



BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum



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

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

Recorder

MapMate

Microsoft Access

Spreadsheet (Excel)

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

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

Canoptidae, Lonchopteridae and Otitidae

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

Culicidae - Mosquitoes

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

Dividae - Mniseric midges

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

Drosophilidae - Fruit Flies

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

Sepsidae

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

Tachinid

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

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

Larger Braconyzoa

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

Mycetophilidae and allies - Fungus gnats

Mr Peter J Chandler (see Dipterists Digest)
Tipuloidae & Ptychopteridae - Cranofly

Mr A E Stubbs
181 Broadway Peterborough PE1 4DS

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

Sciomyzidae - Snail killing Flies

Dr I F G McLean
109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 4TZ
ian_mclean@jncc.gov.uk
ianmclean@waitrose.com
Mr A.P. Foster
23 The Dawneys, Crudwell, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9HE

Darwyn Sumner

Hoverflies

Dr S G Ball
255 Eastfield Road Peterborough PE1 4BH
stuart.ball@dsl.pipex.com

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

Newsletter editor -

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

Tophitid Flies

Mr Laurence Clemons

14 St John's Avenue
Sittingbourne
Kent ME10 4NE

Stilt & Stalk Fly

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

Anthomyiidae

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

Empid & Dolichopodid

Dr Adrian Plant
Curator of Diptera
Department of Biodiversity and Systematic
Biology
National Museum & Galleries of Wales
Cathays Park, CARDIFF
CF10 3NP
Tel. 02920 573 259

Adrian.Plant@nmgw.ac.uk

Chironomidae

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

Pipunculidae

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

Simuliidae

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

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

Dr. R.K.A.Morris
7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE
roger.morris@english-nature.org.uk

Summer 2003:

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

Autumn 2003, Summer 2004:

Peter Chandler

Mr M. Parker
9 East Wyld Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0RP
jmparker_87@hotmail.com

Malcolm Smart
'Southcliffe', Pattingham Road, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7HD. Tel: 01902 700228.
malcolm@smart-home.freeserve.co.uk

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

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

Ken Merrifield
kenmerrifield@yahoo.co.uk

vacant

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

Stuart Ball
255 Eastfield Road Peterborough PE1 4BH
stuart.ball@dsl.pipex.com
chris.raper@hartslock.org.uk
Website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/

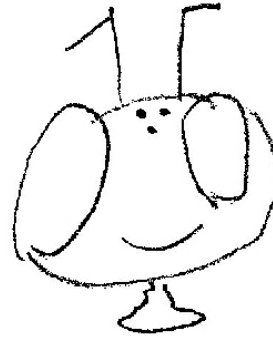
Would the individuals listed above please check that I have all their details correct and contact me if there is anything they wish to be added or amended.



BULLETIN OF THE **Dipterists** Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin No. 58	
Autumn 2004	
ISSN 1358-5029	
Bulletin Editor Darwyn Sumner	
Chairman	Stuart Ball
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	Jon Cole
Membership Sec.	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Sec.	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Sec.	David Heaver
Publicity Officer	vacant
Conservation Officer	Malcolm Smart
Ordinary Members	
Chris Spilling, Alan Stubbs	
Unelected Members	
BENHS rep.	Ken Merrifield
Dip. Digest Editor	Peter Chandler
co-opted	Alan Stubbs
JCCBI representative	John Dobson
Recording Scheme Organisers	
Crane-fly	Alan Stubbs
Fungus Gnats	Peter Chandler
Hoverflies	S. Ball & R. Morris
Larger Brachycera	Simon Hayhow
Tephritid	Laurence Clemons
Sciomyzid	Ian McLean
Conopid	David Clements
Empid & Dollies	Adrian Plant
Anthomyiid	Michael Ackland
Dixidae	R.H.L. Disney
Culicidae	K. Snow
Sepsidae	Adrian Pont
Tachinid	Chris Raper
Stilt & Stalk	Darwyn Sumner
Website	
www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/	
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	



Contents

Forum News.....	4
Editorial.....	4
News from the schemes.....	5
Times they are a changing - or are they?.....	8
Notice board	9
Great Logo Competition	9
Invitation to Contribute to Invertebrate Biodiversity Prioritisation.....	10
Membership Matters	11
Recruiting new Dipterists.....	11
Sweep Net.....	12
Letters	13
From our Cheshire correspondent:.....	13
Meetings	14
Reports	14
Spring Workshop 2004.....	14
Spring Weekend - Cardiff	15
Summer Field Meeting - Wiltshire 2004.....	15
Forthcoming.....	17
Autumn Field Meeting, 2004.....	17
Annual Meeting 2004	17
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....	18
Spring Workshop 2005.....	20
Spring Weekend Field Meeting 2005.....	20
Summer Field Meeting - Durham 2005	21
Future Field Meetings 2006	21
And now	22
Fly sheets.....	23
Treasurer's Account to 31 December 2003.....	
Hoverfly Recording Scheme Newsletter #37.....	
Hoverfly Recording Scheme Newsletter #38.....	

Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

Funds available for “innovative” projects

A source of funding was identified at the the NBN's National Schemes & Societies Steering Group meeting held at JNCC, Peterborough on 28th July, for projects relating to National Recording Schemes. These JVA funds (from Defra) need to be applied for rather quickly (by September) for use in the next financial year, but there will be further opportunities next financial year. Guidelines for the kind of projects most likely to fit the requirements of this Defra funding were drawn up by Jim Munford (NBNT) and Mark Avery (RSPB) and the projects submitted to Defra through the Steering Group. As an example of one such project, the Bat Conservation Trust wishes to work with a consortium of Local Records Centres (East Midlands) to assist local bat groups in 5 county regions to address their data organisation and mobilisation (e.g. Gateway) needs. Other examples could be drawn from observations of the kinds of work some members saw delivered by presentations from Butterfly Conservation and BSBI at the National Schemes and Societies conference last year.

Time being rather short, I have conferred with Dipterists Forum key members on this matter and projects were drawn up and submitted to the group. Many thanks to the people who worked so hard to draw up these projects, Roger Morris and Stuart Ball put together a detailed proposal, as did John Kramer, useful input also came from Mike Howe, myself and Simon Hayhow. So as not to appear to take excessive advantage of my position on this group (as we are supposed to be representing other Recording Schemes & Societies as well) I also contacted BWARS to ask them to draw up a suitable project.

Diptera on the Internet

There have been considerable improvements in the amount of Diptera information made available on the Internet recently. Now would be an excellent time to take a look around the contributions made by Dipterists Forum. The website has had a considerable amount of work done on it and there are datasets beginning to appear on the NBN Gateway.



THE FLY (*MUSCA DEMENTANS*).

Mosquito

(Captain Douglas English, 1923)

There's a shudder in the darkness of the night,
 There's a simmer in the furnace of the air;
 Away with placid dreaming, for my every nerve is screaming,
 "Are you there? Are you there? Are you there?"
 You brute!

You are grinning as you caper overhead
 To and fro and up and down and roundabout;
 Shall I doze afresh uncertain whether you're within the curtain
 Or without? Or without? Or without?
 Not much!

I have felt a cobweb flutter on my cheek,
 You have clashed your little cymbals in my ear;
 Shall I chance it? Shall I chance it? while you're sharpening
 your lancet,
 Or forbear? Or forbear? Or forbear?
 Oh help!

I must rouse me, I must fumble for the switch,
 I must wriggle round or crook myself supine,
 I must set my teeth to kill, I must nerve my hands to spill
 The blood that, after all, is mine.

