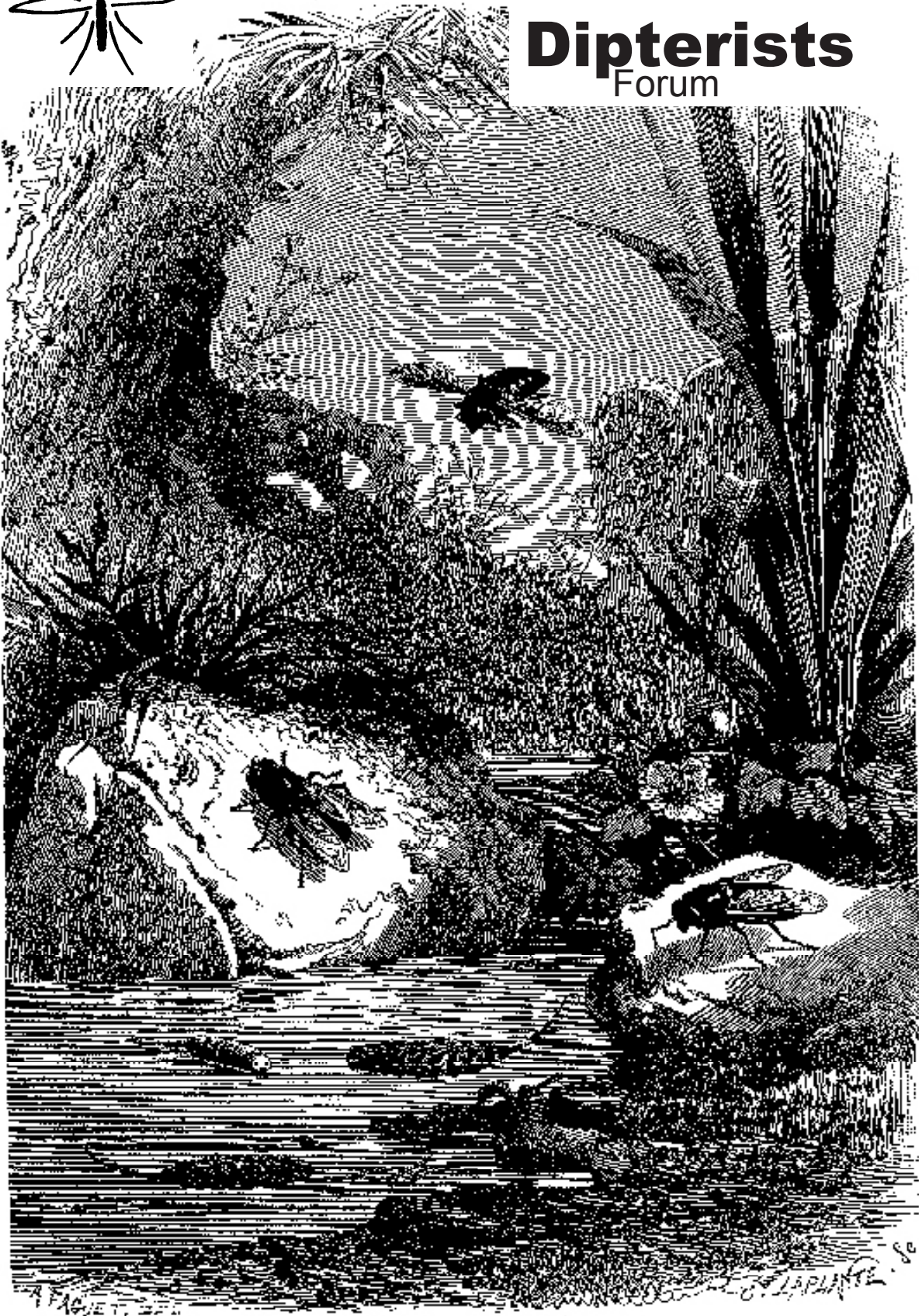




BULLETIN OF THE  
**Dipterists**  
Forum



59. The DRONE-FLY, *Eristalis tenax*, and its Larva the Rat-tailed Maggot,

---

Please notify Dr Mark Hill of changes:  
BRC (CEH)  
Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon,  
Cambridgeshire PE28 2LS (Tel. 01487 772413)  
brc@cch.ac.uk

---

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 next issue**

---

**Canoptidae, Lanchopteridae and Otitidae**

Mr D K Clements  
7 Vista Rise, Radyr Cheyne, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2SD  
david.clements1@tesco.net

---

**Culicidae – Mosquitoes**

Prof. K Snow  
Dept. Environmental Sciences University of East London Romford Road London E15 4LZ  
k.r.snow@uel.ac.uk

---

**Dividae – Mniseric midges**

Acting scheme organiser  
Dr R H L Disney  
University department of Zoology, Downing Street  
Cambridge CB2 3EJ

---

**Drosophilidae – Fruit Flies**

Dr B Pitkin  
Dept of Entomology, Natural History Museum,  
Cromwell Road London SW7 5BD

---

**Sepsidae**

Mr. Adrian C. Pont  
38 Gatehampton Road, Goring on Thames RG8 0EP  
pont.muscidae@btinternet.com

---

**Tachinid**

<sup>3,3</sup> 

Chris Raper  
22 Beech Road, Purley-on-Thames, Reading,  
Berks RG8 8DS  
chris.raper@hartslock.org.uk

Matthew Smith  
24 Allnatt Avenue, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5AU  
MatSmith1@compuserve.com

---

**Larger Braconyzoa**



Simon Hayhow  
15 Brookfield Road, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 4DR  
simon.hayhow@btinternet.com

---

**Mycetophilidae and allies – Fungus gnats**

Mr Peter J Chandler (see Dipterists Digest)

---

**Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae – Cranefly**

Mr A E Stubbs  
181 Broadway Peterborough PE1 4DS



co-organiser: John Kramer  
31 Ash Tree Road  
Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TE

---

**Sciomyzidae – Snail Killing Flies**



Dr I F G McLean  
109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs  
PE28 4TZ  
ian\_mclean@jncc.gov.uk  
ianmclean@waitrose.com

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



Darwyn Sumner

---

**Hoverflies**



Dr S G Ball  
255 Eastfield Road Peterborough PE1 4BH  
stuart.ball@jncc.gov.uk

Mr R K A Morris  
roger.morris@english-nature.org.uk

---

**Newsletter editor -**

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

---

**Topitid Flies**

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

---

**Stilt & Stalk Fly**



Darwyn Sumner  
122, Link Road, Anstey, Charnwood, Leicestershire  
LE7 7BX. 0116 212 5075  
Darwyn.sumner@ntlworld.com

---

**Anthomyiidae**

Mr Michael Ackland  
4 The Moors Kidlington Oxfordshire OX5 2AJ  
mackland@btinternet.com

