BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum

Bulletin No. 57 Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society **Spring 2004**

Please notify Dr Mark Hill 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 next issue

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Culicidae - Mosquitoes

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Dixidae - Meniscus midges

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Drosophilidae - Fruit Flies

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Larger Brachycera

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Mycetophilidae and allies - Fungus gnats

Mr Peter J Chandler (see Dipterists Digest)

Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Cranefly

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Pipunculidae

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

Simulidae

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Autumn 2003, Summer 2004:
Peter Chandler

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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.

BULLETIN OF THE

Dipterists Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin No. 57

Spring 2004

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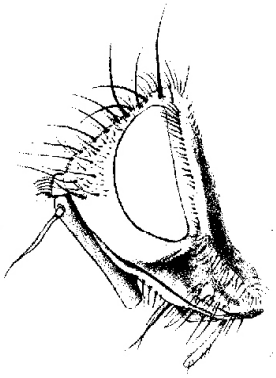
Bulletin Editor Darwyn Sumner

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 County Council), 0116 267 1950 ext 24.



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Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

Delivery problems

Apologies to members who had difficulty with delivery of the last Bulletin. There were quite a few of them and its probably no coincidence that this happened around the time of a postal strike, especially since several of the lost packages were sent to people with surnames beginning with "P".

Should you experience difficulty in the future the following points might help you work out who to contact. I wash my hands of it all once I've sent the copy to the printers (so I can help out only with electronic copies), John Kramer then does all the envelope stuffing and travelling to and from Monks Wood (who provide the free postage and other goodies like the Starter Pack which came with the last issue). Excess stock is then passed on to Mick Parker who now maintains the address list and can then deal with enquiries over copies lost in the post or requests for copies for new members.

Invertebrate Site Register

Jon Webb (Invertebrate Ecologist, Terrestrial Wildlife Team, English Nature) asked me if it would be acceptable to add the 1999 Field Week records to the Invertebrate Site Register. I asked him what form this is in and whether it was publicly available. It is currently a Recorder 3.3 database, presumably held by English Nature, and will be converted to Recorder 2002 "as and when". It is a "mish mash of all sorts of data put onto the system over the years" and plans are afoot to make this available via the Gateway as well.

Gateway

Anyone worried about security for sensitive records which are made available via the Gateway should be reassured that this aspect is managed by the groups that own and manage the records. (I do this for Leicestershire Environmental Resources Centre). As records get sent to the Gateway, this aspect of managing access to data becomes an important issue for DF who really need a single person for people to contact.

Contributors

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

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.

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.

Due to pressure of work required to finalise the Preston Montford Workshop presentations it has been necessary, for this Bulletin, to stick absolutely to deadlines. Anything that didn't arrive on time simply got excluded. Even so, I'm sure you will agree that it is packed with information. Particular thanks to John Kramer who spent a lot of time in the last few days of January in putting together reports of talks at out AGM. His skills acquired in many years of marking sixth-formers essays are evident in the way he seems to have turned lecture notes into a polished article; perhaps if I ask him to take notes at Preston Montford I'll have a book to publish by the end of the weekend. Sadly the AGM reporting is a task which seems not to fall in anyone's lap particularly - apologies to our host, Graham Rotheray, for the lack of a proper appreciative account of the most enjoyable weekend.

News from the schemes

Data Exchange

To those of us handling Diptera records on computers it was predicted that Stuart Ball's "reign" would signal marked improvements in the exchange of records. His article on getting Peter Chandler's list into the NBN Dictionary is lighthearted enough but it shouldn't let us trivialise the importance of the task as it represents a terrific amount of work on his part and a good deal of cooperation between members. I hope Peter will forgive my omitting the list of references that Stuart put in at the end of the article, it only contains one name and we all have all the last few copies of Dipterists Digest and Peter's 1998 list - don't we.

For many of us it means that we can now comfortably use Recorder to enter any Diptera taxon we desire and exchange records freely.

Stuart's been busy in other areas as well; to coincide with a recent upgrade to Recorder he has developed a number of useful tools (available on the NBN website) which assist considerably in the task of data exchange.

One of these tools, as demonstrated at our Preston Montford workshop, has now been successfully used to convert all the records sent to me for compilation from the 1999 Field Week at Grange-over-Sands. The export file was sent out by email to several members in January, boosting the data holdings of the Cranefly and Sciomyzid schemes. Some of the members receiving the file do not have Recorder 2002. It can be used purely to examine such records, perhaps those members might care to obtain a copy simply for this purpose as it seems that interesting datasets of this nature will continue to become available in this format. The Cornwall (2000 & 2001) records will follow shortly.

This opens up a few issues for discussion by the Dipterist Forum: 1) have we plans for records from the later field weeks (Scotland and Suffolk) to be entered into Recorder 2002, 2) my obligations to compile such records are fulfilled once the exports have been distributed but what arrangements have we in place for contacting landowners and agencies, 3) have we automatically fulfilled these obligations by placing such records in the public domain via the NBN Gateway, 4) how do we validate records when errors might creep in via the compiler 5) does the Dipterists Forum formally accept the NBN's Data Exchange Principles (see the NBN website for details).

MapMate users will not be excluded from this data exchange, the same records from my Field Weeks will be made available later in the year in a suitable format.

Darwyn Sumner

Cranefly Recording Scheme

email from Mark O Hill (CEH/BRC) to John Kramer

You do not know me, but last summer I took over from Paul Harding as head of BRC. When I took over, Paul suggested that we applied to the NBN for funding to begin tackling some of Alan Stubbs's data backlog. The funding was forthcoming, and we appointed an assistant, Antony Mould, to help with this task. Antony has been working hard, coding up cards for data entry, and arranging for a data entry specialist to do the work (she has not yet started).

By chance, I yesterday had a meeting which included Darwyn Sumner, and he suggested that it would be good to have a progress report on this project for Dipterists Forum. This sounded to me a good idea, so Antony has now written one, which is attached. Do not hesitate to get back to me if you have any queries.

the report:

Progress Report on Pilot Project to Computerise Cranefly Data

Background

The national expert on craneflies (Alan Stubbs) has been collecting data on the group for several decades and hopes to complete an identification manual in 3-4 years time. The distribution of many species is poorly known, partly because most non-Welsh records exist only in paper form and are not available electronically. The group includes several rare and threatened species whose national status is not well known, for the same reason. The data resource, which is currently housed with Stubbs, has been identified by the Biological Records Centre (BRC) as a dataset 'at risk', because checking and cleaning the data would be difficult if Stubbs was not actively working on the group himself and available for consultation.

Project Proposal

In order to estimate the resources needed to computerise the dataset, a 3 month pilot project was proposed, with the following objectives.

1. Capture some of the data electronically (pilot data capture)
2. From this pilot suggest a suitable method of data entry and estimate the resources needed for full data capture

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This process would contribute to the development of the Dipterists Forum (DF) and complement the work already being undertaken by its members to assemble cranefly data from other sources.

Progress as of 23rd January 2004

A casual worker (Antony Mould) has been employed to carry the project forward, starting on 5th January. Initial meetings between BRC staff, Stubbs, and Stuart Ball (another DF member) were held to help clarify the current state of the data held by Stubbs, and DF's progress in assembling other cranefly data. During these meetings the following work plan and responsibilities were established:

DF:

- Electronic records – DF recently surveyed its members (including Stubbs) for any holdings of electronic cranefly records and requested their submission. DF to chase on this during March and collate those records received into Recorder 3.3.
- Paper records – DF intends to use volunteer members (who are already familiar with cranefly nomenclature) to transcribe Stubbs' paper records and input them directly into Recorder 3.3.

Stubbs and Ball:

- To update the current cranefly checklist (Chandler 1998).

BRC:

- Record Cards – Stubbs has an estimated 20,000 cranefly records on various record card formats. BRC to computerise a sample of these records and estimate the resources needed to computerise the entire dataset.
- BRC to redesign the cranefly recording card; to include the updated species list determined by Stubbs and Ball.

Stubbs was keen for BRC to include Scottish records in the sample dataset computerised, as this would provide him with useful provisional information on the northern distribution of cranefly species in Great Britain

Since these meetings BRC effort has focused on data inputting preparation. This has included:

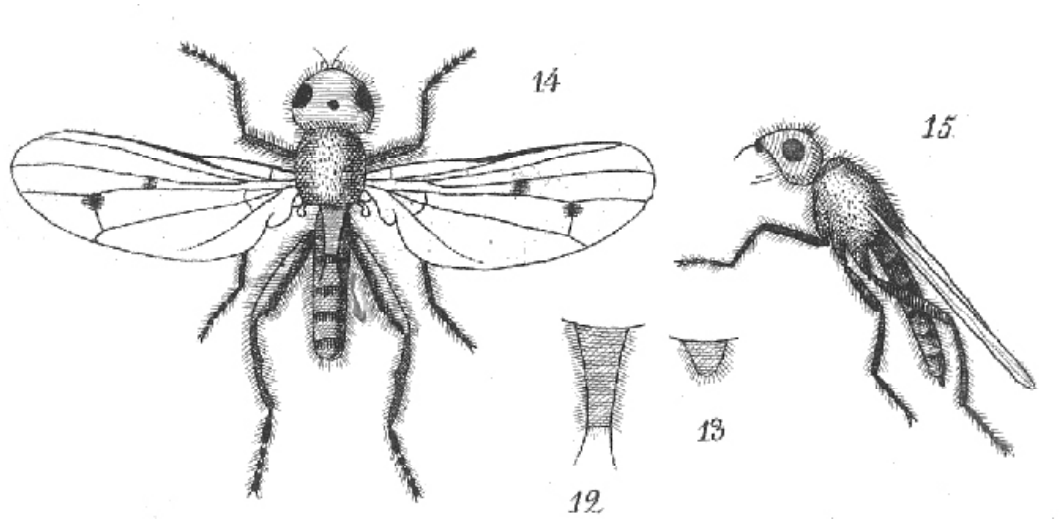
- Collecting record cards from Stubbs;
- Customising and testing the data inputting software **BRCInputter** for use with cranefly records;
- Preparing record cards for inputting (ordering, coding etc) – cards from Scotland have all been completed along with a substantial number from northern England and East Anglia;
- Contracting out the data inputting – 4 weeks of work will be undertaken, commencing on 26th January.

