

BULLETIN OF
THE
Dipterists
Forum



Davidson Knowles

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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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
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BULLETIN OF THE **Dipterists** Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin No. 61

Spring 2006
ISSN 1358-5029

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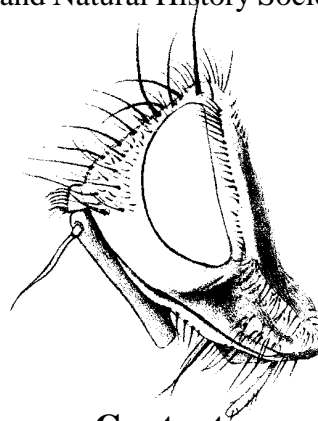
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Articles submitted should be in the form of a word-processed file on disk or E-mail Darwyn.sumner@ntlworld.com Please submit in native format and Rich Text Format (rtf). An accompanying print-out would also be useful. Line artworks are encouraged. Darwyn Sumner: 122, Link Road, Anstey, Charnwood, Leicestershire LE7 7BX. 0116 212 5075



Contents

Forum News	4
Editorial	4
News from the schemes	5
Exhibition Posters	5
Nominations for 2007 Dipterists Forum Committee.	5
Review	7
Update on the BAP Diptera Review	7
Flies of sandy Exposed Riverine Sediment	8
A review of Scarce and Threatened hoverflies in Britain	9
Closure of Monks Wood and other CEH Centres	10
National Federation for Biological Recording	10
Dipterists Forum	12
Membership Matters	12
Notice board	13
Meetings	17
Reports	17
Annual Meeting 2005	17
Spring Workshop 2006	19
Forthcoming	20
Spring Field meeting - Herefordshire	20
Field Meeting - Burnham Beeches	20
Field Trip - France	21
Summer Field Meeting - Lewes, East Sussex	21
Autumn Field Meeting - Radnorshire	21
Annual Meeting 2006 - Oxford	21
Spring Workshop 2007	23
Summer Field Meeting 2007	23
And now	24
Fly sheets	25
Hoverfly Recording Scheme Newsletter #41	
Cranefly Recording Scheme Newsletter	
Wallaces Line and the Distribution of Diptera	

Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

The Heyday of Natural History

It's difficult to appreciate the connection when I'm perched on a low tree stump, puffing my pipe and intensely scrutinising vegetation for a behavioural or photographic opportunity from the Micropezids flitting around, but I'm actually performing some fundamental science. If I actually observed anything worth noting or got any photographs worth keeping, that is; but what the heck, I'm having a good time.

I'm informed by an English Nature colleague that the word biodiversity does not occur in the new White Paper in the section relating to "community" and their enjoyment of the countryside. So I guess that's two things I'm doing on my tree stump which I shouldn't be.

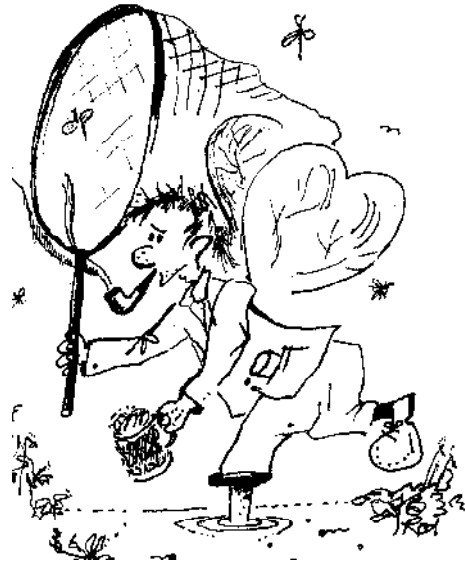
Back to the issue of the science, though. Our interests in Diptera are firmly rooted in a huge amount of good science performed in the past and whilst fundamental taxonomy took a huge hit a couple of decades ago, it is still there, providing us with the work we need to pursue our interests. Nowadays it is less in the hands of the rapidly disappearing local Museums as, like Fleetwood, they gradually close down and, with the exceptions of the Natural History Museum and our regional ones, more in the hands of the traditional naturalists such as ourselves. A return to 19th century values, then, when Sir William Henry Flower claimed that natural history was "about the worst paid and least appreciated of all professions"; we now live in a time when the majority of the British public thinks that biodiversity is a washing powder.

In its 50 year anniversary editorial *New Scientist* briefly alluded to last centuries' heyday when natural history featured heavily in their pages. Today the biggest blow to the science underpinning natural history and biodiversity passed them by completely, I guess polar research appeals more to their readership. The prizes go to *British Wildlife*, though; Peter Marren always makes enjoyable reading.

This blow is, of course, NERC's plans for a reorganisation of CEH. The whole story is extremely lengthy but did make the front page of the *Independent* and stirred some major environmental organisations (RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, National Trust etc.) to make a swift response.

Your editor was involved in it all through the National Federation for Biological Recording, a summary of our (NFBR) response to it all is reproduced in this issue.

I've been asked in the past by overseas readers to explain the background of some of the UK organisations that I have been in the habit of referring to by acronym only. CEH is now one they can cross off their list.



Status reviews

Between the excitement surrounding the publication of the last two reviews of scarce and threatened flies (Nematocera & Empidoidea) and the anticipation surrounding the announcement of a revised new one (Hoverflies) there is a danger of losing sight of the fact that there are still two more that are outstanding. The Acalyptratae and Calyptratae reviews were described as "currently being finalised" in the last Bulletin. I do hope someone will let me know when they become available.

CEH closures

The pace at which these consultations move is far too fast for this Bulletin to be able to consult the broader membership. The committee moved swiftly to register its opinions with the appropriate authorities and the objections and observations made were taken into account by NERC. Their final statement may now be read at www.nerc.ac.uk

Field Week Records

I spoke to Roger Morris recently regarding the records he had received from the various field weeks. Apologies to Roger if I've recalled his remarks incorrectly but it does seem that there are quite a lot of records outstanding from field trips way back to our Muir of Ord trip. Roger has taken on the task of dealing with the computerising records from all the field trips subsequent to this one as well. The gaps make it difficult for him to actually complete any of these tasks he has taken on. Would members who attended these field trips please make a special effort this year to check their records and send them to Roger (or Summer 2003 to Ivan Perry 27 Mill Road, Lode, Cambridge, CB5 9EN. Autumn 2003 & Summer 2004 to Peter Chandler)

News from the schemes

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Newsletter # 41 included with this Bulletin

David Iliffe

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Simon Hayhow apologises for the absence of a newsletter. His job is under threat as Fleetwood Museum is to close and he is engaged on other, more important matters.

Exhibition Posters

Dipterists Forum now attends the Amateur Entomological Society exhibition every year. The last one was manned by Mick Parker and Roger Morris, Chris Spilling too but this time he had to man the British Arachnological Society stand. My contribution is negligible, amounting to lounging about in the comfy chairs that Mick brings along after long sessions of entomological equipment shopping. The Dipterists Forum members attending this event became engaged in a discussion about the DF display stands which currently show off diptera via Chris Spilling's excellent photographs. The idea discussed was to prepare a series of posters which would showcase individual Recording Schemes, perhaps recruiting members via these specific groups and certainly to give recording scheme organisers a chance to show something of the progress they have made. I offered to put together these posters and this was greeted with enthusiasm by the many scheme organisers who were present on the day.

The posters I later put together were displayed at the Recording Scheme Session at Preston Montford in November last year. They are in the form of Microsoft Powerpoint files - a format which it was thought allowed most scheme organisers to add appropriate text and graphics whilst at the same time following a fairly consistent style that would be recognisable as Dipterists Forum's own (along the lines of the series of Buglife posters).