---

**Empid**



Mr Adrian Plant  
Adrian.Plant@btinternet.com

---

**Chironomidae**

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

---

**Pipunculidae**

Mr A E Stubbs (see Tipulids)  
Mr Michael Ackland (see Anthomyiidae)

---

**Simulidae**

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

---

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

---

Dr. R.K.A.Morris  
roger.morris@english-nature.org.uk

---

**Summer 2003:**

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

---

**Autumn 2003, Summer 2004:**

Peter Chandler

---

**Symposium**

Graham Rotheray  
National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street,  
Edinburgh EH1 1JF, 0131.247.4243  
g.rotheray@nms.ac.uk

---

Mr M. Parker

9 East Wyld Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0RP

---

Peter Chandler

606B Berryfield Lane, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6EL  
01225-708339  
chandgnats@aol.com

---

Darwyn Sumner

122, Link Road, Anstey, Charnwood, Leicestershire  
LE7 7BX. 0116 212 5075  
Darwyn.sumner@ntlworld.com

---

Ken Merrifield

kenmerrifield@yahoo.co.uk

---

Patrick Roper

South View, Churchland Lane, Sedlescombe, East  
Sussex TN33 0PF

---

John Kramer

31 Ash Tree Road, Oadby, Leicester, Leicestershire,  
LE2 5TE.  
jk@chezejog.demon.co.uk

---

Chris Raper

22 Beech Road, Purley-on-Thames, Reading,  
Berks RG8 8DS  
chris.raper@hartslock.org.uk

**Website [www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/](http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/)**

**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.**

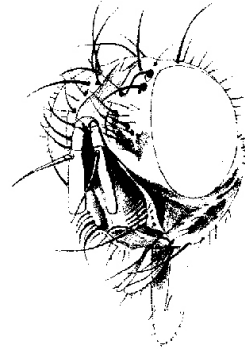
The last full address list was published in Bulletin #50



# BULLETIN OF THE Dipterists Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

<b>Bulletin No. 56</b>	
<b>Autumn 2003</b>	
<b>ISSN 1358-5029</b>	
Bulletin Editor Darwyn Sumner	
Chairman	Stuart Ball
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	Jon Cole
Membership Sec.	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Sec.	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Sec.	David Heaver
Publicity Officer	Patrick Roper
<b>Ordinary Members</b>	
JCCBI representative John Dobson	
Stuart Ball, Steve Falk, Mick Parker	
<b>Unelected Members</b>	
BENHS rep.	Ken Merrifield
Dip. Digest Editor	Peter Chandler
co-opted	Alan Stubbs
<b>Recording Scheme Organisers</b>	
Crane-fly	Alan Stubbs
Fungus Gnats	Peter Chandler
Hoverflies	S. Ball & R. Morris
Larger Brachycera	Simon Hayhow
Tephritid	Laurence Clemons
Sciomyzid	Ian McLean
Conopid	David Clements
Empid & Dollies	Adrian Plant
Anthomyiid	Michael Ackland
Dixidae	R.H.L. Disney
Culicidae	K. Snow
Sepsidae	Adrian Pont
Tachinid	Chris Raper
Stilt & Stalk	Darwyn Sumner
<p>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 County Council), 0116 267 1950 ext 24.</p>	



## Contents

<b>Forum News.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Editorial.....	4
News from the schemes.....	5
Diptera Curator	6
Linking National Societies and Schemes (NBN & CEH)	7
<b>Review .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Book reviews	8
Invertebrate Conservation Trust	8
Record achievements .....	9
<b>Notice board .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Membership Matters	10
Membership List 2003	10
<b>Meetings .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Reports .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Field Meetings.....	13
2003 Summer Field Meeting .....	13
<b>Forthcoming.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Autumn Field Meeting - Wiltshire	14
Annual Meeting .....	14
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	16
Two-way Family Favourites Workshop .....	17
Summer Field Meeting - Wiltshire	18
Diary 2003/4 .....	19
And now .....	20
<b>Fly sheets</b>	
Treasurer's Account to 31 December 2002	
Hoverfly Recording Scheme Newsletter #36	
Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme Newsletter #3	
Dipterists Forum Starter Pack	

## Forum News

# Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

### Motion motion camouflage

Dipterists Forum members have been featuring heavily in the media recently. Adrian Pont (accompanied by Doreen Werner) is investigating Oxfordshire's blackfly plague (*Simulium*), as reported in The Independent on Sunday. Roy Crossley's work on *Odontomyia hydroleon* received a nice account (although slightly inaccurate he tells me) in the Times, this item was picked up by Radio 4's "News Quiz" but in typical Crossley style his tales are far funnier than the panelists on that programme. Andrew Halstead, too, is becoming Radio 4's choice spokesman concerning horticultural pests and has been spotted by me on several occasions.

Finally, your humble editor spotted an item in New Scientist (28 June, p18) in which claims were made that hoverflies "prey" were capable of avoidance behaviour. Some unfortunate researcher had spent many hours analysing flight patterns from videos of hoverflies in order to establish a theory about "motion camouflage" (poor sap). The part of the work based on Odonata was undoubtedly valid but have you ever seen flowers trying to avoid hoverfly attack? I couldn't resist the fact that hoverflies are occasionally recorded as feeding on dung and so was able to include a suitably coprophagic word in my response (New Scientist 19 July, p27 (Letters)).



### "Identity crisis"

In contrast the Guardian gets praise for a bit of research on the mismatch between current education initiatives and the needs of the conservation "industry". Pete Bowler's article is still available at <http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,1034041,00.html>. Species identification, he observes, underpins all conservation work, yet precious few of the graduates from the hundreds of courses available, emerge with any skills at all in this area. Bowler points his accusing finger squarely at all tiers of education and television's instant gratification whilst heaping praise on the band of amateur naturalists and their supportive societies which deliver all the legwork. You'll be pleased to learn that the Natural History Museum, English Nature and Lancaster University have been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council to carry out a 3 year research project on this subject. Meanwhile there are flies to catch, natural history societies to support and Field Studies Council workshops to organise (and attend!)