Draft versions of the redesigned cranefly record card have also been completed.

Mark Hill & Antony Mould, Biological Records Centre, 23 January 2004

Empid Recording Scheme

Hilara quadrivittata Meigen, 1822 complex includes two species



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British empidists might be interested to learn of a paper by Milan Chvála which shows that *Hilara quadrivittata* is a complex of two species [Chvála, M. 2002 Revision of the European species of the *Hilara "quadrivittata"* group (Diptera: Empididae). *Acta Universitatis Carolinae Biologica* **46**: 229-276]. The nominal species *H. quadrivittata* is an unavailable name under the 'rules', being a younger synonym of *H. fuscipes* (Fabricius), therefore, two new species *H. quadrifasciata* Chvála and *H. quadrula* Chvála were established.

So far, all specimens of British "*quadrivittata*" examined have proved to be *H. quadrifasciata* which is widespread and common in Europe and occurs commonly throughout Britain. *Hilara quadrula* has mostly been recorded from central Europe but it remains a possible addition to the British fauna and it would be worth checking existing collections for it. The following key (based on Chvála) is provided to help separate the two species.

Males

Mesonotum grey dusted, *acr* 4-serial; front coxa with fine yellowish hairs at tip. Occiput grey with two well separated darker patches above neck. Mid tibia with a few short spine-like *av* bristles in apical 1/3 but otherwise short-pubescent; mid basitarsus rather slender, as deep as following tarsomeres and <0.5 X length of tibia. Hind tibia dorsally with *c.* 4 bristles slightly longer than tibia is deep. Hind tibia with *c.* 8 longer dorsal bristles.

quadrula

Mesonotum more brownish (especially between the dark central stripes), *acr* with tendency to be 2-serial and front coxa with coarser blackish hairs at tip. Occiput darker, more uniformly blackish-grey dusted. Mid tibia with long bristly hairs anteriorly and posteriorly throughout; mid basitarsus stouter and longer, at least 0.5 X length of tibia.

quadrifasciata

Females

Hind tibia distinctly dilated, nearly as deep as hind femur at middle, dorsally with 5-6 bristles clearly longer than other pubescence, but shorter than tibia is deep.

quadrula

Hind tibia less compressed, clearly narrower than hind femur, dorsally with a row of less differentiated, nearly equally long hairs and bristles.

quadrifasciata

Chvála provides figures of the males genitalia, legs and the ocellar region of the head. *Hilara quadrifasciata* has a long emergence period extending from early may until late July or August (peaking in mid June). In contrast, *H. quadrula* is a spring species active in Europe in May and June. Habitat preferences and behaviour of the two species appear to be similar. If present in Britain, *H. quadrula* is most likely to be found near ponds and streams in the south of the country.

Adrian Plant, 9 High Street, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 3AX.

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Newsletter # 23 included with this Bulletin

Simon Hayhow

Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

Photographs and records required for forthcoming publication

Ian McLean

Tephritid Flies Recording Scheme

Provisional Atlas included with this Bulletin

Laurence Clemons

Accounts for several schemes are not included above, the Acalyptrate ones should receive a boost of interest following the Preston Montford workshop and it is hoped that recording scheme organisers will view this as an ideal opportunity to put together a little something for the next Bulletin.

Field Week Records

A useful summary of data holdings from the various field weeks became possible following a message from Stuart Ball to myself and Mike Howe. In it he lists all the data holdings he has since 1987 (for a detailed list of Field Meetings see Alan Stubbs' article in Bulletin #47). Bracketed items are planned imminently, sites marked .mif are available as boundary files and all records are associated with these. Once in Recorder 2002 the records would

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also be made available for recorders in that format. If you can fill in the gaps in our knowledge (e.g. Skye & Ayr) please let one of us know.

Year	Place	Rec 3.3	R2K2	Other	Paper	Sites	Compiler	Published
1987	Bangor	557	(557)				Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1987	Herefordshire	113	(113)				Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1988	Galashiels	3629	(3629)				Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1988	Bideford	122	(122)				Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1989	Bideford	5032	(5032)				Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1990	Winchester	2835	(2835)				Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1991	Skye	?						
1992	Stirling	5860	(5860)		S. Ball		Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1993	Norfolk	7363	(7363)		S. Ball		Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1994	Preston Montford	596	(596)				Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1995	Ayr	?						
1996	York	1367	(1367)		R Morris		Stuart Ball	(Gateway)
1997	Abergavenny	1487 Diptera of 10657 all taxa	(1487+)				Mike Howe	Yes
1998	Dorset	1209 sp of 9120 all taxa	(1209+)				Mike Howe & Mick Parker	Yes
1999	Grange-over-Sands	-	5063	Access		.mif	Darwyn Sumner	Gateway
2000	Cornwall	-	(~833)	Access		.mif	Darwyn Sumner	(Gateway)
2001	Cornwall	-	(~1800)	Access		.mif	Darwyn Sumner	(Gateway)
2002	Inverness		?	?		.mif	Chris Spilling	
2003	Suffolk		?	?		.mif (part)	Ivan Perry	

Darwyn Sumner & Stuart Ball

Mystery sites

If anyone has the local OS maps and is able to send me the grid references for any of the sites below, I should be very grateful. I am currently entering data from museum specimens into Recorder 2002, for the Cranefly recording scheme. Problems are sometimes compounded by abbreviations, or by indecipherable writing on small labels, so please allow for some lee-way on the spelling.

Alvesford (or Alnesford? Essex), Arkley Common, Ashbridge, Barisand Ci= (Hereford), Loxley Wood (Somerset), Noar Hill (Surrey?) Oxenbourne Down (Hants) Oxwich (Glam) Portherron Cave (Cornwall) Possil Marsh, Stepe (Dorset) Wexham Wood, Widecombe Moor,

Ridley Wood was visited by Colyer and Cooper's Hill (Gloucs) is an R.S. George site. Perkins & Britton collected at High Meadow Woods, Staunton, and Boar's Hill (Berks) is a P.J. Osborne site and Hall Dengle was visited by Cranston in 1934. Wood, in 1898 collected from Stoke Park, and 'Pool, Middle Park, Heref', and a Yerbury site was Walkham Valley (Devon). Two C.H Andrews sites are Brane, and Quidhampton, but there are a number of places with these names, so if anyone knows the correct grid references, please let me know.

There are many New Forest Sites, perhaps so well known to southern entomologists. Example's are Rhinefield, Ober Heath, Latchmore and Redshoot Wood.

Welsh Sites without grid references include the following: Coed Gonllyryd, Cwm Brchan, Dolgosh, (Merionethshire) Dryslwyn, Llangsdog, Lyfnant Valley, Llanhwchllyn, Nairirl, (Nantcal?? Merioneth)

Scottish Sites include: Boat of Garten, Cairig Ghou (Inv), Choir Odhair (Inv.) Glen of Drumloch (Moray) Glen Gwaun, Glen Lochay, Invermoriston (Ir and Sron na Lairig.)

Thanks for any grid references sent.

John Kramer jk@chezejog.demon.co.uk

Obituaries

Maurice Waterhouse

This is an edited Version of an Appreciation by Michael Swales and Mark Champion in ' Staffordshire Wildlife' (89) Sept 2003 (with an additional postscript by Don Steward from the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery).
Devoted to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust virtually since its formation, Maurice Waterhouse was born near Chapel-en-le-Frith in 1939. A talented footballer in his early years, he commenced a working life at working for Metropolitan Vickers (having studied engineering at Manchester University) on turbine blades. He became Warden of the RSPB reserve at Coombes valley in 1969 and not long afterwards, a founder member of the Leek Group of the Trust. Throughout his time at Coombes, he applied sound conservation management principles there to the undoubted benefit of its wildlife and the people who visited the reserve He was highly professional in his approach, a determined and respected individualist who always spoke his mind. He supported both local groups by his lectures and also the Trust Council in its acquisition policy - he was largely instrumental in obtaining Bateswood Reserve for it. His later years saw increasing time spent in Bulgaria, where he became influential in working with national government and local wildlife groups in establishing conservation policies for the country. After suffering serious injuries in a motor accident, he recovered and continued his work, retiring from Coombes in 2000. Sadly little time was left to this very remarkable man and he died in 2003.
Maurice Waterhouse was knowledgeable in many fields of natural history and was a leading authority on beetles. He regularly donated insect specimens to the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent; from 1974 to 2002, and as a significant bequest in 2003, the Museum gained around 7,000 specimens. The bequest comprised mainly of beetles and hymenoptera, but earlier donations included 3,500 dipteran specimens. Not only did he donate these flies, he also spent hours of voluntary time at the Museum methodically identifying and sorting them into taxonomic order. Over 2,500 of the fly specimens were collected from the Coombes Valley nature reserve near Leek and all but a few of the rest were from elsewhere in Staffordshire. It was Maurice's aim to collect as many different local flies as possible and his collection holds in the region of 1,500 separate species. Most of these are listed in 'Staffordshire Flies- A Provisional List' by D.W.Emley (Staffordshire Biological Recording Scheme Publication. No. 15, 1992.

Malcolm Smart & Mike Bloxham

I note what you say about Maurice Waterhouse. Probably none of those you mention will be aware that he hosted our 1997 autumn field meeting, when we used his facilities at the Coombe Valley Reserve as a base. He was very hospitable and the meeting was successful despite being permeated by heavy downpours. I think that this should be mentioned in the obituary. He was quite interested in fungus gnats, which he had been collecting and depositing in the Stoke Museum for some years and also contributed a note to the Digest in 1998.

Peter Chandler

Dave Phillips

It is with deepest regret that I have to let you know about the death of Dave Phillips. Dave died at the weekend following his long battle with terminal illness. I spoke with Dave's wife, Amanda, on Monday and she asked that we tried to inform as many of his former colleague as possible. The funeral took place at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh at 2pm on Thursday 18th December.