A selection of the posters are shown overleaf. Recording scheme members are encouraged to develop these posters according to their wishes, I shall be pleased to send you the necessary files. The facility to advertise your scheme at various exhibitions (many more were suggested at the last committee meeting) would help bring your scheme contributions along nicely.

Darwyn Sumner

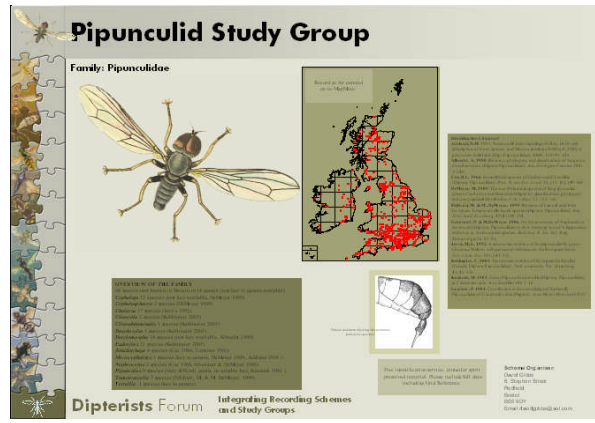
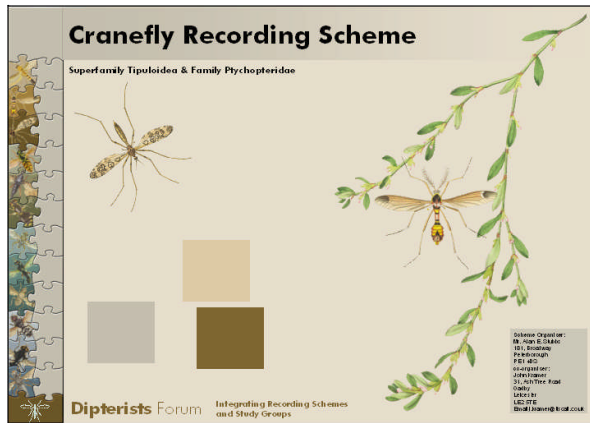
Nominations for 2007 Dipterists Forum Committee.

The constitution requires that nominations of candidates for election as officers and committee membership must be received 120 days before the AGM at which the election will take place. The next AGM will take place on 25 November 2006, so nominations must be received by 25 August at latest. Posts coming up for election or re-election at that meeting are: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Field Meetings Secretary, Indoor Meetings Secretary, Publicity Officer, Web Manager, BAP Officer, and 3 ordinary Committee members.

If members wish to nominate candidates (or to stand themselves) for any of those positions, they must submit their nomination with names of proposer and seconder to the Secretary (John Kramer) before 25 August. To assist in planning it would be appreciated if any such proposals were actually submitted before the next committee meeting to be held on 24 June.

John Kramer

Forum News

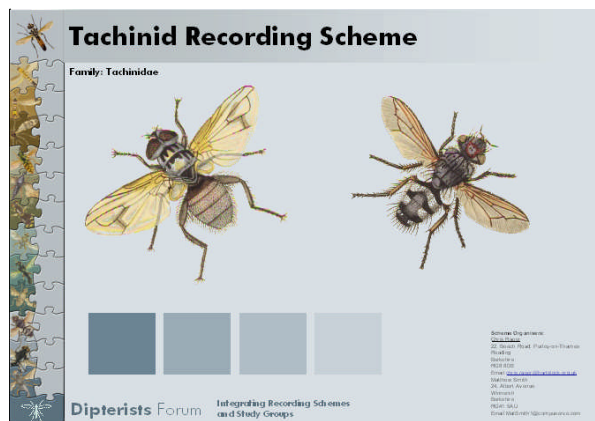
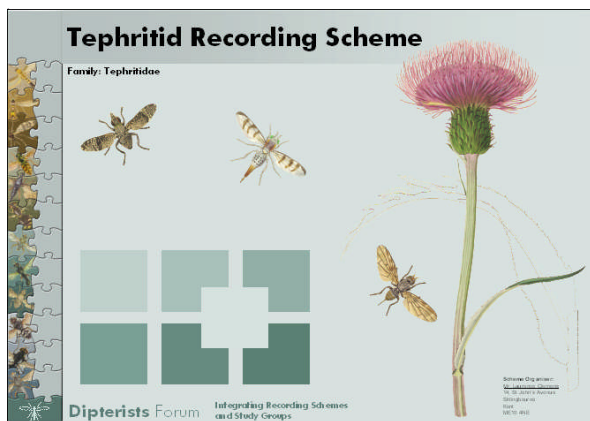
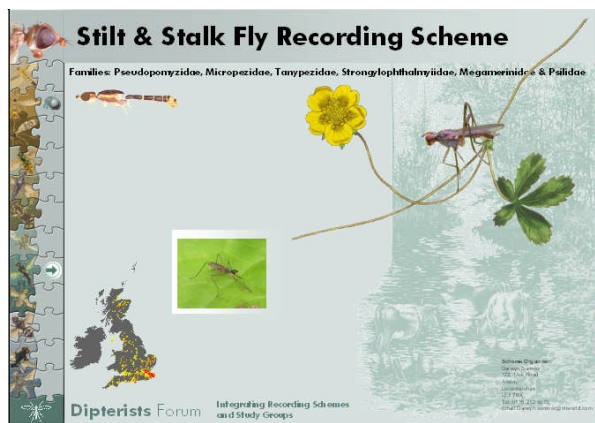
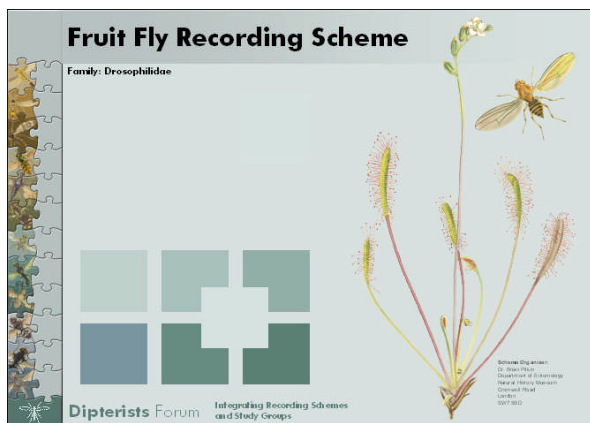
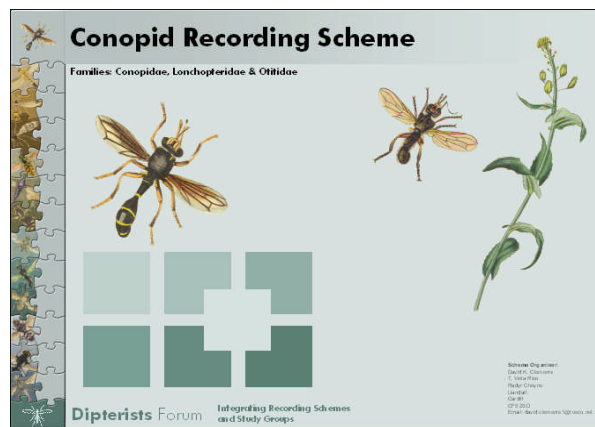


Recording scheme posters:

The following posters have been prepared:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cranefly | Dixids |
| Fungus gnats | Mosquito |
| Larger Brachycera | Empid & Dolichopodidae |
| Hoverfly | Pipunculid (completed) |
| Conopid | Fruit fly |
| Sciomyzid | Stilt & stalk |
| Tephritid | Tachinid |

(the puzzling squares are just coloured boxes which follow a theme and can be resized for text & diagrams as David Gibbs has done)



Update on the BAP Diptera Review

During my talk at the AGM in Preston Montford I reported that 37 species had been accepted either as existing or as new BAP species, while the remaining 15 of the total 52 Diptera species suggested for BAP were still being discussed. At present all the information for these 15 species is being compiled and they will be discussed soon in another meeting. The final list is supposed to be completed in spring so that it can hopefully be published by the end of this year.

