



BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum



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Recording Schemes

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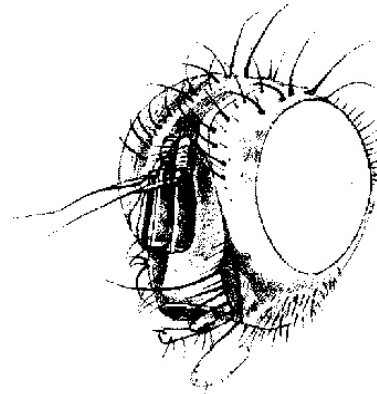
Would the individuals listed above please check that I have all their details correct and contact me if there is anything they wish to be added or amended.



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Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

Double awards

A little flurry of messages followed the article which Ian McLean put together on the subject of Peter Chandler receiving the Bloomer award. It transpires that Keith Alexander was also honoured this year by being presented the Marsh award for insect conservation. Rather a coincidence that both gentlemen were featured on the front cover of the last Bulletin. Peter tells me he was entertained at Mulligan's Irish oyster bar in Cork Street; we need to know where Keith ended up, perhaps Baskerville Hall or the Bog Road?

The Compleat Dipterist

or The One That Got Away

*Let others breeze with dangling flags
And pierce their legs with ticks and clegs
Or treacherously poor bugs beset
With sticky lures or shrimping net*

*Let coarse bold hands, from slimy nest
The bedded grubs in banks outwrest
Let curious prowlers UV-wise
Bewitch poor wandering beasties eyes*

*For thee thou needst no such deceit
For swishing sweep nets you shall beat
The fly that is not caught thereby
Is wiser far, alas! than I*

(Sumner after Donne in Walton, (1931))

Glass-topped boxes

I'm fortunate in that I have a small number of old circular tin boxes with push-on glassed tops that were very popular with Lepidopterists many years ago. I still carry one around with me just in case. You can get hold of something similar through woodworkers suppliers. They are made of aluminium and come in 4 sizes (25, 33, 40 & 50mm dia.) each size packed in an aluminium tray; you can get 4 trays (1 of each size = 84 tins) for £20 + VAT from rutlands.co.uk (Bakewell). So that's one in your pocket and 83 keeping your screws tidy.

Acronyms

In response to one correspondent's request I did begin to put together a glossary of all the various acronyms, initiatives and projects. As he quite rightly pointed out, whilst



these make for difficult reading unless you are extremely familiar with them all, they make the Bulletin almost unintelligible in parts for foreign readers.

I soon realised what a huge task this was going to be and quickly abandoned it, realising that a printed list in the Bulletin was perhaps not the best way to set about it. Two approaches to the idea now occur to me, one appropriate medium might be the Dipterists Forum website where some might find Ken Merrifield's postings on the discussion group pages extremely useful in this regard. A second possibility is a full index for all the Bulletins - another mammoth task but one which I am seriously contemplating. Rather than include such a thing in a regular copy of the Bulletin, since it is something which, once begun, would grow with every issue, an appropriate medium for this might be a pdf downloadable from the Dipterists Forum website - alongside back copies of the Bulletin. In the meantime I beg reader's patience, you will find explanations of NBN, BAP, JNCC and the rest using a combination of Bulletins and the internet.

Flies identify humans

We've always known this to be true, that different species of diptera are able to identify humans and home in on them. For the fortunate few such as Ivan Perry, Jon Cole and Peter Chandler it's all the rare stuff. For me it's everything common and (unless Lance Gorman is nearby) all the biting things.

Recent research on mosquitoes has made some progress in working out why this happens. Apparently persons infected with the malarial parasite give off different smells than uninfected persons and hopes for control measures are now increased as scientists are beginning to home in on the parasitic-induced vapours.

Perhaps they can be persuaded to look into Ivan, Jon and Peter's aromatics, maybe I'm drinking the wrong sort of beer

News from the schemes

Empid & Dolichopodid Study Group

The long awaited appearance of Steve Falk and Roy Crossley's review of scarce and threatened Empidoidea (Falk, S.J. & Crossley, R. 2005. A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain. Part 3: Empidoidea. *Species Status 3*: 1-134. JNCC) is a landmark publication that will be warmly received by all of us interested in the status and conservation of these flies. The review suffered an unusually long gestation period during which Ian McLean made useful inputs to the original text, updating species accounts and revising the old Red Data Book and Notable categories following the adoption of the revised IUCN Guidelines by JNCC in 1994. It is axiomatic that publications are out of date as soon as they are published but the exceptional delays encountered in producing this volume threatened to make it of mere historic interest. Thankfully the sustained and stalwart efforts of all three contributors have ensured that this did not happen and the end result is a thoroughly useful and meaningful baseline account of empidoid status. Certainly, one can pick holes and quibble over details but leaving churlishness aside, the authors should be commended for the excellent job that they have done. Essential reading for all D&E enthusiasts and conservation managers.

New *Empis*, *Rhamphomyia*, *Kowazia*, *Platypalpus* *Tachydromia* and *Microphor*

A flurry of activity by empidid enthusiasts has resulted in no less than 7 potential additions to the British list which are briefly mentioned here.

Jon Cole has found an apparently undescribed *Empis* (*Coptophlebia*) in Wiltshire during 2004. The specimen, a female from Spye Park, has dark halteres and slender legs which are completely lacking in pennations but F_3 has distinct fine hairs dorsally and ventrally. Milan Chvála agrees with Jon that the specimen represents a new species, similar to another undescribed *Coptophlebia* from Hungary. However, it is likely to remain undescribed until an associated male can be found. Meanwhile all dark-haltered *Coptophlebia* which run into difficulties in the keys should be retained and critically examined.

Andy Godfrey has taken a female of what is probably *Platypalpus brachystylus* Bezzi. If confirmed, this will be new to Britain. This species has a wide distribution through north and central Europe and may be an essentially montane species, but it has yet to be recorded from the NW corner of the continent. It is keyed and described [as *P. brunneitibia* (Str.)] in Chvála's Scandinavian monograph [Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica 3 (1975)]. It is rather similar to *P. longicornis* but with the basal antennal segment blackish (often tending to be pale in *longicornis*) and the mesonotum entirely dusted (mostly polished in *longicornis*). A male specimen will have to be found to confirm this species as British.

The summer field meeting in Durham resulted in specimens of a new *Microphor* being taken by many of the participants. It is similar to *M. holosericeus* but smaller with the third antennal segment shorter and abruptly narrowed basally and with differences in chaetotaxy of the legs as well as very different male genitalia. Preliminary investigations suggest that it is *M. strobli* Chvála, previously known from central Europe. Investigations continue.

Problems have arisen with the correct identification of *Microphor anomalus*. Dissection of the male genitalia reveals that there may be two morphotypes currently grouped together within *M. anomalus* in Britain. In the most frequently found form (Morphotype A), the genitalia agree reasonably well with figures 624-626 of Chvála in Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica 12 (1983) but in Morphotype B there are small but distinct differences, particularly in the shape of the small prominences on the left periandrial lamella. As yet no differences in external morphology have been identified and further study will be needed to elucidate the significance of the genitalic differences.

Kowazia madicola (Vaillant) has recently been added to the British list by Andy Godfrey (Dipterists Digest 12: 72 [2005]). It resembles *K. bipunctata* but is yellowish rather than brown in colour with a circular rather than elongated stigma in the wing. The surstylus of the male genitalia is bilobed in *bipunctata* but broadly unilobed in *madicola*.

In 2004 Ian McLean took a small (2mm) *Rhamphomyia* in the subgenus *Pararhamphomyia* during a family holiday in Scotland. The individual has distinctive genitalia and appears to be new to Britain although as yet, its identity has not been ascertained.

Finally, David Gibbs has taken a new *Tachydromia* which is probably *T. smithi* Chvála, a species hitherto known from central and southern Europe.

Appeal for records of *Chersodromia arenaria* (Haliday), *Bicellaria sulcata* (Zetterstedt) and *Trichina bilobata* Collin.

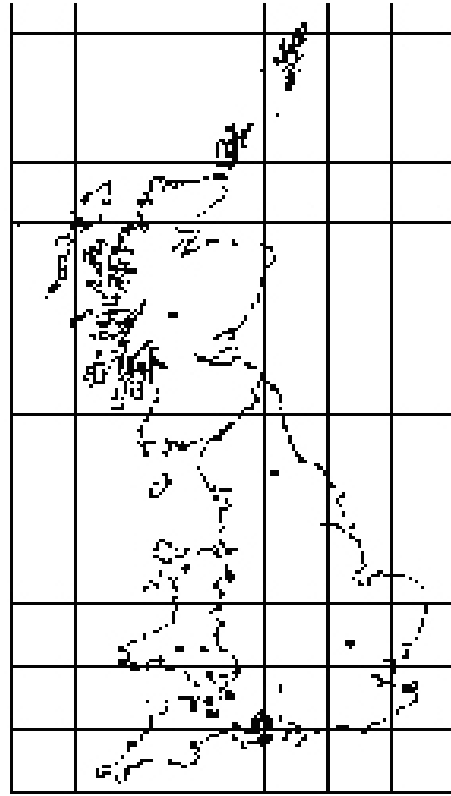
Forum News

The Review of Scarce and Threatened Empidoidea draws attention to these three species which are considered by many to be uncommon and could reasonably be considered for inclusion in a future review. It seems reasonable to provide information on what is currently known of each species in the hope of stimulating further recording effort

***Trichina bilobata* Collin.** Although found widely throughout Britain, the currently known distribution is focussed in the south-west of England and Wales (see map) where it can be frequent at some sites. No clear habitat patterns occur with records from sites as diverse as chalk downland, acid heath and upland ravine woodland. Most records are from woodland or scrub but a few refer to open habitats however. It is possible that some confusion exists with the much commoner *T. clavipes* Meigen as the amount of dusting on the front of the mesonotum is variable, often small and inconspicuous (view from the side in strong light) but never completely lacking as in *clavipes*. The relative length of the third antennal segment is perhaps a difficult character to distinguish from *T. elongata* Haliday but in males at least, the legs of *elongata* are very dark and clearly different from the predominantly yellow legs of *bilobata*. Confirmatory characters of the male genitalia should be used wherever possible; the bilobed left periandrial lamella being a distinctive and unambiguous character. It seems likely that this species is not as uncommon as often supposed and knowledge of its status will be refined as more people enter records into the Recording Scheme.