News from the schemes

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Data-entry is now proceeding apace, with the deadline for the first draft Atlas being set for October 2005 in time for finalising the text of *British Craneflies*.

In February 2004 Alan Stubbs gave about eight bulging bags full of record cards, completed by him, to the BRC. In addition they also accepted a huge heap of completed Scottish record cards, By March, had been entered into the BRC database.

By early July Alan had received maps for the above data. It was a historic occasion since these included the very first maps ever printed for the distribution of the British short-palped craneflies (Pediidae, Cylindrotomidae and Limoniidae). As with the Hoverfly database, it will provide a firm basis for the information relating to distribution and phenology which will appear in the Cranefly book. The text of this is on schedule (the first draft is completed) with the publication date planned for Oct 2006.

In addition about 85% of Alan's Welsh data-set has been entered into Recorder at CCW, thanks to the efforts of Mike Howe. Data from David Skingsley, Gill Mears and Eileen Thorpe has also been gratefully accepted, however, a problem has arisen in contacting those of you with e. records of craneflies who have changed their e.mail providers since the last contact. **Please could anyone with any records stored on any database send them in to me now, either on disc (safe), or via e.mail (less safe due to incompatibilities).**

Other valuable data-sets are also being entered. 1,500 plus cranefly records in six of Alan Brindle's notebooks, on loan from Manchester University Museum, covering chiefly the Lancashire area, from 1930-1958, have been entered. Another six notebooks remain to be done. In addition, more than half of the dataset carefully collated from the NHM cranefly collection over some decades by Alan, is now entered into Recorder 2002, (over 3,000 entries so far) and this will be complete by the end of the year. Also, a start has been made on Alan's paper records.

Plenty of other important sets of records remain to be entered. For example, H.F. Barnes' notebooks from Caernarvon in the 1920's, the YNU records held by Roy Crossley, and also cranefly records from Jon Cole. However, good progress is being made and there is every hope that the backlog will be cleared in a few years, enabling publication of a complete Cranefly Atlas.

More Mystery Sites

First of all, many thanks to those people who sent in grid references for unknown sites listed in the previous Bulletin. Most of the gaps were filled in. Here are a few more:

English Sites: Batchworth, Bishopsdale, Daskham, Ellesbourne Wake, Halkham Valley, Howe Woods, Monsal (Derby), Norber, Olchon Tarrell, Spital, Symonds Hyde, Wanscombe, Wadland, Whitburn,

Birch Falls (Manchester), Brichley (Norfolk), Harford (Norfolk), Leighton (Bucks), Ley (Surrey), Combe Dingle (Glos), Warton Wood (Oxon),

Welsh Sites: Cors Caron (Merion), Llynimum

Scottish Sites: Braccriach, Falls of Tannarsh, Glen of Drumloch, Monarch Glen (Dumbarton), King's Seat (Perthshire)

NB. These are copied from hand-written labels and therefore may only approximate to the correct spelling.

If any members can send me the 4- or 6-figure grid reference any of the site centroids, I should be grateful.

John Kramer

Empid Recording Scheme

The D&E Recording Scheme is alive, well and thriving, currently having about 50,000 empid records and about 3,000 doli records databased. Old records on Gen7 cards, written lists etc. have all be transcribed to the database and are now archived at the National Museum of Wales (if considered appropriate, this archival material could be transferred to BRC?).

Forum News

In recent years, the D&E Recording Scheme has focussed closely on Empididae (sens. lat.) but I now intend to broaden activities by actively encouraging and pursuing records of Dolichopodidae too. This change has been facilitated by my altered professional status and agreement with the powers that be at the Museum that biological recording is an important aspect of this Section's work.

Apart from increased efforts with D&E's, I hope to execute a programme of work by which data from the considerable collections at the Museum is databased and made available to the recording schemes. Initial targets will be the active schemes with demonstrated ability to work with the data and in which publication is likely in the near future (Tipulids for example).

Adrian Plant

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Stuart sent this message out to many people earlier this year; for the record I think it worth including in this Bulletin. (Ed.)

The Hoverfly Newsletter No. 37 should have gone out Adrian with the Spring 2004 Bulletin, but it unfortunately arrived too late to make the deadline and was not included. We are therefore taking steps to distribute it now. It is attached to this email as an Adobe Acrobat Reader format (.PDF) file. (If you don't already have the Acrobat reader it can be downloaded free from <http://www.adobe.com/>).

We are sending this to everybody for whom we have an email address - which is approximately half of the membership. If you are in contact with other members in the near future, please ask if they received this and, if not, encourage them to send an email to the Membership Secretary, Michael Parker (jmparker_87@hotmail.com) so that their email address can be added to the Forum's records. We would like to make better use of emails in future to keep in more regular contact.

Finally, a number of members have reported that they did not receive the "Dipterists Forum Starter Pack" by Alan Stubbs (Spiral bound, A4 book of 90 pages with green covers). This was distributed by BRC at about the same time as the Autumn 2003 Bulletin. If you did not receive it, please let me know.

Stuart Ball

I should also leap to the defence of David here, by the most unfortunate coincidence this was the first time he did not send in copy at least a full month before the closing date and the only time I had to be really strict about the date as I was tied up with the Preston Monford presentation. (Ed.)

Newsletter # 38 included with this Bulletin

David Iliffe

Tephritid Flies Recording Scheme

Perhaps because, for many people (or was it just me?), the summer of 2003 was just too hot for field work only 293 records for 46 species have been added to the database at the time of writing (30 January 2004). The contributors, with number of records, were Ian Beavis 3, Laurence Clemons 116, Jon Cole 61, Gordon Corbet 7, Norman Heal 1, Malcolm Jennings 8, Mick Parker 41, Simon Randolph 1, Jeff Rush 1, Alan Stubbs 1 and Adam Wright 53. Unfortunately Adam's, Jeff's and Jon's records, which contained several new vice-county records, arrived too late for inclusion in the revised atlas attached to this Bulletin. Thus Jon found *Urophora cardui* in VC 30, *Dioxya bidentis* and *Myopites inulaedyssentericae* in VC31 and *Ensina sonchi*, *Sphenella marginata* and *Tephritis vespertina* in VC25, Jeff found *Chetostoma curvinerve* in VC 37 and Adam found *Tephritis vespertina* and *Urophora stylata* in VC 5 and *Euphranta toxoneura* in VC 10.

The larval biology of *Chetostoma curvinerve* is still unknown but there must be a reason for the highly distinctive aculeus (see White, I.M. 1988. Tephritid Flies (Diptera: Tephritidae). *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* 10 (5a): 1-134 figure 48). I revisited the single known Kent site on 25 February and the only 'berry' bearing plant visible was Ivy *Hedera helix*. When this was mentioned to Adam he subsequently found three specimens on Ivy leaves on 19 March and a pair *in cop.* on an Ivy leaf on 27 March at Wroxall Copse, IOW. So, if the species is indeed frugivorous, Ivy adds an interesting line for further research. Jeff's specimen, a female identified by Mike Bloxham, was taken in a 125W MV light trap run at Ribbesford Wood, Worcestershire on 17 April.

I was fortunate to sweep single males of *Acinia corniculata* at two further sites in Kent and *Tephritis matricariae* was found at another five. Gordon's list included *Euleia heraclei*, *Rhagoletis alternata*, *Tephritis bardanae*, *Tephritis hyoscyami* and *Urophora jaceana* at Dumbarnie Links Wildlife Reserve, Fife whilst Simon recorded a single

Anomoia purmunda from Bristol. Mick's records were from West Norfolk and West Suffolk, two underworked vice-counties and among the more noteworthy species were *Acanthiophilus helianthi*, *Campiglossa absinthii*, *Goniglossum wiedemanni*, *Oxyna flavipennis*, *Terellia plagiata* and *Terellia winthemi*.