Possible changes in the BAP process

There are rumours that some species might be grouped together, probably with species from other orders, in a grouped Species Action Plan (= gSAP) so that the research effort can be combined. We had suggested several such gSAPs for species which had similar requirements, but might need slightly different management of their microhabitat. This approach could help in highlighting their common needs, but also help finding their specific requirements. A possible example of such a grouped plan is the *Lipsothrix* species group, which all need dead wood, semi-submerged in water, but the diameter of the boles that they utilise seems to be different for each species.

It is also possible that some of our suggestions will be rejected as the underlying data is not strong enough. These species might need further research, some of which could be conducted by dipterists.

It seems that the committee does not want to create too many flagship species. This could lead to the rejection of some species, but should also prevent the dilution of the flagship concept. The same applies to species associated with a certain BAP habitat. If too many species are associated with a Habitat Action Plan (=HAP), it might become even more difficult to get research etc. conducted on these species, this has been the case with some HAPs.

It is also possible that the whole BAP process might change more towards looking into the actual requirements of species than trying to elucidate their life histories. This could mean that the management of a species' microhabitat is changed and the responses of the population are studied. Another possibility might be to look for the species on other sites, which differ in substrate, plant composition etc.

The strategy of comparing different management regimes has produced good results for *Eristalis cryptarum*. Although we still do not know its larval habitat, we do now know that it needs lightly grazed rush pasture. This might be even more important as I recently learned that the Marsh Fritillary (yes, this is a BAP butterfly) on Dartmoor has similar needs. Hence, this syrphid species might be able to profit from the changes initiated by Butterfly Conservation for this butterfly. This was certainly suggested to them.

This latter approach might also be the way forward for *Dorycera graminum*, currently a BAP species. The larval habitat is unknown, but we know of some sites where it was found in numbers. Perhaps it is possible to compare different management regimes to find the needs of this ulidiid?

Before you now start berating me, please bear in mind that the above mentioned changes are still being discussed and are not finalised. However, I hope that I can report more precisely on progress by the end of this year.

Legal Protection?

Does BAP status protect a species? This question was raised during the last AGM and I promised to look further into it. The answer is, as usual when it comes to politics, not an easy one.

The UK does not protect any single species of Diptera, however, some other plant and animal species, including all wild birds, are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside (=CROW) Act 1981.

European plant and animal species are protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994. Some other animals are protected under their own legislation, for example Protection of Badgers Act 1992. These laws prohibit damaging (including collecting) certain species, while for others only trade is forbidden. If you need to sample these species you need to apply for permits from the appropriate Country Agency, e.g. CCW (Countryside Council for Wales), SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) or EN (English Nature).

In other European countries species have a higher level of protection, e.g. all species are protected by law if not explicitly exempt. However, this approach makes recording very difficult. In discussions with German dipterists I learned that if you want to collect somewhere officially in Germany you need to apply for a permit from the local authorities. It can take up to one year before you will finally get such a permit. However, this policy does not seem to be enforced very rigorously when it comes to sampling Diptera. In the UK it was felt that it was more important to get good baseline data for species than to protect all species. These data should then enable decisions as to whether certain species need more protection. Examples of such species can be found in the CROW Act.

In the UK species not included in the above mentioned laws are either protected because their habitat is protected

Review

such as being a SSSI (= Site of Special Scientific Interest) or SAC (Special Area of Conservation). The law differs slightly between the four countries within the UK, although all four national governments have issued some guidance regarding biodiversity and conservation for local planning authorities. The following outlines the guidance for England. BAP species should be considered by local planning authorities according to guidance outlined in the Planning Policy Statement 9, set out by the government of England. However, they do not have protection in their own right, e.g. sampling or trading is not forbidden.

More information on the regulations can be found in the Government Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System (<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144318>). The following text is an explanatory note as found on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's webpage (www.odpm.gov.uk) regarding this Circular:

'The attached Circular provides administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. It complements the expression of national planning policy in Planning Policy Statement 9, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9) and the accompanying Good Practice Guide.

Although this Circular outlines how statutory obligations impact within the planning system, in some cases the legislation will have an equal bearing on other regimes e.g. Transport and Works Act 1992.

This Circular should be read in conjunction with Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (please see link below), which sets out the Government's planning policies for England on protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system.'

You can download the Circular from the above mentioned link, while you can download the Planning Policy Statement 9 (=PPS9) from the following link: <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143832>

The Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh equivalents of PPS9 are:

Northern Ireland: PPS2 (I could not find a weblink for this)

Scotland: National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 14: Natural Heritage (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/01/nppg14>)

Wales: Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5, Nature Conservation and Planning - 1996 (http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/content/tans/tan05/tan5_home_e.htm)

You can also find more information about BAP and the background on the BAP webpage (www.ukbap.org) or there is also a lot of information on the following two DEFRA webpages (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/index.htm> and <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/ukbap/index.htm>).

I hope this helps answering some of your questions, but please keep in mind that I am not a lawyer. Should you have any further information or queries, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Barbara Schulten, Dipterists Forum BAP Officer

Flies of sandy Exposed Riverine Sediment

Exposed Riverine Sediment (ERS) has risen up the conservation agenda in recent years on the backs of beetles that scurry around in this apparently desolate habitat. The BAP process has forced the pace by placing several beetles and three flies together into an ERS group, led by the Environment Agency. The beetles are ahead of the game, but, as Matt Shardlow reported in the last Larger Brachycera Newsletter, Buglife has initiated a study of the flies, with the aims of understanding the whole assemblage associated with ERS and getting a handle on the ecology of the two BAP stiletto-flies, *Clorismia rustica* and *Spiriverpa lunulata*, and the crane fly *Rhabdomastix 'hilaris'*. All three BAP species are closely associated with sandy rivers, so this is the main focus of the work.

Myself and Andy Godfrey have been working on this contract. Last year, we surveyed several points on five rivers (Usk, Monnow, Lune, Wey, Rother). We recorded the stiletto-flies only at several previously known sites, or close to these. The most interesting are the slight extension of *Clorismia rustica* records on the Wey upstream of Charterhouse where Peter Chandler first recorded it. In a separate contract, I did find *Clorismia* on the Dane and Bollin in Cheshire, representing significant records of extensive populations.

We also surveyed several rivers for *Rhabdomastix* but found no new colonies. We had hoped to find a site where the population was big enough to make headway with its autecology. The Culm in Devon is the present rather poor favourite.

Among the other flies, we have found several new to Britain. We won't name them now since the Buglife hasn't received its report and we need to confirm the identities of some, but they include 2-3 dolichopodids, 1-2 empids, at

least one ephydrid and a carniid, as well as the crane fly *Hoplolabis yeozana* and hybotid *Tachydromia edenensis* that Stephen Hewitt and colleagues added to the British list in 2004. Not to mention over 60 scarce or rare species. And this was concentrating on just the ERS and immediately adjacent vegetation, excluding other interesting habitats you find along rivers, such as pools, backwaters and seepages, willow woodland and stands of dense rank vegetation.

It appears that sandy rivers do hold a rich fly fauna, although not all of it is necessarily associated with the ERS. We are on our way to demonstrating that there is more to rivers than beetle ERS, and that other features need to be taken into account to conserve this fauna.

Work continues this summer on Scottish rivers, with help from the Malloch Society of Scottish dipterists. I will also be looking at the therevid's larval ecology, following on from work I did for CCW a few years ago. The final report is due at the end of 2006, when all will be revealed.

Martin Drake & Andy Godfrey martin_drake@btopenworld .com

A review of Scarce and Threatened hoverflies in Britain

The following is taken from an email from Stuart Ball, part of the proposal document is reproduced here (excluding costs) so please note that this is not necessarily the final proposal - it is still under discussion:

As discussed at the committee meeting at Preston Montford last Saturday, Roger and I have been asked to do a review of hoverfly statuses by Deb Proctor at JNCC.