### My letter is in the post

My Latin teacher's all-time favourite excuse from his pupils as they failed to hand in their homework on time was "Sir, it blew into a field and a cow ate it". Those of us still with problematic deadlines can feel heartened however by the following piece which Ken Merrifield picked up in the library at Hengrave Hall this summer:

*"LEON TROTSKY wrote and revised in the original Russian the first seven chapters and the appendix of this book. He checked in the English translation the first six chapters and the appendix but not the seventh chapter. The first seven chapters were to have been cut and condensed after the writing of the book had been completed. Like most authors, Trotsky was more optimistic than accurate about the expected date of completion, and his case was aggravated not only by the excessive optimism of the revolutionist and the military leader but by continual harassments and attempts on his life. The date of completion was therefore deferred from time to time. Finally, he set August, 1940 as the "dead-line," to use his own expression. But his manuscript was not complete on the twentieth of August, when he was struck down by his assassin. Two days later he died. The editor therefore left the first seven chapters and the appendix unrevised, except for a few deletions of repetitious material. Some of the manuscript of the unfinished portion was in Trotsky's study, strung out in enormously long strips of many sheets pasted end to end, at the time of the murderous attack upon him, and in the struggle with the assassin portions of the manuscript were not only spattered with blood but utterly destroyed. Moreover, no part of this posthumous manuscript had been put in final form by the author. It was made up of notes to be more fully developed, of excerpts from the works of other writers, of various documents, of dictated material ..."* (from "The History of the Russian Revolution" - probably)

# News from the schemes

## New Head of BRC

Following Paul Harding's retirement this June, Mark Hill (a bryologist, ecologist and statistician) becomes the new Head of Biological Records Centre. Paul Harding is not at a loose end either, he was persuaded to take up the recently vacated position of Secretary to the National Federation of Biological Recording.

## NBN News

Current initiatives by the National Biodiversity Network Trust are currently of great importance to us since many of their efforts are devoted to providing assistance to the various Recording Schemes - of which we have several. They produce a quarterly newsletter which you will find much more informative than I can be (I try only to report back from sessions I've attended). If you want to keep up to date with developments then try to get on their mailing list: contact NBN Secretariat, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1WT or browse the NBN website.

Darwyn Sumner

## Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

No newsletter this time although I do have a few short notes for the next one. Please consider contributing an article or note for the newsletter. I know of quite a few species studies underway so please use the newsletter to keep dipterists up to date with progress or to encourage comments or observations. It is hoped to produce a substantial newsletter in the winter, including some distribution maps of commoner species to give an idea of coverage. Hopefully this will encourage an increase in the flow of records for the proposed atlas.

Larger Brachycera were well recorded on our annual summer field meeting in Suffolk. The dry, sandy Brecks proved profitable for Asilidae although the very hot weather and dry conditions were less conducive to Strats, although there were still some good finds, mainly at the diptera-rich pingo sites. A full account of species recorded at the meeting appears elsewhere in the Newsletter but mention must be made of *Machimus arthriticus*. Thanks to work led by Malcolm Smart the species was found at several sites. Comparable sites were searched and, even though time was limited, these observations have added considerably to our knowledge of the species' habitat requirements.

Please keep the records and articles coming,

Simon Hayhow

## Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

*Newsletter number 3 included with this bulletin*

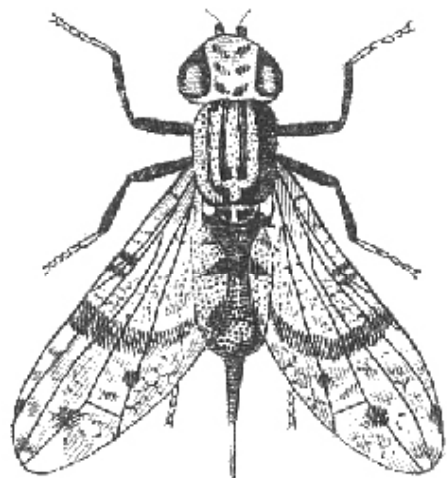
## Syrphidae - Hoverfly Recording Scheme

*Newsletter number 36 included with this bulletin*

## Field Week Records

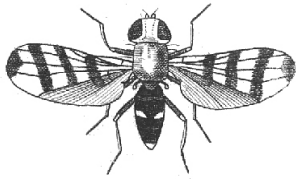
Diptera records from 3 field weeks are currently about to be transferred into popular biological recording systems. The current tally is as follows: 1999 - 5640, 2000 - 833, 2001 - 2069 (plus several non-Diptera records). Taxa are in accordance with the up-to-date Chandler checklist and so transfer to Recorder 2002 will only be feasible when the taxon dictionary is updated. It is my intention to pass records in this format to the Local Records Centres who have kindly provided assistance to us (Cornwall, Devon, Aberdeenshire and Suffolk) plus the Crane-fly and Sciomyzid recording schemes or through MapMate to Diptera recording schemes who use this method. The master copy of the records will be the native MSAccess in which they were collated and compiled. Data loss inevitably occurs when transferring to another system and both Recorder and MapMate versions will be the best copies obtainable and registered to myself. Any contributors who have validation issues to raise or late submissions will be too late once I have my hands on the new Recorder taxon dictionary; it will not be possible to track 3 versions of the data.

Darwyn Sumner



## Forum News

### Tephritid Flies Recording Scheme



Want an excuse for not having submitted any records to the scheme? Then put on that Blind Willie McTell record (any one will do) and sing this.

“I woke up this morning got tephritids on my mind  
I said I woke up this morning got tephritids on my mind  
I ‘rived a day too late  
And they done left me behind (I got the Chalk Hill Blues)”

On 7th June this year I came across a magnificent piece of grassland teeming with all the right host plants e.g. black knapweed, creeping and spear thistle, wormwood etc. and in two hours found 11 species of tephritid. When I returned on 12th July the whole area, save for a narrow margin, had been mown to the ground and only 9 species turned up. Five species present on the first visit were absent, 6 species were common to both visits and 3 additional species occurred this time. I shouldn't really complain however as 14 species from a single, rather small, site in just two visits represents a good list - most of the 4300+ sites on the database have produced less than 10.

Now adult tephritids, like most other Diptera, can have very limited flight periods and I did not really expect to find *Oxyna parietina* again at my grassland site in the second week of July but consider this. On 5th August 2000 I investigated an area of coastal grassland and scrub at the extreme north-eastern tip of VC 16 and, during the sojourn, a remarkable total of 15 species of Tephritidae was recorded. A follow-up visit on 3rd August 2002, during which the same patches of host plants were swept or examined, revealed just 7. Therefore even being at the right place and at the right time cannot always guarantee a record.