***Bicellaria sulcata* (Zetterstedt) Collin** (British Flies VI Empididae [1961]) commented that this species was common in Scotland but unknown elsewhere. The Recording Scheme currently has only 35 records thinly scattered over Scotland, England & Wales with little indication as to geographical bias or habitat preferences. The species may well be under recorded owing to its great similarity to *B. vana* Collin, the most widespread and abundant *Bicellaria* in Britain. Dissection of male genitalia of several specimens of '*sulcata*' has revealed them to be *vana* suggesting that inaccurate determination is also a factor. If using Chvála's key [Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica 12 (1983)]. *sulcata* & *vana* are resolved at couplet 8 where failure to note that the face is narrow will divert the user toward *subpilosa*, *spuria* & *mera* if the *pv* ciliation on T_1 is judged to be present. Couplet 9 separates *sulcata* & *vana* on subtle differences in the colour of thoracic dusting and the relative length of *pv* ciliation on T_1 . Great care (and preferably the availability of comparative material) is needed to use these characters successfully and in all cases where males are involved, maceration and dissection of genitalia is *de rigour* to confirm identity. Accurate determination of females on currently available characters is delusory. If you have the patience, it would be well worth while dissecting any '*vana*' with noticeable *pv* ciliation on the front tibia to try and establish the true distribution and status of *sulcata*.

***Chersodromia arenaria* (Haliday)** The genus *Chersodromia* is largely confined to coastal habitats where adults can be found running on sand and stones, amongst strandline debris or sometimes on adjacent vegetation. The Recording Scheme has only 14 post-1975 records of *C. arenaria* from as wide apart as Dorset and the Orkney Islands. A strong preference for stony rather than sandy beaches is discernable, often in areas where strandline organic matter is in an advanced state of decomposition amongst boulders, smaller stones and coarse gravels. Adults rarely fly but can be seen running and jumping over the surface and quickly retreat beneath the stones and filth when approached with a pooter thus making capture difficult. Some success can be had in rapidly bagging substrate and dumping it into a large tray but most specimens will drop to the ground and escape at the bagging stage. Another trick is to sweep immediately downwind of suitable habitat on windy days; a few individuals will jump rather than run and may be carried into the net. Persistence is required together with recognition of the stony rather than sandy habitat. Given these factors and a willingness of recorders to wallow in strandline filth, it is very likely that *C. arenaria* will prove to be commoner than currently supposed.



Adrian Plant

Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme

Gnats can now be named by all

A recent publication has keys in English, with figures of the male genitalia and descriptions covering most British species of Mycetophilinae. This is the second part of *Fungus Gnats (Diptera, Sciaroidea) of the fauna of Russia and adjacent regions* by Alexander I. Zaitzev, published as Vol. 14 No. 2-4, pages 77-386 of *An International Journal of Dipterological Research*. It is obtainable from the editor Sergey Kuznetsov, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya embankment 1 199034 St. Petersburg, Russia; *Sergey.Kuznetsov@dipterologic.com* (journal website [www: http://www.dipterologic.com](http://www.dipterologic.com)) at a reasonable cost (annual subscription price for the journal, which is published in English and normally has 4 issues per annum, is 49 Euros for individuals and single issue price 14 Euros; this paper comprises three issues).

The publication date is given as November 2003 but I think it has appeared more recently as it only came to my notice during 2005. It is bound in a single volume, well printed but unfortunately with rather "imperfect" binding such that several pages had already become detached in the copy received and this type of binding will not withstand robust usage.

The first part, in Russian, published in Moscow as a book in 1994, covered the families Bolitophilidae, Diadocidiidae, Ditomyiidae and Keroplatidae as well as the subfamilies Mycomyinae, Leiinae, Gnoristinae and Sciophilinae of Mycetophilidae. The present work includes the single species of Manotinae and the largest subfamily Mycetophilinae, i.e. the only subfamily not covered by the existing RES Handbook (Hutson *et al.* 1980).

A total of 555 species are described or discussed, of which good quality figures of male genitalia are provided for 474 species, usually adjacent to the relevant part of the text, with some of the others known to occur in the former USSR also included in the keys. Females are not figured. The genitalia figures cover about 250 of the nearly 300 British species of subfamily Mycetophilinae. A further nine species are included in the keys but at least 36 British species of subfamily Mycetophilinae are not mentioned in this work so it will still be necessary to consult the wider literature to fully identify the British fauna.

The nomenclature used agrees with the British checklist as updated in *Dipterists Digest* with the following exceptions:

Notolopha and *Myrosia* are treated as subgenera of *Allodiopsis* (as in the checklist) and *Stigmatomeria* as a subgenus of *Brevicornu*

Mycetophila assimilis = *M. signatoides* of the British list

Cordyla sixi = *C. pusilla* of the British list

Brevicornu boreale and *B. griseolum* are used in the sense of the checklist rather than the recently changed nomenclature reported in the latest *Digest*.

References are listed below to twenty papers which between them include male genitalia figures to all 45 described British species of Mycetophilinae for which such figures are not included in this work. Further species found in Britain for which figures are not yet available are being described in works under preparation by Olavi Kurina on *Cordyla* and Jostein Kjaerandsen on *Pseudexechia*.

It should be noted that *Pseudexechia trisignata* probably comprises more than one species in Britain and all material should be retained. Also it is uncertain whether true *Exechia frigida* (as figured in the new Russian keys) is present in the British Isles, all specimens so far examined belonging to a closely related species diagnosed in a paper in press on the fungus gnats of Iceland by Kjaerandsen *et al.*

References including male genitalia figures of British Isles species of Mycetophilinae not figured in Zaitzev (2003)

- Caspers, N. 1984. Mycetophiliden aus Lunz, Niederösterreich (Diptera, Nematocera, Mycetophilidae). *Zeitschrift für Entomologie* **5**, 173-205 (*Anatella alpina*, *Exechia repandoides*).
- Caspers, N. 1987. Mycetophiliden-Fänge am Breitenbach/Osthessen (Bundesrepublik Deutschland). *Nachrichtenblatt der Bayerischen Entomologen* **36**, 85-95 (*Exechia chandleri*).
- Chandler, P.J. 1977a. Studies of some fungus gnats (Diptera: Mycetophilidae) including nine additions to the British list. *Systematic Entomology* **2**, 67-93 (*Anatella dampfi*, *A. longisetosa*, *A. pseudogibba*).
- Chandler, P.J. 1977b. Some fungus gnats of the tribe Exechiini (Diptera, Mycetophilidae) new to the British Isles. *Proceedings of the British Entomological and Natural History Society* **10**, 71-85 (*Brevicornu arcticum*, *Exechiopsis dryaspagensis*).
- Chandler, P.J. 1988. Thirteen species of *Mycetophila* Meigen (Diptera: Mycetophilidae) new to the British Isles. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **1**, 139-145 (*Mycetophila uliginosa*).

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- Chandler, P.J. 1991. New species and additions to the British list of the fungus gnat genera *Zygomia* Winnertz and *Sceptonia* Winnertz (Diptera, Mycetophilidae). *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **4**, 143-155 (*Sceptonia cryptocauda*, *Zygomia valeriae*).
- Chandler, P.J. 1992. A review of the British *Phronia* Winnertz and *Trichonta* Winnertz (Dipt., Mycetophilidae). *Entomologist's monthly Magazine* **128**, 237-254 (*Phronia coritanica*, *Trichonta brigantia*, *T. nigriflora*).
- Chandler, P.J. 1993. The Holarctic species of the *Mycetophila fungorum* (De Geer) group (Diptera, Mycetophilidae). *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **6**, 5-11 (*Mycetophila perpallida*).
- Chandler, P.J. 1994. *Rymosia* Winnertz (Diptera: Mycetophilidae), a newly recognised element of wetland faunas, with five species new to Britain and a key to species. *Entomologist's Gazette* **45**, 199-220 (*Rymosia armata*, *R. coulsoni*, *R. fosteri*, *R. speyae*).
- Chandler, P.J. 2001. Fungus gnats (Diptera: Sciaroidea) new to Britain. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **13**, 215-243 (*Brevicornu rosmellitum*, *Exechia cincinnata*, *Mycetophila eppingensis*, *Phronia vitrea* (as *carli*)).
- Dziedzicki, H. 1915. Atlas des organes génitaux (hypopyges) des types de Winnertz et des genres de sa collection de Mycétophiles. *Publications de la Société des Sciences de Varsovie* **3**, 1-16, 21 pls (*Exechiopsis intersecta*, *Mycetophila unicolor*, *Phronia basalis*).
- Edwards, F.W. 1925. British fungus gnats (Diptera, Mycetophilidae). With a revised generic classification of the family. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **57**, 505-670 (*Brevicornu griseolum* (as *boreale*), *B. nigrofusum*, *Exechia nigra*, *Exechiopsis jenkinsoni*, *Sceptonia flavipuncta*, *Trichonta icenica*).
- Edwards, F.W. 1941. Notes on British fungus gnats (Diptera, Mycetophilidae). *Entomologist's monthly Magazine* **77**, 21-32, 67-82 (*Tarnania dziedzickii*, *T. nemoralis*, *Mycetophila mitis* (as *jenkinsoni*), *Sceptonia humerella*).
- Gagné, R.J. 1981. A monograph of *Trichonta* with a model for the distribution of Holarctic Mycetophiloidea (Diptera). *Technical Bulletin of United States Department of Agriculture*, **1638**, 1-64 (*Trichonta apicalis*, *T. fusca*, *T. icenica*, *T. vulcani*).
- Hackman, W. 1971. Three new species of the *Allodia lugens* group from northern Europe (Dipt., Mycetophilidae). *Annales Entomologicae Fennica* **37**, 3-7 (*Allodia embla*).
- Lackschewitz, P. 1937. Die Fungivoriden des Ostbaltischen Gebietes. *Arbeiten zur Naturforschungsgeschichte Vereins aus Riga* **21**, 1-97 (*Exechia pseudofestiva*).
- Laštovka, P. & Kidd, L.N. 1975. Review of the British and notes on other species of the *Mycetophila ruficollis* group, with the description of a new species (Dipt., Mycetophilidae). *Entomologist's monthly Magazine* **110**, 203-314 (*Mycetophila britannica*).
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- Lundström, C. 1911. Neue oder wenig bekannte europäische Mycetophiliden. *Annales Musei Nationalis Hungarici* **9**, 390-418, 5 pls (*Exechiopsis furcata*).

News of a meeting in Norway - largest ever gathering of Gnat Men

On 25 May I received a message from Olavi Kurina, fungus gnat specialist in Estonia, that he had just returned from the "Diptera meeting of the Nordic Saproxylic Network" that took place in Larvik (Norway). He commented



that this meeting had the unique result of gathering 7 fungus gnat students and concluded that the study of fungus gnats has “reached a new, much higher, level in the Nordic countries that has undoubtedly some influence to the whole of Europe as well as to the whole world” !!

He attached a photograph from that meeting, showing (from left): Olavi Kurina (Estonia), Bjorn Økland (Norway), Jevgeni Jakovlev (Russian but now resident in Finland), Oivind Gammelmo and Eirik Rindal (Norway, both students of Geir Søli), Lars Ove Hansen (an interloper as he doesn't study fungus gnats), Jostein Kjaerandsen (Norwegian but now at Lund, Sweden) and Geir Søli (Norway).

