid On The Block

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all you hard working Dipterist’s out there. My name is Jon Webb and I am the new **Invertebrate Ecologist** working at English Natures Headquarters at Northminster House in Peterborough.

My main remit includes the invertebrate assemblages of Wetlands and Parklands; SSSI site condition assessment; water beetles and the Diptera. So if you have any queries dealing with any of the above then please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have spent most of life in Staffordshire where I have worked as a botanical surveyor; in the natural history section of a museum; for the County Council Ecologist and as a Biodiversity Officer based at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Throughout all this time I always took a keen interest in insect conservation and my current post at English Nature now means that I don’t have to bother dealing with things with fur and feathers, there are other specialists here for that!

My main interests before taking up this post was with the Coleoptera and the Aculeate Hymenoptera. I had managed to do a fair number of surveys within the West Midlands and felt that I was just about getting to grips with the bare essentials of beetles, bees and wasps in this part of the Country.

However, my new post also requires me to take on board the Diptera. As you are all well aware this is not a straightforward or simple task. I relish the opportunity to take on and learn another group, but I am not foolhardy enough to think that this will be easy.

I am sure I will get a chance to meet a number of you over the next few years and I am intending to take part in a number of the Dipterist’s Forum Meetings. Please feel free to contact me in the meantime if you have any enquiries or questions.

You can contact **Jon Webb** on 01733 455264 or e-mail him on jon.webb@english-nature.org.uk

(Jon was with us on the Autumn Field meeting - Ed)

Diptera position in Cardiff at the National Museum of Wales

(aka “Old Kid Off The Block” - Ed)

John Deeming will formally retire from the museum in April 2004. We intend to be in a position to advertise his replacement as Dipterist by the end of 2003. Anyone who feels that they might be interested can contact the Head of Entomology Section, **Mike Wilson** (mike.wilson@nmgw.ac.uk) to find out more details.

On the lighter side: A tale of Pride, Dipterists and a hint of Prejudice

Andrew Grayson's article drawing attention to Verrall's derogatory comments about historic works on Tabanidae in the last DF Bulletin reminded me of another historic reference.

As a kid in the early 1950's, my primary school teacher first interested me in entomology in the guise of "insects generally". As an obstinate teenager a few years later (1958 I believe) I thought it would be nice to be more serious about insects and to choose some particular unpopular group to specialise in. To learn more about the choices, I bought a book called "A General Textbook of Entomology" by a guy called Imms. That work, first published many years earlier, is a fairly hefty tome containing about 900 pages of very small type. It certainly didn't make easy reading, but I actually managed to read it from cover to cover and was very proud of myself for my diligence!

The chance discovery of 2 specimens of "hornets" on the inside of the kitchen window of my mother's house in Ealing (remarkably actually one *Volucella zonaria* and one *V. inanis* at the same time) led me both to decide that "flies" were the group for me and to make initial contact with the staff of the Natural History Museum in S. Kensington. While it was Ralph Coe who put me right on the right track about the *Volucellas*, I also met Ken Smith and Harold Oldroyd. It was Oldroyd who became my mentor and, together with Len Parmenter (a celebrated amateur dipterist of the day), consolidated my interest in Diptera.

I studied Diptera diligently until going to University in 1962 but during my student years, my extramural studies concentrated on Human Ornithology, so Dipterology was pushed onto the back burner. On completing my formal education in 1968 I left Britain to work overseas (initially North Borneo) where I rekindled my interest in Diptera - taking specimens back annually to Oldroyd and Co.

At some time during that period (1970?), one of the persons named above (probably Oldroyd himself) drew my attention to the recently published second edition of a book entitled "Collecting, Preserving and Studying insects" by (who else?) Harold Oldroyd. I purchased that book and eventually read it also from cover to cover.

Digression. With all this name-dropping, some of you may ask, why hasn't that fellow Stubbs been mentioned? He must be of the same sort of vintage! Well I first recall meeting him at a meeting of the Diptera Recording Schemes (Forerunner of the Dipterists Forum) in the early 1980s. It was only relatively recently (1997ish), in a conversation with Jane Stubbs, that I first discovered that Alan and I had been at school together - he had been in the year above me at Ealing Grammar School for Boys, but our paths somehow never crossed. Strange.

So what has all this got to do with Andrew Grayson's article? Well, if you read Chapter XI (Further Reading) of Oldroyd's book carefully, when you get to the top of page 289, you will find the sentence: "I once knew a student who claimed to have read Imms from cover to cover, but he was odd in other ways too". Ouch!!!!!!

If someone out there has copy of the first edition of Oldroyd's book (published in 1958, so the manuscript would have been completed before he met me), perhaps they would be good enough to check if THAT sentence is in it.

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Imms, A.D., 1957. A General Textbook of Entomology (9th edition), 886pp., E.P. Dutton, New York.

Oldroyd, H., 1970. Collecting, Preserving and Studying insects (2nd edition), 336pp., Hutchinson & Co, London.

Malcolm Smart

Leaf mining insect groups

We now have a new website up and running for those wanting to study various leaf mining insect groups. The only available book that covers all orders (and this is very expensive and hard to obtain.....and its in German!) is Herrings guide to the Leaf Mining Fauna of Europe. The fact that the study of leaf mines amongst lepidopterists appears to have been gathering momentum in recent years convinced us that an effort should be made to build a website on the lines of Herrings book. As the idea was discussed late last year amongst various people it became apparent that a guide to all leaf mining species not simply lepidoptera was required.

With this in mind Rob Edmunds in particular set about the project with seemingly limitless enthusiasm and quite simply dragged the rest of us along with him! The website is now up and running at : <http://www.leafmines.co.uk/> Please remember that this site is for ALL leaf mining species and offers of help from Dipterists, Coleopterists, etc will be most welcome. We do have several people who are joining the team shortly who study orders other than lepidoptera, such as Coleoptera and Sawflies.

Paul Talbot in VC 63 (via Ken Merrifield)

Head of Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood

The advertisement for this post appeared in *New Scientist* 15 March 2003. Reference CEH HQ 108 to sryan@ceh.ac.uk by 10 April. Arising out of the retirement of Paul Harding to whom we extend our best wishes. *Ed.*

Forum News

Bringing back *Blera* and *Hammerschmidtia*

It has been 13 years since the Scotland-based Malloch Society first became involved in *Blera fallax* and *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*. At the time practically nothing was known of the biology and modern status of these presumed, endangered hoverflies. It took 10 years or more to discover breeding sites, rear larvae and work out the distribution of these species.

It was worrying to find that *B. fallax* was confined to just two sites and had apparently suffered a decline since it was first recorded in Britain by Verrall in 1873.