Statistically, though, what is the best date on which to find the maximum number of tephritids? Oddly enough it is 12th July with 46 species i.e. *Acidia cognata*, *Acanthiophilus helianthi*, *Anomoia purmunda*, *Campiglossa absinthii*, *Ceratitidis capitata*, *Chaetostomella cylindrica*, *Chaetorellia jaceae*, *Campiglossa misella*, *Campiglossa plantaginis*, *Cryptaciura rotundiventris*, *Dithryca guttularis*, *Euleia heraclei*, *Euphranta toxoneura*, *Goniglossum wiedemanni*, *Myopites inulaedyssentericae*, *Noeeta pupillata*, *Oxyna flavipennis*, *Oxyna nebulosa*, *Philophylla caesio*, *Rhagoletis alternata*, *Stemonocera cornuta*, *Sphenella marginata*, *Tephritis bardanae*, *Terellia ceratocera*, *Terellia colon*, *Tephritis formosa*, *Tephritis hyoscyami*, *Trypeta immaculata*, *Tephritis leontodontis*, *Tephritis matricariae*, *Tephritis neesii*, *Terellia plagiata*, *Terellia ruficauda*, *Terellia serratulae*, *Trupanea stellata*, *Terellia tussilaginis*, *Terellia vectensis*, *Tephritis vespertina*, *Terellia winthemi*, *Urophora cardui*, *Urophora cuspidata*, *Urophora jaceana*, *Urophora quadrifasciata*, *Urophora spoliata*, *Urophora stylata* and *Xyphosia miliaria*. If we take July as a whole the figure rises to an impressive 69 species – practically the entire British fauna and the only species for which I have no records during that month are *Anastrepha obliqua*, *Bactrocera cucurbitae*, *Campiglossa grandinata*, *Ceratitidis cosyra*, *Chetostoma curvinerve*, *Dacus ciliatus*, *Platyparea discoidea*, *Plioreocepta poeciloptera*, *Taomyia marshalli*, *Tephritis praecox*, *Tephritis separata*, *Terellia fuscicornis* and *Trupanea amoena*.

So, boys and girls, unless you find yourself in prison or hospital during July 2004 there can be no excuse for not finding a tephritid. And don't think singing “I woke up this morning got trichocerids on my mind” will get you off the hook either.

**Laurence Clemons**

### Diptera Curator

Department of Biodiversity & Systematic Biology  
National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cardiff

This post will be advertised within the next 2 months. If you are interested then check jobs.ac.uk or contact Dr Mike Wilson, Head of Entomology Section (email [mike.wilson@nmgw.ac.uk](mailto:mike.wilson@nmgw.ac.uk)) who will be able to inform those interested when the formal information will be available and the closing date for applications.

## Linking National Societies and Schemes (NBN & CEH)

Dipterists Forum members received the formal introduction to this scheme from Trevor James at our last AGM. The National Biodiversity Network Trust, having made considerable progress with Local Records Centres, have now shifted the focus of their attention to national societies and recording schemes such as our own. In this they are aided and abetted by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, our own dear Biological Records Centre.

A number of seminars and conferences have been organised by NBN/CEH in order to look at ways in which they may assist societies like our own in their efforts to develop biological recording. Dipterists Forum is always well represented at such meetings, I've seen Matt Smith, Stuart Ball, Alan Stubbs, Ian McLean and others at many of them and, courtesy of Leicestershire County Council, I've attended most of them too.

It is important to keep a close eye on the progress of their activities; Dipterists Forum has long benefitted from the resources that CEH (formerly the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology) have had to offer, for example they published Stuart Ball and Roger Morris's "Provisional atlas of British hoverflies", continue to pay the postage cost of this Bulletin and are currently supporting specific recording initiatives (Crane-fly Atlas). The CEH tell us that they are the "national custodian of data on the distribution of wildlife in the British Isles" and their efforts now go beyond publishing distribution maps in paper format. The hoverfly distribution data, for example, is now published on the NBN Gateway ([www.searchnbn.net/](http://www.searchnbn.net/)). This is a site well worth visiting as it gives a clear idea of the range of successful projects that these two organisations have undertaken. It also gives an indication of how data from Local Records Centres plays a part in providing an overall picture of wildlife distribution in the UK.

Three recent initiatives arising from NBN/CEH will be of interest to members:

### 1. The Species Dictionary project

The Natural History Museum, with Graham Higley as Project Director, launched this Spring. It's a sort of follow-on from the checklists provided with Recorder and is now a separate project handed over to the experts. The best way to see the current status of the work is to look at their website at [www.nhm.ac.uk/nbn/](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nbn/). Don't expect too much from the Diptera section, though, Stuart Ball's working on this following lists given to him by Malcolm Smart and myself in March and you're more likely to get your updated Recorder checklist via him.

The project itself is a huge one and the impression gained from the launch in May was that they are keen to receive contributions from experts and any other contributors. Many ideas have cropped up after discussions with various people over the last few months, here's a list of wants to be going on with:

- An hierarchical tree structure for systematic searching as seen in Recorder or even your own Windows Explorer (the NHM website uses the "letterbox" approach to finding taxa); it can be well implemented on websites, take a look at the Treeview Javascript site at [www.treeview.net/](http://www.treeview.net/) for several good examples.
- The facility for downloading checklists for use in popular biological recording applications
- The facility to download checklists of selected taxa in other formats (e.g. Word or Excel formats so that they may be used for collection label lists etc.).
- The inclusion in these lists of unique identifiers (within all commonly available checklists) so as to facilitate cross matching with other lists currently being developed by "experts"
- The facility to print checklists of selected taxa
- The inclusion of non-endemic taxa to facilitate research work on relationships in a world-wide context (e.g. include the Families Diopsidae & Coenomyiidae even though there are no UK species)
- A mechanism for experts to update checklists at frequent intervals (this may require the writing of a specific application)
- The facility to accumulate personal lists of references and libraries linked to individual taxa (this certainly needs a specific application - liaising with existing "literature reference managing" software developers - e.g. EndNote - might be of value)

If you have any more suggestions they would like to hear from you on 0207 942 5213, email [speciesdictionary@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:speciesdictionary@nhm.ac.uk)

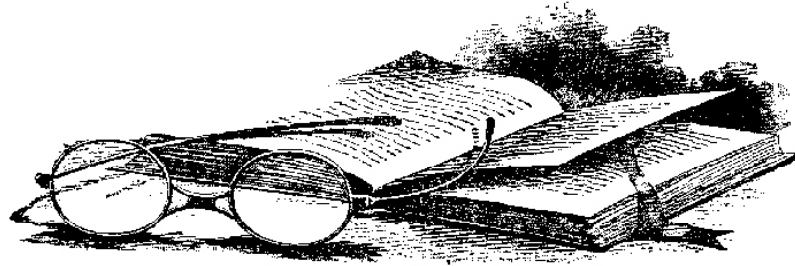
### 2. Seminar held in September 2003: "Promoting Access to Data" (see "Record achievements")

### 3. NBN "Working with Volunteers Advisory Group"

The remit for this group is very vague to me at the moment (it is very early days) although it has been suggested that part of it will involve a steering group to look at relationships between National Societies and Schemes and Local Records Centres. I've been invited onto this group as I have a foot in both camps. Expect to hear more from this group and keep checking the NBN website for notices of their planned sessions and initiatives.