Susan M. Davies, S.N.H. 17th December 2003 via Oliver Cheesman

Dave attended the Dipterists Forum Meeting at Inverness. In fact we roomed together.

Forum News

National Schemes & Societies (NBN & CEH)

an invitation:

Dear Darwyn

National Biodiversity Network Trust

National Societies and Recording Schemes Steering Group

The NBN Trust has recently published a strategic document entitled *Business Priorities* that lays out the Trust's vision for the next five years development of the National Biodiversity Network.

The document identifies six top-level objectives designed primarily to take the NBN forward from a proof of concept phase to a fully operational tool. The objectives are:

1. to make biodiversity data available both to decision makers and as much as possible available in the public domain;
2. to ensure all holders of biodiversity information needed for decision-making are able to participate in the NBN;
3. to ensure that the data available through the NBN are of known quality;
4. to ensure that the NBN Gateway gives access to data on habitat and species used to inform decisions affecting biodiversity at local, regional, national and international levels;
5. to promote knowledge, use and awareness of the NBN;
6. to enhance the skills base and expertise needed to support and develop the NBN.

The document goes on to identify a series of cross-cutting themes designed to give structure to a subsequent programme of work to attain these top level objectives. These are:

A. Infrastructure development
B. Data standards and tools
C. Capacity building for LRCs
D. Capacity building for voluntary recording groups
E. Working with the wider public
F. Creation of the national UK node of GBIF and the related OBIS
G. Co-ordination and promotion

The document then describes a system of co-ordination for each 'theme' through a series of theme steering groups, which will have at least one Trustee of the NBN Trust as a member. Many of these steering groups are already in place, but previously it has not been possible to run a successful steering group for our work with the National Schemes and Societies. In part this was because of the voluntary nature of this sector and thus the difficulty individuals have in attending meetings, particularly ones held in normal work time. In part the difficulty has been in getting a reasonable representation of this highly heterogeneous sector.

We believe we now have a formula that should work. A new NS&S steering group under the chairmanship of Mark Avery (RSPB and NBN Trust Trustee) is to be created with its inaugural meeting on 13th November. In essence there will be one plenary session per year linked to the annual NBN Trust conference for the voluntary sector. The plenary session will identify work areas and working groups to take these forward. The working groups depending on their topic area and membership can devise their own working method – meetings, e-mail groups etc. to minimise the impact on the other responsibilities of its members whilst taking forward the work of the steering group.

Clearly in order to keep numbers manageable and yet be representative, we have given very careful thought to membership. I am writing to invite you to be a member in order to represent the Dipterists Forum, but also to share with other members your intimate working knowledge of the needs of, and constraints that apply to, Local Record Centres, which we consider is vital for this group to understand.

I hope you are able to take up this invitation to steer the work of the National Biodiversity Network Trust at this important stage in the development of the network.

Yours sincerely,

Dr J. G. Munford
Programme Director
National Biodiversity Network Trust
cc. Derek Lott
Mark Avery

an inaugural meeting:

Societies & Schemes steering group

Inaugural meeting: 13 November 2003
London Wildlife Trust, Harling House, 47-51 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0BS
MINUTES (abridged)

Present:

Dr Mark Avery (*Chair*)
Dr Jessa Battersby, JNCC and Tracking Mammals
Paul Harding, British Myriapod & Isopod Group
Dr Stephen Tilling, Field Studies Council
Environmental Data & Recording
Dr Keith Porter, English Nature
Dr Alan Stewart, Auchenorrhyncha Recording Scheme
Dr Nigel Clark, British Trust for Ornithology
Ruth Tall (*Secretary*)
Dr Roger Sweeting, Freshwater Biological Association
Marina Flamank, Environment Agency
Dr Damian McFerran, Ulster Museum: Centre for
Mark Hill, CEH Biological Records Centre
Amy Coyte, Bat Conservation Trust
Bob Bloomfield, Natural History Museum
Darwyn Sumner, Dipterists Forum

In attendance:

Jim Munford, NBN Trust Trevor James, NBN Trust Sir John Burnett, NBN Trust
Andy Brewer, NBN Trust Oliver Grafton, NBN Trust

interesting discussions:

It was generally felt that in its facilitating role, the NBN (through this steering group) could provide the individual societies and schemes with:

- development and co-ordination of common principles
- development and co-ordination of common guidelines
- research into complementary work being undertaken outside the Trust
- identifying opportunities for training
- identifying opportunities for collaboration and sharing of expertise (and even recorders themselves) amongst member societies and schemes
- providing a public interface and identify opportunities for raising awareness of recording
- helping societies and schemes contribute their data to the NBN projects that would be too big for one individual society or scheme

any volunteers?:

Rather than trying to cover everything, it was agreed that the meeting should initially decide on one or two quite broad subgroups (which could be subdivided as necessary at a later date). The following three were therefore agreed as a starting point:

Subgroup 1	**'Volunteer engagement'**
Chair	Amy Coyte
Members	Marina Flamank
	Trevor James (NBN rep)
	Oliver Grafton (NBN rep)
Topics	health & safety
	training
	intellectual property rights (models for best practice are already being trialled)
	collaboration
	engaging volunteers

and Dipterists Forum gets involved too:

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Subgroup 2	**'Technical and resources'**
Chair	Mark Hill
Members	**Darwyn Sumner**
	Andy Brewer (NBNT rep)
	Mark Telfer (agreed after meeting)
Topics	helping societies and schemes make their data available to the NBN
	establishing how the NBN can use this data
	establishing what happens to the data from then on
	establishing what prevents data recorders from sharing

Subgroup 3	**'Communications'**
Chair	Roger Sweeting
Members	Keith Porter
	new project officer currently being recruited to be based at SNH (NBNT rep)
Topics	promoting the existence and value of the NBN
	engaging other organisations
	working to reduce the perceived threat from the NBN by societies and schemes
	reinforcing the sharing of information
	lead on the agenda for the NSS annual conference (assisted by the secretariat)

The three chairs were thanked and members were asked to consider the need for any further subgroups and which one they would want to be affiliated to.

something Dipterists Fourum could usefully do with the 1999 Grange-over-Sands Field Week records?

Gateway re-launch

It was announced that the new 'all singing - all dancing' version of the Gateway will be launched in May 2004 after a considerable period of technical development. In order to work at its best, more data is required and members were asked to contact JM or AB if they could help. It was suggested that AB could run a demonstration on the Gateway at the next societies and schemes meeting in February.

the following day at the NSS annual conference:

At the Zoological Society of London's excellent venue, the Huxley Theatre in Regent's Park, sponsored by Aggregate Industries UK (many thanks to Miles Watkins and his team)

- David Roy on the use of broad scale data for studying climate change effest
- Nick Collinson of the Woodland Trust and UK Phenological Network for interesting stuff on Phenological data
- Deborah Proctor of JNCC with the latest figures on the Species status reviews
- Chris Preston of CEH/BRC on defining species ranges using datasets
- Miles Watkins of Aggregate Industries talking about the way his company use wildlife data to achieve a happy balance between minerals extraction and conservation/restoration
- Matt Shardlow of the Invertebrate Conservation Trust wandering through brown-field sites
- Steve Compton with something about beetles

Plenty more entomologists to be found at this event; Ian Wallace (Trichoptera), Michael Archer (Hymenoptera) and Simon Hayhow amongst the several dipterists.

late January and our first proper Steering Group meeting at Monks Wood:

basic terms of reference, headings under which to consider the many issues:

1. Data capture and collation (giving schemes technical assistance) - one small example: there are plenty of useful spreadsheet tools and other goodies like "BRCInputter" kicking around, we hope to gather these together and make them more widely available.
2. Obstacles and solutions - just what are the technical obstacles to the mobilisation of data; some sort of survey might arise out of this, probably building on one carried out a couple of years ago by Trevor James.
3. Dissemination - making information available to schemes and societies in the most appropriate form.
4. Monitoring and feedback - just how is the information used once it has been made available.

We seem a well-balanced group, Mark Telfer is a heavy MapMate user (RSPB use it extensively) whilst Andy Brewer, based mostly at JNCC, is more familiar with Recorder 2002. I use both in my Local Records Centre. All have dissimilar backgrounds, both Mark Telfer and Mark Hill are keen statisticians, Andy Brewer is a good listener with technical competence, especially with respect to the Gateway (he subjected Mark Telfer and myself to an assessment of the latest version of it whilst we were there). Mark Hill and myself have long experience with recording groups, from opposite ends of the scale, plus he's flora and I'm fauna.
Many other issues were debated, such as data models, data quality and the issues of validation. No time to go into any great detail on the day.
If any member has issues they would like to raise under the broad framework of the above terms of reference, then do contact me about them (but please read basic materials first - e.g. Data Exchange Principles on NBN website). This is a good opportunity for the Dipterists Forum schemes, don't miss out on it. Note that this group is representing all National Schemes and Societies so constructive comments are welcome from any biological recorder.

Darwyn Sumner

Great Logo Competition !!

All entries to be submitted to The Bulletin Editor by August 1st, for inclusion in the Autumn Bulletin. A formal choice will be made at the AGM on 27 November 2004.

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Record achievements

All you never wanted to know about the Diptera Checklist in the NBN Taxon Dictionary

In October and November 2002 I spent some time loading the Diptera Checklist (Chandler, 1998) into the NBN dictionary for use in *Recorder 2002* and other NBN products. Peter Chandler's original work was published from Word files and these have been converted into a Microsoft Access database by Malcolm Smart and also by Darwyn Sumner. I largely worked from an Access file supplied by Malcolm, but also used Darwyn's version from which to extract the higher taxonomy (ranks above family). Loading the information from the published checklist was not too much of a job, due to the excellent work that had already been done by Malcolm and Darwyn, but applying the nine updates which have been published so far in Dipterists Digest (Chandler, 1999a,b, 2000a,b, 2001a,b, 2002a,b, 2003) turned out to be a long and painstaking job. After I had done my own checking, I generated a Word file which Peter very kindly offered to check – and found a large number of corrections mainly related to disagreements between the gender of specific names and the original genus under which species were described. I made these corrections just in time for the completed checklist to be included on the *Recorder 2002* update CD released just before Christmas.