Hammerschmidtia ferruginea was a little better off being found at 14 sites, however, few of these sites were protected and several suffered damage over the past 10 years (Rotheray and MacGowan, 2000. *Journal of Insect Conservation* 4, 215-223).

Our reports and urgings that something be done fell largely on deaf ears until the Biodiversity Action Process was set up and Alan Stubbs ensured that *B. fallax* and *H. ferruginea* were included as priority species. This galvanised SNH into a more active stance and we took advantage to not only write action plans but to get SNH to fund more detailed surveys. These helped refine and clarify our thoughts about what could be done to conserve these species.

A particularly awful threat emerged to *H. ferruginea* that, at the time, was difficult to believe. Our very own government conservation agency, SNH, launched a scheme to consider re-introducing the beaver to Scotland. Beaver eat aspen on which *H. ferruginea* depends for breeding and this scheme appeared to be in direct conflict. All the more so because *H. ferruginea* was but one significant dipteran associated with aspen. Our rearing data showed that the community dependent on aspen included other endangered species like *Strongylophthalmyia ustulata* (Strongylophthalmyidae) species new to Britain such as *Lonchaea hackmani* (Lonchaeidae) and species new to science like *Ectaetia christii* (Scatopsidae). Aspen, along with birch and pine, were the richest trees for saproxylic Diptera in Scotland (Rotheray et al., 2001. *Journal of Insect Conservation* 5, 77-85).

The next problem was to find a way of putting the "action plans" into action! It was at this point that we had a lucky break. The RSPB took on the role of lead partner for implementing the action plans! They wanted to do this because of their concern about BAP species occurring on their reserves and in Strathspey, *H. ferruginea* was present at their Invertromie Reserve and *B. fallax* was recently present at Loch Garten and Abernethy reserves. We were thus introduced to Andy Amphlett and Tom Prescott who have achieved so much, particularly Tom. We can now say that active conservation of *B. fallax* and *H. ferruginea* is underway. It has taken more than a decade but the future is at last looking up for these impressive hoverflies.

Work is underway at Invertromie to increase breeding habitat for *H. ferruginea* by felling blown-over but still live aspen trees and erecting rabbit-proof fences to protect aspen suckers and saplings. Furthermore, we have experiments underway to monitor the build-up and colonisation of cut aspen trees and imported poplar logs from outside, hoping they will attract the aspen community to breed. These experiments were active last year which was why we were concerned that during the DF visit to Scotland, care was taken to ensure these experiments were left undisturbed. We know some of the outcomes but have yet to quantify the results. A similar set of experiments is underway for *B. fallax*.

The best news of all is that our attempts to boost breeding have been successful. Just before Christmas last year we visited the experiments and discovered larvae of both *B. fallax* and *H. ferruginea* were in our artificially created breeding sites. They are being left in situ for careful monitoring in 2003 and beyond.

I hope DF members will be pleased at these results which, along with work on BAP Diptera in England, represent some of the first attempts to actively conserve individual species of Diptera in Europe and will forgive us our concern over collecting Diptera at these sites last year. We hope to reveal more at this year's DF AGM in Edinburgh.

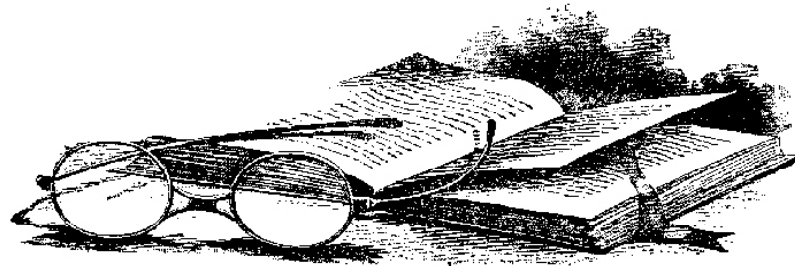
Graham E Rotheray, Research Co-ordinator, Malloch Society

Chrysotoxum octomaculatum records required

Chrysotoxum octomaculatum is a particularly rare syrphid with most records coming from the heathlands of East Dorset, New Forest and Surrey. It is a Priority Species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan but the team investigating the biology and habitat requirements have had very few records of the species over the last few years.

If you have unsubmitted records of this species or come across any specimens over the coming season please inform Stephen Miles (Chair of the Heathland Flies Steering Group) by contacting him at Srmiles@btinternet.com.

Chris Spilling



Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica, Volume 37

The Sepsidae (Diptera) of Europe

by **Adrian C. Pont and Rudolph Meier**

Adrian Pont's Royal Entomological Society key appeared as long ago as 1979 when he reported 25 British species out of a total European count of 41. The figures rise to 27 and 44 respectively in this new volume so it is useful now to have the benefit of the revisions which have taken place in the intervening years. The book is well illustrated with Adrian's usual crisp figures and contains much useful reference to work currently being carried out on the group in other parts of the world. A useful boost to Adrian's recording scheme, I look forward to hearing of progress in some future Bulletin.

The volume can be obtained from usual booksellers such as Pemberley books (www.pembooks.demon.co.uk - £49.50 + postage) or directly from the publishers (Brill Academic Publishers, P.O. Box 9000, 2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands for EUR 70).

An introduction to British hoverflies and the Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Alan Stubb's firmly established tradition of keeping a high profile in the popular wildlife journal "British Wildlife" by some fine writing is continued by Roger Morris and Stuart Ball in last October's edition. Whilst it is written to enthrall the novice there are interesting accounts of rarities and some cracking coloured photographs. The opportunity was taken to advertise the new hoverfly book and the recording scheme so perhaps we might see a host of new recruits to the field of Dipterology.

British Plant Galls

Maggie Frankum, the President of the British Plant Gall Society happens to live in Leicestershire (mother of the Dipterist, Neil Frankum) and she was kind enough to obtain for me a copy of this new Field Studies Council book signed by the authors, Margaret Redfern, Peter Shirley and Michael Bloxham at its recent launch.

Whilst it is a much larger key than the usual AIDGAP ones from the Field Studies Council, it follows the familiar style. Each gall-causing group is given a concise introduction then it's straight into plant Families where the galls are identified through their characteristic formations. Reasonably decent plant identification skills are a prerequisite to using this key - it really couldn't work any other way. I was disappointed not to find an index which allowed one to work back from causative organisms in a systematic manner (e.g. a single list of all the Cecidomyiidae) but the fine coloured plates are arranged this way and there is a full species (and host) index so budding "gall midgets", "picture wingers" and "gout flyers" (that's Chloropidae; John Ismay's never told us of gout flies!) will find it very simple to cross reference their hosts.