Now that an updated atlas has been distributed I hope to be inundated with additional records, notes on corrections, queries and requests for information. Please keep them coming.

Post script added 5 February 2004.

Today I received a letter from Stuart Paston regarding the capture of a female *Chetostoma curvinerve* on Ivy foliage at Earlham Cemetery, Norwich on 25 January 2004. He also mentioned a further probable specimen seen on Laurel foliage in his garden in Norwich on 16 February 2002.

Laurence Clemons

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme

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

The following map shows the current recording status. Filled circles indicating records made in the past 10 years.

Last published in the 2002 (DF Bulletin #54), the more obvious changes are due to Manx records from Steve Crellin, a trawl through Hampshire Museum records by Chris Palmer and a bit of general wandering around by the usual contributors. Improved coverage can be seen in the areas where we held our Field Weeks over the past few years.

This is still not the full picture of the records that are held by dipterists, I know lots of people were fired with enthusiasm following the Preston Montford meeting and the keys that were distributed there. If you are keen on filling in a square or two then just look out for *Psila merdaria* (distributed from the Midlands towards the South East) or *Psila fimetaria* (widely distributed) on vegetation in damp areas of woodland in the spring. The large greasy orange beasts are very easy to spot.

If you are in the Cheshire region, do keep looking out for *Neria femoralis*, as Bill Hardwick's letter shows, its only known location might have been severely damaged this year.

Darwyn Sumner

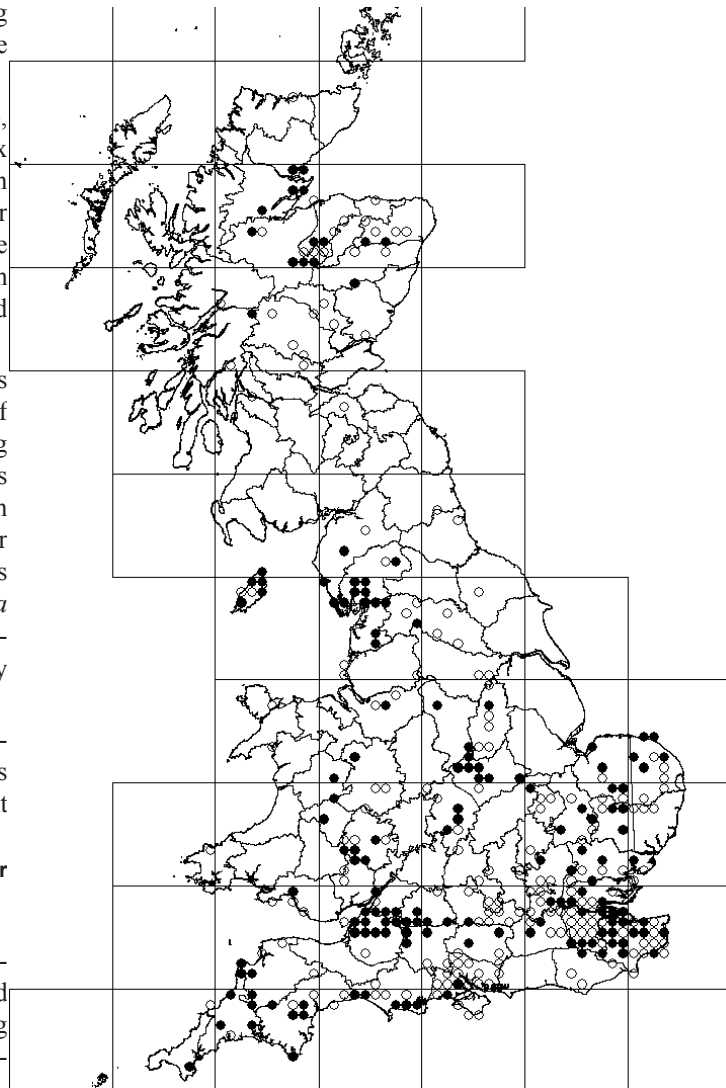
Field Week Records

Some readers will recall the rather disappointing summer field meeting at Preston Montford – we were terribly rained off. At that meeting we discovered the delights of Loamhole Dingle, a wonderful valley wood with log jams.

Sadly I have to report that the site has been seriously damaged by the Environment Agency who have constructed a massive silt trap that destroyed much of the interesting valley floor. Our records never made it back to the "powers that be" and so we were unable to alert them about the importance of this wonderful site.

Preston Montford is a wonderful place to run a summer field meeting and I would dearly like to do so in the not too distant future. However, David Heaver tells me that we are unlikely to get English Nature assistance with site access permissions unless we report on the previous visit's findings. If anyone has records that they have not submitted, please could you do so as a matter of urgency.

Roger Morris



Forum News

Times they are a changing - or are they?

Many recorders found that the 2003 season was poor for Diptera recording. This year, was possibly worse still. During Dipterists Week in June there was general consensus that flies were very thin on the ground. In the vicinity of Stamford I have had many disappointing days and there are a number of hoverflies that I have barely seen this year. *Rhingia campestris* was notably absent in its spring generation, consistent with the effects of drought that Stuart Ball and I have previously described (paper still in preparation). Others were remarkably scarce too. For example *Epistrophe eligans* was about 30% down on records compared to 2003; *Brachypalpoidea lentus* was barely seen (8 records 2003, 1 record 2004); and *Criorhina floccosa* was scarce (7:3) despite a wide-ranging search of dogwood for deadwood hoverflies. However there have been signs of better numbers of species such as *Leucozona laternarius* (7:9) which were more widely seen.

Looking through journals from the beginning of the 20th Century, I came across a note (1903, EMM 39: 126-127) by Frank Adams who regularly reported his forays to the New Forest. In this note he comments "*several correspondents have informed me that the past year was a bad one in their districts for Diptera, and from my own experience Lyndhurst was no in this respect*". That year, there were severe frosts in May, followed by a cold wet summer and autumn, which Adams felt accounted for the dearth of Diptera. It appears that 1903 was worse still, again hampered by cold wet conditions. Adams (EMM 40: 109-111) records that "*the low average temperature, record rainfall, and strong gales will cause the past year to be remembered by entomologists as one of the worst ever*".

The differences between 1903 and 2003 are noteworthy: the former being wet and cold; the latter hot and dry. The result was the same however: a disappointing collecting season. 1903 bears close similarities to 2004 and perhaps this generation of entomologists will look back similarly to those at the beginning of the 20th Century! Things do not auger well for 2005, except that this year's wet weather may be a real benefit because drought has been the cause for such poor previous years and wetter conditions will have been positive for many flies. Watch this space!

Roger Morris

Joining the National Biodiversity Network Trust

It needs your support now! The NBN Trust is only able to carry out its work because of the collective support of its membership. The resources and the decisions made by its members have guided the development of the Network and are continuing to do so. Without our member organisations, none of this work would be possible. By becoming an Associate Member* of the National Biodiversity Network Trust, your organisation can support and shape the building of this important Network.

The benefits to you

Join the NBN Trust and your organisation will receive:

1. A quarterly membership newsletter keeping you informed on NBN Trust activities and on how the Network is developing.
2. A Members' Corner of this site for you to share ideas and information with other members
3. Invitations to seminars and workshops, most of them free to members
4. An opportunity to become involved and play a direct role
5. The knowledge that your support is crucial to the building of a Network that is accessible and suitable for all
6. Special offers on NBN products such as OS map tiles for Recorder 2002

*Associate membership is available to organisations that either contribute to the work of the Trust, or are substantial users of data made available through it.