Having the checklist in a database makes it possible to do all sorts of things nobody would think of trying to do with a standard publication on paper. So here are some statistics you will probably never needed to know, but might find vaguely interesting!

Note that the original checklist covers the "British Isles" and indicates which species have been recorded from Ireland as well as Great Britain by marking them with * (or "Ireland only" with **). Whilst this information has been loaded into the database, it has not proved possible to update it reliably because, whilst the nine updates in Dipterists Digest show whether a new species to the list is recorded from Ireland as well as GB, or Ireland only, they do not include information about species originally listed from GB only which have subsequently been discovered in Ireland or Ireland only which have subsequently been found in GB. Peter tells me he is working on an new Irish Checklist – once this is available it will be possible to update this information properly, but for the moment I haven't attempted to split counts by occurrence in GB and Ireland

The total number of names in the list, including all taxonomic ranks and all synonyms, is 20,216 broken down as shown in Table 1:

Rank	Preferred name	Synonym
Order	1	
Infraorder	9	
Sub Order	2	
Series	2	
Section	2	
Super Family	32	
Family	103	37
Sub Family	167	13
Super Tribe	3	
Tribe	168	2
Genus	1,425	944
Sub Genus	414	61
Species	6,786	10,033
Sub species	5	2
Form	1	
Total	9,122	11,094

The figure given here for the number of species (6,786) does not agree with Peter's total of 6,766 given in his introduction to the ninth update (Chandler, 2003) but Peter's count does not apparently include imported species – which accounts for most of the difference. The number of species which are flagged with various statuses are shown in Table 2:

Status	Number of species
Extinct	3
Imported	17
Introduced	24
Vagrant	11

Which of these categories should be included or excluded from the "British total" is clearly open to debate, so you can do your own sums depending on your point of view.

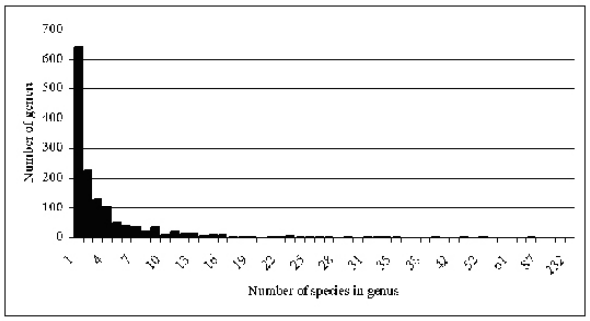
Peter tabulated the number of species and genera in each family in the introduction to his checklist (Chandler 1998) and an updated table is shown as an appendix. Only one family, Spaniidae (split from the Rhagionidae, 6th update,

Chandler, 2001b), has been introduced since the original checklist was published.

It is also possible to count the number of species in genera. The ten largest genera are as shown in Table 3:

Genus	Number of species
Megaselia	232
Dasineura	127
Phytomyza	114
Platypalpus	87
Contarinia	72
Mycetophila	72
Hilara	67
Tipula	61
Fannia	58
Dolichopus	53

Diagram 4 shows how many genera have 1, 2, etc species:



It is perhaps surprising that most Dipterous genera are so small: 45% of the genera (640) have only a single species and 90% have 10 or fewer species.

The ten species with the most synonyms are:

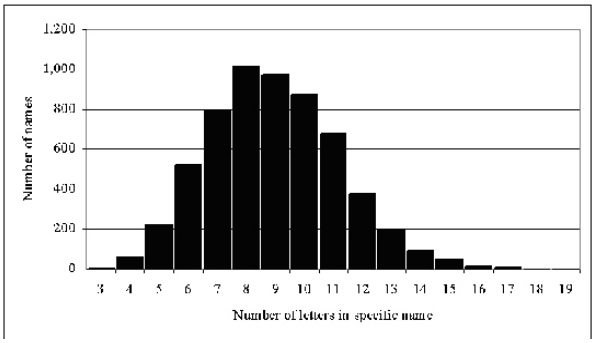
Species	Number of synonyms
Exorista rustica	*24*
Clinodiplosis cilicrus	*18*
Acricotopus lucens	*17*
Chrysopilus cristatus	*16*
Helina reversio	*15*
Neomyia cornicina	*13*
Metriocnemus fuscipes	*13*
Chrysops caecutiens	*12*
Rhagio tringarius	*12*
Lydella grisescens	*12*

Another 16 species have 10 or 11 synonyms.

The ten most popular specific names are:

flavipes (55), *fasciata* (48), *nigra* (45), *affinis* (41), *bicolor* (41), *maculata* (38), *obscura* (38), *nigripes* (36), *pusilla* (36), *flava* (35).

Diagram 6 shows the frequency of the various lengths of specific names:



The longest and shortest names are as follows:

inulaedyssentericae	**19**
ferrugineovittatus	**18**
pseudopenicillaris	**18**
approximatonervis	**17**
ferrugineovittata	**17**
interruptovittata	**17**
lackschewitzianus	**17**
longappendiculata	**17**
pallidoscutellata	**17**
pseudolongicornis	**17**
pseudovariipennis	**17**
schlechtendaliana	**17**
subpallidiventris	**17**
gei	**3**
gel	**3**
iri	**3**
zoe	**3**

We have two names (genus and species name combinations) of no less than 35 characters! They are *Paralauterborniella nigrohalteralis* and *Pseudopachychaeta approximatonervis*. At the other end of the scale, 28 binomials have only 10 letters. If you add in the reference to the authority to make a full scientific name, the prize for length goes to the recently described *Microdon myrmicae* Schönrogge, Barr, Wardlaw, Napper, Gardner, Breen, Elmes & Thomas, 2002 which, at 89 characters, is nearly twice as long as the next one.

Table 7 shows the top 20 authors of species names. I was surprised that Linnaeus only comes in at 15th place, and also that the clear winner, Meigen, has nearly twice as many species to his name as the 2nd placed Zetterstedt.

It is also interesting to look at when the species were originally described, although clearly this is not necessarily related to when they were introduced to the British

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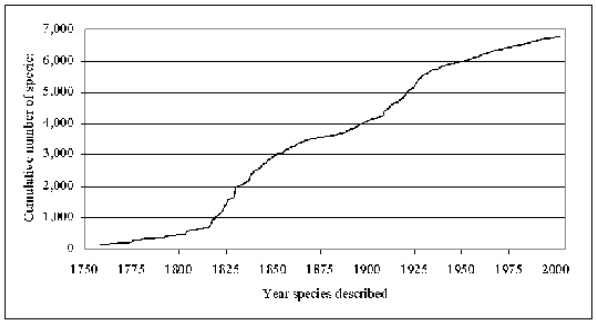
list. Diagram 8 shows the cumulative number of species by date of publication given in the authority for each species:

Author	Number of names
Meigen	2,492
Zetterstedt	1,256
Fallén	847
Kieffer	732
Walker	712
Edwards	633
Loew	567
Collin	499
Fabricius	428
Haliday	405
Winnertz	387
Harris	385
Rondani	380
Robineau-Desvoidy	377
Linnaeus	355
Macquart	297
Rübsaamen	264
Becker	233
Wood	227
Hendel	225



I was rather expecting this to tail off, but it is pretty close to a straight line, suggesting that the rate at which new Diptera are being found and described has not changed much over 250 years!

The NBN checklist will be kept up to date by incorporating the "Corrections and changes" when they are published in Dipterists Digest. These updates will be made available to *Recorder* users as files which can be downloaded and imported. I have written a VBA program which generates a Word document from the database in a format as close to the published checklist (i.e. Chandler, 1998) as I could manage – including a table of contents and a comprehensive index. The Dipterists Forum intends to make this available for download from its web-site – although it is not there yet – thus making a fully up-to-date checklist available. This could be made available in both .doc and .pdf formats. The zipped .doc file is 768Kb so it is not too big for most people to download. It would be possible to produce other outputs (e.g. lists for recording scheme groups, label lists) if there is a demand.

Chandler, P.J., 1998, Checklists of Insects of the British Isles (New Series) Part 1: Diptera. *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects*, 12, 1-234. Published by the Royal Entomological Society.

Chandler, P.J., 1999a, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (1). *Dipterists Digest*, 6(1): 57-61.

Chandler, P.J., 1999b, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (2). *Dipterists Digest*, 6(2): 112-113.

Chandler, P.J., 2000a, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (3). *Dipterists Digest*, 7(1): 50-52.

Chandler, P.J., 2000b, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (4). *Dipterists Digest*, 7(2): 81-82.

Chandler, P.J., 2001a, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (5). *Dipterists Digest*, 8(1): 67-70.

Chandler, P.J., 2001b, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (6). *Dipterists Digest*, 8(2): 126-127.

Chandler, P.J., 2002a, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (7). *Dipterists Digest*, 9(1): 84-86.

Chandler, P.J., 2002b, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (8). *Dipterists Digest*, 9(2): 150-152.

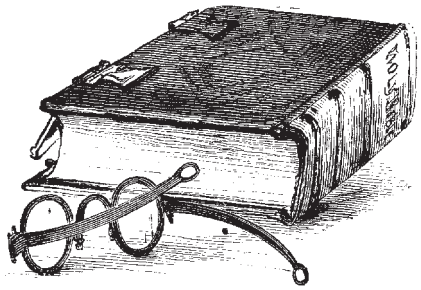
Chandler, P.J., 2003, Corrections and changes to the Diptera Checklist (9). *Dipterists Digest*, 10(1): 58-60.