An excellent compendium representing the efforts of workers in several fields and a worthy one to be dedicated to the late Fred Stubbs & John Pearson.

Join us in the queue to the bookshop in March or get it direct from FSC Publications, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shropshire SY4 1HW or via their website www.field-studies-council.org/

Darwyn Sumner

New Handbook Initiative by RES and FSC

The Royal Entomological Society is now collaborating with the Field Studies Council in a new initiative on producing handbooks for the identification of the British insect fauna. It is envisaged that this will aim to produce keys in a more user friendly format and the issue of new guidelines for authors is expected in the near future. Consideration is being given to gaps that need to be filled in the coverage of the fauna but the need for a new key to families to replace that by Harold Oldroyd (1970) was identified. It was decided that a format closer to that of the AIDGAP key by Denis Unwin (1981) would be preferred and that this should be used as a basis for updating the family key. Could anyone who wishes to assist in revising the family key or who has any suggestions about how it could be improved please let me know. Copies of Denis Unwin's key can be supplied if required to facilitate this. Any suggestions about priorities for other handbook subjects would also be welcome.

Peter Chandler

Review

Habitats & Biotopes - fuelling the debate

I know I'm not alone amongst Dipterists with my imprecise botanical skills, I've seen the many brief habitat notes that accompany species records sent to me for the various field weeks. Excepting, of course, the professional ecologists amongst you for whom plants and flies are bread and meat.

It is important, however, for us to make some effort to detail the habitat. Perhaps it is sufficient to notice you are amongst trees and your boots are wet and to scribble down "wet woodland", or in my case hope to remember later. Most dipterists do think it important and we need look no further than the recent *Soldierflies* and *Hoverflies* books to appreciate that it has been the assiduous and accurate recording of a flies habitat that has led to an increase in not only our knowledge of the life history of these beasts but has also contributed to conservation (Insect Conservation Trust - "Buglife") and management recommendations ("Reviews of scarce and threatened ...").

Dipterists are generally agreed then, that there is a need to record some of this information but find themselves frustrated by a lack of consistency amongst the many systems available to carry out this task effectively.

Conversation at various workshops and field meetings frequently turns to this topic, usually with expressions of frustration over how wet woodlands might be defined and categorised, so I hope those debates will be further stimulated by the following snippets:

Firstly the definitions; Michael Samways in his book "Insect Conservation Biology" distinguishes firmly between "habitat" and "biotope". He defines **habitat** as a concept which cannot be taken alone, it must be a term which is used in respect of a single species. Thus for *Doros profuges* it is not only the hedgerows around which it zips but also the trees which support the community of aphids and the entire structure supporting the ant colony in which it pupates (should that prove to be everything that is needed to support this elusive hoverfly). Unless we are studying the interaction of a species with its environment, therefore, we are observing not the habitat but the **biotope**; the physical location where several species may live. Whilst a highly desirable outcome might be a description of a habitat (examples would be Graham Rotheray's recent papers and accounts in the recent *Soldierflies* and *Hoverflies* books), it is the biotope which is more immediately obvious to us. In order to use biotopes, various schemes have been devised in which descriptions have been arranged in an hierarchical structure. Each of these schemes (you will find a list of them somewhere in Recorder 2002) were devised to suit a particular purpose.

Secondly, a few sources of information gleaned recently from the internet. A popular time-waster for many, typing the word "biotope" into a search engine is one sure way to throw away an evening's surfing. The following will take you straight to four fairly interesting sources of information:

1. **C.E.H. (Biological Records Centre)** at www.ceh.ac.uk/subsites/CORINE/legend.html you will have delved straight through to an interesting picture. A map of UK in which satellite imagery has been analysed to display land use. Not terribly detailed, Dorian Moss tells me that it is a scaled down version of CEH's database and that only a very limited number of biotopes can be gleaned from such satellite imagery.
2. **European Environment Agency** at <http://reports.eea.eu.int/COR0-biotopes-index/en> there is a rather nice introduction to the CORINE system together with facilities to download various information and to look at biotopes in a European context.
3. **The European Commission's environmental network, Natura 2000**, provides a downloadable "Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats" at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/hab-en.htm> in which you may study the "Habitats" Directive and chase up other legislation and references.
4. Joint Nature Conservation Committee at <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/habitats/jncc288/default.htm> permits the downloading of an interesting paper - **J. E. Hall and K. J. Kirby**. 1998. *The relationship between Biodiversity Action Plan Priority and Broad Habitat Types, and other woodland classifications*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee Report No. 288 in which we find that someone did once devise a biotope classification of **wet woodlands**.



Darwyn Sumner

“Tolerable Sport for one Month”

I love this article which was written by J.F. Stephens for the first volume of *The Entomologist*.

ART.XLIX.- A List of Insects found near Harrietsham, in Kent; together with the Description of a new Genus and Species of Yponomeutidae. By JAMES FRANCIS STEPHENS, Esq. FLS. &C.

Eltham Cottage, Foxley Road
Kennington, September 9, 1841.

My Dear Sir,

“Local lists of insects are particularly solicited,” you observe on your wrapper: in consequence it was my intention to have furnished you, from my register, with an ‘*Entomologia Harrietshamensis*,’ but I have since concluded only to make a sort of ‘*Selectae è Profanis*’ from my captures between the 8th of June and 3rd of July, 1840, in the vicinity of the quiet village above alluded to, Harrietsham, near Maidstone, embracing a circle about eight miles in diameter; hoping that it may be useful and acceptable to your readers, by indicating some few “good things,” as well as recording some novelties. The district in question is pleasingly situated between the loft chalk range forming the “back-bone” of Kent, and the rocky hills of Kentish rag on the borders of the weald. The soil in general is sandy loam, poor and unproductive; and as the season was a remarkably bad one for insects, it was only by sheer perseverance and great exertion that I was enabled to gain an insight into its Entomology; added to which, during the whole period of my researches the thermometer never once reached 70°, but was for the most part under 64°, often not higher than 58° at 2 o’clock, and the sun rarely visible; cold northerly winds, accompanied by almost incessant drizzle, lending their cheerless influence against me, one half of the time. I contrived, however, to capture and register upwards of 2000 species, including some (to whose names an * is annexed) not yet recorded as indigenous; viz Coleoptera 538 species, Dermaptera 3, Orthoptera 7, Neuroptera 35, Trichoptera 19, Hymenoptera 482, Lepidoptera 352, Diptera 533, Hemiptera 61, Homoptera 45, = 2075 species: tolerable sport for one month!!! But as my future sojourn in that district was a matter of doubt, I was stimulated to exert myself accordingly, consistently with etiquette as a visitor at a non-entomologist’s residence.