Background

It is 15 years since *A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain* (Falk, 1991) which covered the hoverflies was published. Since that time a great deal more information on the distribution and biology of hoverflies has become available through the publication of the *Provisional atlas of British hoverflies* (Ball & Morris, 2000) and numerous other publications in the entomological press. The Hoverfly Recording Scheme is one of the most active and has assembled over 480,000 records that can be used to evaluate the known distribution and occurrence of hoverflies over the past thirty five years. These data are lodged on the NBN gateway and can also be accessed as up-to-date maps from the Hoverfly Recording Scheme website www.hoverfly.org.uk. The Recording Scheme is part of Dipterists Forum, the umbrella organisation responsible for the promotion of study and conservation of flies www.dipteristsforum.org.uk.

Given the vastly improved level of understanding of hoverfly distribution and biology, there is good reason to revise the statuses of scarce and threatened hoverflies and to reconsider statuses in the light of the current IUCN guidelines on the selection of Red List species. A review of the scarce and threatened hoverflies of Great Britain is therefore proposed. This will comprise a series of outputs:

Outputs

1. An explanation of the analyses done and how the categories have been set.
2. A list of all known British species with each species assigned to a status category.
3. A list of species assigned to IUCN threat categories and "Nationally Scarce" status with the qualifying criteria and, where necessary, explanatory annotation.
4. A list of the species included in previous reviews (Shirt, 1987; Falk, 1991) indicating changes in status proposed in this review and annotated to explain those changes.
5. A text for each species assigned to IUCN threat categories or "Nationally Scarce" including a distribution map and figures (graphs of rates of decline) as known at the time of submission of completed text.
6. Production of a fully indexed draft text in Microsoft Word DOC format ready for subsequent editing and publication by JNCC.

Methods

Data from the Hoverfly Recording Scheme will be used to generate up-to-date maps at 10km resolution of all British species. The underlying dataset will be analysed to help determine which species have undergone changes in range and/or frequency sufficient to qualify for IUCN Red List and Nationally Scarce statuses. The known ecology of species, habitat, threats at national and international level and the application of the experience and knowledge of the Hoverfly Recording Scheme organisers will be used in combination with the resultant analyses to assign categories and qualifying criteria to each species. After consultation with relevant members of Dipterists Forum and revision of the text, the list will be finalised.

via Stuart Ball

Review

Closure of Monks Wood and other CEH Centres

National Federation for Biological Recording

The National Federation for Biological Recording (NFBR) is concerned to learn of the intent by NERC to close a number of CEH centres. This includes world-reknowned Monks Wood, home of the Biological Records Centre which hosts much of the work of the National Biodiversity Network, including the NBN Gateway. Five out of nine sites would close, with 200 out of 600 staff made redundant. The following is the content of the letter sent to

- Lord Sainsbury (DTI, 1 Victoria St. London SW1 0ET)
- Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson M.P. (Ditto)
- Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett M.P. (Defra, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR)
- Rt. Hon Jim Knight M.P. (Ditto)

Dear

NERC Council Statement of Intent re Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

The Council of the National Federation for Biological Recording (NFBR) wishes to express its great concern and disquiet at the proposed closure of four research stations maintained by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). The sites in question are among the foremost biodiversity-related research and data-holding sites in the UK.

The NFBR is especially concerned about the impact of the proposed re-organisation of the CEH on the research stations at Monks Wood, Winfrith, Banchory and Oxford, and on the long-standing monitoring operations that they have developed in different areas. The closures are likely to adversely affect the world-renowned Biological Records Centre, currently based at CEH Monks Wood, and through this, the continued ability of local and voluntary sector biodiversity organisations to maintain their effective and integrated contribution to UK wildlife surveillance. The longer-term survival and development of the UK National Biodiversity Network, which is mobilising a wide diversity of wildlife data to be made use of in environmental management and policy making, may also be jeopardised.

Although the CEH has intimated that it intends to maintain and even potentially to increase some of the activities of the four research stations, the proposed closures seem to take little cognisance of the very likely impact on current work through the loss of both key staff and infrastructure.

Most of the sites being proposed for closure are in areas with relatively low costs of living. Most of the scientific staff in these stations are unlikely to be in a financial and personal position to move to the main projected site for biodiversity-related work at Wallingford. Although the CEH Plan quotes a predicted loss of 30% of posts, we understand that the Centre's own management have apparently considered internally that up to 50% of staff would be lost through the site closures. The recent experience of Scottish Natural Heritage, in a similar move of its operation from Edinburgh to Inverness, has been that some 85% of its staff have been unable to move, with a concomitant, disastrous loss of the organisation's expertise, capability and effectiveness. If similar losses were to be incurred by CEH, the effects on UK biodiversity research would be catastrophic. Inevitably, the scientific respect and credibility of the CEH, both nationally and internationally, would be damaged, which is unlikely to reflect well on NERC or the UK Government.

The NFBR strongly urges Ministers and others to ensure that NERC's Statement of Intent regarding CEH is called in to be re-considered very carefully. Quite apart from the potential damage to the UK's scientific credibility if these closures and their consequences are allowed to go ahead, the suggested financial benefits of the proposed restructuring appear to be deeply flawed.

Furthermore, the NFBR proposes that the necessary resources should be supplied to maintain at least existing levels of support for the UK's ongoing biodiversity surveillance without this unnecessary and ill-conceived disruption. At a time when climate change, loss of species and increasing damage to and loss of natural habitats and systems is increasing world-wide, it would seem perverse to jeopardise this country's ability to respond to these challenges.

Yours sincerely

Charles Copp

Chairman National Federation for Biological Recording

NFBR comments relating to the proposed CEH closures

The NFBR was formed in 1986 to promote effective and scientifically reliable biological recording – the surveying and monitoring of the UK's biodiversity and natural wildlife habitats. NFBR helps to support the networks of organisations and individuals involved in this work, and has been central to the promotion of methods and standards, as well as to the development of policy in this area.

Potential threats to partnerships with NGOs

The CEH, since its inauguration, has had responsibility for most of the key UK institutions involved in applied research into the natural environment supported by various forms of governmental funding. In particular, the work of the CEH underpins some of the principal infrastructure used in partnership with key NGOs. A diverse range of local and voluntary organisations involved in wildlife surveys and monitoring interact directly with the CEH. This interaction has resulted in vast resources of data used by Government (nationally, regionally and locally) in developing, implementing and assessing the effectiveness of policies affecting biodiversity and the natural environment in the UK.

Because of the nature of our members' work, the Council of NFBR knows from long experience that benefits to the UK biological recording network come from the specific skills of individuals, and the trust and relationships built up between these private data providers and key staff at CEH, such as at Monks Wood and Winfrith. We feel this trust and these relationships are about to be destroyed or, at best, be severely damaged.

The NFBR is especially concerned about the impact of the proposed re-organisation of the CEH on the wider community involved with biological recording, and, with it, the UK's ability to continue to record and monitor its natural environment. We consider that the ability of the UK Government to respond to national and international legislation, convention and obligations will be severely compromised as a result of some of the proposed restructuring of the CEH, because it will jeopardise essential flows of data.

Main areas of concern

The impact of the proposed closure of the main biodiversity-related research stations at Monks Wood, Winfrith, Banchory and Oxford, and on the long-standing monitoring operations that they have developed in different areas.

- The potential impact on the Biological Records Centre, based at CEH Monks Wood, and through this, on the continued ability of local and voluntary sector biodiversity organisations to maintain their effective and integrated contribution to UK wildlife surveillance.
- The longer-term survival and development of the National Biodiversity Network, which has begun to enable data from a wide diversity of sources to be made use of in environmental management and policy making.