When I was visiting Edinburgh prior to the Durham field meeting I was amazed to learn from Graham Rotheray that this saproxylic excursion in Norway had been a joint meeting with the Malloch Society, who have had similar forays previously in Finland and the adjoining part of Russia. Graham had been surprised by the number of Gnat Men among the gathering, when those attending stated their interests.

Clearly the study of Diptera is more advanced in Fennoscandia than in the British Isles !

Peter Chandler

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme

(NERIOIDEA: Pseudopomyzidae, Micropezidae. DIOPSOIDEA: Tanypezidae, Strongylophthalmyiidae, Megamerinidae & Psilidae) *Studia Dipterologica* occasionally comes up trumps with items of interest for this group. Volume 11 (2004), heft 2 contains some interesting articles. **Andreas Arnold** discusses his finds of *Neria* spp. (*cibaria*, *commutata*, *femorialis* and *longiceps*) in the eastern district of Bitterfeld, Saxony-Anhalt. **Steve Marshall** (Guelph, Canada) reviews the genus *Metasphen* Frey, a member of the Micropezidae: Taenipterinae (we only have *Rainieria calceata* in the UK but there are related species in other parts of the world) and erects a new genus *Globopeza* from material collected in Ecuador and Venezuela.

Attempts to put together an expedition in Warwickshire with Steve Falk this year failed to come about, there simply isn't enough time in the key flying season to get everywhere one wants. I did manage a trip alone to Oxhouse Farm, Steve's good spot for *Tanypeza longimana* and waded through a field of butterbur leaves but failed to find it (a nice place, though, well worth a future visit). A few days later, though, at R. Gine, La Carneille in France (N48 46 36.4 W0 26 42.8) I came across a group of *Populus* spp. by a stream with lush undergrowth. A single long-legged fly was observed hopping over the surface of broad leaf surfaces. Needless to say I hadn't my net to hand but it was obliging enough to await my return and I had my first *T. longimana*.

Two items of interest cropped up in Durham this year. Both of these at North Gare Sands (NZ 53696 27900). *Loxocera aristata* was taken by several people, Malcolm Smart managed to find a malformed one which initially flummoxed our attempts at identification (many thanks to Jon Cole for redirecting us onto the right path). The description I have for this species tells of a median frontal triangle reddish with dull black triangles on each side but all the specimens had completely black frons. Bear this in mind when you use the Psilidae key I distributed at Preston Montford, it seems possible there may be an error in this couplet as the description is the same for both this and *L. albisetata*.

Neria ephippium was taken by several people at the same spot but I failed to refind it on a subsequent (drizzly) visit despite Malcolm Smart's detailed grid reference (many thanks to Keith Alexander for his specimen). The site was a sheltered spot behind a sand dune ridge and adjacent to a marshy area. I have previously noticed Micropezids sheltering inside shrubs during hot periods and so found myself lying full length on the ground with my head inside a small bush. Recent records for this species are confined to this one spot (check the NBN Gateway for the distribution map) and it's a pity there was no opportunity to observe its behaviour. I consider that it is a suitable candidate for the forthcoming “Species status reviews #4”, I have a review copy from John Ismay and *Neria ephippium* is not included - perhaps it should be. If anyone has any distribution information to the contrary I would be grateful for these records.



Darwyn Sumner

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Newsletter # 40 included with this Bulletin

David Iliffe

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Newsletter # 25 included with this Bulletin

Simon Hayhow

Forum News

Linnean Society Bloomer Award for Peter Chandler

On the evening of Tuesday 24 May 2005 Peter Chandler was presented with the H.H. Bloomer Award by the President of the Linnean Society, Professor Gordon McGregor Reid at a well-attended ceremony in the lecture hall of the Society at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

This award was established in 1963 by the Linnean Society Council from a legacy of £500 by the late Harry Howard Bloomer FLS, as recognition to an amateur naturalist who has made an important contribution to biological knowledge. A silver medal, with a donation provided out of the Fund, is presented to the recipient of each award, with botanists and zoologists alternating from year to year. Previous recipients of the Bloomer Award include Miriam Rothschild (1968), jointly the spider specialists A.F. Millidge and G.H. Locket (1974), Lionel Higgins (1982), Walter Le Quesne (1986) and one dipterist, the world authority on Agromyzidae Kenneth Spencer (1992).

The Secretary read out the citation before the presentation by the President, who was robed and adorned with a splendid hat for the occasion (we noted that Peter wore an exotic and colourful tie to stand out from the crowd!). The citation summarised Peter's achievements in the study of Diptera and entomology generally, as well as his long-standing contributions to the British



Entomological & Natural History Society. This citation included the notable statistics that he has published some 194 papers on Diptera, in the course of which he has proposed 10 new genera and described 159 new species, of which 113 are fungus gnats. He has also added 156 species of Diptera to the British list. Even those who know Peter well might be surprised at the extent of his work in entomology and the study of flies, ranging from editing the *Dipterists Digest* since 1998, acting as curator for the BENHS collections since 1987, masterminding the move of the BENHS from South Audley Street to Dinton Pastures (including overseeing the construction of the purpose-built premises), organising field meetings, compiling the new checklist of British Diptera published in 1998, and being ever-willing to help others with identification and practical help in studying insects, particularly Diptera. His prodigious knowledge of the British fauna and of many families on a European and World basis is inspiring – if at times a little daunting to those with less retentive memories!

After the presentation ceremony for all the Linnean medals and awards, Peter was photographed as part of the group of award winners and then with his medal alongside the President, prior to attending a reception upstairs in the imposing setting of the extensive wood-panelled library. Then the officers of the Society, the recipients of the awards and their guests, made their way to a nearby restaurant for a convivial celebration dinner. This was a very friendly and enjoyable occasion, with the three entomologists present (Peter and his two guests) enjoying lively conversation between themselves and also with the neighbouring botanists and marine biologists etc. well into the evening.

Well done Peter, you are a very deserving recipient of this award; many thanks from your friends and colleagues in the study of flies for all your encouragement, practical help and publications over the years!

Ian McLean

Reviews of Scarce and Threatened Species of Diptera

This series of publications was originally conceived as an update and expansion of the Diptera part of the British Insect Red Data Book (Shirt, 1987). It was initiated with the publication in 1991 of "A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain (Part 1)" by Steven Falk containing individual data sheets on Red Data Book (RDB) and Notable (those recorded from less than 100 10km squares) species for a number of the more better studied and recorded families of Diptera:

Acroceridae, Asilidae, Bombyliidae, Conopidae, Rhagionidae, Sciomyzidae, Stratiomyidae, Syrphidae, Tabanidae, Tephritidae, Tipulidae (sensu lato), Xylomyidae & Xylophagidae.

Drafts were prepared of 4 additional parts covering the remainder of the Diptera families as follows:

Empidoidea, manuscript submitted mid 1994, Acalyprata, manuscript submitted 1995, Calyprata, manuscript submitted 1995. Nematocera & Achiza not covered by Falk (1991), manuscript submitted 1995.

During 1994, the IUCN (World Conservation Union) published new guidelines for classifying the status of a species. These guidelines were adopted by JNCC (the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee) in 1995 necessitating a complete revision of the status of each species and publication was delayed. For two of these parts the necessary status revision has now been completed by Ian McLean by JNCC. The nomenclature has been brought up to date in accordance with the latest checklist (Chandler 1998) and recent literature up to 2004 incorporated in the text. They have now been published as part of JNCC's Species Status Assessment project under the titles:

A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 2: Nematocera and Aschiza not dealt with by Falk (1991) by Steven J. Falk and Peter Chandler. The families covered are:

Bolitophilidae, Diadocidiidae, Ditomyiidae, Keroplatidae, Mycetophilidae, Trichoceridae, Mycetobiidae, Ptychopteridae, Dixidae, Culicidae, Thaumaleidae, Ceratopogonidae, Platypezidae, Phoridae. Lonchopteridae & Pipunculidae

A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 3: Empidoidea by Steven J. Falk and Roy Crossley. The families covered are:

Hybotidae, Atelestidae, Empididae & Dolichopodidae

These are available for purchase - see below, (telephone 01803 865913, e-mail nhbs@nhbs.co.uk). Much more interestingly, they can be downloaded for **FREE** (yes **FREE**) as .pdf files from the JNCC website - see below.

You may also be interested in downloading (or purchasing) another recently published document in the same series at the same time: ***The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain*** (2005) by Cheffings, C. and Farrell, L.

If you don't already own it, the original 1991 Diptera volume: *A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain (Part 1)* by Steven Falk is still available for purchase from NHBS for the princely sum of **£6.00** (*special clearance offer, reduced from £12.50 – see their website*). The species status assignments given in this work are yet to be updated in line with the new IUCN guidelines/definitions.

Malcolm Smart

Publication of Diptera Reviews: Nematocera & Aschiza and Empidoidea

The first two of the four remaining Diptera Reviews have now been published as paper publications, which are also available as pdf files from the JNCC website. The full references are as follows:

Falk, S.J. & Chandler, P.J. 2005. A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain. Part 2: Nematocera and Aschiza not dealt with by Falk (1991). *Species Status 2*: 1-191. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Falk, S.J. & Crossley, R. 2005. A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain. Part 3: Empidoidea. *Species Status 3*: 1-134. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

The Reviews are available as paper publications from: NHBS Environment Bookstore, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN (www.nhbs.com) price £15 + p&p. They are also available free as pdf downloads from the JNCC website (www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3352).

The other two Reviews, on Acalypratae and Calypratae, are currently being finalized with the introductory sections and data sheets being edited and recent data being entered and checked.

I'd like to thank all the dipterists who's records and observations have made these reviews possible. The process continues of course and, at some stage, we will review and bring up to date the status assigned to all Diptera. When this might happen is open for discussion.

Deborah Procter, (deborah.procter@jncc.gov.uk).