**Darwyn Sumner**

# Review



## Book reviews

### A provisional checklist of the invertebrates recorded in Wales

by M.A.Howe (Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru: Countryside Council for Wales 2002)

#### 3. Brachyceran flies (Diptera: Xylophagidae to Dolichopodidae)

Like the best of the old county floras, the subject is covered with a thoroughness that puts Diptera firmly on the map of Wales. All the Welsh Red Data Book species are discussed in detail and distribution maps are provided for each. Mike sets a high standard with this work (and repeats it in his article on **Coastal Soft Cliffs** in June's "British Wildlife")

### A review of the invertebrates associated with lowland calcareous grassland

by Keith Alexander, English Nature Report Number 512. Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA

Written to support the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in respect of "Lowland Calcareous Habitat Action Plan", this report contains an interesting few pages of discussion on the Diptera in this report. There are a number of useful tables detailing "fidelity", "continuity", "structure of habitat", "food" and "status" for a number of groups (only for spiders, bugs, larger moths, hymenoptera & beetles) for this habitat. The absence of a "full review" for the Diptera is of concern; as Keith points out, this is because "ecological knowledge is notably incomplete in large sections of the fauna."

### A review of the invertebrate interest of coarse woody debris in England

by Andy Godfrey, English Nature Report Number 512. Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA

A fine piece of research on what must surely be one of the most difficult microhabitats to track down. Andy gives a sound background to research into the range and distribution of woody debris in English streams and proceeds to detail the various obligate xylophagous species inhabiting it. Diptera are, of course, the largest group.

**Darwyn Sumner**

## Invertebrate Conservation Trust

Information about the activities of this organisation are widely distributed, I can only give a brief outline of their activities here. Your main source of information, of course, is their website at <http://www.buglife.org.uk/> from where the link to the UK Biodiversity website's "Find a habitat" section [<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/habitats.htm#Priority>] will provide endless hours of fun. Matt Shardlow also wrote an interesting introductory article in the April edition of *Antenna*.

Chris Spilling tells me "I have just received the following three 2003 publications from Buglife in the series "Managing Priority Habitats for Invertebrates" (18 volumes)

- a) Vol 10 Larger Brachycera - Soldier Flies, Beeflies, Stiletto flies, Robber flies. Horse flies and Allies compiled by Andy Godfrey
- b) Vol 15 Syrphidae - Hoverflies compiled by Andy Godfrey
- c) Vol 17 Tipulidae and Allies - Craneflies compiled by Alan Stubbs.

Chris added: *Matt Shardlow (Conservation Director for Buglife) provided me with some information yesterday to pass on. He and English Nature representatives have met and agreed that it would be a good idea if SSSI guidelines for Invertebrates were reviewed and developed. In the first instance assemblages associated with habitats would be considered and would probably start with a group where there is good data on distributions and reasonable information on required habitats e.g. Hoverflies. The first meeting to kick off the process is provisionally booked for Sept 17th morning and will most likely be held in Peterborough. If you would like to be involved and think you could provide a valued contribution please contact Matt at [matshardlow71@hotmail.com] or on 01733760881.*

**Darwyn Sumner**



## Record achievements

### Distribution maps

The classic distribution maps, ranging from the old Vice County maps of old to the current “spotty maps” have been our traditional guide. Augment this with a little reading about more recent finds and a plan for your annual expedition (that’s “holiday” to one’s partner) emerges. Distribution maps, however, are published at long intervals and only for the more popular groups; nowadays we can do a little better than this. Through the medium of the internet we are gradually moving to a position where we might view a constantly updating picture of distribution through the Gateway. Look at dragonflies on the Gateway at [www.searchnbn.net](http://www.searchnbn.net) and you will see this in action. Time will tell just how this might be achieved with Diptera although Ian McLean has plans to use it for the Sciomyzidae. We can, however, obtain a view of species distribution on home computers. Both MapMate and Recorder will do this job for us but this rather depends on setting up effective sharing mechanisms amongst the community of Dipterists. A small group of us are trying these out with Diptera at the moment. Adrian Plant currently uses MapMate to share records in his Empid Recording Scheme and data from selected groups arising from the various Dipterists Forum Field Weeks are also being exchanged between myself and Ken Merrifield. On the Recorder front, testers of Stuart Ball’s Import Wizard (as demonstrated at our Preston Montford workshop) have achieved much progress. For example I’ve managed to convert a 24,000 record Fungus dataset from MSAccess - this has proved possible because the BMS checklist is current.

The picture is changing rapidly and whilst there are problems to surmount (e.g. the imminent Diptera checklist for Recorder), very shortly there will be a considerable increase in the amount of shared Diptera data passing between us all.

### Sharing information with others

Whilst sharing information amongst people with similar interests is of importance, there are a number of other groups with a legitimate and significant interest in our data. The extent to which this information may affect management practises will vary. Feedback to landowners who have been kind enough to grant permission for site visits on our expeditions is of importance. Share the information with English Nature, CCW, SNH or a Wildlife Trust and there is a good chance of influencing management. Share it with a Local Records Centre and the influence will be more immediate since the records then play a part in the local planning processes and conservation of the site may result.

The recent seminar hosted by the NBN, “**Promoting Access to Data**”, addressed a number of issues concerning the sharing of data. Leaving aside the technical problems that have to be surmounted before this sharing can take place (the subject of the next “**Linking National Societies and Schemes**” annual conference in November), the NBN Trust have again provided us with some useful management tools. Under the title “Products and services” on their website there are a whole host of interesting items, some very useful indeed (e.g. the Vice County boundaries), others in the fledgling stages which are perhaps best bypassed for now (e.g. Metadata) and others which are rather heavy-going but no doubt of considerable value to those with management or project planning inclinations (but I suppose they mean us too.) I’ve rarely found the issues surrounding confidentiality and ownership rights to records too difficult to resolve but these are evidently problematic issues for recording in some groups. The website offers a handful of documents which should help resolve them when they arise, so your recommended reading from the site is as follows: “Data Exchange Principles”, “Data Exchange Licence Agreements” and the two Model Licence Agreements on Collation and Custodianship. If you really want to make your study as short and to the point as possible then just skip directly to the “NBN Model Recording Form Statement” and read the first page. This batch of stuff formed the core of the “**Promoting Access to Data**” seminar. Combine these topics with some useful contacts and conversations with Herpetologists, Lichenologists, fellow Lancastrian agents of SNH, seaweed recorders and the odd BWARS man, sprinkle with the much repeated word “resources” and some pretty smart footwork by the NBNT’s Oliver Grafton and you’ve now got a pretty fair impression of the September seminar.

**Darwyn Sumner**

## Notice board

### Membership Matters



As this will be my last contribution in this capacity, I would like to thank you for helping to make this job easier. I have enjoyed my correspondence with you all, and hope you will continue to entertain my successor. There are still outstanding subs for this year, so remind your contacts and please do swap to standing orders!!!