Although the CEH has intimated that it is intended to maintain and even potentially to increase some of these activities, the proposed closures seem to have taken little cognisance of the very likely impact on current work through the loss of both key staff and infrastructure.

Effects on long-term surveillance of biodiversity

The CEH Business Plan proposes the closure of virtually all the main biodiversity-related sites in the UK. These sites support research programmes related specifically to the areas in which they operate. Many of these long-term surveillance programmes are likely therefore to suffer, and the Business Plan makes no mention of how the CEH will be able to maintain these in the face of major loss of key staff and field locations. Many of these long-term surveillance projects are already feeding into governmental decision making and others could do so in future. All these projects are well known for the production of many high-quality scientific publications and for the interpretation of this science to a wider public.

Probable impact on the Biological Records Centre

With regard to the Biological Records Centre, which the CEH Business Plan regards as a high priority for retention, it is considered likely that all but one or two of the current staff at the Centre will not want to move to Wallingford. Loss of continuity of expertise, not to mention the disruption to long-term relationships with outside data suppliers, is likely to be severely damaging, even if the physical infrastructure of the Centre could be transferred satisfactorily.

Probable impact on the National Biodiversity Network

Finally, as regards the National Biodiversity Network, of which the NFBR was a prime mover and a founding partner, this relies very heavily on both the continued supply of data through the BRC, as well as on a very small group of

Review

expert technical staff for its maintenance, all of whom are likely not to want to move from Monks Wood to Wallingford. The potential disruption to the NBN and its internet Gateway's supply of data if this were to happen could be disastrous, and would severely affect its long-term survival. In particular it would damage confidence in its capabilities and in its business use by third parties, such as local authorities and statutory and voluntary conservation bodies that has been built up over the last five years. This will also reflect adversely on the commitment that governmental agencies, in particularly Defra, have made to the development of NBN and its Gateway, supplying open access to biodiversity data. The NBN Gateway system is seen internationally as an aspirational model for many other countries.

Darwyn Sumner (NFBR Council)

Dipterists Forum

The following is the draft produced by Dipterists Forum on 02/02/2006. **I was not sent any later copies.**

Dear xxxxxxxxxxxx

We are writing to you to express our concern at the proposed closure of Monks Wood and other Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) sites with an associated staff reduction with loss of critical skills and expertise.

The voluntary sector has always played a dominant role in the study of wildlife in the UK and still does so today. Indeed, effective monitoring and recording of Britain's animal and plant populations (thought to comprise in excess of 50,000 different species in total, of which more than 60% are insects) would be quite impossible without such voluntary involvement. At the present time, only a small fraction of the total number of species have their ecology known in significant detail.

The UK has international obligations (in addition to national objectives) in respect of both loss of biodiversity and of efforts to halt climate change. Monitoring of Britain's wildlife populations and developing understanding of their ecology are crucial aspects of the work necessary in meeting those obligations.

CEH currently plays a very important role in the co-ordination of collection and publication of ecological data from both voluntary and professional sources for public and governmental use, in particular through its offshoots the Biological Records Centre (BRC) and the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). However, it is in our opinion that it is already under-resourced for adequately performing this function.

The scientific staff of CEH represent a key pool of expertise in the field which would be irreparably damaged in the short term if cuts are implemented. Any reduction in the amount of work carried out in this field would be detrimental to Britain's overall ability to conserve its biodiversity and hence to meet its obligations under international agreements.

We are also concerned that reduction in funding/support for BRC and NBN will create a perception of lack of government interest in biodiversity and will discourage the voluntary collection and submission by private individuals, leading to a significant reduction in the volume of useful data available.

It is our sincere hope that these aspects of the work of CEH will be taken into account in the final restructuring plans. Indeed, we would hope and expect that such plans would actually include a strengthening of the its role in the collection and dissemination biodiversity data.

Signed by:

xxxxxxxxx on behalf of British Entomological and Natural Society (BENHS)

xxxxxxxxx on behalf of Dipterists Forum (DF)

xxxxxxxxx on behalf of Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BEWARS)

Darwyn Sumner (Dipterists Forum Bulletin Editor)

Membership Matters

Members are reminded that Subscription Rates 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 at the end of 2005 is as follows :

Dipterists Forum Members	293 as on 31 st December 2005
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Dipterists Digest Subscribers 281 as on 31st December 2005

This list is still current, awaiting membership renewals for this year.

During 2005, 12 Dipterists Forum Members resigned or failed to renew their membership.

There are 4 additional members who started on or since the 1st January 2006

To avoid delay in receiving the Dipterists Forum Bulletin and/or the Dipterists Digest

It would be appreciated if Members & Subscribers could pay their fees, as soon as possible, It would be more efficient and cost effective if we could get as many of the current membership on the initial mailing slot.

I wish all the Members & Subscribers all the very best for 2006. Good luck to you all and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the usual Entomological events, Until then, Good Bug Hunting!!,

**Mick Parker, 9 East Wyld Road, Weymouth, DORSET. DT4 0RP. Tel : 01305 788380
E-mail : jmparker_87@hotmail.com**

Diptera in caves

I am compiling a chapter on the subterranean biology of Great Britain for the Encyclopaedia Biospeologica. Numerous Diptera are recorded from caves but we are not certain about their ecological status within caves. Some of the following species have been, in past literature, recorded as troglobites (i.e. restricted to caves and found nowhere else. I would be grateful if you could let me know where these species are known from. I know that *Speolepta leptogaster* is known from a cellar in London but other than that one record it seems to be very cave restricted. The other species I know nothing about. Most of these have been found many times in caves and are at least trogliphiles (capable of living above ground and in caves).

Any information you may have would be very useful.

Speolepta leptogaster	Triphleba antrocola	Heleomyza serrata
Trichocera maculipennis	Trichocera regelationis	Scolioecentra villosa
Scolioecentra caesia	Limosina bequaerti	Limosina racovitzai
Limosina silvatica	Limonia nubeculosa	Exechia sp
Tarnania fenestralis	T. dziedickii	Rhymosia fasciata
Rhymosia fenestralis	Leria serrata	Crunobia straminae
Crumomyia nigra	Limosina silvatica	Bolitophila cenarea
Copromyza nigra		

Thanks,

Graham S. Proudlove C.Biol. M.I.Biol. FZS,

British Cave Research Association Biological Recorder,

Department of Zoology, The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, M13 9PL, UK.

Email: graham.proudlove@manchester.ac.uk Web: bcra.org.uk/biology Telephone +44 (0)161 275 6001

International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature

The following is a notice for an unsalaried vacancy for Secretary and Managing Director:

ITZN is an independent charity responsible for the financial support of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. It has a symbiotic relationship with the Natural History Museum, whose Director is an ITZN Trustee. ITZN's 5-person Secretariat is based in the Palaeontology Department.

The Trust's Secretary and Managing Director (Dr Michael Howarth) is retiring after serving for almost 20 years, and the Trust wishes to appoint a successor. This person might be a scientist with an interest in, and/or some experience of, zoological nomenclature who has retired from the Museum or, with the agreement of their line manager(s), a person still on the Museum staff.

The main responsibility is to oversee the management of the Secretariat and particularly its financial affairs. This involves an average of 30 minutes a week, plus three or four half days a year, including attendance at the AGM and one or two committee meetings.

Any person who wishes to have more details of this post is asked to contact the Commission's Executive Secretary, Andrew Polaszek (Ext. 5653 or e-mail 'iczn-ap@nhm.ac.uk').

That pretty well confirms Sir William Henry Flower's views, you don't get a salary much lower than zero!