Species Status Project, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY

Review

Outstanding reviews

Following receipt of the useful notice on the current reviews 2 & 3 from Deborah Procter I contacted her to ask if she would give me some more details of the other two reviews which are in preparation. Here's a summary of what she told me:

Species Status No. 4

A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain Part 4: **Acalyptratae** not dealt with by Falk (1991) by Steven J. Falk, John W. Ismay and Peter J. Chandler

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Pseudopomyzidae | Micropezidae | Tanypezidae |
| Strongylophthalmyiidae | Megamerinidae | Psilidae |
| Lonchaeidae | Palloppteridae | Piophilidae |
| Ulidiidae | Lauxaniidae | Chamaemyiidae |
| Sepsidae | Clusiidae | Acartophthalmidae |
| Odiniidae | Agromyzidae | Opomyzidae |
| Anthomyzidae | Aulacigastridae | Stenomicroidae |
| Periscolididae | Asteidae | Milichiidae |
| Carnidae | Tethinidae | Chloropidae |
| Heleomyzidae | Chyromyidae | Sphaeroceridae |
| Drosophilidae | Diastatidae | Ephydriidae |

The information in this volume is based upon preliminary research undertaken some years ago by Mr S.J. Falk. Much of the introduction is based on the review of the Empidoidea by Falk & Crossley (2004) and statements which apply equally to the present review are often repeated verbatim

(key contributors not yet listed)

Species Status No. 5

A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 5: **Calypttratae** by Steven J. Falk, Adrian C. Pont and Peter J. Chandler

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Hippoboscoidea | Hippoboscidae | Nycteribiidae | | | |
| Muscoidea | Scathophagidae | Anthomyiidae | Fanniidae | Muscidae | |
| Oestroidea | Calliphoridae | Rhinophoridae | Sarcophagidae | Tachinidae | Oestridae |

The starting-point for this volume was the set of data sheets prepared by Steven Falk and Stuart Ball provided a number of resources.

The list of acknowledgements which Deborah Procter provided is large, the following have contributed in one way or other:

Mr D.M. Ackland (Anthomyiidae), Dr R. Belshaw (Tachinidae), Mr M.G. Bloxham (all families), Mr L. Clemons (Fanniidae, Muscidae, Sarcophagidae), Mr J.H. Cole (all families), Dr L. Davies (Calliphoridae, Sarcophagidae), Mr S.J. Falk (all families), Mr T.H. Ford (Tachinidae), Mr A.J. Godfrey (all families), Dr D.H. Horsfield (Muscoidea, Calliphoridae), Mr A.M. Hutson (Hippoboscoidea and bat parasites), Dr B.R. Laurence (all families except Tachinidae), Mr P. Skidmore (Muscoidea), and Mr K.G.V. Smith (Oestridae). Mr A.A. Allen has kindly advised us on several matters. Stella Brecknell of the Hope Entomological Library, University Museum, Oxford. For access to collections we thank Mr J.C. Deeming (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff), Dr B.R. Pitkin (Natural History Museum, London), and Dr S.J. Simpson (Hope Entomological Collections, University Museum, Oxford).

Darwyn Sumner

Species statuses in a database

It has always seemed to me that it would be extremely useful to have the above publications available in some kind of database in addition to the printed format in which they currently appear. A ten year wait for a printed list seems to be a rather inefficient way of updating such lists nowadays when the technology exists to update just a handful from each list and then to redistribute and share the updates. The facility to do all this is incorporated into Recorder but it would be a fairly labour-intensive task to add all the information to the checklists. I would be most interested to hear from anyone who is adding statuses and other facts in Recorder with a view to sharing this information, perhaps the authors of the above reviews have already done this.

Darwyn Sumner

BAP Review of Diptera

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 EU Convention 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. Lists of priority species and habitats were published in 1995 and 1998 under the UK BAP. During the last Reviews it was felt that the invertebrates were somewhat under represented. Hence, Buglife, who co-ordinates the review of most invertebrate groups, invited the societies to name a voluntary co-ordinator for their group. The Dipterists Forum named me as their BAP Officer and co-ordinator. Currently BAP lists 391 Priority species, 44% of which are invertebrates. Only 0.3% of all UK Diptera are BAP species, compared to 34.7% of all mammal species. BAP has greatly raised these species' profile and provided funding for survey, monitoring, ecological research and site management. Buglife's information pack including criteria and an assessment form was completed for each species submitted.

Consultation and assessment process

The current BAP Review is intended to assess every British species. This is achievable for small groups such as birds and mammals, but impossible for large groups such as Diptera with 6786 British species, many known from one or few records. Work was concentrated on groups that had been assessed for conservation status. The 2322 species not assessed for their conservation status were excluded. In total 4361 species were assessed during this Review. 63 entomologists were consulted including lead partners for existing BAP species, specialists in the statutory agencies, authors of National Reviews and Recording Scheme Organisers. All replied, either informing me they could not help or with suggestions in lists or on the forms. The 142 forms (with 121 suggestions for new and 21 for already existing BAP species) received from specialists were assessed using the criteria below. In addition to the suggestions received from specialists five National Reviews (in March four in draft form) were checked using the criteria. The drafts for the National Reviews (similar to RDBs) included the assessment of 3281 species in total and (except for Calyprata), were advanced enough that the IUCN criteria (based on decline) had already been applied critically. These three have been assessed by their authors for the BAP Review.

The assessment form included categories such as 'International Threat' (to the species), or 'International Importance of the UK populations' or whether the species has declined in the UK. Information for these criteria, either published or as personal comments, was included in the forms. International importance could sometimes be assumed if the species was only known from very few countries. Often this was impossible to assess since Fauna Europaea (www.faunaeur.org) was often the only source available for the European or international distribution and for Diptera this database only gives presence or absence in countries, but not rarity. Three of the four criteria are based on declining populations in the UK and in Europe. This decline could be inferred if the habitat was declining. Therefore, a definite figure could not be given for some species, but the reasons why a decline can be inferred was mentioned. If these categories could not be assessed or even inferred, a species could still be suggested if other important factors exist, e.g. it could act as excellent 'flagship' or 'indicator' species for a declining taxonomic group, a threatened habitat type or a pressing conservation issue, e.g. declining dung fauna (*Asilus crabroniformis*). If these factors were considered strong enough it was suggested for BAP. Further categories on the form included the species UK distribution, the needs of species and the threats to the species. Finally a brief statement had to be supplied that summarised what action, if any, needs to be taken. If one or more criteria were satisfied, but nothing could be done to support the species or the only possible action was 'searching for the species' or it had not been recorded in recent years than it was excluded from the suggestions for BAP. If it was felt that the species would be best placed in a grouped Species Action Plan (gSAP) or in a HAP than they were suggested for these plans. Recent additions to the British list were excluded since the information available was insufficient to assess their status. Species which were threatened or declining in the UK, but were common elsewhere, were excluded as they did not fulfil the criteria. Based on the assessments, a draft with suggestions of species that qualify under the criteria was circulated to 40 experts. The comments received were incorporated into a finalised version. Foreign RDBs were not checked during this process since most do not include Diptera or only Syrphidae (hoverflies) (J. Burton, pers. comm.). However, 10 European experts were contacted during the Review and commented on the European status of species. Some contentious BAP species, for which retention and deletion had been suggested, were discussed at a DF Committee meeting and a consensus was reached.

Results

This Review resulted in seven lists, which together with the appropriate forms were submitted to Buglife. These lists are 'Existing BAP suggested for retention as BAP', 'Existing BAP suggested for deletion', 'Suggested new BAP species', 'Inclusion in Habitat Plans' and 'Inclusion in grouped SAPs'. Species thought to be declining or

Review

threatened in the UK, but with insufficient information for a decision, were listed as 'Data deficient'. These species should have high priority for further recording and research so they can be reassessed in the next BAP Review. Finally a list 'Species rejected for BAP' included species that had been suggested but failed the criteria. Please understand that I cannot provide species names at this stage to avoid pre-empting getting more Diptera included in the BAP process. A recurrent problem during this Review was species versus habitat conservation. Many UK habitats are recognised as being of national or international importance and are well protected, e.g. ancient woodland and parkland, reed beds and calcareous grassland. However, the HAP may not consider the special needs of Diptera. Where their needs could be incorporated into the action plan, species were suggested for inclusion into HAPs. Several species which do not live in BAP habitats and which would not be sufficiently protected by a HAP, due to special microhabitat requirements, are suggested for inclusion in the following gSAPs. 'Diptera of Dead and Rotting Timber' would highlight that single standing trees are an important microhabitat for Diptera. 'Diptera of Boreal Ancient Birch Woodland' flags up a neglected boreal habitat which is decreasing due to mismanagement and agricultural changes. 'Ancient Pine Woodland' is neglected in the HAP and Diptera often live in dead pine wood. 'Diptera of Coarse Woody Debris' in rivers is important for several species and is currently insufficiently protected. 'Diptera in fen and marsh biotopes' – the suggested flagship species live on mollusc egg masses stranded by changing water levels and would be adversely affected by general management advice for fens, e.g. retaining existing water levels. 'Diptera of Exposed Riverine Sediments' – the importance of this habitat for Diptera was under estimated in the past and this gSAP highlights the differing needs of Diptera and Coleoptera. 'Diptera associated with *Cossus* or *Cossus* damaged trees' would favour several species with conservation status.

In March 2005 54 species had been submitted for inclusion in BAP. These together with the suggestions for other invertebrate groups were considered for approval as BAP species by the UK BAP Invertebrate Review Group. Only 12 species of Diptera have been rejected as BAP species in their own right, but some may still be included in gSAPs or HAPs. This list will next be reviewed by the Priority Species and Habitats Review Working Group (PSHRWG) of BRIG (UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group), which includes further consultation with expert and Country Biodiversity Groups to determine possible action and their delivery. By the end of 2006 BRIG and the Country Groups will have decided on the final Biodiversity Action Plans.

Discussion

This Review clearly revealed that volunteer organisations have problems with such large projects. Diptera are one of the largest insect groups in the UK, but the time available for their review was too short. Voluntary organisations and individuals cannot react as fast as professional bodies. This task was very time consuming and took almost three months work. I had to rely on other members of the DF to supply data for possible BAP species. Also, the volume of work is such that the coordinator at least should be financed. Data are insufficient for many species despite many active members and recording schemes. It is impossible to clarify the European status of many species since the British voluntary recording effort is not matched in Europe. Their country distribution is published, without information on scarcity, conservation status or decline. I relied on some of our European colleagues' personal knowledge. Some existing BAP species had no Action Plan, leading to a lack of research and action. It is most important that BAP species should have a clear agreed Action Plan and that this is followed through to completion.

It was felt better to exclude maps because so few were available. In theory the NBN Gateway holds distribution maps for species. The data for the Hoverflies + Stilt and Stalk Flies Recording Schemes is already available, while the Tipuloidea data is in preparation. It is most important to support the work of the NBN Gateway to ensure the large amount of data provided by voluntary organisations becomes available to the conservation movement. There is a clear need for funding to facilitate data entry into the NBN Gateway. The Recording Schemes possess a large amount of data, but as voluntary schemes, often organised by one or two specialists, do not have the resources to enter this data.

While many species were found to be rare, vulnerable or endangered they may not have met the restrictive BAP criteria. Thus the BAP process cannot meet all the needs of conservation of Diptera. The National Reviews will remain important for conservation. Further research is needed, leading to a better understanding for many species. This would help assessing their conservation status and their needs. Thus the species considered for BAP but rejected or considered to be data deficient should not be ignored: many would probably have qualified with clearer British or European data.

I wish to thank all entomologists who so generously supported me over the last months and helped with this large task.