Associate membership to the NBN Trust is an affordable way of becoming more involved with the day to day business of the Trust and the Network. The funds raised through the associate membership scheme will be used to take forward NBN projects. Associate membership is open to all relevant organisations keen to support the work of the NBN Trust.

We've received many benefits from our associations with the NBN over the past couple of years. It has been pointed out that we've never formally joined the membership. An item in the AGM agenda proposes formally becoming an associate member. The above text is taken from the NBN website at www.nbn.org.uk

Darwyn Sumner

Great Logo Competition

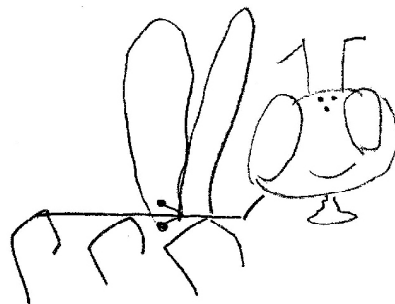
The following entries were submitted to the Bulletin Editor by the closing date of August 1st 2004. A formal choice will be made at the AGM on 27 November 2004. Postal or email votes to Secretary if you're not attending AGM.

Malcolm Storey couldn't do a logo but thought of a motto instead: "Four Wings Good, Two Wings Better"

1



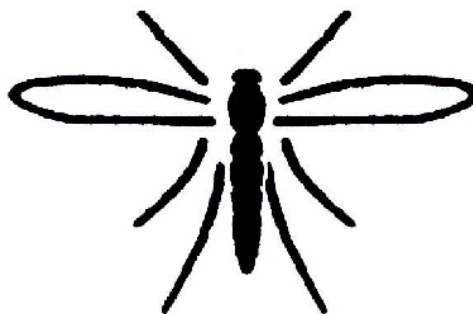
2



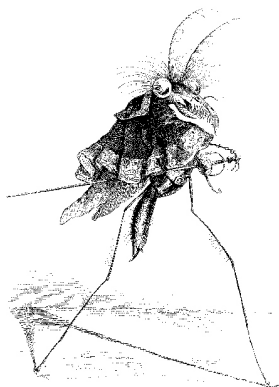
3



4



5



6



7



8



Notice board

Invitation to Contribute to Invertebrate Biodiversity Prioritisation

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a key part of the nature conservation effort towards ensuring that the UK fulfils its obligations under the Conservation on Biological Diversity (1992). Under the BAP, target driven Species Action Plans (SAPs) and Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) are prepared for those species and habitats that could face extinction or dramatic decline without concerted efforts.

Currently BAP lists 391 Priority species, 44% of which are invertebrates. Listing has succeeded in greatly raising the profile of such species, together with the funding for survey and monitoring, autecological research and site management.

The list of BAP Priority Species is to be reviewed in 2005. This includes a full review of the existing priority list and is an opportunity to put forward species to be listed that are in urgent need of action.

To ensure that the conservation needs of invertebrates are represented in the review process, Invertebrate Link (JCCBI) has contracted Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust to help co-ordinate relevant input to the review by: -

- identifying ‘coordinators’ for groups of invertebrate taxa, who will liaise with other relevant experts in reviewing the conservation status of British species and suggesting what changes should be made to the current list of BAP Priority Species.
- assisting coordinators in the review process as far as possible. For example, through JNCC, raw lists of British species for each group of invertebrate taxa will be produced, showing their current conservation designations (where this information is readily available), providing a template against which coordinators can work.
- collating a proposed list of invertebrates to be put forward in the BAP review process.
- presenting the list to Defra by early 2005 after which there will be two further stages of Government led prioritisation applied.

Criteria for selecting Priority Species

The general criteria for selection are unlikely to differ from those used for the original BAP lists published in 1995. These were based on international conservation status, rarity and rates of decline. However, the available data for many invertebrate taxa are not sufficient to establish whether, for example, a species has declined by more than 25% in the last 25 years. For this reason, we are keen to encourage a pragmatic approach to the selection of invertebrate Priority Species, drawing on the knowledge of relevant experts to make judgements within the bounds of the selection criteria and available data. More detailed guidance on the criteria is in preparation.

The UK’s Biodiversity Action Plans are critically important to the conservation process. It is essential that invertebrates – 64% of all species – are properly incorporated. This project aims to achieve that and we look forward to working with all those who will be involved.

The above note was posted to the various scheme organisers by Matt Shardlow, Director of Conservation at “Buglife”: The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, 170A Park Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 2UF and kindly passed on to me in electronic form by Chris Spilling. Your views are being canvassed so please send comments to Malcolm Smart (Ed)

Membership Matters

Members of the Dipterists Forum and Subscribers to Dipterists Digest are reminded that from the 1st January 2005 Subscription Rates will be as follows :

Home : Dipterists Forum £6 per annum and Dipterists Digest £9 per annum)

Overseas : Dipterists Forum £7 per annum and Dipterists Digest £10 per annum)

Members and subscribers are urged to change their Direct Debt forms accordingly or send me a cheque payable to the "Dipterists Forum".

It is hoped that the Dipterists Forum will have a table at the Amateur Entomologists Exhibition on Saturday 2nd October 2004.

Members attending this event can pay their 2005 subscription at the Dipterists Forum table.

At the moment some 235 Members who have paid up for this year of which 213 are Dipterists Digest Subscribers. (as on 22nd July 2004) At the end of December last year, membership stood at 280.

Still plenty of time for late payers!

Mick Parker, Membership Secretary

Recruiting new Dipterists

– what training needs are there, and how can we make courses more attractive?

Looking back to the first Dipterists Workshop run at Preston Montford in 1993 when we had around 40 participants in a hoverfly workshop, those were heady days! It is heartening to think that this event not only introduced a number of new recorders to hoverfly identification, but that it formed the foundation for an ongoing series of Dipterists Forum workshops on Diptera identification. Although we have largely ceased to run the beginners sessions at the March Workshops, we remain closely involved with training new hoverfly enthusiasts, not least by running courses at Preston Montford each spring for many years.

However, we have never seen great interest in residential courses and rarely get more than six participants. It is always a disappointment when there is a poor response, as we offer a packed itinerary. This includes a variety of talks including a comprehensive introduction to hoverflies and various aspects of the work of the Recording Scheme developed over the years, field work and extensive opportunities to work through preserved material. Students almost get one-to-one tuition, as the two of us are able to devote a fair amount of time to each student. Obviously it is expensive for the field centre, as accommodation and food for two tutors is not cheap and the charges are the same as courses with just the one tutor.

This year, we had a relatively large turnout – six students, but learned that the University of Birmingham felt that our course was not cost-effective for their Certificate in Biological Recording and had decided to drop it. Preston Montford were keen to keep the course running. Upon reflection, we decided to take a year's break and consider ways in which numbers might be improved. What can we do to increase interest and participation in residential courses?

For the past two years, we have also run one-day courses for the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust and have been pleased to have 12 to 15 participants. These courses are linked to the development of Ecology Groups by the Trust and have been made possible by Heritage Lottery funding for equipment and other running costs. More such courses might be possible elsewhere, but we are pretty stretched already. Also, one can really only provide a general flavour of hoverfly identification on a single day, and to get a reasonable standard of proficiency really need two full days and comprehensive tuition.