Darwyn Sumner

Notice board

Antipodean Tachinidae

I passed the following enquiry on to the authors of the respective publications:

Also, in the Autumn 2003 Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum, p. 8, you cited Mike Howe's 'A provisional checklist of the invertebrates recorded in Wales (Cyngor Gwlad Cymru: Countryside Council for Wales 2002. 3. Brachyceran flies (Diptera: Xylophagidae to Dolichopidae). I am presuming Asilidae were included and I am also presuming you have a copy of the report. Could you inform me as to a/ the total number of pages of the report, b/ where the report was published, c/ the pagination for the Asilidae.

Also, I am in need of the complete citation for Andy Godfrey's Vol. 10 Larger Brachycera - I would also appreciate obtaining the information noted above for this publication.

Thanking you in advance for your effort, I remain

Dr. Robert Lavigne, Professor Emeritus, Honorary Research Associate, South Australian Museum

Gateway matters

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

Dataset	Submitted	Metadata	Data download	Grid map	Interactive map	Interactive map data	10km report	Site report	Species site report
Field Week 1999	June-04	158	0	453	386	4	575	1606	28
Field Weeks 2000/1	March-05	230	2	22	53	1	8492	17100	7
Stilt & Stalk	March-05	244	2	595	409	1	846	1372	39

The Dipterists Forum group on the NBN Gateway now has 12 members. Do please use the site to apply for membership of this group, you automatically get more detailed access to the above datasets and any others which are placed within this group. To get similar access to the hoverflies you will have to apply for access to "Hoverfly Recording Scheme database for Great Britain" which Stuart Ball manages separately.

Darwyn Sumner

American Museum publications online

Here is a truly wonderful literature resource: the American Museum publications available as pdf files on line. There are many muscid papers published in the American Museum Novitates, and dozens of Curran papers. These are all now freely available.

The American Museum of Natural History Library is pleased to announce the availability of the complete legacy of the museums scientific publications.

Both back issues and current-ongoing issues have been digitized and all publications are now openly available on the Web at: <http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace>

Adrian Pont

German Dipterists

The following is a summarised translation of the text about the Arbeitskreis Diptera (= AK Diptera), an informal association of German dipterists. The original German text can be found at <http://www.ak-diptera.de>. The first part is a description of this association and their aims, while the second part is a translation of an invitation to their annual meeting, which includes talks, social evenings and a field trip. When we (John and Barbara) took part in this meeting in 2004 they stressed that they would like more contacts with dipterists from other countries. We enjoyed this meeting very much despite bad weather, but were not able to participate last year and will have to miss this year as well. In 2004 some of the talks were in German, some in English and many of the German dipterists had good English.

Should you wish to get in contact with a German dipterist, try the AK Diptera search machine as follows:

- On their homepage (www.ak-diptera.de) click on 'Dipterologen Deutschlands'. On the next page you can either

choose a Diptera family and then click on 'Taxon anfragen', which gives you workers on this family in Germany (or on the German fauna), or you click on a subject (=Arbeitsgebiet) and click on 'Arbeitsgebiet anfragen', which gives you a list of people working in this field in Germany. 'Auswahl löschen' means 'delete selection'. In order to see a particular person's details you click on the person's name and 'Informationen anzeigen'. 'neue Auswahl' means 'new search'. The details per person contain space for work (= dienstlich) and home (= privat) address, but sometimes only the work address is provided.

- On their homepage (www.ak-diptera.de) click on 'Adressen & Profile'. On the next page you can choose a person by name. In order to see a particular person's details you click on the person's name and 'Informationen anzeigen'. 'neue Auswahl' means 'new search'. The details per person contain space for work (= dienstlich) and home (= privat) address, but sometimes only the work address is provided.
- On their homepage (www.ak-diptera.de) click on 'E-mail-Kontakte' to get a list of dipterists registered on this webpage including their email address(es). The D or P in the column behind the email address means D = dienstlich (work address) or P = privat (home address).

The Arbeitskreis Diptera

The AK Diptera is an independent association of dipterists of / from Germany. Both amateur and professional dipterists belong to this non-regional forum. They work on all aspects of Diptera. This voluntary organisation is at present chaired by Dr. Frank Menzel, Deutsche Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg (chairman) (menzel@zalf.de) and Dr. Marion Kotrba, The Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, Munich (deputy chair) (Marion.Kotrba@zsm.mwn.de). There are no membership fees. The association is supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für allgemeine und angewandte Entomologie (DGaaE) as well as by the Entomofaunistische Gesellschaft (EFG). The AK Diptera encourages the exchange of ideas and experience between dipterists within Germany and across the borders and initiates its own research projects. The AK Diptera itself contributes primarily articles on the Diptera fauna of Germany, literature searches into the Diptera fauna of Germany and accumulates information on the sizes and locations of Diptera collections in Germany. This association constantly updates the database on Dipterists in / from Germany, helps finding partners for joint studies, but also specialists for identifications. The main subject areas covered by the AK Diptera are – all with special emphasis on Diptera – faunistics and zoogeography, morphology, systematics, ecology, but also behavioural studies and applied dipterology.

The AK Diptera meets annually over two days. The meeting usually includes 5 or 6 scientific talks, a one day field trip and informal social chats in the evenings.

The following text is the translation of the invitation to their 23rd meeting. You can find the German text and some pictures / maps on the following webpage: <http://www.ak-diptera.de/einladung/einladung2006.php>

Invitation to the 23rd meeting of the Arbeitskreis Diptera from 16th to 18th June 2006 in Stedten (Sachsen-Anhalt: Mansfelder Land) [Eastern part of Germany close to Halle a.S.]

The next meeting of the AK Diptera will be in Stedten (Mansfelder Land, Sachsen-Anhalt) from 16th to 18th June 2006. The local organisers are Dr. Andreas Stark (Halle/Saale) and Dr. Matthias Jentzsch (Halle/Saale) [email addresses: Andreas Stark: stark@ampyx-verlag.de (home) or a.stark@druck-zuck.net (work) or Matthias Jentzsch: m_jentzsch@yahoo.de (home) or Matthias.Jentzsch@lvwa.lsa-net.de (work)]. The talk session will be in the conference room of the Hotel 'Zahn' on 16.06.2006. The participants will stay in the same hotel (see picture on webpage). Interesting possibilities for field trips on 17.06.2006 can be found in the approximately 10 km² large basin of the former 'Salziger See' (= saline lake), which is close to the hotel. This area includes many inland saline areas, dry grasslands, reed beds and marshy areas [=Feuchtwiesen]. It is unique in its faunal and floral composition. It has a large variety of different water bodies, including saline springs, rivers of varying depth and velocity, and ponds or lakes of varying sizes and depths. The town Erdeborn, on the western side of the lake, is one of the driest towns in Germany, with less than 400 mm average yearly rain fall. Due to this very dry climate and the warm summer insect species that are usually found in saline steppes or coastal areas have been recorded from here. In addition, insects with a Mediterranean distribution are established here.

We (AK Diptera) invite all dipterists from Germany and interested parties from foreign countries to this meeting.

How to get there

Stedten is in the southern part of the Land (~ province) Sachsen-Anhalt in the triangle of the three towns Eisleben - Halle (Saale) - Querfurt (see map on webpage). We (AK Diptera) can pick you up and drop you off at Halle (Saale) (please mention this when registering including arrival time and train station).

Notice board

Approximate schedule

Friday, 16.06.2006	Saturday, 17.06.2006	Sunday, 18.06.2006
until 12.00: arrival	08.00-09.00: breakfast	08.00-09.00: breakfast
12.00-13.00: Registration and checking in to hotel	09.30-18.00: Dipterological field trip in the region of the 'Salziger See' (packed lunch)	09.00-10.00: checking out of the hotel.
13.00-18.00: talks	18.00-19.00: dinner	From 10.00 am onwards there is a possibility to visit the collections of the Zoologischen Institutes der Universität Halle/Wittenberg (= zoological institute of the university of Halle/Wittenberg) in Halle (Saale).
coffee break: 15.00-15.30	19.00-20.00: slide show	
18.00-19.00: dinner	20.00-24.00: social	
19.00-20.00: introduction to the region of the field trip (slides)		
20.00-24.00: social		

Information on the hotel and prices (summary)

50 single or double rooms have been reserved in the Hotel 'Zahn'. Should you wish to register after the 1st April you might have to contact the Hotel directly, the address is: Gasthof Zahn, Thälmannstr. 28, 06317 Stedten, Germany (Tel.: 034774-70090).