Stuart Ball

Family	No species	No	Average sp / genus
Cecidomyiidae	627		4.38
Chironomidae	591		4.25
Mycetophilidae	457	61	7.49
Agromyzidae	374	19	19.68
Phoridae	329	23	14.30
Dolichopodidae	287	40	7.18
Muscidae	282	39	7.23
Syrphidae	272	69	3.94
Tachinidae	254		1.78
Anthomyiidae	238	29	8.21
Limoniidae	213	49	4.35
Empididae	207	18	11.50
Chloropidae	177	40	4.43
Hybotidae	176	20	8.80
Ceratopogonidae	161	20	8.05
Sciaridae	155	20	7.75
Ephydridae	147	40	3.68
Sphaeroceridae	136	37	3.68
Psychodidae	95	20	4.75
Pipunculidae	93	13	7.15
Tipulidae	87	8	10.88
Tephritidae	83	38	2.18
Sciomyzidae	68	23	2.96
Drosophilidae	62	9	6.89
Heleomyzidae	62	17	3.65
Fanniidae	60	2	30.00
Sarcophagidae	60	16	3.75
Lauxaniidae	54	13	4.15
Scathophagidae	54	23	2.35

Keroplatidae	52	15	3.47
Stratiomyidae	48	16	3.00
Scatopsidae	45	17	2.65
Lonchaeidae	44	5	8.80
Calliphoridae	38	14	2.71
Culicidae	33	6	5.50
Platypezidae	33	10	3.30
Simuliidae	33	3	11.00
Chamaemyiidae	32	7	4.57
Tabanidae	30	5	6.00
Asilidae	29	16	1.81
Sepsidae	29	6	4.83
Psilidae	26	5	5.20
Conopidae	24	7	3.43
Anthomyzidae	20	7	2.86
Bibionidae	20	2	10.00
Ulidiidae	20	11	1.82
Milichiidae	19	6	3.17
Pediciidae	19	4	4.75
Opomyzidae	17	2	8.50
Bolitophilidae	16	1	16.00
Dixidae	15	2	7.50
Hippoboscidae	15	10	1.50
Piophilidae	14	12	1.17
Therevidae	14	6	2.33
Carnidae	13	2	6.50
Oestridae	13	7	1.86
Pallopteridae	13	2	6.50
Rhagionidae	12	3	4.00
Chyromyidae	10	3	3.33
Clusiidae	10	4	2.50
Micropezidae	10	5	2.00
Tethinidae	10	3	3.33
Trichoceridae	10	2	5.00
Bombyliidae	9	4	2.25
Odiniidae	9	1	9.00
Asteiidae	7	3	2.33
Lonchopteridae	7	1	7.00
Ptychopteridae	7	1	7.00
Rhinophoridae	7	6	1.17
Chaoboridae	6	2	3.00
Diastatidae	6	1	6.00
Dryomyzidae	6	5	1.20
Camillidae	5	1	5.00
Anisopodidae	4	1	4.00
Cylindrotomidae	4	4	1.00
Acroceridae	3	2	1.50
Athericidae	3	3	1.00
Diadocidiidae	3	1	3.00
Ditomyiidae	3	2	1.50
Microphoridae	3	1	3.00
Mycetobiidae	3	1	3.00
Nycteribiidae	3	3	1.00
Periscelididae	3	1	3.00
Spaniidae	3	2	1.50
Thaumaleidae	3	1	3.00
Xylomyidae	3	2	1.50
Xylophagidae	3	1	3.00
Acartophthalmidae	2	1	2.00
Atelestidae	2	1	2.00
Braulidae	2	1	2.00
Campichoetidae	2	1	2.00
Canacidae	2	2	1.00
Coelopidae	2	1	2.00
Phaeomyiidae	2	1	2.00
Platystomatidae	2	2	1.00
Scenopinidae	2	1	2.00
Stenomicridae	2	1	2.00
Aulacigastridae	1	1	1.00
Megamerinidae	1	1	1.00
Opetiidae	1	1	1.00
Pseudopomyzidae	1	1	1.00
Strongylophthalmyiidae	1	1	1.00
Tanypezidae	1	1	1.00

Review



Royal Entomological Society Handbooks – volunteers required for testing

As reported previously future handbooks are to be produced in collaboration with the Field Studies Council and will be in the larger format of their recent Plant Galls book, with keys fully illustrated. The other principal new development is that all keys will be tested, and amended as appropriate following receipt of constructive comments, before publication.

Two Diptera handbooks will shortly be available for testing. These are on Lonchaeidae by Iain MacGowan and on Drosophilidae by Paul Beuk & Brian Pitkin. It is expected that both will be available for the acalypterates workshop at Preston Montford in March, but it is appreciated that only limited testing can be expected there in view of the wide field being covered by this workshop. It is therefore essential that more detailed testing be carried out by a number of volunteers over a fixed time scale, preferably before this year's field season so responses by the end of June would be desirable. Participation both by experienced workers and beginners is required but access to an existing collection (personal or museum) with a reasonable amount of material of the family concerned (either named or unnamed) would be necessary for sufficient use of the keys to be made. Those attending the Preston Montford meeting could be invited to participate in the testing process subsequent to the workshop, but only on the basis that they would respond as oulined above.

The Lonchaeidae handbook has been drafted along the new handbook guidelines with illustrated key couplets, so is closer to being ready for publication. The Drosophilidae handbook was prepared by Paul Beuk about a decade ago so followed the old format with figures separate from the keys. Copies of the manuscript without the figures have been in circulation among some dipterists (the number of people already with copies is not known) so **any comments from past users of the keys would also be welcomed**. Most of the figures were also prepared by Paul and are now being arranged in plates by Brian, who will in due course be revising the manuscript into the new format and adding any further figures required. The existing figures will thus be available for circulation with the keys, although additional figures and the introduction will probably not be available at this stage.

Could anyone who is willing to be involved in this process please contact me and copies of the handbook drafts will be supplied.

Only a few responses have been received about a potential revision of the key to families mentioned in the previous notice on this subject a year ago and any other comments on this would be welcome. Work on some other handbooks is progressing. A revision of the relatively recent sciarid handbook (Freeman 1983), to be co-authored by Jane Smith and Frank Menzel, has been slowed by the discovery of nearly a hundred species previously unrecorded from Britain but work is continuing.

Peter Chandler

Reports

Autumn Field Meeting in Wiltshire

The meeting took place from 15 to 19 October and used the Wiltshire College, Lackham as a base for evening sorting. This proved a successful venue and we can look forward to using these facilities again on this year's summer meeting.

The meeting was attended for all or part by eleven people and the fieldwork proved successful given the prevailing weather. Conditions had been dry for some months before the meeting, with only brief spells of rain locally in the preceding two weeks and dry weather persisted during the meeting. The results obtained were much better than expected and it was notable that a good number of summer-flying species were still in evidence, boosting the total of species recorded.

During this meeting we visited 39 localities in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and the former county of Avon, including many interesting sites that will hopefully be revisited on the summer meeting. With records from two participants still awaited, we already have records of 393 species of Diptera and 45 species of other orders. The Diptera included members of 54 families, including some not usually represented on autumn meetings.

The total of 103 species of fungus gnats (Bolitophilidae, Diadocidiidae, Ditomyiidae, Keroplatidae and Mycetophilidae) achieved was surprising in being significantly higher than other recent autumn field meetings when dry conditions have prevailed. This is especially so since at most sites very few individuals of this group were observed. Midger Wood, where the stream was flowing well, had the largest numbers of both individuals and species (30) and the vicinity of the lake at Stourhead produced the highest Wiltshire total (26; 29 from Stourhead Estate). The wettest site visited was Jones's Mill and this was reflected in the range of Diptera recorded there.

The craneflies provided 48 species (57 if the other recording scheme families Trichoceridae and Ptychopteridae are included) so it was a good average total for an autumn meeting. The occurrence of 10 species of Pediciidae (more than half the British total) must be unusual for an autumn meeting. Platypezids were well represented, with10 species including the uncommon *Agathomyia cinerea* (Erlestoke Park Wood and Savernake Forest) and *A. falleni* (Everleigh Ashes) being new Wiltshire records. Heleomyzids (14 species) and muscids (29 species) were among groups usually well recorded in the autumn. Seven species of sciomyzids were also found.

The 13 species of psychodids included the scarce mainly south-western species *Pericoma canescens*, taken at the shady outfall of the lake at Erlestoke Park Wood along with the cave fungus gnat *Speolepta leptogaster*. Uncommon fungus gnats recorded included *Sciophila interrupta* (Savernake), *Rymosia spinipes* (Smallcombe Wood), *Exechiopsis magnicauda* and *Mycetophila deflexa* (Midger Wood). The south-western speciality *Mycomya pectinifera* turned up at Midger Wood and at its most easterly site so far at Burderop Wood, south of the M4 opposite Swindon. The flushes on the north facing slopes at Burderop were dry but *Thaumalea testacea* proved that they did exist.

Of the groups more in evidence than usual in the autumn we recorded 16 species of syrphids and the tachinids (8 species) included two recent additions to the British list: *Sturmia bella* (Lackham Park and Lower Wood) and *Paracraspedothrix montivaga* (Burderop Wood), the latter having also turned up on the Warwick meeting in 2001. At Jones's Mill Ken Merrifield found the tephritid *Chetostoma curvinerve*, of which woodland records are often in autumn or early spring, suggesting overwintering as an adult. Alan Stubbs was pleased to record *Asilus crabroniformis* in a field grazed by young cattle at By Brook, especially as Malcolm Smart was one of the newcomers to autumn recording at this meeting.

The 45 species of non-Diptera recorded included members of 12 orders of insects and other arthropods, among them the hornet and six species of butterflies.

One of the local trusts, through whom site access was arranged, was keen that we should carry out a risk assessment of the hazards to which we might be exposed. The sort of hazards they suggested were not likely to be a problem for the average intrepid fieldworker. However, some hazards experienced were not on their list. We often come across deer keds *Lipoptena cervi* on autumn meetings, usually sweeping winged individuals that have not yet found a host. It was unprecedented when one landed in Alan's eye and promptly tore off its wings, evidently intending to take up residence. The specimen is now preserved, with only the "stubs" of its wings remaining. Lower Wood was a large site comprising blocks of hazel coppice with numerous broad severely mown rides radiating in all directions so had the potential for getting lost. Perhaps one of our members, who carries the technical equipment to know precisely where he is on the earth's surface but didn't note where he was when he went in, can be excused for returning an hour late after a trek in search of landmarks. At least, from the readings he took, he can work out retrospectively where he was when he caught his best finds.