Yours truly,

J.F.Stephens

To the Editor of ‘The Entomologist’

Just imagine, dear reader, the situation today. You decide to go somewhere new. Every morning you are forced out of your B&B into rain and wind and have to wander up to eight miles in a land-locked area clandestinely collecting insects as the landlady would have a fit if she knew what you were up to. On returning you sort and mount your captures by something as bright as a pocket torch. Back at home you identify and log all your captures within a year and then write, by hand, a paper for the *Dipterists Digest* or other journal of repute in which you state that you found over 25% of the known British Diptera plus a substantial percentage of all the other major orders with 17 species new to Britain and a moth new to science. What do you think the peer-reviewers would say? Somehow “better luck next time” does not spring to mind.

Laurence Clemons

2nd International Syrphid Symposium

15-19 June 2003, Alicante, Spain.

The 2nd Syrphid Symposium follows the very successful workshop held in 2001 at Stuttgart, Germany. 100 or so syrphid workers are expected from all over Europe and the rest of the world. The Symposium will be held at the pleasant campus of the University of Alicante in southern Spain not far from beaches, bars etc and the weather is expected to be hot and sunny! Stuart Ball & Roger Morris will give talks and other keynote speakers include Francis Gilbert, Graham Rotheray, Martin Speight and Chris Thompson. Emphasis is on biodiversity and conservation with talks designed to appeal to a broad audience. A post-symposium field trip is included. Accommodation is available to suit all pockets and financial support is available to help attend the conference. We hope British syrphidologists will support this symposium and wish to attend. Registration and other details may be found at: <http://www.syrphidae.ua.es/> or contact Graham Rotheray

Reports

Field Meetings

2002 Autumn Field Meeting in Norfolk

This meeting was based at Aldborough in Norfolk from 9 to 13 October 2002. We were made welcome at Butterfly Cottage, which had been recommended by Darwyn who is a regular guest. Consequently Darwyn and Joyce were among several new recruits to autumn collecting and these newcomers made up for the absence of some of our regulars. Aldborough is somewhere north of Norwich and is a curious place, being arranged around a triangular village green with only one detectable road in and out so easily by-passed by the less adventurous traveller. Nine people were resident and two others joined us during the day.

The meeting was divided into two parts by the weather. Up to the weekend it was dry and at the tail end of a prolonged drought. Then Saturday was universally wet and fieldwork was not attempted. On Sunday, however, collecting was possible with the vegetation drying out slowly. Some of the finds have already been reported in *Dipterists Digest*, mainly because one female of *Agathomyia sexmaculata* (Platypezidae), new to Britain, was found on the last day at Thompson Common. The visit to Norfolk also started well for Platypezidae when I visited the estate surrounding the Bressingham garden centre to follow up the report earlier in 2002 of galls of *Agathomyia wankowiczii* on *Ganoderma applanatum* brackets, growing on a dead poplar. Apart from a thriving colony of this species a female of the little-known *Seri obscuripennis* was also found.

The previous drought meant that fungal growth was generally limited with virtually nothing of the terrestrial species, even in apparently still wet broadland fen sites. It was not therefore surprising that we had the lowest recorded total of fungus gnats for an autumn meeting, only 52 species – quite a contrast to the 165 species found on the summer meeting in Scotland and to the 111 species recorded on our previous autumn meeting in Norfolk in 1983. The scarcest species recorded was *Allodia silvatica* at Thompson Common, a Notable species that is local but widespread in England and Wales and already known from Norfolk and which develops in ascomycete cup fungi.

Very few Sciaridae were found (only 10 species) but we kept up the momentum started last year of finding one not on the British list, *Bradysia longistylia*, at Upton Fen. This species had already been found at Norwich by Brian Laurence and it has recently turned up at sites in Bucks, Surrey and Wiltshire. The 14 species of moth flies (Psychodidae) and flies in most other families recorded included nothing remarkable. However, the crane flies made up for these deficiencies. The best find was of *Dicranota gracilipes*, by the River Bure on part of the Blickling Estate.



THE FLY (*MUSCA DEMENTANS*).

This is an aquatic riverine species, only previously known in Britain from northern and western upland areas such as the Peak District and North York Moors, but its natural distribution may be obscured because of river management in lowland Britain. *Tipula holoptera* was also found at Roydon Common and Hickling and *T. melanoceros* at East Winch Common, both considered regionally important as records away from their main strongholds. *Dicranomyia danica* was found at Thompson Common, a known site for it and at Booton Common 25 species of crane flies were recorded, unusually high for a single site in October.

Peter Chandler

Meetings

Annual Meeting

On Saturday, 23 November 2002 about fifty members gathered in the John Smith Flett lecture theatre for the annual Dipterists' Day and AGM. They came from as far afield as Dorset, York and the Isle of Man.

Our usual habitat, the Palaeo Demo Room, was unavailable to us this year, due to renovations.

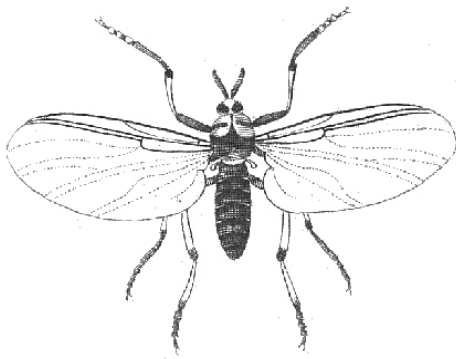
At 2.45pm Chris Spilling was in the Chair for the start of the AGM, his second year in office, and a report of the meeting is shown below.

Dipterists Forum Day lectures 23 Nov 2002

Following the pattern of previous Dipterists day talks we were treated to four quality presentations on Dipterists day 2003.

Our thanks to the presenters for their talks, to Roger Crosskey for his full abstract and to Ken Merrifield for diligently taking notes and preparing most of each other abstract that I could add to.

The first presentation was a talk given by **Roger Crosskey** of the Natural History Museum on the **Distribution of Blackflies (Simuliidae) in South East England**.