We are keen to continue with residential courses, but wonder whether we are pitching the course at the right level, or whether there are issues about costs or marketing? Over the years, we have seen a good many potential recorders pass through the courses. How many have been recruited to the ranks of Dipterists Forum and the Recording Scheme – a few no doubt, but probably less than 10%. Do we need to run intermediate courses? Should we try to get some formal training element attached to the Forum's summer field week? Do we need to adopt a different approach altogether? For example, Does anyone think there is mileage in organising a residential weekend for intermediate hoverfly recorders offering a chance to visit some nice localities and get assistance with problem genera? Maybe we could organise such a meeting at Juniper Hall if there was sufficient demand. We would welcome feedback, especially from Forum members who have been recruited through the Preston Montford workshops.

Notice board

We are starting to put together a package for running a general introductory course on fly identification and think this might be a useful option to recruit new dipterists via a course at Preston Montford. We can probably run the course in the early autumn, thus releasing time for our own recording work in the spring. In the meantime, we want to find ways to build the next generation of dipterists and to open a window into the world that we have found so enjoyable and rewarding. All ideas are welcome.

Roger Morris & Stuart Ball

Sweep Net

The new Dipterists Forum website

If you've not visited the Dipterists Forum website at <http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/> for some time, now is the time for a revisit as it has been extensively improved. Full details of each of the Recording Schemes are included now, including a description of the various groups involved and a note or two on the key works required (mainly taken from the Starter Pack). The publications page is now greatly enhanced with a superb guide to all the Dipterists Digests, right down to a contents listing and an illustration of the cover and a comprehensive search facility. There are improvements too on the meetings page.

Stuart Ball, whom I assume has carried out all this work, tells me that there are further enhancements planned for the site. Downloadable .pdfs of the Bulletin are being debated, as is the opportunity for scheme organisers to amend or add information to their own sections on the site.

Dipterists Forum on the NBN Gateway

The dataset for the Dipterists Forum 1999 Field Week (North West England) became available on the NBN Gateway in June this year (more are planned). Although the information has been accessed regularly, disappointingly few dipterists known to me have been browsing through the information there. Well done Derek Whiteley, you're running neck and neck with BWARS members on this! Gratifyingly, the agencies (e.g. English Nature) are using the information, though, so we're beginning to fulfil some of our feedback obligations. Here are some figures showing how much it has been used:

Month	Downloads	Map		10Km report			Site reports		
		Interactive	Grid	Groups	Lists	Records	Groups	List	Records
September	3	5	4	6	2	1	11	13	0
August	15	33	19	24	20	27	59	47	2
July	8	7	10	3	2	2	48	28	0
June	7	52	23	20	21	9	40	13	0
TOTAL	33	97	56	53	45	39	158	101	2

"This page shows how much your datasets are being used. It is presented as the number of times your dataset has contributed to the products on the NBN Gateway per month"

It's very easy to get onto the Gateway and take a look at this stuff:

www.searchnbn.net

Zoom into the map and pick a square like SD47, pick "insect - true fly" and you'll be able to start selecting individual species maps for that square from the list of 586 put onto the Gateway by the Hoverfly Recording Scheme, Biological Records Centre and the Dipterists Forum field week records. The **Invertebrate Site Register** is now also on the site. You can also download stuff and view everything at greater detail if you contact the scheme organiser (me in the case of the field week stuff). Cornwall & Devon records for 2000 & 2001 are now with the respective Local Records Centres and will be put onto the Gateway fairly soon.

Do play around with all the facilities on the site, I work closely with the Gateway team and if there are any constructive comments to be made then I'm ideally placed to get these passed on.

From our Cheshire correspondent:

It's rare I publish a complete letter like this, not specifically intended for the Bulletin, but I hope Bill will forgive me as he brings up so many interesting issues. (Ed.)

Long time no see! I'm afraid the ravages of age on mobility and a recurring eye problem mean I'm unlikely to attend any more field meetings (couldn't keep up the pace), but last year's sabbatical aside, I am still active with the flies. I am currently trying to get to grips with the fungus gnats and with Michael Ackland's help, the Anthomyiidae. So that now only omits the chironomids and a few smaller nematoceran families plus the Phoridae from the families that I'm prepared to take on. (I've even started taking a few Chironomidae and Sciaridae and doing tails on them with a view to seeing how difficult or otherwise they actually are, but so far haven't attempted to identify them.)

I've worked a number of sites very close and similar to where *Neria femoralis* was discovered near Northwich, but so far without success (although I did attract an attempted break-in to my car!). Large parts of that area have recently undergone "improvement" - so much of the rougher more productive biotope has been replaced with a somewhat manicured public park approach - some sensitivity in retention of parts of the original habitat, but nonetheless the diversity and numbers of flies has noticeably decreased, the best areas remaining the small pockets that they have left untouched. Sadly I see they are now working on the area where *Nephrotoma crocata* occurs in numbers; I have personally seen over 20 in one short visit, and Steve McWilliam independently reported seeing an estimated 70 of them there around the same date. The area was fenced off for safety reasons, so I was unable to see over the embankment to ascertain the extent of workings/damage.

Several years ago Access 97 suddenly decided I no longer had a valid license for it (untrue!), and I have never managed to persuade it otherwise in spite of repeated re-installations of the entire Office 97 suite. So since late 1999 I could no longer use my own recording database system. Consequently I've failed to keep recording group schemes (including your own) up to date with more recent finds. Having bought a new PC this year, I now have it running again under Access 2000 (not converted) and have entered all the backlog of data. So this coming winter I shall be sending out lists to all and sundry updating previous mailings, or in your case a full list from day one.

I also now have a copy of Recorder. I hope to be able to create an export from EntRec (my custom database) in a format acceptable to the Import Wizard in due course and transfer all my data over. There are a few changes to the Wizard that I'm waiting to see first (more fields), and some technical issues to resolve. I shall continue to use EntRec as my primary recording tool because I prefer my method of mouse-driven data entry; I can easily produce reports in phylogenetic sequence; I don't have to wait for taxon dictionary updates to include newly discovered species or to define species aggregates as required (e.g. *Cheilosia albitarsis/ranunculi*); various other bells and whistles I like that are not available in Recorder - and most importantly of all, once the data is entered, I have a very flexible feature for printing the required data and determination labels at the click of a button.

However, finally to the purpose of this email. I was re-reading some back issues of the Bulletin recently and came across a supposed first regional record from a field meeting that I in fact can pre-date by almost 15 years. I attach a short note that you may wish to include in a future Bulletin. It's 4 years since the original note from Alan Stubbs, so I will understand if you do not want to include it at this late date.

I hope all is well with you - you certainly seem to be keeping busy!

Bill Hardwick

Legitimate copies of Access 97 can be installed alongside Access 2000 in various Windows environments (e.g. Windows 2000 and XP). Microsoft's "Knowledge-base" on the internet gave full instructions on how to do this but they have removed all these articles from their site. Fortunately I printed a copy off and can provide anyone else in this situation with a copy. Access 97 is the database underlying Recorder 200x and users who possess only Access 2000 frequently report problems due to backward incompatibility.

The short note mentioned has been sent to Peter Chandler for inclusion in the Dipterists Digest

Ed.