Barbara Schulten, Dipterists Forum BAP Officer, schultmay@onetel.com

Invertebrates of maritime soft rock cliffs

Coastal soft rock cliffs are a much neglected habitat that provides the ideal conditions for many rare insects, spiders and other invertebrates. Many of these species are only found on soft rock cliffs in the UK and so the protection and sensitive management of these areas is vital to their survival. Information on these habitats is limited; however, the current available data would suggest that the soft rock cliffs of the UK are some of the most important in Europe.



Maritime soft rock cliffs and slopes are widely recognised for their geomorphological interest, many are notified as geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest. However, much less well known is their importance for supporting rich invertebrate assemblages and as a refuge for rare insect species. A recent review (Howe, 2003, *British Wildlife*) lists 28 species of insect found only on soft rock cliffs in the UK, of these, 22 are Red Data Book species. Well represented groups are the Hymenoptera (7 species), Coleoptera (11 species), and Diptera (5 species). Species of Diptera listed in this review include *Campsicnemus umbripennis*, *Dicranomyia lackschewitzi*, *Helius hispanicus* and *Platycephala umbraculata* (RDB2), all of which have a restricted known distribution.

There are a range of reasons why these habitats should be of such importance to insects and other invertebrates. The key features are the historical continuity of bare ground, the maintenance of early successional pioneer plant communities, hydrological features such as freshwater seepages, and physical aspects such as temperature.

Maritime soft cliffs and slopes are amongst the most natural habitats in the UK, on many sites active human intervention or management is not required to maintain the habitat and species diversity. However, due to a lack of recognition for their nature conservation interest much of the UK resource has been altered or lost behind coastal protection schemes, or degraded through the inappropriate management of cliffs and slopes and their immediate surroundings.

What are Buglife doing?

Buglife have been awarded funding by the Esmée Fairburn Foundation for a three year project to study and promote the invertebrate biodiversity of soft rock cliffs in the UK.

The project aims to:

- Increase our knowledge of soft rock cliffs and the invertebrates that inhabit them.
- Identify the most important areas of soft rock cliff in the UK for biodiversity.
- Ensure that these species and habitats are protected for the future.

The information produced by this project will provide an essential resource for the future sustainable management of soft rock cliffs and their immediate surroundings in the UK.

A request

The early stages of this project are concerned with the collation of existing data. If you have any records of invertebrates from soft rock cliff sites around the UK then please contact me, I can supply a site list.

Also, if you are interested in collecting new records during the 2006 field season then I would be very interested to hear from you.

Notice board

Assessing the importance of strandlines for invertebrate biodiversity

Strandlines are the kind of habitat that doesn't attract a great deal of interest, to many people they are just smelly accumulations of marine algae and, unfortunately, human rubbish. However, evidence suggests that strandlines are a habitat that supports a wealth of terrestrial and marine invertebrate species. There is certainly a high biomass, high diversity, highly specialised invertebrate fauna associated with strandlines, and this also forms an important food source for some birds and fish.

A report by CCW in 2002 identified four main threats to strandlines in the UK:

1. Anthropogenic debris and contaminants washed in by the tide and deposited on the strandline (e.g. plastics, sewerage debris and oil).
2. Beach cleaning by mechanical means, which involves the removal of strandline material. This is practised in many areas to provide clean beaches for tourism.
3. Human disturbance through increased leisure/ amenity use of the shore.
4. Degradation and erosion by potentially rising sea levels

Of the four threats listed above the mechanical removal of the strandline in the interests of cleaner beaches is likely to be the greatest threat to this habitat and the communities it supports. Beach managers are often encouraged to damage this habitat in the pursuit of 'cleaner' and 'healthier' beaches, this perception is misleading and potentially damaging to the nature conservation value of our coastline.

Strandlines also play an important part in the formation of sand dunes.

What are Buglife doing?

Kiley Saunders, a Buglife volunteer, is carrying out a pilot project to gather information on the invertebrate faunas of strandlines, and to make an assessment of the biodiversity importance of this habitat. Invertebrate species likely to be of importance are: flies, crustaceans (particularly isopods and amphipods), and beetles (particularly staphylinids), plus spiders and centipedes. Kiley will also be carrying out a questionnaire exercise to find out about beach management in the UK, and to gather more information on the threats to the habitat and its invertebrate fauna.

A request

The early stages of this project are concerned with the collation of existing data. If you have any records of invertebrates from strandlines around the UK then please contact me. I will pass these on to Kiley.

Also, if you are interested in carrying out surveys of strandlines then I would be interested to hear from you.

Please visit our website www.buglife.org.uk for more information on these projects.

Andrew Whitehouse

Funding opportunities

Last autumn Dipterists Forum put in for a number of different projects regarding Diptera data, but failed to get funding. We are now looking for a Project which would entail mobilising Diptera data which at least to a large extent is relevant to Scotland.

The thought crossed my mind that DF has been trying to get funds to computerise excursion data. Are there substantial quantities of data that could be captured from Scottish excursions, or have you already done most of this? The other Project which was turned down was Hayhow's Brachycera data. Does this have a substantial Scottish element, would you know?

If this is a goer, we need to get a project plan sorted out for submission asap, because SNH have some cash that needs to be spent before they lose the chance, i.e. by mid July!

Is this feasible?

Trevor James
NBN Development Officer for National Societies & Recording Schemes
c/o Biological Records Centre

Membership Matters

Members are again reminded that Subscription Rates from the 1st January 2005, are now 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

The Numbers of Members & Subscribers as on the 10th July 2005 is as follows :

Dipterists Forum Members 303 as on 10th July 2005
Dipterists Digest Subscribers 283 as on 10th July 2005

This list is still current, awaiting membership renewals for this year. (There are some 30 members or subscribers from 2004 that have yet to pay for 2005)

There are a number of members & subscribers who have paid at the old rate, I would be grateful, if those who have yet to top up their membership fees could please do so or pay me in person if you wish, I plan to be at all the main entomological events this autumn.

There will also be a Dipterists Forum stall at the Amateur Entomologists Exhibition on Saturday 1st October 2005, at Kempton Park Racecourse, Starting at 11.00am. This will be manned by various Committee members, and advice on a wide range of issues including all membership issues can possibly be resolved here, back issues of the Dipterists Digest will also be on sale. All members & potential members are welcome to introduce themselves.

Mick Parker

Ticks of the trade

Dr Jörn P.W. Scharlemann contacted me at work a little time ago, looking for records of ticks. I recounted to him my only other experience of a "tick man", Tomi Trilar (of Ljubljana Museum) who drapes a white flag over vegetation whilst walking along as his collection method. I also told him of the occasions that ticks finish up in my net and he replied:

I would be very keen to have a look at the ticks you collect as "by-catch" during your sweeps for diptera. Would be much appreciated if you could collect the ticks and send them to me with information on locality and date. I'd be willing to identify them and feed the information back to you or your records centre if you would be interested?

So called blanket dragging is the standard collection method for ticks.

If you are interested in helping him out with his surveys he can be contacted at: Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS

Darwyn Sumner

Dipterists Digest should not have any blank pages

(and never will)

Volume 12 Part 1, published July 2005, should have all pages fully printed. Unfortunately, at least two people have received copies with page 60 blank and three others with page 62 blank. Most if not all have names beginning with B or C. Since the Digest is packed for distribution in alphabetical order of subscribers it may be that only a few defective copies are involved.

Could all subscribers please carefully check all pages of the copy they have received and let me know so that arrangements can be made to send them a replacement copy. I apologise on behalf of the printers to anyone whose enjoyment of the journal has been spoilt in this way.

Peter Chandler

Notice board

Sweep Net

Gateway matters

The following chart shows how much the datasets on the NBN Gateway are being used:

| Dataset | Submitted | Down-loads | Map | | 10Km report | | | Site reports | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------|-------------|-------|---------|--------------|------|---------|
| | | | Interactive | Grid | Groups | Lists | Records | Groups | List | Records |
| Field Week 1999 | June 2004 | 211 | 470 | 682 | 288 | 248 | 263 | 1269 | 800 | 7 |
| Field Weeks 2000/1 | March 2005 | 63 | 128 | 397 | 145 | 185 | 231 | 435 | 293 | 0 |
| Stilt & Stalk | March 2005 | 867 | 43 | 20 | 1466 | 1651 | 2104 | 5253 | 4127 | 0 |

The statistics are a little difficult to interpret, the vast majority of the users are anonymous (i.e. they have not registered with the site), the remainder, in the main, are members of English Nature with a few individuals who are environmental consultants, BWARS members, National Trust, JNCC, CEH, Hoverfly Recording Scheme, NBN, Plantlife, Environment Agency, SNH, Dorset Environmental Records Centre, BSBI, Buglife and others who, from their email addresses are from universities and Local Records Centres. Disappointingly few Dipterists. Such a pity we're not attracting potential Recording Scheme contributors or Dipterists from abroad. Perhaps we need to make more datasets available from the various Recording Schemes.

The Dipterists Forum group on the NBN Gateway has only 9 members, most of them having joined during a demonstration session I gave at Preston Montford last year. Do please use the site to apply for membership of the Gateway's DF group, you automatically get more detailed access to the above datasets (this saves you having to apply individually for each dataset - quite a saving in time and effort for all concerned when we get more datasets on the site)

Darwyn Sumner

Useful links

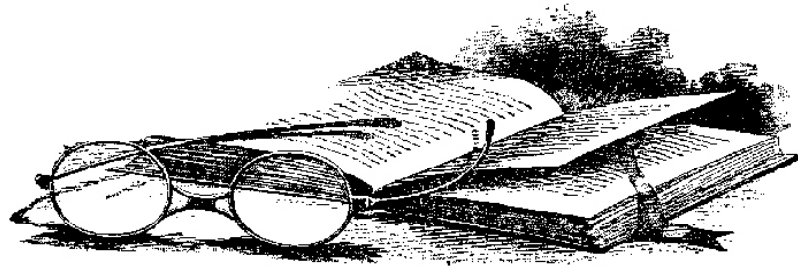
Ken Merrifield has been busy providing useful resources on the Dipterists Forum forum (<http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/forum/>). Under the topic title "Resources lists on Dipterists Forum forum" he provides a huge number of useful links in three postings. Can I remind members that our own website (<http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/>) is packed with useful stuff, details of the availability of back issues of Dipterists Digest is particularly useful.

Darwyn Sumner

Data security

In the course of my work I am involved with many aspects of data security and frequently hear tales of woe regarding the loss of data when computers break down as they are bound to do so from time to time under the continual onslaught of attacks from the internet or simply just old age. It is in the interests not only of yourself but of all the biological recording community to ensure that adequate measures are taken to protect your computer and to have a clean copy of all your data should the worst happen. I make a plea therefore to all computerised members firstly to ensure that you have good virus checking and a decent firewall; you are attacked on average every 35 seconds. Secondly, try to have some form of regular backup of all your data. There are many options available for this, external hard drives which attach to your USB port are widely available, Maplin sell a gadget (USB to IDE kit) which allows you to use old hard disks as a backup and there are plenty of CD and Zip disk gadgets on the market. When you come to set up your backup routines don't forget that you have important data in all sorts of locations on your hard disk, your Recorder data for example is in a folder within the program itself.