A few basics were established first, including, in particular: (1) while all immature stages depend on the running water (lotic) environment, the textbook emphasis on fast broken water is off-beam because development of many species occurs in very slow smooth waters (providing there is enough current to bring food passively to the larval head fans); (2) the pupae has important characters and unlike almost all other Diptera has great value for species recognition, collecting pupae to rear adults or determine adult characters from advanced pupae is therefore an absolutely essential part of the taxonomy; (3) larvae too, possess many useful taxonomic characters, so this in conjunction with the value of pupae determines that surveys for simuliids are based on the aquatic stages – not on capture of wild adult flies;

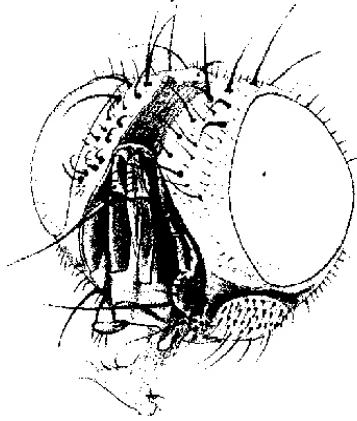
(4) simuliids have gone in for an exceptional amount of sibling speciation, thereby forcing the use of chromosomal characters to a much greater degree than in any other Diptera in order to distinguish close look-alike species, consequently there are now many hundreds of papers in the field of blackfly cytotaxonomy; (5) because of the sibling problem the current recognition of about 1800 species worldwide is on the very conservative side (33 named species in Britain but we know that some of these are complexes still to be resolved non-morphologically).

The talk then concentrated on giving the main results from a survey carried out between the early 1960s and 2001 in South East England (roughly the area north to Oxford-Ipswich and west to Oxford-Portsmouth). Collections have been made here of larvae, pupae and reared adults from rivers, streams, lake outfalls, springs etc located in each 10 km square, 800 sites in total. Roger and his wife did the survey as a private interest but the material is all deposited in the NHM. In all 22 species and complexes were found, two thirds of the British fauna, but no extra species after the mid-70s (this suggesting that the complete taxa spectrum has been determined). As usual with simuliids, it was found that the distribution patterns fell broadly into various categories depending how ecologically specific are the lotic habitat requirements of each species. The species of the river environment are the most generalist, a spectrum of common cooccurring species being found in rivers whether or not these were flowing through the Weald or through the chalk areas. For other species with more specialist requirements the distinction between Wealden and chalk streams (put crudely the former on clay soils, rather acidic, usually shaded, the latter rather alkaline and open) are an important determinant of distribution. *Simulium costatum* and *S. trifasciatum*, species ecologically but not taxonomically related, are almost confined to chalk-springs; on the other hand *Prosimulium tomosvaryi* and *S. cryophilum* are restricted within the Weald. A classic of specialisation is *S. noelleri*, found almost solely in lake outfalls and weirs. The occurrence of *P. tomosvaryi* and *S. armoricanum* in East Sussex, and of *S. reptans* in West Sussex was unexpected since the sites are widely disjunct from the centres of population of these species in western and northern (upland) Britain. Another species highlighted was *Metacnephia amphora*, found in the summer-drying 'winterbournes' of West Sussex and elsewhere known only from Dorset (type locality).

Maps showing the survey area, the basic geology, the 10 km square map plots for each species, the site positions for some species to contrast chalk and Weald, and the sampling sites on the main rivers were shown to illustrate the main points made.

Meetings

We try and have at least one presentation that deals with a recording scheme covered by the Dipterists Forum. Therefore, the second presentation was by **Chris Raper and Matt Smith**, co-organisers of the **Tachinid Recording Scheme**.



We were told that the recording Scheme (which was only launched last year) so far holds 4,065 records, in an 'Approach' Database as records cannot be edited in Recorder. The most recorded species are *Eriothrix rufomaculata* (595), *Tachina fera* (239), *Gymnocheta viridis*, an early spring, bright green species (132), *Phania funesta* (125), *Siphona geniculata* (121). These figures may be biased by including Malaise trap material. There are now 260 species and 12 species have been added since the publication of Robert Belshaw's key in 1993 which covers 241 of the species. A German key has been translated and made available on the Tachinid mapping Scheme Web site <http://tachinidae.org.uk/>. Among the many other goodies on this site is plenty of information on Tachinids; a Tachinid recording card, margin notes for the RES key and of course the site is fully searchable. The maps on the site are not 'live' but are recent output from the Dmap program.

All recorders were exhorted to submit their tachinid records to the scheme organisers, along with any interesting behavioural observations etc that could be included on the web site.

During the course of our surveys and studies we acquire numerous records and observations which then need to be put to good use. **Trevor James (NBN Development Officer for Societies and Schemes)** gave the third presentation on '**Developing Diptera Recording**'

Trevor explained that the post, 'NBN Representative for Natural History Societies and Recording Schemes', was established to help the Schemes and Societies to develop their work and to get the information gathered into a form that can be used. Some of the answers to the question "Why record flies?" could be "Because they are there; for interest; for research (your own or other people's), for conservation, or for the challenge". Most Recording Schemes have the same problems in collecting and using data. Some started at the pen and ink stage and some have developed a backlog of data. Initially only Maps of distribution were generated but since Ordinance Survey maps with the National Grid became widely available Grid Reference, habitats and substrates are now being recorded in addition to presence in an area. The availability of computer databases has been a major advance, but has introduced transfer problems between different systems.

Distribution Atlases of a range of groups have been successfully produced; the question is "where to go from here?" There has never been a better time to develop recording, with resources being put into taxonomy and support (e.g. from NBN). Answers on conservation questions are required for which quality information is needed. There is a need to think through how to make the records useful e.g. by upgrading the recording process; providing supported databases; mapping using handheld computers and GPS for greater precision. The role of the BRC (Biological Records Centre) and the move to managing records locally to be considered. The NBN (National Biodiversity Network) aims to be able to use data in relation to other datasets (e.g. plant and eventually habitat data). The Hoverfly distribution data should be available on the NBN Gateway (soon). Future developments could be improving data collection, encouraging the sharing of resources between schemes, Data Warehousing (via the BRC); data fed into publicly accessible databases. To enable a lot of this to be done requires improved resources. The Heritage Lottery Fund could be one source of finance if benefit to the community is emphasised.

What answers can be provided by biological records? **Mark Telfer, (BRC Invertebrate Recording Schemes Co-ordinator)** gave the final presentation on '**Using your Biological Records**' (specifically in research) He stated that the questions asked are often driven by academic interest; ideally you should plan your research first and then gather the data, rather than gathering data and then trying to find something to do with it. It is best to have some idea of why you are sampling and know how you will analyse and present the data. Some of the data that should be recorded and has proved invaluable is information on phenology (times of occurrence of species and the sex of the species); 'Species Hotspots'; abundance of species; associations between species (assemblages); habitat and microhabitat analysis; observations on life history and any observations on how things have changed over time and space. There is also a need to be able to identify sources of possible bias, such as recorder effort, start and end times of surveys, etc. The presentation was well illustrated with examples to exemplify the points made.