Prices include breakfast. Dinner on the 17th June 2006 can be chosen individually from a reduced menu, while we will have a cold-warm buffet on 18th June 2006. Packed lunch is available for the field trip. The following prices have been agreed per person:

room per person (per night) incl. breakfast – single occupancy:	33.00EURO
room per person (per night) incl. breakfast – occupancy with 2 persons:	27.00EURO
packed lunch (17.06.2006):	6.00EURO
dinner (reduced menu, 17.06.2006):	8.00EURO
dinner (cold-warm buffet, 18.06.2006):	11.00EURO

Talks about all topics are welcome. They should not be longer than 20 minutes (excluding discussion time). Projectors for slides and transparencies are available, we will also try to get one for PowerPoint. It is possible to publish a summary (half to one page in length) in the DGaaE-Nachrichten. Please send any offers to give a talk before **15th March 2006** to Dr. Frank Menzel either by post (together with the registration for the meeting), or fax (033432-824706) or e-mail (menzel@zalf.de). You can also offer a slide show (30-60 minutes) for the evening of 17.06.2006.

Registration for the meeting

Registration deadline is **1. April 2006**, this will give us (AK Diptera) sufficient time for preparations and planning. Please use the registration form (in German), which you can find on the webpage when you click on [Anmeldeformular](#). You should print this and sign it and send it to Dr. Frank Menzel (address on the form). This is a binding registration and cancellations or changes after this date might not be possible. Should you have problems with the German on this form, please get in touch with me (Barbara Schulten, schultmay@onetel.com) or directly with Dr. Frank Menzel (menzel@zalf.de).

We, John and Barbara, enjoyed this meeting in 2004 very much and hope to be able to participate again in another year. You can find a summary of this meeting (in German) including many pictures by clicking on 'Bericht (Rückschau)' on the AK Diptera homepage. Should you wish to participate and have problems with the German either email Dr. Frank Menzel directly or get in touch with us, email: schultmay@onetel.com

Reports

Annual Meeting 2005**Preston Montford Field Study Centre, Shropshire, November 18-20th 2005****Dipterists' Day Lectures**

About 35 members were present for the opening of our first Dipterists' Day meeting at Preston Montford. After many successful Spring Workshops here we were confident that the Centre would be an ideal place to hold our Dipterists' Weekend.

Our Chairman Malcolm Smart introduced the programme and told us, that unfortunately Graham Rotheray was unable to be with us to give his talk on The Evolution of Head Capsules in the Aschiza. As a consequence the programme of talks was rearranged as shown below.

- 10.15am John Ismay and Adrian Plant, Methods for Genitalia Preparations
- 10.45 am Barbara Schulten, Diptera in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 11.15 am Coffee Break
- 11.30noon Malcolm Smart, Wallace's Line and the Distribution of Diptera.
- 12.30pm Chris Leach, Plant Galls and Diptera.

Genitalia Preparations - John Ismay and Adrian Plant

The talk was presented by JI, with interjections from AP.

The morphology of Diptera genitalia is important, together with many other factors, for the taxonomy and the identification of flies. It is the male genitalia that are used for identification in most groups, although the structures of female genitalia are sometimes used, as in tephritids and lonchaeids.

A number of techniques can be used to display genitalia. For large flies, such as syrphids and sarcophagids, they can be extended during the setting process, but with smaller flies the genitalia must be mounted and displayed. This may entail the mounting of whole insects if they are small, eg chironomids and phorids, or the removal, dissecting and mounting of part of the abdomen, in small flies such as agromyzids and chloropids.

Dissection

For whole insect mounts the instructions are usually to be found in the relevant keys. For those requiring abdominal dissection, the preparation procedure to be followed is outlined below:

- Relax the specimen
- Cut off the posterior half of the abdomen, sometimes rather more. For some groups, such as male agromyzids, and all female flies, all of the abdomen should be removed.
- Macerate in 10% potassium hydroxide solution (KOH) (overnight or from ½ to 1 hour if heated) to remove the soft tissue
- Wash in glacial acetic acid to neutralise the KOH
- Or, for a gentler treatment which preserves some soft tissue, the specimen can be warmed gently in lactic acid for 1-2 hours.

Storing

The next stage is the mounting of the specimen for storage. The genitalia may be:

- stored in microvials in glycerol.
- Mounted in a water-based mountant such as DMHF (on card) or Berlese fluid (on cover-slip)
- Mounted in Canada balsam or Euparal.
- A slide mount may be made of the whole fly

It is most important, whatever the method used, that the specimen and mount be kept together, together with the

Meetings

details, either by mounting on the same pin, or the same microscope slide.

Mounting

To mount the specimen in Canada balsam the following stages are followed:

- After clearing in KOH and washing in glacial acetic acid.
- Wash in 70%, 90% and 97% alcohol.
- Clear in clove oil for one hour.
- Place a drop of Canada balsam on the mount.
- Dissect the specimen in clove oil and then display it in the Canada balsam. Use a spot of clove oil to soften the balsam, to move the specimen as required.
- Leave 3-4 weeks to set, add cover-slip if required.

Each family of flies has its own idiosyncrasies which have to be understood. There are a number of different terminologies, and in a number of families of Diptera there is torsion of the postabdomen by 90°, or 180°. The necessary chemicals may be obtained from D.J. & D. Henshaw, (djhagro@aol.com). Read up on the dangers of these chemicals and be careful with them.

Barbara Schulten – Diptera in the BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan)

BAP is the UK's answer to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio 1992). In 1995 and 1998 Species Action Plans (SAPs) and Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) were published. Currently, the UK has 391 BAP species, of which 44% are invertebrates. However, only 0.3% of these are Diptera, while 9.49% are birds and 34.7% are mammals. During last years talk a request to send in suggestions for new BAP species was made. Thanks are due to the many dipterists who responded.

During the last year 63 entomologists sent in forms or suggestions or were consulted. In total 142 forms – including 21 for existing SAPs – were completed. These were assessed against the criteria and 10 European experts were also consulted. Only strong cases qualified, i.e. species under severe threat or in decline in and outside the UK. Other factors were taken into account, e.g. whether the species could be a flagship species and if some action other than searching is possible. A draft was circulated to 40 experts and in March 2005 52 suggestions were submitted to Buglife. 21 of these were for existing BAP species, while 31 Diptera were suggested as new BAPs.

All submitted forms were assessed by the Invertebrate LINK subgroup. Their most recent meeting started on 17. November 2005. The species accepted by this group will be submitted to the Priority Species and Habitats Review Working Group (PSHRWG) of the UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG). The intermediate results for our 52 suggestions by the Invertebrate LINK subgroup are that the suggestions for all 21 existing BAP species have been accepted, while of the 31 newly suggested Diptera 16 have been accepted, while so far 15 have been rejected as SAPs. However, their meeting was still ongoing during the talk and the agencies had been included as well. PSHRWG will consult with experts and the Country Biodiversity Groups. The Final BAPs will be published by the end of 2006.

Ideally, an action plan should exist for each species and should identify gaps, give management suggestions and suggest action. However, this is expensive and would result in too many SAPs. An inclusion of Diptera species in HAPs is also possible, but can be problematic as not all species fit into such a plan.