Liz Howe

### Membership List 2003



**Notice board**

## Reports

# Field Meetings

## 2003 Summer Field Meeting

### Suffolk July 11-18

The 16 Century Manor House, Hengrave Hall near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, provided the historic setting for our 2003 Summer Field Meeting. With 34 people and 2 offsprings attending and with day visits from 3 others, it was our largest gathering for many years. After some initial problems, the Centre proved to be an ideal venue, with adequate lab space and excellent food. Its location allowed us to reach a variety of habitats in a relatively short time. Although effort was concentrated largely towards Breckland, we also managed to visit the Cambridgeshire fens and chalkland of the Devils Ditch, the clay woods south of Bury St Edmunds and several sites on the Suffolk coast. The week started with warm, sunny weather and the temperature rose gradually to a sweltering 90°F (32°C) by the Wednesday, then after overnight showers it was thankfully a little cooler for the remainder of the meeting. The humidity was also very high and encouraged the attentions of various biting flies, At a particularly bad site, one person returned with a pooter full of *Chrysops* claiming that it was “a matter of self-defence.” During the evening there was no respite for those relaxing outside the bar as the Mosquitoes took over the nightshift. Needless to say by the end of the week, most of us had a selection of bumps, spots or swellings to show for our endeavours. The hot, dry conditions meant that many sites were looking rather parched and suitable flowers often had few flies on them. However the fine weather did allow maximum collecting time everyday and by concentrating our efforts in shady areas and damp spots, a steady stream of interesting records ensued. The grounds of Hengrave proved quite productive, with *Nigrotipula nigra*, *Tipula helvola*, *Eutolmus rufibarbis*, and *Norellia spinipes* all present along with a *Chrysopilus laetus* swept from near the lake. The Malaise Trap that was in operation for some of the week and the sap flow on an Oak that attracted much attention will doubtless provide further good species. Because of the dry weather, numbers of Craneflies were inevitably down on what might have been expected. However *Tipula helvola* and *T. livida* were present in several of the Breck woodlands and *Erioptera mejerei* was found at several sites. Foulden Common was a new site for *Prionocera subserricornis* and it was also recorded from Thompson Common. Fungus Gnats were also little in evidence with only 34 species recorded during the week and with *Pyra-tula perpusilla* from the Devils Ditch, the only one of note.

Amongst the larger Brachycera, *Phthiria pulicaria* was found in the Breck, *Odontomyia angulata* at Thompson Common and *Eutolmus rufibarbis* at several locations. One of the aims of the meeting was to find more sites for the Asilid *Machimus arthriticus*. This was achieved with solitary specimens found at several sites, but in numbers at only two. In the Kings Forest several were seen in an area recently ploughed for replanting, indicating that disturbed, bare ground may be a necessary requirement. However further investigation of other similar sites in the Thetford Forest area met with limited success. The heat appeared to be too much for even the Hoverflies at times, although *Chrysotoxum verralli* and *Volucella inanis* turned up at a few places and *Triglyphus primus* was found at Lackford Lakes. The Conopids were also strangely few in numbers, but *Zodion cinereum* was taken at a few Breckland sites. The Chloropidae were the subject of attention from Barbara Schulten and John Ismay and they found *Chlorops fasciata* at several Breck grassland sites, *Lasiamba coxalis* at Wangford Warren and *Trachysiphonella pygmaea* in the Kings Forest. They had brought a suction sampler with them, which several of us had a go at using and this enabled several brachypterous species of Diptera which usually live deep inside tussocks, such as *Tricimba brachyptera* and *Aphanotrigonum nigripes* var. *brachyptera* to be collected. The Honeypot Challenge encouraged the collection of Sawflies with 69 species recorded during the week and the Hymenopterists seemed pleased with the results of their efforts, the bees and wasps seemingly less affected by the heat.

On the last night a visit to the local pub for a meal and liquid refreshment was enjoyed by all who took part.

Would all participants please send their records to me, on disc if possible, but including a hard copy. I aim to get some feedback to site managers before the start of next season and suggest a deadline of end March 2004 for this purpose.

Ivan Perry

## Forthcoming

### Autumn Field Meeting - Wiltshire

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

Lackham College, the Wiltshire Agricultural College, situated south of Chippenham. Using their laboratory facilities for evening sorting and suitable guest house accommodation in the area. The final notice concerning this meeting was in the previous Bulletin.

Peter Chandler

## Annual Meeting

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd November 2003

To be held, at the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh



The museum is situated in Chambers Street, just one block south of the Royal Mile and will be open from 10.00am. There is no entrance charge and when you arrive, ask for the Education Centre or follow the signs.

The Education Centre will be our main meeting room. It is next to the lecture theatre and the museum cafeteria at the back of the museum. A small fee of £2.00 will be charged to cover the costs of tea and coffee.



PLEASE BRING AN EXHIBIT IF YOU CAN

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

Saturday 1st  
10:00 am

Museum open to members. Please try to stage your exhibits as early as possible.

11:00 am

Welcome and announcements

11:05 am

**Iain McGowan** Recent advances in studies of Scottish Diptera

11:35 am

**Graham Rotheray** Finding, rearing and studying Diptera larvae

12:05 pm

Short comfort break. Please be back in your seats in time for the next session.

12:15 pm

**Steven Miles & John Muggleton** –Biodiversity Action Plans for Heathland Flies

This biodiversity project was set up five years ago under English Nature's Species Recovery Programme. It covers the two beeflies, *Bombylius minor* and *Thyridanthrax fenestratus*, and the hoverfly, *Chrysotoxum octomaculatum*. We will review the progress and successes of the project as well as some associated heathland management issues. John Muggleton will cover aspects of the population studies undertaken on *Thyridanthrax fenestratus*.

12:45 pm

**Keith Bland** An introduction to leaf miners in Scotland

1:15 - 2:15 pm

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Bring your own or use the museum cafeteria or any of the wide range of restaurants outside the museum

2:15 - 2:45 pm

Informal session in the Education Centre, a time to meet people and view the exhibits and access

the collections

2:45ish pm

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

c.3:45 - 5:00pm

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

6:30 pm

**Dipterists' Supper - to be arranged, details on the day**

Sunday 2nd

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Continuation of exhibits and examination of collections: the collections will be available for study during the day from 10.00 - 5.00pm

- a) Graham Rotheray - Larval rearing equipment and examples available
- b) Ian McGowan - Lonchaeidae workshop
- c) Stuart Ball - demonstration of data exchange between Recorder 2002/MapMate
- d) Your exhibits!

1:00 - 2:00 pm

**BREAK FOR LUNCH**

Bring your own or use the museum cafeteria or any of the wide range of restaurants outside the museum

5:00 p.m.

**Museum closes, meeting ends**

**Getting there**

If arriving by car, the nearest public car park is just behind the museum off Potterow. If arriving by train, ask for Waverley Station.