Chris Spilling

Meetings

SECRETARY'S REPORT

FIELD MEETINGS

2002 has been another year in which good progress was made on many fronts. First of all, the programme of events opened on 22 March at Preston Montford with our 9th workshop when Peter Skidmore gave 18 members an excellent overview of the Muscids. The last week in May saw us in Scotland where a total of 17 people attended the very enjoyable and productive 29th field meeting based at Tarradale House, near the Muir of Ord. The Autumn Field meeting was held in Norfolk from 9-13 Oct, and 11 members enjoyed a worthwhile visit in variable weather conditions.

PUBLICATIONS

Both the Bulletin and the Dipterists Digest continue to thrive. Volume 9 of the DD was resplendent in its new binding, and the bulletin gets ever fatter. However some problems with publications still remain. The Starter Pack - a booklet with advice to support people who are beginning their study of Diptera- was submitted to JNCC some six years ago, for final editing prior to publication. It is now hoped that it will be ready for presentation at our Workshop at Preston Montford at the end of March. Similarly, the four authors of the National Reviews of Scarce and Threatened Species have watched their efforts languish since 1994, and 1995. The Empidoidea Review was sent to national agencies in Scotland and Wales in 2001, since when, nothing more has been heard. Seven years is a long time to wait. This seems scant reward for the authors, after all their hard work.

However, with regard to publications, I can also add something positive. At our last AGM, Roger Morris anticipated that it would be 3-4 years before the revised new edition of Stubbs & Falk (British Hoverflies) would be on our shelves, and yet the newly published books were available at the beginning of November. Thanks to everyone involved for their magnificent team effort.

PROVISIONAL CRANEFLY ATLAS

Following the decision to prioritise the Tipuloidea dataset the Secretary sent out a questionnaire in the Autumn Bulletin and had a good response from Cranefly recorders. Please note that any members donating data should be prepared for it to appear in the public domain, via the NBN Gateway.

The Forum holds three different types of records:

Firstly, computerised records on spreadsheets or databases, eg on Excel, Recorder or Mapmate. Members who have responded to the questionnaire to date hold over 20,000 computerised records, in addition to the Welsh dataset held by CCW.

Secondly, we hold two different kinds of Paper Records The first of these are on printed record Cards (RA11s or Gen 7)

Finally there are hand-written on field recording sheets, notebooks and correspondence.

At our Committee meeting on November 16th, we decided to start calling in and entering the computerised records in the Spring of 2003.

Alan Stubbs & the Secretary met Paul Harding and Trevor James at Monks Wood in early July to petition for NBN support. We are hoping that NBN will provide the secretarial help to computerise completed RA11 Record Cards, leaving the hand-written records to be handled by members of the Dipterists' Forum. This was waiting on the publication of Recorder 2002, (which happened in December 2002). A number of members of the committee have volunteered their help, and if other volunteers would give their names and contact details to the Secretary we may be able to provide you with something to do.

FORUM WEBSITE AND RECRUITMENT

Thanks are due to Ken Merrifield for setting up the DF test website, something which we hope to develop, and Chris Raper has volunteered his help as our Web Manager. Hopefully this will assist us in recruitment. Speaking of which, the committee proposed to make 2003 a recruitment year, so please try and introduce a friend to the delights of the Dipterist's Forum. We also have a need for a Public Relations Officer to actively promote the Society, so if any member knows of anyone, or is him/herself, interested in that kind of work, please let a committee member know.

FUTURE PLANS

As for the future, we have our Preston Montford Workshop from 28th-30th March 2003, to look forward to. Our Summer Field Meeting is organised to take place near Bury St Edmunds from 11-18th July, when the Breckland Suffolk Coast and East Cambridgeshire will be in range. Regarding the location of the next Dipterist's Day and AGM It will be the turn of the northern members, and we hope that the 2003 AGM will take place in Edinburgh. However, recognising the needs of the large membership in the South, we are hoping to organise transport by coach for the weekend, perhaps starting from London.

Meetings

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer drew attention to the audited balance sheet for 2001 published in the Autumn 2002 Bulletin. Jon said that there was an £800 surplus on the year with a healthy balance of £11,000. For the current year there could be a slight deficit due to the increased costs of the publications.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Chairman sent best wishes from the members to Liz, and to new baby Gwenllian Elinor Kora. The Secretary said that Liz had nothing special to report and that membership now stood at about 277.

DIPTERISTS' DIGEST EDITOR'S REPORT.

Following the dissatisfaction expressed by members over the print quality in Vol. 8 No. 2 (as minuted last year) the Printers had provided a discount as compensation.

PC reported that there had been more text in the editions published this year, due to the large paper (in two parts) on Simuliidae. Volume 9 No.1 was eight pages larger than any previous issue and this necessitated a different binding. Although this is more expensive, it has a better appearance and members had commented favourably. Volume 9 No.2 will also be larger and have the new binding, and it was proposed to use the same binding for Vol. 10, although the costs need to be kept under review. Peter also commented on the changes in page and print size which the printers had introduced without consultation.

There were currently 257 subscribers with 24 overseas. Of the overseas subscribers, 20 were individuals and only 4 were libraries. Over-all DD was taken by only eleven libraries (which do not include the NHM library) and Peter expressed concern that new species of Diptera described in the DD might therefore be overlooked. He proposed that our publicity should seek to promote the wider availability of the DD. A proposal was made by Roger Morris that extra copies of the first part of Volume 10 be printed and distributed as complimentary copies to selected libraries.

Members wishing to submit items were asked to note the instruction to contributors printed inside the front cover concerning the layout, fonts, and in particular, the formatting of references. The healthy flow of copy had been maintained, but members were asked to keep the items coming in, and short notes would be especially welcomed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and other elected officers with specific responsibilities require annual election. The constitution (7c) requires nominations 120 days in advance of the AGM.

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 were elected 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	Malcolm Smart*	
	Chris Spilling*	
	Mick Parker*	[elected Nov 2000]
	Alan Stubbs*	
Un-elected Representatives	Peter Chandler	Dipterists Digest Editor
	Ken Merrifield	BENHS Representative
	John Dobson	JCCBI Rep.
	Chris Raper*	Web Manager

The new Chair, Stuart Ball, thanked the out-going Chairman, Chris Spilling for his work for the Committee. Stuart noted that there were vacancies for a Field Meetings Secretary and for a Committee member and if any members were prepared to do the job they should ask a committee member. In a rare dramatic moment Roger Morris volunteered to take on the role of Field Meetings Secretary, at which there was a burst of applause from the members! Roger has therefore been co-opted onto the committee.

OTHER AGM BUSINESS

Recruitment: Stuart reminded members of the need for a Public Relations Officer to promote the Forum. Also that members could promote the Forum themselves through local clubs and societies, either through advertising, or

through items which they write for local Newsletters and Journals.