Peter Chandler

Meetings

Annual Meeting 2003

National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, 1st & 2nd November 2003

Dipterists Forum Day Lectures

There were thirty-five members present when Roy Crossley opened the meeting from the Chair. Graham Rotheray, our host in Edinburgh, dealt with some of the formal arrangements and then introduced our first speaker.

Finding, Rearing and Studying Dipterous Larvae - Graham Rotheray

There are still enormous gaps in our knowledge of the larvae of Diptera. Less than 2% of Diptera, world-wide, are known in their larval stage, and so there is a strong need for much more work to be done in this field

As one example, of his work, Graham described the ecology of the larvae of *Callicera rufa* Schummel. Since it is very elusive as an adult, this was thought of as a very rare species until the larvae were discovered. These are found relatively easily in the rot holes of pine trees. The trick is to search for forked pine trees, and the rot holes often occur at the fork. Thirty-one sites are now known for this species, and as a consequence, its status has been modified from Endangered to Notable..

After describing the ecology of *Callicera spinolae* Rondani, and the larval features of the genus *Callicera*, Graham then went on to describe the eclology of the larvae of the Lonchaeidae. These live in fallen timber, between the wood and bark , especially near the lenticels, and also in soft xylem. The structure of the posterior breathing tube differs from species to species and the end-on view of this, together with the associated processes and projections, make accurate identification relatively easy. These structures are also found in the puparia which are left behind when the adults emerge. The search for larvae has again led to a better undersanding of the distribution of this Family. Graham said that it was necessary to be persistent and focussed, in library and museum searches and in field-work. The search for larvae and puparia could continue for most of the year, and this was a definite advantage when compared to the search for the more elusive adult flies.

Some methods of rearing and preserving the larvae were then described, it being desirable to study both living and preserved material whenever possible. Graham recommended killing the larvae in hot water, followed by preservation in 70% alcohol. When collecting puparia it is essential to include all the bits, including the anterior bits. The head skeleton is especially useful for accurate identification. The pieces should all be placed in a gelatin capsule and the pin pushed through the capsule. (Don't pin the puparium directly, and don't glue to card!)

Graham then finished his talk with a quick tour of the phylogeny of the Diptera using especially the differences in the head capsule and skeleton to exemplify his theme.

Recent Advances in Scottish Diptera -The Challenge of Knowledge Transfer by Iain McGowan

To exemplify his theme Iain chose two saproxylic hoverflies, *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* (Fallen, 1170,) and *Blera fallax* (Linnaeus, 1758).

The first task was to understand the ecology. *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* resembles an orange acalyptrate. Its larvae have very precise requirements. They live in the gooey layer of rotting phloem cells, beneath the bark of fallen dead aspen trees. Furthermore the dead aspen trunks must be greater than 75 cm in circumference, and less than three years dead. The decaying phloem tissue dries out after three years and becomes unsuitable for the *Hammerschmidtia* larvae. This habitat is confined, in Scotland, to a few key aspen stands, where there are sufficient fallen trees to replace the larval habitat of those which are becoming too old and dry.

Partnerships were then set up which included the RSPB, SNH, and Forest Enterprise. Only one known *Hammerschmidti* habitat is on a National Nature Reserve, and therefore local landowners are key partners.

The important job of transferring the necessary knowledge for conservation was then implemented. The relevant land owners were told of the importance of the Boreal Aspen (*Populus tremula*) in the life cycle of *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea,* and the knowledge necessary for suitable management of the aspen stands was communicated..

Each year each site is monitored. If dead aspen wood is lacking, snags are cut down and left on the ground. Dead timber can be brought in from other sites and, in extremis, even live trees can be felled and their logs dispersed to provide essential larval habitats.

In the long term, new aspen stands are being planted, by cloning, to provide 'corridors' linking known sites, thus decreasing habitat (and population) fragmentation. Extra grants are being used to encourage this, since aspen has no commercial value.The results of this activity is being monitored by estimating the population size. This is done

by counting the number of suitable aspen logs, and multiplying that by an average figure for larval density. This effort will hopefully result in and upturn in the fortunes of *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea.*
The second example is that of *Blera fallax.* Their larvae, live in rotting confer stumps, and are associated with the fungus *Phaeolus schweinitzi*, which breaks down the dead wood to a suitable state for the larvae to feed on it. By studying the most populated pine stumps, it has been possible to re-create artificially the ideal larval habitat in the 'pine-chip pot'. This larval habitat may also be re-created in the dead pine stumps themselves.
The use of pots is a short-term expedient and it is hoped to gradually return the woodland to a more stable structure with a good mix of both old and younger trees, to replace plantations of uniform trees, of the same age, which are all clear-felled at the same time.
Here again the transfer of knowledge has been important, not only to the site managers, but , through web-based dissemination even to Scandinavian Dipterists.

The BENHS Heathland Flies Project by Stephen Miles

As a promoter of the British Entomological and Natural History Society's Conservation Working Group I felt the whole biodiversity action process presented a major opportunity to learn more about the life history of British invertebrates. More particularly we can hopefully, influence future heathland management by studying the life histories and ecological requirements of the three species of flies, that are the subject of my talk today.
My stance has always been that amateurs have a significant role to play, and can make a valuable contribution to species recovery.

Two beeflies and a hoverfly were the subject species. The species are:

1. *Thyridanthrax. fenestratus*
2. *Bombylius. minor*
3. *Chrysotoxum octomaculatum*

By choosing 2 more frequent species, the two bombyliids, this meant we could achieve some meaningful results but it would also increase the amount of survey effort for the very rare sp. *C. octomaculatum*.

The published Species Action Plans required us to carry out the work as follows:

1. Survey of sites of occurrence of the three species
2. Determine species distribution
3. Resolve relationships with hosts
4. Determine ecological requirements

Field work and Survey of Sites
At various times up to 23 people have been involved in the project, mainly BENHS members.This has been for the minimal outlay of travel costs and costs of materials and equipment used. Total project funding has been about £4000 over five years split between EN and BENHS.
This talk will focus on the Bombyliid*. Thyridanthrax fenestratus*
In 1999 a standardised walk was established on Thursley Common dividing part of the common into several path sections. This enabled us to test theories on which types of habitat *T. fenestratus* would occur most frequently and which it would avoid. Shade was confirmed as being unsatisfactory to this fly as fully expected. This also established which were the most favoured areas of the walk for the species.
Life History
In this project we have established that this beefly uses the sphecid wasp, *Ammophila pubescens,* as a host. The host wasp constructs its nests, mainly on extensive heathlands in southern England, by digging a short hole in generally hard sand containing small stones, immediately adjacent to plants of *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea*. This is mainly on the types of rides and tracks illustrated, with heather overlapping the sand of the paths or those having some areas of erosion such as slopes. Ideally the *Calluna vulgaris* should be of the building, mature or overmature phases.
Adult flies frequent nest sites and flight areas, usually occurring at the edges of heathland paths and bridleways.
An essential aspect is the requirement of the female beeflies is to suck up dry dust into the sand-chambers inside their abdomens to coat their eggs before flicking them either direct into the host's nests or under the heather where it is 15cm or higher. We have observed them gathering sand in this way many times, the beeflies sit quietly in the sand with their wings, legs and terminal abdominal parts vibrating as though hoovering up the sand.
However, it is not possible to visibly see the sand grains disappear as the flies' body obscures this when at rest. Shortly after this procedure has taken place female flies can be seen to indulge in a flicking motion with the tip of the abdomen flicking their now sand-covered eggs either into the *A. pubescens'* nest holes when they are briefly left open.

Meetings

Sometimes the sand that is used, is that from nest of other wasps and bees, though the host wasps *Ammophila pubescens* prevent this by removing the excavated sand particles away from their own nests. Both *Bombylius minor* and *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* depend on the correct sand type (dust), being available, and its consistency when it is dry, so that they are able to suck it up into their bodies. Obviously one of its essential qualities is that after rain it needs to dry out quickly. The bee-flies flick their sand-coated eggs into dark cavities beneath Calluna vulgaris stems where they coincide with the edges of rides. Yeates and Greathead suggest that a planidium larva results i.e. a very small beefly larva living in the area of the nesting host or down its nest hole. One project participant placed containers on the site to look like nest holes but unfortunately this did not fool the beeflies. Other strategies that *T. fenestratus*. employs are egg-flicking when the host nest hole has only been partially blocked. (When *A. pubescens* is absent from its nest holes it blocks them with small stones.)

Why are nest holes left open? *A. pubescens* is what is termed a progressive provisioner. This species of sand wasp establishes up to three nest holes concurrently. It is then said to remember the location of each nest, periodically checking each nest after it has initially stocked each hole with caterpillars and laid an egg on them. When a nest is checked to see if more food is needed by its by now growing larva, the nest hole has to be unblocked by the wasp temporarily removing the nest blocking stones. In this country Jeremy Field has established that up to 12 larvae may be provided for each nest containing a single *A. pubescens* larva. Each unblocking provides more egg-flicking opportunities for its parasitoid to flick its dust coated eggs into the host's open or partially open nests.

The Beautiful Yellow Underwing moth as larvae is particularly important and is the most frequent prey item of the wasp. Other prey items are caterpillars of the Common Heath and Horse Chestnut moths which all feed on the *Calluna.* Where the *Calluna vulgaris* is at the building or mature phase, and unshaded, usually in these sites Lepidoptera larvae will be plentiful, in turn the wasp may be plentiful enabling good numbers of the beefly to become established.