Meetings

Reports

Spring Workshop 2004

Acalyptrates

This workshop was extremely well-attended. The session was introduced on Friday evening by Darwyn Sumner who



gave an overview of the various acalyptrate groups, conveniently divided them as follows: micropezids (Nerioidea), tanypezids (Diopsoidea), conopids (Conopoidea), otitids (Tephritoidea), lauxanids (Lauxanoidea), sciomyzids (Sciomyzoidea), clusiids (Opomyzoidea), chloropids (Carnoidea), heleomyzids (Sphaeroceroidea) & drosophilids (Ephydroidea). Keys to the various Families are to be found in the Starter Pack but there are a number of unofficial keys circulating and it was informative to have copies of these available at the workshop. In particular, new keys to the Drosophilidae (Paul Beuk) and Lonchaeidae (Iain McGowan) were available for testing as were my own to the micropezids & tanypezids. Substantial other resources were made available, several delegates brought useful books and so we had quite a decent library; Richard Underwood again brought a couple of cabinets from Liverpool Museum and these too were augmented by a number of private collections.

David Heaver and Simon Hayhow ran a parallel session, "Introduction to Families"

The first evening was spent sorting specimens into the various Family groups and the following day I largely took a back seat as John Cole, and John Ismay took on the task of tackling various tricky groups, providing a good deal of assistance with identification and giving short presentations; the genitalia preparation presentation by John Ismay proving particularly useful. There was a good deal of exchange of ideas during the weekend and several people worked very hard to make the whole experience a great success. It is thanks to the efforts of Jon Cole, John Ismay, Barbara Schulten & Steve Falk that I was able to come away with the nucleus of well-identified reference material in several Families I haven't paid much attention to in the past and now have more confidence with. From the comments made by other attendees, their confidence was improved as well. Acalyptrate Recording Scheme organisers can now look forward to a trickle of records from a wider range of dipterists than hitherto,

Darwyn Sumner

Spring Weekend - Cardiff

The British Diptera: Where are we now, Where are we going?

A review of current progress and future challenges.

National Museum & Galleries of Wales, Cardiff, 8 May 2004

This informal workshop was organised to mark the retirement of John Deeming and the appointment of Adrian Plant as Diptera Curator at the Museum. Of necessity, the meeting was convened at short notice, but despite this a good turn-out ensued with Dipterists from throughout the UK and a few from overseas attending. Morning sessions allowed Graham Rotheray to describe developments in Dipterology in Scotland illustrating in particular, the valuable work being done by the Malloch Society. Bernhard Merz's lively account of the development of interest in Diptera in Switzerland provided an interesting parallel with Stuart Ball's summary of the British situation, chronicling origins of the Dipterists Forum from the Recording Schemes.

After lunch, Adrian Plant chaired a workshop on gaps in identification guides and how best to plug them. This occasioned much animated discussion and sometimes polarised views on what form new keys and handbooks should take and how best to publish them. Stuart Ball returned to this problem later, addressing the future potential of web access and e-publishing of identification and other dipterological works. Keith Harris' presentation on Gall Midges reminded us that we are a long way from being able to readily understand all our fly fauna but that even with the Cecidomyiidae, serious inroads are possible. The afternoon was ended with a demonstration of the Museum's Auto-montage imaging system; a computerised microscopy method which might herald a new era of dipteran illustration by allowing multiple images to be sandwiched together providing specimen photos with infinite depth of field.

The meeting was, I feel, a very relaxed & enjoyable but useful occasion to discuss some of the wider issues surrounding dipterology. For those not needing to depart quickly, the Da Enrica restaurant provided a congenial environment for further debate and visits to Pant-y-Sais and Crymlyn Bog NNR's near Swansea the following day were rewarding for many.

John Deeming retired from NMGW in April following some 20 years at the Museum. John cut his teeth as a Dipterist at the British Museum before working extensively in West Africa. He built an encyclopaedic knowledge of the world Diptera fauna and successfully applied it to a boggling range of taxonomic and applied problems in Britain and throughout the world. Dipterists with John's knowledge and commitment do not really 'retire' and John will still be working in the Museum on an occasional basis, sharing his knowledge and sense of humour with others. I am sure that members of the Forum will wish him a very happy and productive retirement.

Adrian Plant

Summer Field Meeting - Wiltshire 2004

This meeting went to plan, with most people staying at the Wiltshire College situated in Lackham Park near Chippenham. We had used the laboratories there for evening sorting during the 2003 autumn field meeting and this again worked well, this time with the assistance of the College's laboratory manager Adele Campbell who was on site from 5pm until midnight every day. The accommodation was in a newly constructed student accommodation block, in en suite single rooms with every facility and generally agreed to be of a high standard. The food provided by the College was of good quality and everyone present on the Monday evening (the chef not working on bank holidays) enjoyed a meal at the George in the nearby National Trust village of Lacock.

Altogether 32 people attended for at least part of the week, of whom 29 stayed at the College (20 for the whole week and the others for varying shorter stays). Access was arranged for more than a hundred sites, covering a large part of the surrounding areas including most parts of Wiltshire, the south of Gloucestershire, the former County of Avon and a few in adjacent parts of Somerset. A map of "Southern England" was displayed to show the location and habitat type of the arranged sites. With a lot of sites more than 30 miles from base the range was perhaps a little too ambitious and only 58 of the arranged sites and about 15 others had been visited by the Friday. I mopped up some of the remainder over the next 3 days by visiting 10 sites, including 8 otherwise not visited, mainly to improve coverage of the Avon and Gloucs Trusts' Reserves.

The weather stayed quite good for most of the week, only overnight rain on the Monday leaving wet vegetation into early afternoon on Tuesday causing temporary interruption to fieldwork. The earliness of the meeting and the changeable weather over preceding weeks, however, appeared to result in relatively low (both of individuals and

Meetings

species) numbers of insects in many of the sites visited. Results were perhaps less than anticipated for syrphids and some other larger flies, although also not as good as hoped for empids, dolies and some acalyptrate families. Indeed Jon Cole, who has attended most summer field meetings since they began in 1973 and has wide interests in the latter groups, commented that this is the first one at which he has not captured any species new to him!

Nevertheless some good finds can be reported. The highlight of the week was the sweeping by Ivan Perry of a male of *Doros profuges*, from a chalk grassland site and Wilts Trust Reserve north of Salisbury, a new locality for this elusive species. Bentley Wood, a private SSSI south-east of Salisbury produced two species of *Microdon* within a few minutes and yards of each other. Savernake Forest was well visited during the week and a range of the saproxylic species known to occur there turned up, including *Brachypalpus laphriformis* and *Dictenidia bimaculata*. An unexpected find at Savernake was *Rhagio notatus* (Andy Halstead) and *R. annulatus* was found at the same site (Mick Parker). *Brachypalpoidea lentus* was seen in some woods and *Volucella inflata* was in numbers at several sites, mainly on hogweed and elder flowers. A sap run on a horse chestnut in Lackham Park produced *Brachyopa insensilis* and other good syrphid records were *Epistrophe diaphana* from Martin Down (Mick Parker) and *Pipizella maculipennis* from Wadswick Common, Wilts (Andy Halstead). *Bombylius canescens* was recorded by Mick at Pewsey Downs NNR. The lauxaniid *Cnemacantha muscaria* turned up in grassland at Neston Park and Monk Woods, and the local tephritid *Noeeta pupillata* at Brown's Folly. *Astiosoma ruffrons* was recorded at its usual home, an old bonfire site in woodland, at Corsham Park and *Vanoyia tenuicornis* was present by the lake at this locality.

Those interested in Nematocera were perhaps doing a little better. A large number of crane-fly records were obtained, which John Kramer industriously entered on Recorder during the meeting. These records comprised 95 species (including 6 of *Ptychoptera*) and the most interesting was the RDB3 *Tipula selene*. In addition to Savernake *Dictenidia* was also seen at Spye Park. Some of the other species found are mentioned by John in the crane-fly recording scheme report in this Bulletin. An additional species found over the weekend was *Gnophomyia viridipennis* at Silk Wood (see below).