British Hoverflies: Alan Stubbs thanked everyone concerned with the new edition of British Hoverflies, including members who had sent in their records. He said that the early publication could not have been achieved without the hard work and good team-work of all the contributors. He expressed the wish that the new publication would provide another stimulus to encourage further recording of this group.

The March Workshop: Stuart described the proposal that had been made at our recent Committee Meeting to run a session, alongside the Introductory Course, on Data-Recording and Data Transfer at our Workshop from 28-30th March 2003. Arrangement could only be tentative at this stage until they had been discussed with David Heaver on his return from West Africa on Dec 9th.

The Summer Field Meeting, 11-18 July. Stuart said that a £50 deposit, payable as soon as possible to the Hengrave Hall Centre, would secure a place for the 2003 meeting. The costs would be £42 per day, £294 per week. Although there are 78 beds at the centre, members of BWARS were also clamouring to attend, so DF members should not delay!

The Next AGM: Since Liverpool Museum regretfully could not be certain of their readiness, Graham Rotheray at Edinburgh had been approached and had responded enthusiastically. He was prepared to organise a Dipterists' Dinner on the Saturday night Facilities would be available on Sunday to allow members to work in the collections, to run workshops, or even do field work. Graham had also suggested that a coach be hired for the weekend to bring the southern members up to Edinburgh.

Roy Crossley expressed the members thanks to the out-going Chairman, and to the Committee for their work during the year.

The Chairman, Stuart Ball expressed his thanks to the Speakers for their excellent presentations, and to the Natural History Museum staff for their help. He then closed the formal part of meeting at 3.52pm

John Kramer Secretary

Forthcoming

Recorder 2002 Workshop: 28-30 March

This new workshop replaces all others scheduled for this slot and will introduce the revised Recorder package, titled Recorder 2002. The CD of this is already out on the market and, I am led to believe, will be available for the weekend.



Dr Stuart Ball, the prime mover in the development of Recorder in all its forms, will lead the workshop. Without knowing the full detail of what Stuart will cover, it will be hands on. The workshop is, to some extent, by invitation and is principally aimed at Scheme recorders, though not confined only to this audience.

The costs and arrangements are as usual; £90 for shared rooms, the relatively rare single rooms at £110. Payment should be sent to me and cheques made payable to Dipterist Forum:Workshops.

Whilst it is expected that most people will bring their own PC, this is not essential, as Preston

Montford will have a number of machines that should be available for us. However, please do bring extension cables and multi-plug sockets as the power base will be challenged.

What I need to know ASAP (This is multiple choice):

I know you are coming

I need to borrow a PC

I do not have Recorder at all

I have never been to Preston Montford and need some details.

I am bringing my PC and extension cables etc

I already have Recorder loaded on my PC

I should like vegetarian fare for the weekend.

If you have the facility, e-mail the answers to me. Otherwise post it to me

Given the late stage of arrangement I would like payment up front for this one, though if you are broke at the moment I can accept a less than full quota. Look forward to seeing most of you in March. Happy New Year

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

Meetings

Summer Field Week - Suffolk

Friday to Friday July 11-18 2003

This year's summer field meeting will be based at Hengrave Hall near Bury St Edmunds, a 16 Century Tudor mansion set in 44 acres of gardens and parkland. Located on the southeastern edge of Breckland it will be ideally situated to visit many of the areas top entomological sites. Although priority will inevitably focus on Breckland with its heaths, woods, fens and pingo sites, the area has much more to offer. A short distance away in south Cambridgeshire there are some famous sites much visited by J. Collin, such as Chippenham Fen and the Devils Ditch and to the south of Bury St Edmunds there are a number of woodlands on calcareous clays, including the renowned Bradfield Woods. The proximity of the A14 means that the Suffolk Coast is only about an hours drive away, with its wetlands, heaths and other coastal habitats. The price will be £42 (incl. VAT) per person per day, £294 for the full week and includes bed, continental breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and full use of all the centres facilities. They have 34 bedrooms that we have booked as singles, with a total of 78 beds. Priority will be given to those attending for the full week, but it should be possible to accommodate people who can stay for only part of the time. The centre will need to know final numbers before raid April and for further information and a booking form, please contact me as soon as possible.

Ivan Perry

Autumn Field Meeting - Wiltshire

Wednesday to Sunday (15th to 19th) October 2003

This year the meeting will be a week later to take advantage of the progressively later onset of autumn in recent years and will be held from 15 to 19 October. Our base will be Lackham College, the Wiltshire Agricultural College, situated south of Chippenham. We will use their laboratory facilities for evening sorting and suitable guest house accommodation will be found in the area. As usual we will assemble on the Wednesday evening and some collecting during the day on the Wednesday will be arranged for those arriving early enough.

Lackham College itself is at the centre of Lackham Park, which is a 500 acre estate situated in a loop of the River Avon. The estate is mainly agricultural but includes a network of small areas of deciduous woodland, with a rich flora and there are several ponds and riverbank habitats. I have been visiting this site two or three times a month since July last year and have already recorded 380 species of Diptera. Our contact there is Roger Martindale, who is currently doing a PhD on the effect of fragmentation of woodland on ancient woodland indicators and has recently set up emergence traps over interesting habitats, such as rotten logs. Some attention will be given to this area but there is also a good range of wet and dry woodland sites within our usual radius and Salisbury Plain with a range of habitats is not far away. The extensive ancient woodland of Savernake Forest is also within reach. Wiltshire is a gap in recording for many groups and this will be an opportunity to fill some of these.

As the autumn Bulletin has usually appeared too late to further advertise autumn field meetings, this is effectively the final notice concerning this meeting. Could everyone expecting to attend this meeting please let me know **soon** so that some ideas of numbers can be reached and suitable accommodation can be selected.

Peter Chandler

Annual Dipterists Weekend & AGM Edinburgh 2003



EDINBURGH SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER AND SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2003
BE THERE!!

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGM

We are hoping to organise a coach to run from the south of England to Edinburgh on Friday 31 October. It would pick up members at convenient points such as motorway service stations, on its journey northwards. The coach would return on Sunday 2 Nov.

In order to find out if we have enough participants, and to ascertain the best picking-up (and dropping off) points, **can you please let the secretary know before the end of August if you would wish to use this coach.**

It is also hoped to organise a Dipterists' dinner in Edinburgh on the Saturday night, and on Sunday, access to the collections and perhaps even some local field work.