By using by a special locating method we marked a *A. pubescens* nest into which we observed *T. fenestratus* ovipositing in summer 2000. Small metal markers are hammerred under the soil near the nest when it is visible in the summer. A metal detector is then used to locate the site subsequently, as the nest site will have been covered over by soil by the host wasp. In the following Spring of 2001 we excavated two cocoons of this wasp from this marked nest site. After digging up the nest in March 2001 we buried these cocoons in transparent containers of sandy soil at home. Emergence of the parasitoid pupa case is through the *Ammophila* pupal case out on to the soil and its emergence there took place at night in the summer of 2001. Emergence of *A. pubescens* through its pupal case and then through the soil leaves the cocoon and pupal case below ground. The end of the cocoon is much more neatly bitten round by the new wasp to enable its emergence.

Yeates and Greathead (1997) state that ' beefly larvae consume the host when it is in a quiescent stage such as the mature larva, prepupa or pupa'. This suggests that the fly larvae only destroys its host when in has also reached the pupal stage, an endoparasitic relationship. In the late summer and autumn after feeding on the caterpillar prey provided for it the A. *pubescens* larva forms a cocoon, within which pre-pupal and pupal stages occur. The *Thyridanthrax* we reared cannot have destroyed the *A. pubescens* larva at any of the prior stages to pupal formation, otherwise the latter could not have been formed. From the literature on Bombyliids and discussion with David Greathead we have deduced that, after this larva has attached itself to the host larva, the cocoon of the *A. pubescens* is formed covering both itself and the attached first instar *Thyridanthrax* larva. Only once this stage is complete, possibly in late winter, is it speculated that the *T. fenestratus* larva quickly develops to complete its own pupal development within the host wasp's pupa.

For the population of *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* to thrive, it depends crucially on the nesting success of its host sphecid wasp, *Ammophila pubescens*. Where high numbers of the wasp are supported as at Thursley Common NNR, in Surrey, *T. fenestratus* is most successful. In fact we suspect the numbers of the host were considerably lowered in 2001, due to the success of the parasitoid.

In mark/recapture work in 2001, John Muggleton marked 93 *T. fenestratus* from the two best sections of the standardised route shown earlier. Two of these flies moved 300m from where they were marked, with one having moved 100m in an hour, suggesting a very mobile species. During this work one specimen was found to have survived for 18 days.

Habitat requirements

The habitat requirements of *T. fenestratus* /*A. pubescens* can be summarised as follows:

Fine but generally hard sand (white sand such as frequented by sand lizards is often a shared habitat of the host *A. pubescens*) containing scattered small stones, on tracks at which *Calluna vulgaris* predominantly abundant, the presence of *Erica* sp. is acceptable but they should not be dominant. This *Calluna* should be of the building, mature or over-mature phases and should abut right on the sandy paths, preferably it will be the first two categories, as these in turn support high numbers hairless moth larvae, as prey of the wasp. Where the heather is cut short at the

sides before the sandy path is encountered as in fire breaks this is unsuitable and the host will either not be found nesting or be in very low numbers. It is speculated that this maybe linked with the need of the wasp to carry its prey beneath its body. This may be made difficult where other vegetation e.g.grasses obstruct the way forward to the nest for the host wasp. Where the path is naturally very stony as in hilltops on lowland heathland underlain by plateau gravel *A. pubescens* nest sites will be much reduced if they occur at all. Where the heathland is covered in mor humus and litter layers, and this forms an underused path as this example this will not support the host and will probably also keep the soil cool.

Where, inappropriately, gravel or 'hoggin' been laid on heathland paths, as has occurred recently on some sites "managed" by English Nature/National Trust, e.g. Godlingston Heath and Chobham Common, this is most adverse and all nesting is considerably curtailed or almost non-existent. (Two standardised walks have shown this). It is especially bad practice if such paths are covered in these materials when the wasp pupae and fly parasitoid early stages are beneath the ground (Godlingston Heath (Winter 2002/3). Damage is also caused if work to tidy up paths is done in the Winter Spring or Autumn when, removing the sandy runnels that the host nests in and *T. fenestratus* has oviposited in . The Chobham Common manager, where this occurred, was considerate as he provided extra scrapes, but with no evidence that these would be used by the BAP species, because they are not walked to keep them free of vegetation. If erosion control is undertaken this is also undesirable

We have also found there is a limit of approximately 90 metres in height, all known *T. fenestratus* sites are at this height or below, occasionally *A. pubescens* can be found at this height (Yateley Common, N. Hants) but *T. fenestratus* is not present.

It is clear that sites becoming scrubbed over esp. with gorse will shade out the *Calluna*, reducing the larval prey availability for the sphecid wasp, *Ammophila pubescens*. Equally the gorse will shade out potential wasps nests in tracks, as will birch, sallow and conifer trees.

Fire is also temporarily very adverse, although all the heaths studied have been extensively fired at some stage, the important aspect is that at least part of the habitat should survive without fire damage for the caterpillar prey to survive to be preyed on.

Galloping horses are also a problem. Although the horses create favourable erosion, they also force other users to walk the path edges excessively and this is unfavourable, creating more nest disturbance in summer than would be normal. However if horses gallop or consistently walk at the edges of the paths as well, especially in winter their hooves can penetrate and destroy the underground pupa of the host, and its parasitoid, if the pupa is so occupied. This is because we have found these pupae tend to lie at only 6 or so centimetres below the ground, and the hooves can penetrate the soft sand to a level below this depth.

Horse-free areas are desirable, and where these do exist they are the best sites, for instance on Thursley Common NNR, Surrey. *T. fenestratus* is thriving in Surrey, and surviving in Hampshire but in my opinion it is only just hanging on in Berkshire and Dorset. It also still occurs in the West Sussex with colonies on Iping and Ambersham Commons

Stephen Miles

Secretary's Report

FIELD MEETINGS

Momentum has been maintained by the Forum throughout 2003. The membership has risen slightly from 277 to 281 and the workshop and field meetings have been well attended. At the Preston Montford Spring Workshop, twelve members were led by Stuart Ball through Data Recording and Transfer, using the newly released version of Recorder (R2002). The Summer Field Meeting led by Ivan Perry, took place from 11-18 July at Hengrave Hall, near Bury St Edmunds, and the Autumn Field Meeting, led by Peter Chandler, was held at the Wiltshire College, Lackham from 15th-19th October.

PUBLICITY AND RECRUITMENT

The public face of the Forum has been well presented, as usual, by the very professional 'Dipterists Digest', and the friendly and more informal 'Bulletin', thanks to the efforts of our editors, Peter Chandler and Darwyn Sumner.

The Committee has met three times during the year and has been pre-occupied by a number of issues. Publicity and recruitment remains a concern that was also raised at the AGM last year. If we are to be effective in promoting the study of Diptera into the future, then we need to take every opportunity to do so.

Our present Publicity Officer, Patrick Roper, has unfortunately had to resign, due to family circumstances, and so this position is vacant on the Committee. Any offers of help to fill this post would be gratefully received.

PUBLICATIONS

Meetings

One important way in which the Forum gains publicity and new members is from publications, and Alan Stubbs and the Biological Records Centre are to be congratulated on the publication of the 'Dipterists Forum Starter Pack'. This is 89 pages full of essential information, and is well worth the wait. Since most of us are starters with at least some groups of flies, it will be very useful to members, and will also be available to support and encourage new recruits.

In addition to the Starter Pack, some progress has also been made with the National Reviews of Scarce and Threatened Species, also published by the NBN. The Empidoidea Review is at the printers and the Review of the Nematocera & Aschiza is not far behind.

RECORDING SCHEMES

With regard to the Recording Schemes, progress has been helped by the publication of Recorder 2002, at the end of last year. The attack on the backlog of Cranefly data has begun, (See the BRC Report in this Bulletin) and although large amount of data still remains to be entered, at least a start has been made. There has also been a call-in of data already entered on to Recorder 3.3. The target date for the publication of 'British Craneflies' is 2006, with a definitive Atlas being published perhaps around 2008.

The Sciomyzid Recording Scheme has been revived in the last Bulletin, and there has been a call-in of Records with a view to the publication of draft keys and a provisional Atlas for 2004. Any photographs of species *in vivo* would also be welcomed.

Following the publication of 'British Soldierflies', the Brachycera Recording Scheme is also aiming to publish an Atlas with a target date of 2005. The dead-line for records is the end of this year, 2003, so hurry!!

In the Empidoidea Scheme, good progress is also being made by Adrian Plant using Mapmate.

CONSERVATION

Finally Conservation. A sub-committee has been set up to consider a Dipterists Forum Policy towards the conservation of endangered Diptera. A discussion document is promised for the next Bulletin, so feed-back your response so that your views can be taken into account in the final document.

We have been affiliated to 'Buglife', the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, since its inception in March 2001. Although some of it's work to date has been concerned with setting up the Trust, it has already produced a number of interesting publications.

FUTURE PLANS

For the future, we have a number of choice events to look forward to. The Spring Workshop at Preston Montford from 12-14 March, will cover two areas. Either: An Introduction to Families of Flies, OR an Introduction to the Acalyptrates. Book now to avoid disappointment !! The Summer Field Meeting will be. like the Autumn 2003 meeting, centred on Wiltshire College from 29 May to 5 June. Our Dipterists'Day and AGM will be held at the Natural History Museum, London on Saturday 27 November. Perhaps our 2005 AGM will be held at Preston Montford Field Study Centre. It will be something to discuss during 2004. What do you think?

John Kramer

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer directed members' attention to the accounts, published in the Autumn Bulletin (No. 56).

Although there was a healthy balance of £13,344, the income from membership and Dipterists Digest subscription were now only just meeting the expenditure. The Treasurer therefore proposed that the membership subscription be raised from £5 to £6, and the Dipterists Digest subscription be raised from £8 to £9, making a total subscription of £15, to take effect from January 2005. This proposal was put to the meeting and accepted unanimously. There were no questions and the accounts were accepted unanimously.

Jon Cole

Membership Secretary

Stuart thanked our retiring Membership Secretary, Liz, in her absence, for all the excellent work that she had done for the Forum since its inception. He said that Mick Parker had been asked to fill the vacancy, had accepted, and was therefore standing for election.