It was also a good meeting for fungus gnats, with the species total nearer to Scotland 2002 than to the poor showing in Suffolk last year. By the Friday 116 species had been recorded and this rose to 143 by the following Monday with the best site catch of 50 species at Silk Wood, a Gloucs Trust Reserve adjoining the Westonbirt Arboretum. The most interesting fungus gnat find was *Palaeodocosia flava*, found by Alan Stubbs at Standish Wood, Gloucs, part of the Haresfield Beacon National Trust site; this little-known species was recently recorded from two sites in the Forest of Dean by David Gibbs (*Dipterists Digest* 2003. 10, 87). Other uncommon species recorded included *Mycetophila lastovkai* and *Sciophila baltica* in Savernake Forest, *Keroplatus testaceus* at Midger Wood, *Mycetophila deflexa* at Blackmoor Copse, *Mycomya occultans* at two sites and *M. pectinifera* (a species confined to the south-west in Britain, which was new to Wiltshire and had its most easterly record on last year's autumn meeting) occurred at 7 sites.

Many interesting sites were visited, inviting further investigation at other times and seasons. When records have been assembled, participants have been asked to forward them to me for collation and Roger Morris has kindly agreed to compile a report and site records for landowners. A good overall species total with many new county records can be expected, even though we may have to await detailed examination of sciarids (or perhaps chloropids) for anything new to Britain to be disclosed. The party included several coleopterists and hymenopterists, who have reported good finds in their groups and it is hoped that most people enjoyed their stay in Wiltshire.

Peter Chandler

A fly on the wall was the only witness

Towards the end of the summer field meeting a mystery occurred, which remains unexplained, that of the disappearing Malaise trap catch. As usual during the field meeting Darwyn set up a Malaise trap at a favourable location, in this case near to the Dew Pond in Lackham Park. The trap contents, which are collected dry using an insecticide, were emptied on the Friday evening and spread out on sheets of green paper in the laboratory. Some larger insects that had not quite succumbed and a bright green tortoise beetle, that was striding purposefully away, were released outside to recover. Several people then had their pick from the catch, with the syrphids, sawflies and aculeates among those groups receiving attention, but the majority including all the small fry remained for later examination. Their subsequent disappearance as described below is unfortunate, as they would have further boosted records for Lackham Park.

As we had to vacate the laboratory on the Friday evening several people had already cleared away their effects and with earlier departures only 19 people remained on site plus the College's laboratory manager Adele Campbell. At about 10pm all but two of those who remained in the laboratory went for a final visit to the George in Lacock,

leaving the Malaise contents laid out for our return. As others were already there a total of 8 were at the George, leaving 9 adults and 2 children plus Adele at the College. On returning an hour later, the laboratory was empty, the catch had gone and the sheets of green paper were in a waste bin. The catch, however, was not with them (only some rejected craneflies) and we concluded that somebody had placed it in a container for safe-keeping. Much to our consternation nobody could be found to confirm this on the Saturday morning and we thought that Adele might have tidied it away. This idea proved wrong too as she later attested that she had not touched an insect during the whole week.

Enquiries have revealed that the two persons remaining in the laboratory departed at 10.45pm and didn't notice the Malaise catch then but a third person came in briefly twice while they were there and he is fairly certain that the catch was still there during his visits. Adele also came and went while they were still there. Nothing else in the laboratory had been touched (not even the fungus gnat pile where I was working) so the mystery remains. Anyone who has any further information can let me know discreetly. One person suggested a supernatural cause, such that not even a fly on the wall could have explained.

Peter Chandler

Forthcoming

Autumn Field Meeting, 2004

East Sussex 13-17 October 2004

This will be based at Pestalozzi International Village near Sedlescome, East Sussex from Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th October, 2004. This is a few miles from the coast in the hinterlands of Hastings, an area that has not previously been visited by Dipterists Forum. The region is well wooded with a diversity of habitats and there would appear to be sufficient streams in wooded areas to support a good autumn fauna. There are also some deep gills and crumbling cliffs on the coast.

To date (31 July) only three people (Chris Spilling, Ken and Rita Merrifield) have confirmed that they will attend. Could anyone else who plans to come please let me know **immediately** and also which accommodation option they would prefer.

Peter Chandler

Annual Meeting 2004

Saturday 27th November, 2004

To be held, at the Palaeontology Demonstration Room, Natural History Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London. Entry from 10.00am.

The meeting is free to members, the fee being paid by the Dipterists Forum. However, please present this Bulletin at the information desk, as evidence of membership, and also at the bookshop if you wish to obtain the usual 10% discount on any books purchased. To obtain directions or access to the Palaeo Demonstration Room, please ask at the information desk, if necessary.

Dave Notton, Collection Manager (Diptera) at the Natural History Museum, can organise a Dipterists' Supper at a local Indian restaurant in the early evening, after the meeting. He recommends the Moti Mahal restaurant, with main courses from £6-12. He wishes to point out however, that the number will be limited to the first twenty to book. Please send your booking to the secretary. There will also be the usual opportunities for informal groups to meet in the local pubs and restaurants.

For those who wish to stay overnight, details of hotels within reasonable distance of the NHM are listed below.

PLEASE BRING AN EXHIBIT IF YOU CAN

Any material relevant to the Diptera will be welcomed. This might include drawings, photos of specimens and habitats, and specimens. Larvae are a neglected area, and the apparatus used for keeping them. Any new publications, or websites would also add interest. As usual there will be a book-voucher as a prize for the exhibit judged to be the best.

10:00 AM

Meetings

Palaeo Demonstration Room open to members.

Assemble and set out exhibits.

11:00 AM

Mike Bloxham - Inner City Flies

During 2004 Mike carried out a baseline survey of several small open green sites. The results provide some intriguing data, relevant for conservationists and developers.

11.30 AM

Dave Notton - Diptera Section at the NHM.

Dave is the Collection Manager (Diptera) at the Natural History Museum and he will outline recent developments in the Diptera Section at the NHM.

12.00 AM

Alan Stubbs - Buglife and the Conservation of Flies

Alan is Chairman of Buglife and the Dipterists Forum has been a corporate member from its inception.

12.30 PM

Stuart Ball

1.00-2.15PM

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Bring sandwiches, use the Museum cafeteria or local cafes or pubs.

2.15-2.45PM

Informal session. A time to meet people and view the exhibits.

2:45 PM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

c.3:45 - 5:00PM

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.45pm

1. Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising.
 - a) Adoption of a Logo
 - b) Adoption of a Policy on the Conservation of Diptera
 - c) Proposal that Dipterists Forum formally affiliate to the National Biodiversity Network
 - d) Report from the NBN's National Schemes & Societies Steering Group (D. Sumner)
2. Secretary's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report. (accounts enclosed with this Bulletin)
4. Membership Secretary's Report.
5. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report.
6. Election of Officers.