The museum is about a 10 minute walk away. If arriving at the airport, the cheapest option is to catch the airport bus and ask for Waverley Station (the bus stops outside the station) and walk from there.

**Accommodation**

Many of you will probably be coming up on the Friday and staying until Sunday. A wide range of accommodation is available within walking distance of the museum, or within short bus rides. There are numerous budget hotels and guest houses nearby. The best way to find out about accommodation is through the Edinburgh and Lothians Tourist Board (tel 0845 2255 121). Their website has full details of accommodation, maps etc and is at [www.edinburgh.org](http://www.edinburgh.org). If any problems arise or you need further help or advice please don't hesitate to contact Graham Rotheray (contact details below).

Graham E Rotheray, Curator of Insects  
National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street  
Edinburgh EH1 1JF UK  
+44 (0)131.247.4243      [g.rotheray@nms.ac.uk](mailto:g.rotheray@nms.ac.uk)

**Additional notes from John Kramer & Roger Morris:**

Following the questionnaire in the last Bulletin, John reports insufficient people interested or able to take part in group travel and suggests that, as usual, you try to make these amongst your friends. There were a few more interested in group accommodation and Roger is trying to arrange this (he knows who you are!)

## Meetings

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.45pm

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

## Elections

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

Ordinary elected committee members serve for two years, half of the team standing down each year (7f)

The Officers and General Committee proposed is as follows

Chairman	Stuart Ball
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	Jon Cole
Membership Secretary	Mick Parker (proposed)
Field Meetings Secretary	Roger Morris (proposed)
Indoor Meetings Secretary	David Heaver
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Publicity Officer	Patrick Roper
Web Manager	Chris Raper
Ordinary Members (up to 6)	Malcolm Smart Chris Spilling

Co-opted Members (up to 3)      Alan Stubbs

### Un-elected Representatives

Peter Chandler	Dipterists Digest Editor
Ken Merrifield	BENHS Representative
Jon Dobson	JCCBI Representative

7. Any other business





# Two-way Family Favourites Workshop

12-14 March 2004

## 1. Fun with Flies : An Introduction to the Families

Friday to Sunday 12-14 March 2004, Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury.

Course led by David Heaver and Simon Hayhow.

The aim of this course is to introduce you to the range of fly families and then concentrate on the two most popular groups, the hoverflies and the larger brachycera. At the end of the course you will have learnt how to recognise which family a fly is in, and identify some to species level. If you are already a little familiar with flies but feel a bit unsteady on some aspects then your needs can be catered for as well. To keep your enthusiasm going, this course comes bundled with a years basic



membership of the Dipterists Forum, the UK group for the study of these insects, and a key to the families. There will be opportunities to buy the new keys to hoverflies and the larger brachycera.

Non forum members as residents £130      Dipterists Forum members £125

Unlike with previous courses, this one is being organised and promoted by Preston Montford Field Studies Council, and bookings should be made with them.

Details from Karen Harvey

FSC Preston Montford

Montford Bridge

Shrewsbury

Shropshire SY4 1DX,

or phone 01743 852040, or e-mail: [enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org)

Same venue, same dates:

## 2. Introduction to Acalypterates

This course runs parallel with the beginner's one across the courtyard at PM. It is being fronted by **Darwyn Sumner**, with technical identification back-up from **Jon Cole**. This powerful double act should take you a long way down the road to enjoying the acalypterates which always seem to occupy every netfull. I hope to secure a museum collection for people to explore.

Single rooms are at £110, the shared ones at £90.

Given the value of the beginner's course to the future of the Forum, I would like people to give up the odd half hour and pop across the courtyard to help people identify *Episyrphus balteatus* or play spot the tabanid. This hopefully will break up the format a bit and provide light relief for Simon and me. This is not compulsory!

Payment by cheque to Dipterists Forum Workshops, and posted to me at home (see inside front cover)

As usual having the bulk of the cash up front keeps PM happy and involves less hassle on the workshop. But if you are skint then pay a little up front and rest on the day.

When I set up a new e-mail account I will advertise it in the next bulletin (and website) and you can use that for workshop purposes.

Thank you for your continued support.

**David Heaver**

## Meetings

### Notes for the Acalypterate workshop

Dave Heaver was pretty keen to use the theme of television presenter to describe my style of delivery at this workshop but it was unfortunately censored by my proof-reader of 29 years. Instead I hope he will be content with an analogy based on my teaching career. In this role I play the part of the inexperienced new teacher who is given the task of introducing a major new topic to pupils, my uncertainties in the subject areas will be offset by the fact that I shall be aided by the senior master, Jon Cole. An illustrious old boy of the school, Steve Falk, has also offered to return during the Saturday session in order to help out where required. Your "holiday reader" books should include the regular keys to families but the main course book will be Papp & Schumann's key in Contributions to a Manual of Palaearctic Diptera as this provides us with the most thorough treatment. Flick through the pages of journals such as Proc. Brit. Ent. NHS, BJENHS and Dipterists Digest from the last 20 years or so and important articles from previous pupils of the school who have gone on to find fame and fortune will be found. Gather what you must from these because the sheer volume of material required to cover keys to all the Acalypterates prevents me from wholesale photostating. Single copies of most will be made available (use the Preston Montford photostat machine), I already have to thank Peter Chandler, Martin Drake and John Ismay for gathering together copies of obscure stuff which only they would know about. Up-to-date versions of keys (notably all Stilt & Stalks, Pallopteridae, Lauxaniidae) will be produced in sufficient quantities for everyone at the workshop. You would be well advised to build up your own collection of the longer specialised works (e.g. Chloropidae), a good guide to this are the reference sections to each Family in Peter Chandler's checklist. More detailed guidance will be posted on the Dipterists Forum website.

Whilst many Families will be dealt with thoroughly, there is simply insufficient time at an introductory session like this to achieve full identification of everything and it is hoped that this course will provide the basic background for future workshops on some of the larger acalypterate groups by specialists in those areas.

Darwyn Sumner

## Summer Field Meeting - Wiltshire

### Saturday to Saturday (29th May to 5th June)

As indicated in the Spring Bulletin, our base next year will be Wiltshire College, Lackham, situated south of Chippenham. The College is at the centre of Lackham Park, which is a 500 acre estate occupying 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. Those who attend the autumn field meeting this year will have a preview, as we will be using the laboratory in the evening. There is also a good range of wet and dry woodland sites within our usual radius and Salisbury Plain with a range of more open habitats, including large areas of calcareous grassland, is nearby. 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, so many interesting records can be expected.