Graham Rotheray

I have received several communications since the receipt of Graham's kind offer to host the above meeting and to organise transport which make alternative suggestions as to the best way delegates might travel and/or spend some field-work time in Scotland. Contact John Kramer regarding the above arrangements and for field work (opposite) contact Peter. More details in the next Bulletin.

Darwyn Sumner

Potential of Autumn Fieldwork in Scotland in 2003

Since this year's AGM weekend is to take place in Edinburgh on 1-2 November, an earlier date than has been usual in recent years, there is a possibility of late autumn fieldwork during the preceding week for those who might want a more leisurely trip to Edinburgh. As the AGM date has only just been agreed nothing specific is yet proposed and any ideas on this would be welcome. Ideally, some local involvement to assist in organising site access would be desirable if this were to be successful for a party. Advice on suitable locations or bases, preferably somewhere in the border areas, would also be helpful. To assess whether this is going to be a viable option could anyone who would be interested in participating in such fieldwork or in arranging site access please contact me as indicated above.

Peter Chandler

Advance Notice of 2004 Summer Field Meeting

For the reasons stated in the notice of this year's autumn field meeting we have decided that Wiltshire should also be location of next year's summer field meeting. We will investigate some of the more wooded sites in the area in the autumn but the potential for sites for a summer meeting is even greater and many interesting records can be expected. As Lackham College, which we are using as an evening base for the autumn meeting, is also able to provide accommodation of the standard required for the summer meetings, a booking has been made for their spring half term week and the meeting will run from **Saturday 29 May to Saturday 5 June 2004**. Details of the location of Lackham College and the availability of collecting sites in the vicinity can be found in the autumn meeting notice. More details of the accommodation and costs involved will be included in the next Bulletin but it will involve single room accommodation and the provision of evening meals and packed lunches, at a reasonable daily rate. Laboratory facilities should be ideal for sorting of the vast catches anticipated!

Peter Chandler

Diary 2003

2003

MARCH

- 28-30 **DF** Workshop: Introduction to Flies. Preston Montford
29 **BENHS** Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Oxytelinae identification workshop - Derek Lott

APRIL

- 3 **NBN** Species Dictionary Project official launch (Natural History Museum) www.nhm.ac.uk/nbn/
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

MAY

- 3 **BENHS** Workshop at Dinton Pastures: Anthomyiidae identification workshop - Michael Ackland
11 **BENHS** Open day at Dinton Pastures
13 **BENHS** The work of Scottish Natural Heritage in invertebrate conservation - Iain MacGowan

JUNE

- 7 **NNHS** Annual Exhibition of Microscopy
8 **BENHS** Open day at Dinton Pastures
10 **BENHS** The search for sibling species in Simuliidae and other Diptera - Dr Rory Post

JULY

- 11-18 **DF** Field Week: Suffolk

NOVEMBER

- 1-2 **DF** Annual Meeting - Edinburgh

DF = Dipterists Forum

RESL = Royal Entomological Society of London

BENHS = British Entomological & Natural History Society.

Contact **Peter Chandler**, Field Meetings Secretary,
Workshop bookings: **Ian McLean** -home tel: 01480 450554;
E-mail: ianmclean@waitrose.com

NNHS Northamptonshire Natural History Society, Humfrey Rooms,
10, Castilian Terrace, NN1 1LD Cyril Sampson

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>

BRC Biological Records Centre - Paul Harding

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

BENHS (www.benhs.org.uk),
RESL (www.royensoc.co.uk) &
AES (www.theaes.org).

ENTOMOLOGICAL SHOWS

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.
Jack Harris. 01455 444 792; exotica@madasafish.com

The Creepy Crawly Show (Oldham).

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham, Lancashire.
Bruce Langridge 0161 911 4657 ELS.Museum@oldham.gov.uk

West of England Creepy Crawly Show

Newton Abbot Racecourse, Newton Abbot, Devon.
Joe Rogers 01803 762 674; 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 ...

.....Alarming records

I suspect that most of us are active when looking for flies. My patience to stay motionless for hours waiting for something to turn up or happen is decidedly limited - otherwise I would have become a fisherman or a cricket match spectator. The entomological equivalent might be the lepidopterist who is prepared to sit-out long cold nights in anticipation that something worthwhile will come to a lighted sheet.

Even though the police once found me whilst sitting astride the cross-bar of an old-fashioned gas lamp at 1 a.m., I did have a net, plus a plausible explanation on a warm summers night - that I was catching moths. Now had I said that I was catching craneflies, well in that Dixon of Dock Green era a cuff round the ear for insolence might have been the least of my troubles.

It seems to me that lures and traps are all very well, but one really needs to know when something interesting has happened (the equivalent of the fisherman's float disappearing and the line whirring out at astounding speed). A neighbour stumbled across a perfect solution. Her burglar alarm kept going off for no apparent reason, eventually traced to the presence of a cranefly (if only I had known!). Hence all one needs is a light trap incorporating a cranefly sensitive burglar alarm (detecting whirring wings in combination with 1-6 long legs). Adaptation of Malaise traps or water traps may be possible. Then one would be able to sleep easily in the knowledge that you won't miss vital information on nocturnal flight times - just wake up, look at the time and go back to sleep again, and see in the morning which species caused the excitement.

Perhaps some alarm service engineers should be recruited into the Cranefly Recording Scheme.

Alan Stubbs

Contributors

Thanks to Chris Spilling and Ken Merrifield for taking the trouble to sort out reports on the Annual Meeting presentations, Roger Crosskey provided his own full abstract.

Please note the following deadlines for the next two bulletins:

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.

Spring bulletin

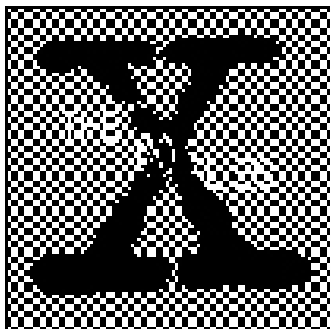
Aims to be on your doorstep in the first two weeks of March, contributions by the end of January, this is printed in February in time for the March workshop meeting.

Would contributors please note that it takes a **minimum** of 4 weeks to compile, edit, reproduce, collate and distribute each issue.

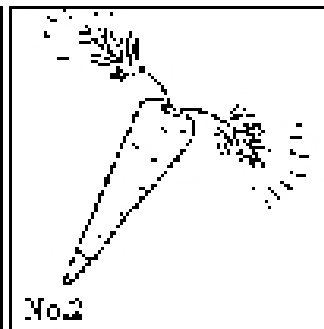
Minor amendments or insertions may be negotiated during the 2 weeks following these deadlines but major items must be in by the deadline.

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.



No. 1 Ceratopogonidae



No. 2