Darwyn Sumner



A new key to Drosophilidae including all British species

Last year testing was carried out of a draft key to the British Drosophilidae intended to be published as an RES Handbook. This text begun in the early 1990s by Paul Beuk has yet to be completed and this task is to be carried out by Brian Pitkin. Comments from the testers were forwarded to Brian when received. We were also aware at that time that a volume on this family in the Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica series was about to be published and this has now appeared.

This work is entitled *The Drosophilidae (Diptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark* by Gerhard Bächli, Carlos R. Vilela, Stefan Andersson Escher & Anssi Saura and is Volume 39, pp. 1-312 in the *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* series, published by Brill, Leiden. Unlike other recent works on Diptera in this series it does not attempt to cover the entire European fauna but does include all Western European species in the keys. Altogether 128 species are keyed and figures of male genitalia are provided, which also covers the species of adjacent countries including the British Isles.

The excellent genitalia figures are large and detailed (a full page for each species) only for the 80 Scandinavian species. The following species found in Britain are figured but in less detail: *Amiota collini*, *Cacoxenus indagator* and the introduced species *Chymomyza wirthi*, *Drosophila virilis*, *D. mercatorum* and *D. ananassae*. Two other exotic species in the British checklist on the basis of occurrences at dock areas only, i.e. *D. hirtipes* and *D. polychaeta*, are omitted from this book.

The distribution tables list species found in adjacent countries but are not entirely accurate for the British fauna. The following species on our list are not cited as British: *Amiota rufescens*, *Cacoxenus indagator*. The following species, formerly regarded as British, are here cited as British in error: *Stegana furta*, *Scaptomyza montana*. In the latter case there is possibly some confusion because a British species formerly regarded as *montana* was later stated by Basden to be an undescribed species. The existence of such a species is mentioned in this book in the introduction to the genus *Scaptomyza* but without further comment.

There are two taxonomic changes affecting our fauna. The subgenus *Phortica* is raised to generic rank, including *P. variegata*. *Drosophila cameraria* is transferred to *Hirtodrosophila*, treated (as already predicted in the Digest 10, 148) as of generic rank.

Peter Chandler

Recorder 6 released

Installing Recorder 2002 can be a time-consuming task owing to the large number of upgrades which have to be put in after the basic installation and so I was delighted the very day after I had done this to receive my copy of the standalone version of Recorder 6 in the post. This one installed very smoothly in the first place, taking about 10 minutes for the basic stuff. Following this you do then need to rebuild all your Taxon indices, run an upgrade, reattach all your addins and transfer your data. The installation and upgrade instructions are to be found in different versions in different places so I would strongly recommend you do not leap straight into the automatic installation but print out the instructions on the CD first, this way you get the full benefit of all the hilarious typographical errors. The difference with Recorder 6 is that it is running on a cut-down version of Microsoft SQL Server 2000 (a database with its own management system) called MSDE. Despite what is said in the various release notes about the enormous cost for a full version of this, you can obtain a full single-PC "Developer" edition for as little as 31 and tinker away at database management to your heart's content. Now is a good time to obtain Recorder if this is your choice of poison. There are some interesting new facilities in the more recent versions of Recorder. The one to add Species Statuses and References to your favourite taxa seems to have a great deal of potential, although it's a pity the new Status Reviews are not yet included in the supplied dictionaries, they do, after all, come from the same JNCC stable as Recorder.

Darwyn Sumner

Meetings

Reports

Summer Field Meeting 2004

Wiltshire

With results in from two thirds of the 31 participants there are already records of 1000 species of Diptera and several hundred of other orders thanks to the support of coleopterists (one a psocopterist), hymenopterists and recorders of day-flying Lepidoptera among the party.

Some further comment at this stage is felt necessary, as the results in certain groups were not as dire as predicted in the account of the meeting in last year's Autumn Bulletin. Syrphid recorders were at the time bemoaning the low numbers of hoverflies. However, the records collated so far indicate that at least 96 species were recorded, of which some of the more notable finds were mentioned in that report. The empids and dolies were also singled out as not achieving the desired results. Here the results support this view more; nevertheless, at least 92 species of empids (*sensu lato*) and 51 of dolies were recorded.

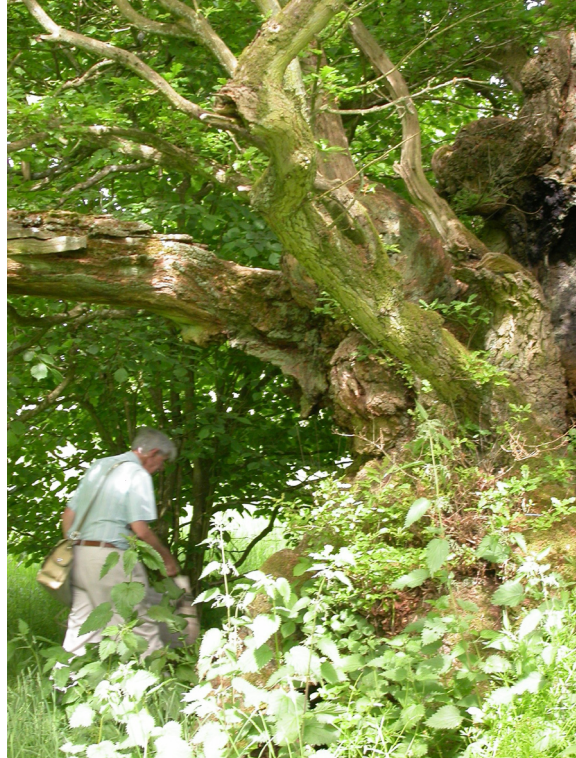
Most significantly it was reported that this was the first meeting since records began at which Jon Cole had not found anything new to him. However, soon after these words were printed Jon informed me that he had in fact found a female belonging to *Empis* subgenus *Coptophlebia*, which could not be identified from the available literature. After conferring with Roy Crossley the specimen was sent to Milan Chvála, who concluded that it was almost certainly of an undescribed

species but that males would be necessary to confirm this. This specimen runs in Collin's keys to *E. vitripennis* but differs in having entirely dark abdominal hair. It was collected at Spye Park, a private estate that has SSSI status on account of its many veteran trees of interest for saproxylic Coleoptera.

At the same time I discovered that some psychodids, which I obtained from the same location as Jon's empid, were apparently of a species not in Phil Withers' handbook. They were close to *Telmatoscopus soleatus* but with the apical structure of the aedeagus substantially larger such that it protrudes from the tip of the abdomen. This group of *Telmatoscopus* *sensu* the British list is referred to *Jungiella* in most recent European literature and there are two species with a similar aedeagus (*valachica* and *danica*) recognised in the Palaearctic key. Specimens have been passed to Phil who will be writing up this addition to the British list.

Both empid and psychodid were found in the same area of Spye Park, a shaded woodland stream above a small lake, on 31 May 2004. As all known species of the subgenus *Coptophlebia* are late summer flying the date is curious and the habitat is also atypical for this subgenus. In order to justify further visits to the site a list of what we recorded there last year was compiled as a priority and submitted to English Nature who had arranged access with the owner. It was not possible to arrange a visit this year until the first week of June when I was able to find further specimens of the psychodid but not of the empid. I had assumed perhaps correctly that the single female found by Jon was at the end of its flight period but as other *Coptophlebia* fly later I arranged to go again and have made two unsuccessful visits in late July. Visits from April onwards will be arranged next year.

Spye Park is a curious place for Diptera as apart from these additions few of the 219 species we recorded there in 2004 were of any note. On a July visit this year I did find *Diastata vagans*, only the second English record known to me of a species widespread in the Scottish Highlands. The estate is managed for pheasant rearing and large parts of it are overgrown with giant hogweed, which in some areas of the woodland forms the shrub layer with many thousands of plants reaching a height of up to 16 feet. Elsewhere clumps of Japanese knotweed or *Rhododendron* are present. However, there are stretches of broad-leaved woodland along the streams with a good herb layer and no intrusive aliens and this applies to part of the area where the new species were found. The parkland areas have many ancient trees and the grassland has a good amount of apparently unpersecuted ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* with



many caterpillars of the cinnabar moth *Tyria jacobaeae*.

An account of the preceding 2003 autumn meeting in Wiltshire was recently published in *Wiltshire Studies, The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (2005, Volume 98, pages 337-340). This was entitled *First Wiltshire Meeting of the Dipterists Forum* and gave an account of the more interesting sites visited and species found, as well as explaining the background of Dipterists Forum and our field meetings.

Peter Chandler

Autumn Field Meeting 2004

Sussex

This meeting was arranged with the assistance of Patrick Roper, whose local knowledge enabled us to visit a range of interesting sites in a region of East Sussex not previously reached by Dipterists Forum. Our base was the Pestalozzi International Village near Sedlescombe, where there was student accommodation adjacent to a common room that we were able to use for our evening work. The then principal, Patricia Rogers, welcomed us to the village and gave us an interesting account of the history and functions of this institution. Eleven people attended the meeting.

It was a little showery on our arrival on the Wednesday afternoon, when Patrick gave us a tour of the grounds of the Pestalozzi Village, where there are a varied range of habitats. After that each day followed the same pattern with evening rain, which became heavy overnight but cleared up by the morning to enable fieldwork to take place. Unusually for such a meeting we stayed together as one party for most of the time and were conducted by Patrick around a number of extensive sites. Much ground was covered, often involving two or more 1km squares in the one itinerary, so some (though not Patrick) were flagging by the end of the meeting.

Among the late hoverflies *Volucella zonaria* was observed at ivy flowers at Crowhurst. *Machimus atricapillus* was still on the wing as on some other recent autumn meetings. Both species of *Sepedon* were in large numbers at three sites and four species of *Tephritis*, ready for hibernation, were noted. *Norellia spinipes* at Fore Wood probably also had this in mind. *Lonchoptera scutellata* was abundant in a dried up pond in the Pestalozzi grounds.

Fungus gnats were in good numbers at some sites and 120 species were recorded. Among these were *Mycetophila caudata* found by Chris Spilling at Flatroper's Wood, only the fourth known English site for this mainly Scottish species. *Keroplatus testaceus* turned up at three sites, including the Pestalozzi Estate on the first afternoon and according to Patrick is now widespread in the region. There were also good numbers of craneflies recorded, but too early to suggest a species total.