A booking has been made for the College's spring half term week and the meeting will run from Saturday 29 May to Saturday 5 June 2004. Accommodation will be in lockable single rooms, probably in a new block at present under construction. This will be at a cost of £30.50 including VAT per person per day, so bookings for part of the week will be acceptable. This price will include breakfast, evening meal and a basic packed lunch. Evening meals will not be available on Monday 31 May (since the chef does not work on bank holidays), resulting in a reduction of £6.50 in the charge per person on that day, so the charge for a full week will be £209. Because of this the now traditional end of week meal out will be brought forward to the Monday and will be attended by everyone. A charge of £60.00 + VAT per day is also being levied for six days' use of the laboratory facilities; this will be divided equally between all those using these facilities and would involve an addition of £14.50 per person if 30 people were attending for the full week.

The College requires that electrical equipment used in the laboratories must have a certificate indicating that it has been PAT tested. This applies to microscopes with inbuilt lights and all associated lighting equipment. It does not apply to low voltage items such as laptop computers and mobile phone rechargers or to any personal items used in the accommodation block. Any items tested on the 2003 autumn field meeting will not need to be retested next year as the certificate will still be valid. Those attending are advised to have their equipment tested by an electrical retailer before coming, but arrangements will be made for the College's electrician to test any items that do not have a certificate. The College's microscopes and lamps will also be loaned initially to meet any needs before this testing can be carried out.

Hours of laboratory use will also be more restricted than usual because of the need for the Laboratory Supervisor to be present while we are occupying these facilities. It has been arranged for the Laboratories to be opened from 5.0p.m. until midnight (excluding the evening meal period); they will not be opened in the morning but a coffee room will be available then for any pre-excursion discussion. It is hoped that these arrangements will not adversely affect those more industrious members who wish to work longer hours and it will be possible for personal microscopes to be used in the owner's room for those wishing to work at unsocial hours.

An estimate of the number of people attending is required by the end of this year. Laboratory space (two areas in adjacent buildings) is only available for about 30 people, so early booking is advised. Room accommodation is available for more and it is understood that we will be the only party on site at the time. As Dipterists Forum has already paid a deposit of £200, it is not anticipated that any further deposit will be required at this stage. Additional people may be added to the party after the end of this year and the College needs to know the final number by the beginning of May 2004. Any cancellations after that date will incur the full cost to the person concerned.

## Diary 2003/4

### 2003

#### OCTOBER

15-19 **DF** Autumn Field Meeting - Wiltshire

#### NOVEMBER

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

8 **BENHS** Annual Exhibition

### 2004

#### MARCH

12-14 **DF** Workshop: Fly Families. Preston Montford

9 **BENHS** Annual General Meeting

#### MAY

29-(5) **DF** Field Week: Wiltshire

#### JUNE

(29)-5**DF** Field Week: Wiltshire

**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](mailto: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](mailto:general@ecology.demon.co.uk) or  
[www.demon.co.uk/bes/meetings/dispersal/index.html](http://www.demon.co.uk/bes/meetings/dispersal/index.html)

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

**BRC** Biological Records Centre - Mark Hill

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

**BENHS** ([www.benhs.org.uk](http://www.benhs.org.uk)),

**RESL** ([www.royensoc.co.uk](http://www.royensoc.co.uk)) &

**AES** ([www.theaes.org](http://www.theaes.org)). (site non-functioning at present)

#### 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](mailto:exotica@madasafish.com)

## Fly leaf



## And now ...

.....Fame

It is always difficult to know whether the media is reporting correctly, but one can depend on the *New Scientist* to get it's scientific facts right. Thus in early July I read of un-named dragonflies and hoverflies that are predatory and whose stealth behaviour in approaching prey could be adapted for missile technology.

Shortly afterwards, my attention was drawn to an item in another prestigious publication, *The Times*. To my astonishment I read that a locality in Yorkshire has 1000 species of craneflies. Now I knew that Yorkshire is claimed, by some, to be a far better county than any other, but 10 times as good? This gem of scientific reporting was clearly hype, tacked onto an item about a man who had got a grant from the Forest Enterprise to study a soldierfly - very enterprising indeed.

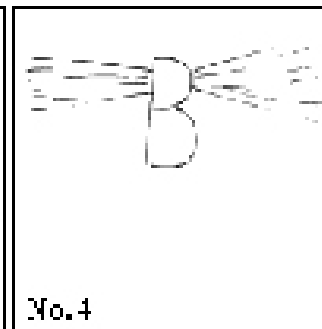
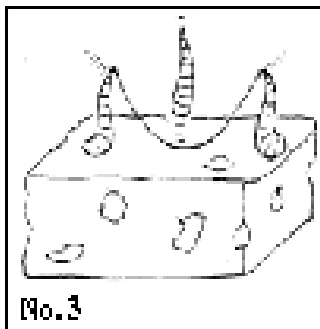
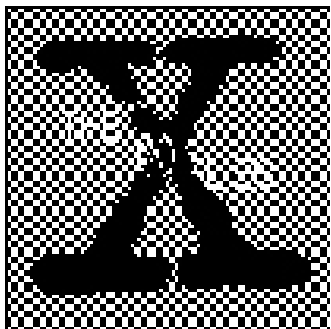
Virtually the next day, I happened to be listening to Radio 4 News Quiz. Yes, you bet the panel was led into the above item. They knew all the fine detail about a former employee of Midland Bank, though treated his study with rather less reverence than any of us would dare. Thus, the name Roy Crossley was airwaved nation-wide and beyond.

Roy has celebrity status anyway, but is now positively revelling in his 'five minutes of fame'. In one of the Yorkshire papers he is even accorded an accolade as one of Britain's greatest explorers.

And that's not the end of it. On the Dipterists Forum summer field meeting Roy went to Walberswick NR where an artist asked him what he was doing. A landscape painting now has Roy (together with a couple of other Forum members with minor bit parts), collecting flies. This completely unique painting is to be displayed in a Suffolk art gallery and is said to be destined for hanging in a Royal Academy exhibition.

I hear that post now reaches him with the address 'Roy Crossley, fly expert, Wilberfoss, York'. All that remains is for him to open the next Tesco supermarket in Yorkshire as confirmation as Britain's one and only superstar fly explorer, with portrait in the National Gallery. Come to think of it, is not the BBC looking for a new chairman presenter of *Have I got News for You?*

Alan Stubbs



completed articles for the next Bulletin (a temporary guest editor if you like) as otherwise the next one will be a rather thin affair.

Darwyn Sumner

## Contributors

Please note the following deadlines for the next two bulletins:

### Spring bulletin

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

### Autumn bulletin

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

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

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

Please let me know if you are about to contribute a Newsletter or other separate as I need to include it on the "Fly sheets" list on the Contents page.

## Two things at once

The Spring Bulletin has to be prepared at exactly the same time that I finalise the Preston Montford Workshop presentations. I am thus looking for volunteers to help out with