Liz Howe

Dipterists Digest Editor

There has been one issue so far this year; Volume 10, No. 1, which at 66 pages, is shorter than the previous issue. The new style of binding has been retained, but this is only suitable for publications above a certain size. It is therefore important that the number of pages be maintained. The second issue of Volume 10 cannot be published this year due to the lack of material, but the aim is to get back on schedule during 2004. The deadline for Vol 10, No. 2 is the end of November, and about half the text for that issue is currently with the Editor. Since members tend to be

busy with field work during the Summer months, they were asked to write as much as possible during the winter months, in order to submit enough for the two 2004 issues.
The format of articles as currently submitted by authors by e.mail, was in line with that requested, and there was now a print run of 500 copies. This allowed for an increase in distribution both here and abroad. The Library of the Natural History Museum now subscribes but it was hoped to extend this by sending flyers to overseas organisations, museums and libraries, and to meetings, once a new Publicity Officer is in post.

Peter Chandler

Bulletin Editor

Since the Bulletin Editor will be busy with the Acalyptrate workshop, Darwyn appealed, especially to Recording Scheme Organisers, for any copy for the Spring Bulletin to be sent to him in good time, preferably by the end of January.

Darwyn Sumner

Election of Officers

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.
Ordinary elected committee members serve for two years, half of the team standing down each year (7f)
The Officers and General Committee were proposed by the Chairman and the committee were elected unanimously as follows:

Chairman	Stuart Ball
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	Jon Cole
Membership Secretary	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Secretary	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Secretary	David Heaver
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Web Manager	Chris Raper
Conservation Officer	Malcolm Smart
Ordinary Members	Chris Spilling
	Alan Stubbs

OTHER AGM BUSINESS

The Dipterists Forum Logo. Stuart Ball

The history of the development of the present logo is as follows: The initial design used by the Forum was a drawing by Steven Falk of a *Rhamphomyia*, but it was felt that a more generalised logo was needed, to be representative of the Forum. A competition was duly held, but there was no outstanding winner. Since Patrick Roper was the newly appointed Publicity Officer, it was left to him to produce a logo of a generalised fly which he thought to be suitable, but which could be reviewed after a suitable interval. This is the logo that is currently in use, and it has been proposed by some members that it is now time for such a review. One glaring omission, it was pointed out, was the absence of (visible) halteres. It was therefore announced by Stuart that a new competition will be opened and publicised in the Spring Bulletin, 2004. All contributions will be submitted to the Autumn Bulletin, 2004, and a formal decision taken by vote at the 2004 AGM.

The AGM 2004

It is proposed to hold the next AGM in the south of England, according to our usual custom of rotating the venue. The Natural History Museum has been proposed and the Secretary has been asked to look into costs, which have escalated considerably in recent years. As an alternative, it has been proposed to investigate the use of Field Study Centres in different parts of the UK. Advantages would include minimal transport, parking and accommodation problems, and the fact that we would be able to have the Dipterists' Supper at a reasonable cost. Roger Morris has volunteered to investigate this possibility.

The Empidoidea Review.

Roy Crossley asked for a show of hands by those wanting a printed copy of the imminent Empidoidea Review. A significant number of members present raised their hands.

The Dipterists Forum Website

A number of problems were voiced from the floor, including incorrect addresses and lack of information about important Forum events. It was suggested that a solution might lie in multiple access to the site for a few editors,

and it was proposed to put this suggestion to Chris Raper. It was also noted that, to save time, any material offered for publication on the website, should be offered in a suitable format.

Future Field Meetings

The Field Meetings Secretary, Roger Morris, stated that a number of possibilities were being investigated which included Carlisle for 2005, Haverford West for 2006, and the Durham District for 2007.

The Starter Pack

Alan Stubbs said that, although the Starter Pack provided some of the needs for starters, there was also a need for keys, and he felt that it was important to maintain the momentum in publishing these. The problem of the copyright of drawings was raised from the floor, though it was felt that many of these could be solved by application to the copyright holders. It was felt that there was a need to disperse workshop keys to the wider membership. It was also suggested that it was time for a new edition of the Dipterists' Handbook, since things had changed a lot since the first edition in 1978. The treatment of collections to avoid pests was cited as an example.

John Kramer, Secretary

Forthcoming

Two-way Family Favourites Workshop

Preston Montford 12-14 March 2004

Acalyptrates

Darwyn Sumner, Jon Cole (assisted by Steve Falk & John Ismay)

An introduction to the Families

David Heaver & Simon Hayhow

Summer Field Meeting - Wiltshire

Saturday to Saturday 29th May to 5th June 2004 (Final Notice)

Full details of this meeting, which will run from Saturday 29 May to Saturday 5 June 2004, were given in the previous Bulletin. That notice will also appear in the BWARS Bulletin, which has yet to be published, so may result in some late entries. The Wiltshire College was also used as a successful base for the 2003 autumn field meeting (see report on that meeting for comments on some local sites).

Regarding the PAT testing required of electrical equipment used in the laboratory, any equipment approved for the autumn field meeting will not need to be tested again. The college's electrician will be on hand from 3.0pm on the Saturday afternoon and anyone bringing equipment that does not have a valid certificate should aim to arrive as soon as possible after that time to have it tested.

A full list is given below of those who have indicated that they plan to attend. Anyone whose name does not appear and who intends to come is requested to let me know as soon as practicable. Those who are planning to attend for part of the week are also requested to confirm which nights they are staying if they have not already done so. In addition to those listed, five other people have indicated that they may be able to attend and are also requested to confirm as soon as they are able. As indicated in the previous notice, the College requires a final list of those intending to use their facilities by the beginning of May and cancellation after that date will incur the full cost involved.

Attending for the entire week: Richard Underwood, Mick Parker, Ken & Rita Merrifield, Malcolm Smart, Liz Douglas, Alan Stubbs, John Kramer, Jon Cole, Darwyn Sumner, Brian Levey, Andrew Halstead, Ivan Perry.

Attending for part of the week: Roger Morris, Stuart Ball, Mike Pugh, Robin Williams, Allan Lawson, Chris Spilling.

Day attendance: Barbara Last (also attending meal on Monday with her husband), David Gibbs and myself

Peter Chandler

Autumn Field Meeting - Sussex

13 to 17 October 2004 (First and Final Notice)

Since a request in a previous Bulletin for suggestions about the locations of future autumn field meetings, which

initially resulted in us going to Norfolk in 2002, the only other suggestion so far received has been from Patrick Roper – hence the choice of location for this year. Patrick has recommended that we come to his home village of Sedlescombe and make use of facilities at Pestalozzi International Village, situated to the south of the village, for our evening sorting.

Sedlescombe is a few miles from the coast in the hinterland of Hastings in East Sussex, an area that has not previously been visited for a Forum field meeting. The region is well wooded with a diversity of habitats and there would appear to be sufficient streams and wet areas in woodland to have some expectation of finding a good autumn fauna. There are also some deep gills and crumbling cliffs on the coast, with a distinctive flora and fauna. We will benefit from Patrick's local knowledge in selecting the sites with best potential.

Use of a room in the evening at the Pestalozzi Village has been arranged and would be at a cost of £10 per hour for the time the room was in use (so cost per person would depend on the numbers attending). It would also be possible for equipment to be left set up in the room while it is not in use for no extra charge. There is also the option of using accommodation at this centre, for which there is a charge of £15 per night bed and breakfast. The centre accommodates more than 200 but it is understood that it is unlikely to be busy at the time of the meeting. The accommodation is basic, being mostly for students, but it is understood that use could be made of some twin bedded rooms that are used by teachers. No extra charge would be made for single occupancy. The rooms have no facilities but showers, toilets and small kitchens are situated nearby. Local guesthouses would be found for those requiring less basic accommodation.

Could anyone who would like to attend all or part of this meeting please let me know and also their preferred accommodation requirements, as soon as they are able.

Peter Chandler

Possible options for Dipterists Field Meetings in 2005 & 2006

I am currently investigating a variety of options for accommodation for 2005 and 2006, and centres in Carlisle and Durham seem to be looking promising. A possible option in Carlisle is to use the Northumbria University Carlisle Campus Halls of Residence (named "The Old Brewery") which are relatively close to the town centre and to Carlisle Museum. Talking to Steve Hewitt during the recent "Dipterists Day" (weekend) in Edinburgh, it seems possible that we might be able to link up with the Museum to accommodate some of our ID activities. The other possibility is St Aidens College in Durham. I have stayed there in the past and have found it to be comfortable and convenient for parts of Co. Durham and Northumbria. For those who don't know this area, I cannot recommend the coastline strongly enough - boulder clay overlying Magnesian Limestone creates some of the most fabulous flowery cliffs with seepage lines. I've no idea what the entomology is like, but it looks nice! A further possibility is to use Newton Rigg, which we visited many years ago; however it is a bit isolated, so is not much favoured at the moment. Looking further ahead, we discussed the idea of Pembrokeshire again when we were in Edinburgh - maybe this is not such an impossibility - I will investigate.

I have also been giving some thought to organising one or two short breaks - maybe a weekend at a nice place. I think it is likely to be 2005 before this happens as 2004 looks to be rather busy. One option I have in mind is a look at some of the Northamptonshire woodlands in June - they are quite a gem but rather un-recorded. My task at the moment is to find suitable accommodation. Also, I have my sights set on the New Forest for a weekend - I know a few nice guest houses in Lyndhurst (although they are not terribly cheap).

Thinking a bit further into the future, I would be interested to take soundings on the possibility of holding Dipterists Day at a field centre or suitable hotel? This year's meeting in Edinburgh was really very good (Thanks to Graham Rotheray & everyone in the Malloch Society), and despite not having a formal Dipterists Supper we did have a great social evening as well. The thought crossed my mind that we might just get Preston Montford, Losehill Hall or Juniper Hall for a weekend and sort out the residential, feeding and meeting issues in one hit! Comments/ responses please - this idea may take a couple of years to get moving if people like it or think it would be worth trying - perhaps it could be alternated between visits to London, Cardiff and Edinburgh?

I hope by the summer field meeting in Wiltshire we will have 2005's venue sorted out. In the meantime, let me know if you have ideas for other venues or places where we really ought to visit.

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