Platypozids were sparse but there were some good finds, including *Paraplatypeza bicincta* (a recent addition to the British list) at Flatroper's Wood and this is the sixth known British site. On the Sunday morning Malcolm Smart caught *Agathomyia falleni* at Tudely Wood RSPB Reserve near Tunbridge Wells, visited before our final dispersal. These records and that of *M. caudata* have already appeared in the recently published *A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain. Part 2: Nematocera and Aschiza* (JNCC 2005).

Andrew Halstead recorded a good range of galls and leaf mines, among them the local hazel gall midge *Contarinia coryli* and the cynipid *Andricus aries* (first recorded in Britain in Berkshire in 1997 but now widespread in the south-east) on oak at two sites. Among the beetles he recorded were *Oncomera femorata*, a local oedemerid associated with ivy, at Fairlight Glen Country Park and the scarce 7-spot ladybird *Coccinella magnifica* at Flatroper's Wood. On 15 October a splinter group made a quick visit to Hastings Castle to observe the bee *Colletes halophila* that was known to occur there.

Records have so far been received from half those taking part and further records would be welcome so that a report can be compiled. As always with autumn meetings it was an enjoyable social occasion for all who came.

Peter Chandler

Meetings

Spring Weekend Field Meeting 2005

Northamptonshire Limestone 4 to 5 June 2005

Eleven thirty on the morning of 3rd June 2005 and I was struggling to wire up a lamp I had made. Funny – I know the voices outside my door – lo and behold Chris Spilling and Alan Lawson had arrived as the early contingent for this weekend residential field meeting. I'd forgotten my doorbell did not work and they obviously had not realised it either! A quick cup of tea (Chris Spilling rapidly did the electrics for me) and we were off on a jaunt for the afternoon that was to be some of the best weather of the weekend. A good start to the weekend, especially as our first site (Priors Coppice in Leicestershire) yielded 25 hoverflies in my sample.

By the time we got back to Stamford around 17.30 the main body of the meeting had started to arrive. As the Dolphin Guesthouse was just a few doors down the road from my house, a steady stream of Dipterists knocked at my door. Mugs were re-cycled (I have just five – must get some more) and chairs drawn from every quarter of the house. By the time the Andrew Halstead joined the throng my 10ft square front room contained virtually all my seating, and Dipterists Forum Committee was quorate: they were wedged in like sardines and I noticed a distinct parallel with the description of the Hobbit when visited by Gandalf and the dwarves. Maybe it is time to see what the record is for the number of seated Dipterists that can be accommodated in a room ten feet square – I claim the record with twelve!

What an amazing start to a project that was very much an experiment to see whether weekend field meetings would work. In the event I need not have worried because apart from eleven members staying at the Dolphin Guesthouse, the meeting also drew in a large local contingent, such that the final tally was nineteen members and friends. I suspect the residents of Barnack wondered what had hit them when our convoy snaked into the car park on Satur-



day morning, taking up all available space. We had arrived at our first locality: Barnack Hills and Holes National Nature Reserve. With the numbers available it looked as though we might simply form a line and start sweeping to ensure total coverage. Twenty minutes later the party was spread far and wide, but in the dull windy conditions was not faring well for material. A few fresh *Chrysotoxum cautum* evoked some interest, whilst a range of empids were prised from the bushes. Not a great start, but it could get better.

On we went to Southey Wood, which is mixed woodland on the footprint of former ancient woodland. It is a site

that Alan Stubbs and I have worked on many occasions and which has yielded a very respectable hoverfly list. Not a great deal about, but nice to see the local speciality, the longhorn beetle *Agapantha villosoviridescens*, some nice fresh *Volucella bombylans*, even fresher *Xanthogramma pedissequum* and a single *Brachypalpoides lentus*. A couple of hours later and parking at the entrance of Castor Hanglands NNR was rendered impossible by the convoy. Our final site for the day was in fine condition and the party enjoyed the damp *Calamagrostis* grassland which yielded the large chloropid *Chlorops gracilis* (Notable B); a species that given its conspicuous appearance probably deserves the status. Much to Barbara Schulten's excitement and frustration everyone except her seemed to be spotting the beast but in the end she got her quarry.

The following day was even less promising and whilst we waited outside Collyweston Quarry SSSI Stuart Ball decided his time would be better used building the hoverfly recording scheme website (see Hoverfly Newsletter 40) – not surprising given that it was damp with no sign of brightening. The rest of us made our way onto the site with little enthusiasm for wet nets, but we had plenty to talk about. As a result, we sorted out the agenda for the March Identification Workshop (Empidoidea). We also came up with a range of possible projects that the Forum might take on, including a project looking at badger dung fauna, and a programme of visits to Norfolk/Suffolk coast to explore the fauna of the coast that will move with sea level rise. Once this field meeting report is written I must get on with writing a project plan for the coastal project as a precursor to seeking some sponsorship money.

As the weather brightened, we descended upon Bedford Purlieus NNR to join up with the BENHS/British Plant Gall Society meeting that was there that day. Brighter weather greeted us and we were blessed with some nice sunny spells. The haul was quite respectable, and we started to see some of the species for which the area is special. For me, a visit by a wonderfully fresh *Volucella inflata* that sat on my hand was a joy. Alan Stubbs took the cranefly *Dictenidia bimaculata* and we noted that gromwell *Lithospermum officinale* was a good nectar source for bumblebees (as well as for *Volucella bombylans* and *V. pellucens*). Also, we saw at first hand the way in which the dragonfly *Libellula quadrimaculata* mimics a hornet – it had us foxed for a second.

Finally on to our last locality – some of us went to Old Sulehay Forest SSSI and others went to the nearby Ring Haw reserve. The party at Old Sulehay was treated to the spectacle of three red kites circling overhead. This site is not far from the red kite reintroduction site in Fineshades wood, but none-the-less the presence of three at once is still noteworthy and unusual; apart from being a magnificent spectacle. As for the insects – well I've still to sort my catch but a female *Dictenidia bimaculata* was taken quartering the path as if in search of an oviposition site; I also took what looks like the spectacular and scarce cranefly *Nephrotoma croccata*.

Despite rather indifferent weather, most members seemed to get something of interest and the general consensus was that the meeting had been a great success. By the end of the day, various ideas for follow-up meetings next year were mooted. We have ideas of the New Forest, parts of Salisbury Plain (a very nice bit) and the Wyre Forest. watch this space in the Winter edition of the newsletter. Hopefully a more detailed report of the highlights will be published in due course.

For the record, the party comprised: Stuart Ball, Jon Cole, Roy Crossley, Andrew Halstead, Stuart Irons, John Ismay and Barbara Schulten, Alan Lawson, Ken & Rita Merrifield, Roger Morris, John Showers, Malcolm Smart, Darwyn & Joyce Sumner, Chris Spilling, Alan Stubbs, Raymond Uffen and Tony White.

Roger Morris

Meetings

Summer Field Meeting - Durham 2005

Saturday to Saturday 2nd - 9th July 2005

This was the 33rd Dipterists summer field meeting. Our hosts were St Johns College within the peninsula of the City of Durham, a wonderful location close to the magnificent Norman cathedral and within the narrow streets of the historic city. The college itself provided an excellent venue with good spacious rooms, excellent food and a first class study room, easily capable of accommodating the 22 members who attended.

The County of Durham presents an interesting mixture of coal measures and limestone, overlain by glacial deposits and ranging in altitude from sea level to 2000 feet or more. This gave us the opportunity to investigate a wide range of habitats, particularly coastal cliffs with seepages and wonderful calcareous grasslands on the more stable sections of glacial deposits. It was these flower-rich cliffs that first alerted me to the possibility of Durham as a venue – they are quite spectacular where storm beaches built up of material dumped by coal mining prevents the rapid erosion seen elsewhere. There are some excellent seepages, but in general we found relatively few craneflies. One exception was *Ideocera bradleyi* which is only known from a handful of other sites.

Inland, there are numerous deeply carved and wooded valleys that include many with good remnants of ancient woodland. At the coast, these woodlands are expressed in the various “Denes” including Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve, Hawthorn Dene (a SSSI and Wildlife Trust site) and Foxhole Dene. Within the Derwent Valley, the deeply incised valleys support extensive tracts of sessile oakwood.

Other noteworthy features include the magnesian limestone grasslands that are most commonly expressed within former limestone quarries, some of which proved to be very rich in diptera (including a good assemblage of *Oxyecera* and *Stratiomys* at Bishop Middleham Quarry). The limestone grassland interest included Thrislington Plantation NNR, where we were amazed to record a specimen of *Mallota cimbiciformis* – hardly a species of limestone grassland, but there it was at hogweed. Finally, the sugar limestone and upland grasslands of Upper Teesdale were an inevitable lure for the party.



DIPTERISTS FIELD WEEK DURHAM 2005

Hymenopterist. "What could be worse than a day out in these conditions?"
Dipterist! "A three hour committee meeting back in Durham"

Dipterists Forum usually tries to book good weather, and hoped for such this year; it was not to be. Our arrival day was largely fine weather, so we looked towards a highly productive meeting. The Peterborough contingent made its way north full to the gunwhales with entomological gear and kayaks (Stuart and I planned to take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Tees Barrage), collecting John Burn from Doncaster and making sure that there was not a single cubic inch of unused space. We did not stop en-route, but Jonathan Cole did, and found *Chrysopilus erythrophthalmus* at a site close to Durham – a good omen perhaps (needed because we did have problems with parking). The Sunday was fine and a good start was made with parties visiting various localities and making some useful discoveries.

On Monday, the weather changed – wet and unpleasant, such that it was felt appropriate to forego collecting and for the committee to meet – a marathon session even by Forum standards. Still, we all got out for the afternoon. Tuesday was also disappointing, but not as seriously as Wednesday when we were forced to look for alternative entertainment due to bad weather. Some of the party explored Durham. Ken and Rita Merrifield took a drosophilid at the Botanical Garden that caused great excitement – a possible new to Britain (Peter Chandler, John Ismay and Barbara Schulten collected a more extensive series the following day including males, so we can expect the mystery to be solved in due course). This visit also resulted in Peter Chandler taking a species of *Medetera* from a banana trunk in the hothouse – so as likely as not another new to Britain! Meanwhile, Stuart and I headed for the Tees Barrage – well it makes little difference if it is raining when being trashed!

The last two days saw much activity as the weather improved. The coastal sites were much in demand, whilst pretty nearly the whole party descended upon upper Teesdale on the last day. These two days undoubtedly improved our demeanour as we were also plagued by difficulty with parking problems owing to the imminent Miners Gala and the closure of much of Durham to accommodate this. Parking notwithstanding, we managed to have an excellent meeting, made all the better by the wonderful staff of St Johns College who made every effort to make our stay a memorable and delightful experience.