Elections

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

Ordinary elected committee members serve for two years, half of the team standing down each year (7f) Those due for election or re-election this year are listed below:

The Officers and General Committee proposed are as follows:

Chairman	Malcolm Smart
Secretary	John Kramer

Meetings

Treasurer	Jon Cole
Membership Secretary	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Secretary	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Secretary	David Heaver
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Ordinary Members	Stuart Ball
	Alan Stubbs
	John Ismay
	Barbara Schulten

Clarification: “To avoid confusion please note that I have only listed those members who need re-election this time. So, according to the Constitution, co-opted members, and non-elected members who fill important posts do not have to stand for election each year. Alan is standing for election this year, moving from a co-opted member.” *Stuart Ball moves from Chairman to an Ordinary member of the committee and John Ismay & Barbara Schulten would be newly elected. The remainder of the posts, who do not require re-election (e.g. the Conservation Officer - who is elected from the Committee), are detailed on the contents page of this Bulletin. (Ed.)*

7. Any other business.

John Kramer

Meetings

Spring Workshop 2005

Preston Montford 18-20 March 2005

Craneflies (Alan Stubbs)

After last year's marathon effort, we are returning to simpler arrangements. According to my reckoning Alan last did a crane-fly workshop in 1998 and, although the book is still a little way off, there are keys aplenty to test.

The dates for Preston Montford are 18-20 March 2005 and the prices, raised to cover PM's inflation needs, stand at ?95 for a shared room and ?120 for single occupancy, both all in.

Given the popularity of the 2004 event I took the trouble of enquiring just how many bedrooms there are in the Darwin building and it stands at 17. Depending, therefore, on the uptake and spread of single to shared occupancy, I may consider capping the single room option. This is to allow as many Forum members

to attend as possible. So, if you really need one, get in early. Also, be aware that from late January to late February I will be avoiding landmines in the formerly war-ravaged nations of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and so will be even slower in cashing your cheques than I usually am!

Cheques, as ever, payable to Dipterists Forum:Workshops and sent to me at: 5 Albert Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2DN. If you want e-mail confirmation of your place, mail to david h@tiscali.co.uk

If you have never been, I have a small number of PM fliers which I can send you. If you have never been, come!

Many thanks to my regulars for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at Preston Montford.

David Heaver



Spring Weekend Field Meeting 2005

Proposed Dipterists Weekend on the Northamptonshire Limestone 2005

Now that I have become established in Stamford and have explored the immediate area, I can thoroughly recommend the limestone country in this area. I therefore propose to organise a weekend at the end of May or in early June for members who would like to sample the delights of places such as Old Sulehay Forest, Castor Hangland NNR, Barnack Hills & Holes NNR and many others. Woodwalton & Holme Fens are not far away either.

Provided there is sufficient interest (I need to have a broad idea of expressions of interest by Dipterists Day), I will seek out suitable accommodation. The Collyweston Slater at Collyweston is a possibility, and there may be others.

It is also possible that this area might suit an autumn field meeting in 2005; in which case I would be happy to organise accommodation and access permissions.

Roger Morris

Summer Field Meeting - Durham 2005

Saturday to Saturday 2nd - 9th July 2005

At last winter's AGM I reported that I was looking at a variety of possible venues for next year's field meeting, including Durham, and Carlisle. In the end Durham won because I was able to secure favourable accommodation at St Johns College. The arrangements include basic rooms, breakfast and an evening meal. Packed lunches are possible, but there have been suggestions that we could do these more cheaply ourselves.

I am advised that costs are as follows (inclusive of VAT – which I've calculated and included):

Rooms (single – not en-suite)	£25.00
Evening Meal (per day)	£10.60
Packed Lunch	£5.29

In addition, we have room hire charges of £300 for the week, split between however many there are participating. Overall, working on BB & Evening Meal, the costs are in the region of £260 assuming 20 participants, dropping to £255 if we get 30 participants. In this calculation I have excluded the costs of packed lunches which some may wish to go for. Bearing in mind we usually go for a restaurant meal on one evening the cost should drop to around £245 assuming just 6 nights evening meals.

Durham is ideally situated for a wide range of habitats including gems such as Upper Teesdale, and the wonderful Durham coast with the Denes (wooded valleys dissecting the coast). There are some fabulous cliffs with boulder clays overlying Magnesian Limestone – I can thoroughly recommend these; the vegetation is fabulous and looks exciting for Diptera.

At this stage, I would like to establish expressions of interest, so that I can finalise arrangements with St Johns College. A deposit has been paid to secure the booking, and I will be talking deposits by Christmas.

Roger Morris

Future Field Meetings 2006

I have been investigating a number of possibilities, including a return to Hallsanery (Bideford - SS452264) and also the option of Plas Tan-y-Bwlch (North Wales SH660410). However, immediate thoughts turn to Orielton FSC Centre (SR950990). I shall be investigating this as an option for 2006, with other thoughts going to the alternatives in Devon and North Wales. I am also pursuing Carlisle – there are University Halls of Residence, but these are self-catering and past experience suggests that this type of option is not conducive to a relaxed week. We have an option of a centre near Carlisle, but would have to commit to booking it at £850 per day before we had any firm commitments by members – I'm loath to do this because it could get very pricey if numbers of participants are low. We might, however have access to Carlisle Museum as part of the package. I'd really appreciate feedback on what members want and whether this would be a viable option? In the meantime, there seems to be consensus that we should seek accommodation at Orielton for 2006. I have yet to follow this up but will do so in the near future.

Stop Press! Proposed venue for 2006 Field Meeting

I have had initial contact with Orielton Field Centre who tell me that they might accommodate us on the weeks Sat 20 - Sat 27 May or Sat 3 -Sat 10 June 2006. I've asked for a quote for the week commencing 3 June, as I suspect the earlier date would be too early. More in the next Bulletin.

Roger Morris



And now ...

.....Fly Robot

Various reports in the popular media have always been a favourite source of information for Alan Stubbs' column in the past. Since I've contrived yet again to miss out on one of Alan's gems; I hope the following observations will make up for it.

The *Independent on Sunday* has long promoted various conservation issues but from time to time do seem to fall into the trap of assuming that only members of the higher animals are significant components of biodiversity. The philosophy of "four legs good, six legs bad" was well exemplified in a recent issue in which a "special readers offer" consisted of a fly trap to be hung in the garden. No mention of any kind of killing agent was made but it was suggested that the decaying bodies of insects attracted to this contraption would give off scents which would attract yet more flies to the trap. This seems to make as much sense as the old joke about keeping flies out of your kitchen by putting a bucket full of horse manure in your living room. Abandoned pitfall and malaise traps presumably perform the same function, so the same sort of trap seems to be set up accidentally by us entomologists from time to time.

New Scientist reported recently (11 September) on a "fly-eating robot". Whilst the article was illustrated using something out of a science fiction film (glowing red eyes and silvered skull) the core of this concept is a microbial fuel cell which digests flies to generate electricity to fuel the robot. Presumably the robots themselves are more in the form of the automatic vehicles which are used to explore the surface of other planetary bodies ("EcoBot II" and not "Terminator" or "Predator") since the idea is to send them into dangerous or inhospitable areas for remote monitoring. Researchers at the University of the West of England in Bristol have tried various methods to provide the fuel cell with what they consider to be a useful source of sugar. The sugar in chitin has been their favourite choice. At the moment they are shoving handfuls of dead bluebottles at the fuel cell. The current idea seems to be to use some form of bait to attract the flies in, more specifically, sewage, even more specifically, human excrement.

So if you've bought one of these *Independent* traps, have a garden that is dangerous or inhospitable (or perhaps has an outside toilet) and live in the Bristol area then be afraid, be very afraid.

Darwyn Sumner

Contributors

Please note the following deadlines for the next two bulletins:

Spring bulletin

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

Autumn bulletin

Aims to be on your doorstep in late September, contributions by the end of July. Printed in time for the Autumn field meeting and the AGM. Would contributors please note that it takes a **minimum** of 4 weeks to compile, edit, reproduce, collate and distribute each issue.

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

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