Overall, this was a very successful meeting that was enjoyed by all, even those who perhaps found the weather dispiriting. It was with regret that we parted on the Saturday; I think that if one is sorry to depart but already looking forward to the next meeting, then the meeting was a success – I left planning the next meeting in my mind. Results are already starting to come in. Adrian Plant informs me that a species of *Microphor* (Microphoridae – formerly part of the Emidiidae) is probably new to Britain. He also reports *Heleodromia irwini* from Upper Teesdale – an extension of its known range as it is otherwise known from a few upland sites in Scotland. Alan Stubbs tells me that the cranefly list has exceeded 100 species. There will doubtless be more to come, but the meeting has obviously upheld the Dipterists Forum tradition of extending our knowledge of the fauna of mainland Britain.

I hope this brief account encourages members who have not attended the field meetings to consider joining us in future years. We enjoy great company in some splendid settings and always manage to have a good time regardless of the weather. For me I have wonderful memories of the coast, the magnificent uplands and tantalising woodlands (especially those in the Derwent Valley where I was introduced to fascinating tufa concretion pools).

For the record, members and friends who attended were: Keith Alexander, Stuart Ball, John Burn, Peter Chandler, Jonathan Cole, Roy Crossley, John Kramer, John Ismay, Brian Levy, Ken & Rita Merryfield, Roger Morris, Mick Parker, Mark Pavett, Ivan Perry, Adrian Plant, Barbara Schulten, Malcolm Smart, Alan Stubbs, Darwyn Sumner, Richard Underwood, Judith Webb.

Well, back to the process of organising the next meeting. I've just had a quote from Plumpton College near Lewes in East Sussex that looks very promising – lots of opportunities for chalk downland and woodland, with good heathland sites not too far away. (see announcement of field meeting). I am also looking towards a meeting in Shropshire in 2007 and maybe Scotland the following year. Meanwhile, I must get on with settling the venue for the autumn field meeting – it will be the Isle of Wight if all goes to plan.

Roger Morris

Postscript:

The drosophilid first noticed by Ken & Rita in the Botanic Garden, an unidentified species of *Scaptomyza*, was visiting flowers of *Costus arabicus*. Some of these flowers were decaying on the heads, which may have been the attraction. I removed one head with some decayed flowers in the hope of proving an association. This was rewarded from 23 July onwards when about 20 adults of the *Scaptomyza* emerged from this flowerhead, confirming that it is the breeding site so this species is not a leaf miner unlike most of the native species of the genus. Its identity remains to be elucidated.

Peter Chandler

Meetings

Forthcoming

Exhibition - Amateur Entomological Society

Saturday 1st October

Last year Dipterists Forum had a table at this annual exhibition and intend to repeat the exercise. Many Dipterists Forum members were present during the day but the main people manning the stall were Chris Spilling and Mick Parker. If you wish to offer assistance on the day I'm sure Mick would be pleased to hear from you.

Autumn Field Meeting - Isle of Wight

Wednesday to Monday 19th - 23rd October 2005

The autumn field meeting this year will be held on the Isle of Wight from Wednesday 19 October to Monday 23 October. I've still to finalise accommodation, but have a number of possible options in mind. Possible participants are requested to let me know whether they are interested as soon as possible.

Roger Morris

Annual Meeting 2005 - Preston Montford

Field Studies Council Centre, Preston Montford, Shropshire

Saturday & Sunday, 19th & 20th November, 2005

Booking and accommodation

Accommodation has been booked at Preston Montford Field Centre for the Saturday 19 November and Sunday 20 November with the possibility of accommodation being provided on the nights of Friday 18 and Saturday 19 October. The cost for the two nights will be in the order of £100, including a "Dipterists Supper".

Rates for day visitors will be firmed up, but will depend upon whether members chose to bring their own lunch etc.

There should be sufficient accommodation for 40-50 members – single room supplements may apply if members wish separate accommodation – in line with provisions for Dipterists Workshops each March.

This arrangement means that we should be able to get the meeting moving earlier in the morning, so members are advised that the first day's agenda will commence at 10:30. The arrangements for day two are based on the assumption that members will be interested in a series of workshops etc. Stuart and I have a series of ideas for the Hoverfly Workshop and we expect there to be a range of additional activities linked to other Recording Schemes.

I am now taking bookings for rooms – please send deposit of £30.00 (made out to Preston Montford Field Centre) to: Roger Morris, 7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE.

Members seeking advice on costs for attendance at day rates only should seek details from me at the above address or through roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

Roger Morris

Itinerary

As a departure from our usual custom the meeting will be held over two days at a residential centre with a cafeteria and good adjacent parking facilities. A Dipterists' Supper will be held in the evening at the Centre, for those who would like to book.

PLEASE BRING AN EXHIBIT IF YOU CAN

Also bring material for Recording Scheme identification sessions on Sunday

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.

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER**10:00AM**

Assemble and set out exhibits

10:15AM**Graham Rotheray** - The Evolution of Head Capsules in the Aschiza**10:45AM****Barbara Schulten** - Diptera in the Biodiversity Action Plan.**11:15AM**

Coffee Break

11:30AM**Malcolm Smart** - Wallace's Line and the Distribution of Diptera.**12:15PM****Chris Leach** - Plant Galls caused by Diptera.**1:00-2:15PM**

Break for Lunch

Bring sandwiches, or use the cafeteria.

2:30-3:30PM**Annual General Meeting**

See below for the Agenda

3:30PM

Exhibits

5:00PM

Awarding of exhibit prize and Close of Afternoon Session

7:00 - 9:00PM

Dipterists' Supper

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER**10:00AM****Stuart Ball** - Hoverflies and Climate Change.**11:00AM**

Recording Scheme Sessions, workshops, ID surgeries etc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.30pm on Saturday 19th November

1. Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising.
2. Secretary's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report.
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)

The Officers and General Committee proposed for election this year are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Chairman | Malcolm Smart |
| 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 | Stuart Ball |
| Committee Members | Chris Spilling |

Co-opted Members (up to 3)

Please note that only those members due for re-election this year are listed above. The full list of Committee Members is to be found on the first page of the Bulletin.

Un-elected Representatives

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Peter Chandler | Dipterists Digest Editor |
| Ken Merrifield | BENHS Representative |
| John Dobson | JCCBI representative |

7. Any other business.

John Kramer

Spring Workshop 2006

Preston Montford 17-19 March 2005

**Dolichopodids & Empids
(Adrian Plant & Roy
Crossley)**

This year's offering is based on dolis and empids, and is a jointly run enterprise between Adrian Plant and Roy Crossley. This is only the second exploration of this large group of flies that the Forum has organised and having recently got the empid key, I'm looking forward to it.

The workshop, as usual, is at the Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, near Shrewsbury, where we have the Darwin building. This has 17 rooms and I will be keeping an eye on the split between shared and singles to optimise attendance.

There has been a slight price increase for this event, with shared rooms going at a nice round £100 and the single occupancy ones now at £125. Given that in 1998 we were paying £75 for a shared and £90 for a single room, the rises do not seem that bad.

Having finally rid my life of the Nat West bank I can now present a range of payment options. Those of you who wish to pay by cheque should send them to me, payable to David Heaver, at 5 Albert Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2DN. E-mail confirmation is preferable, so include your address in the covering letter. For those of an internet banking persuasion, you can shift the cash into the account I have set up for this purpose. The sort code is 40-61-98, the account number 20431458, this service being with ING Direct.

If you are going to do this, please send me an e-mail at david_h@tiscali.co.uk, with Dipterist Forum in the title (to stop my spam filter thinking you are offering to perk up my sex life). I will then add you to the attendance spreadsheet which I use to send to PM.

As ever, if you have never been to a workshop, please do come. We had a few new people at the last workshop which was good to see. I have a small number of centre leaflets which I am happy to post on. Alternatively, visit <http://www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford/>

Hope to see you there.

David Heaver

Summer Field Meeting - Lewes, East Sussex

Saturday to Saturday 24th June - 1st July 2006

I have made the first stage in booking accommodation at Plumpton College (Ditchling Road, Plumpton Nr Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE). The College has quoted us a rate of £25.00 per night B&B, together with a further £5.00 per night for the evening meal. It offers single bedrooms with shared bathrooms and can offer a small number of twin rooms. The maximum party size that the college can accommodate is in the region of 30. I therefore recommend early reservation of places because there may be considerable interest in this venue. A deposit of £30.00 is requested.

Roger Morris

Annual Meeting 2006 - Oxford

Hope Department, Oxford. Saturday & Sunday, 24th to 26th November, 2006

Fly leaf



And now ...

.....Risk assessment

The chore of arranging site access for an autumn field meeting brought yet another new task. To record flies on nature reserves, a wildlife trust required risk assessments for reserves that the leader had never seen.

Is every visitor to nature reserves going to have to do this? Is a bird watcher going to have to assess the chances of falling over whilst transfixed with peering through binoculars at a blue-tailed lesser hoodwink? Or no-one should be allowed to stop to eat a sandwich in case they sat on a nettle. And what is the risk of being bitten by a mosquito?

It is tempting to invent farcical situations, but no, this is really serious stuff. No land owner wishes to be sued when a lawyer may be in every reserve car park hawking for business. However, real life provides plenty of farce so one need look no further than members of the committee of Dipterists Forum.

Suppose you go onto a nature reserve and catch hundreds of *Volucella*, in the name of monitoring science of course. These big animals clearly require great physical effort to catch, so the dipterist concerned started to get repetitive strain injury. Another committee member undertook 24 days of survey, not all at once, and finished up with repetitive strain injury - mind he does use about the biggest net I've seen. So let's face it, they should only collect small passive flies with a tiny net, and take 5 minutes rest every quarter of an hour.

Then there's the mysterious case of a committee member brimming with satellite navigation and other such paraphernalia. At the slightest excuse, or even non-excuse, grid references to the nearest meter are sung out based on umpteen positioning satellites. This paragon of the outdoor go-anywhere often tells of the out-backs of the vast wildernesses and jungles of the world. So how come he gets lost in a modest sized wood in Gloucestershire? He had no map. He failed to get a satellite grid reference for where the car was parked, so a multi-satellite fix for somewhere in deepest England was of no real help. Ah, but now for the mobile phone. The trouble was that the topography shielded him from radio mast connection but the more serious problem was that he lacked the phone numbers of others in the party. Depending on who you talk to, the period of and degree of 'lost' was either 'long' or 'short', or 'thoroughly lost' or 'just a little bit disorientated'. Apparently, 'all the trees looked alike'. Now, arguably, the party leader could have just left on the assumption that a few days later, even in middle England, eventually our lost dipterist would emerge thin and crawling exhaustedly to a road or habitation. The trouble was he was the driver.

So all this risk assessment stuff really needs a twenty page proforma running through some unimaginable possibilities which must be left to the imagination. Oh, and who are these out of condition and disorientated dipterists. Let's just call them Roger, Peter and Malcolm, who seem the best experienced people to assess risks.

Alan Stubbs

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 page.