Callicera spinolae, an existing BAP species, is found in parkland with areas of mature woodland and ivy, where it breeds in tree holes with wet, decaying wood. However, the breeding sites are solitary, non-ancient trees, which even managers of HAPs still regard only as landscape features.

Myopites eximius, a species suggested for BAP, is found in a habitat with a HAP, namely saltmarshes. However, it depends on a specific microhabitat, i.e. Golden Samphire, which itself is known from only 117 10km² and is declining. Hence, the habitat and the microhabitat are declining and the world distribution of the fly is from only a very few sites along the Channel in France and the UK.

We also suggested seven grouped Species Action Plans (gSAPs), which are as follows:

- Diptera in dead and rotting timber as these often have different requirements than beetles
- Diptera in boreal ancient Birch woodland, as **ancient** Birch trees are declining over all their range
- Diptera in ancient Pine Woodland, as we have a large age gap between ancient and young pine trees,

and ancient trees are declining

- Diptera in fen and marsh biotopes as the species suggested need fluctuating water bodies, but general management recommendations for this habitat include stable water levels
- Diptera in Exposed Riverine Sediments, which includes *Rhabdomastix laeta*, an existing BAP without an action plan
- Diptera associated with *Cossus* or *Cossus* damaged trees, which are declining due to a decline in the Goat moth
- Diptera of coarse woody debris in rivers, which would include *Lipsothrix*, to highlight the importance of this habitat and to work out the differences between these species.

We had problems with BAP species in the past, either in that they did not have a SAP, e.g. *Tipula serulifera*, and therefore have not been worked on, or that the results were inconclusive. An example for the latter is *Dorycera graminum*. Except for two annual English Nature contracts it has not been well worked on. Its larval biology and oviposition sites are still unknown and whether it is associated with Brownfield sites or dry grasslands is not clearly understood. The effects of different habitat management on this species have not been studied.

Although targets were not met for any one species, quite promising results were achieved for some species, e.g. for *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* and *Blera fallax* (as presented by Iain MacGowan 2 years ago) and for the Heathland flies (as presented by Steven Miles 2 years ago). Considerable knowledge was also gained on *Eristalis cryptarum*, but this hoverfly is still critically endangered and confined to east Dartmoor, to an area 10 times 20 km large. As with *Dorycera graminum*, its larval biology and oviposition sites are still unknown, but we can define its habitat requirements more clearly. This species needs seepages within rhos pasture grassland, which are lightly to moderately grazed and circum-neutral to slightly acid. It is absent from ungrazed mire.

We can still hope that more Diptera will be made BAP species, but even if only a small proportion is accepted, this Review was useful. We identified gaps in our knowledge and we as the Dipterists Forum can work on these species so that they may get a chance in the next Review.

After the coffee break, our Chairman, Malcolm Smart, following his visit to the area, gave an informative and entertaining talk on 'Wallace's Line and the Distribution of Diptera'. This was followed at 11.45am by Chris Leach from the Plant Galls Society, who gave a comprehensive talk on 'Plant Galls and Diptera', illustrated by photos of a wide range of gall-forming Diptera.

John Kramer

Spring Workshop 2006

Preston Montford

17-19 March 2006

Dolichopodids & Empids (Adrian Plant & Roy Crossley)

Meetings

Forthcoming

Spring Field meeting - Herefordshire

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 May 2006

This meeting should give us the opportunity to visit a variety of important sites in Herefordshire, including Moccas Park. We will see whether we can base everyone in the same guesthouse but failing that will do our best to get everyone based close together. Expressions of interest please to me please. I will organise accommodation for those who ask me to before the end of March; thereafter I may leave this to individuals to organise their own accommodation:

Roger Morris

Field Meeting - Burnham Beeches

Burnham Beeches NNR, SAC

Saturday 10th June 2006

joint meeting of BENHS, Buckinghamshire Invertebrate Group, Dipterists Forum

Burnham Beeches NNR, SAC is managed by the City of London. The grid reference is SU 949 855. This ancient woodland contains beech and oak wood pasture with many old pollards. You can also find small areas of hazel coppice, dry and wet heathland and sphagnum bog. Burnham Beeches supports a rich fauna of saproxylic beetles (over 1000 beetle species) and flies (over 1500 species). Many are rare species.

For the day meeting we meet at the Tea Hut beside the cross roads in the middle of Burnham Beeches. The day meeting will start at 10:30 am and continue until late afternoon, with a lunch break. Please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks for lunch can be bought at the tea huts. After the day meeting there will be a possibility to use the laboratory facilities in the office building (microscopes, lighting, hot drinks available). There are pubs nearby for an evening meal, before the evening session, including moth trapping, commences at 20.30, meeting as for daytime session.

The gates of Burnham Beeches are locked at dusk, but special arrangements will be made to allow access in the evening and exit after the session.

For further information on Burnham Beeches including a map log onto :

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/living_environment/open_spaces/burnham.htm

Please confirm details nearer the time with one of us, our contact details are: John + Barbara: 01844-201433 or on the day 07985943535 or Martin Albertini: 01628 633749 or on the day 07729 368933. Should you have any queries regarding Burnham Beeches NNR, SAC or how to get there, you can also contact Dr. Helen Read, City of London, on 01753 647358 extension 228.

We would be glad to see many of you there.

Martin Albertini, John Ismay and Barbara Schulten

Field Trip - France

June 10 – 17th 2006

We are trying to organise a field meeting to take place in France between June 10 and June 17 2006. We would be located just north of Lyon and be based in the lab of the Foundation Vérots.

There is a Nature Reserve and a number of sites which might repay a visit: the Forêt de la Rena, where Peter Chandler has had good success (and PW has a very nice list) is only half an hour away, there are the banks of the River Ain (shingle banks with tree margins), and some sandy outcrops on the Ain/Saone confluence. Then if we want to go further afield one day, there is a nice bog about an hour away, and some good/rich sites in the Chartreuse Alps (about an hour and a half by motorway).

Much will depend on how mobile folk are, how many we are catering for and so on. Once we know approximately how many interested parties there are, Phil can start to look around for a gite or something similar.

Please let me know asap if you want to take part, by e-mail to johnkramer@tiscali.co.uk

John Kramer, Phil Withers

Summer Field Meeting - Lewes, East Sussex

Saturday to Saturday 24th June - 1st July 2006

We have a booking at Plumpton College near Lewes at £25.00 per night B&B in single rooms with shared bathrooms. The college can offer a small number of twin rooms. Evening meals are possible at £5.00 per night – we eat at 18.00 and arrival on time is requested. Plumpton College offers access to a wide range of interesting sites, from Chalk grassland to wealden woods and coastal grazing marsh. The maximum party size that the college can accommodate is around 30, so early reservation is recommended. So far, at the time of writing I have 12 confirmed bookings and that is before Christmas! A deposit of £30.00 is requested (payable to Roger Morris).

Roger Morris

Autumn Field Meeting - Radnorshire

Wednesday 18 - Sunday 22 October 2006

I am investigating accommodation in Radnorshire, a poorly known county that I'm told is well known for its saproxylic interest. I hope to secure a guest house with provisional booking at an early juncture, so early indications of interest would be welcome – ideally by May 2006, although later bookings will probably be possible.

Roger Morris

Annual Meeting 2006 - Oxford

Hope Department, Oxford

Saturday & Sunday, 24th to 26th November, 2006

This year's AGM will be held in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (= OUMNH), Parks Road, Oxford. The OUMNH has kindly agreed to make several facilities available to the Dipterists Forum. One of the main claims to fame of the Museum is that it was where the famous debate on Darwin's theory of evolution of species between Thomas Huxley, a proponent of Darwinism, and Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford took place in 1860.

The OUMNH houses the Hope Entomological Collections, with about 5 million specimens and type material of over 22,000 arthropod species. It is the second largest entomological collection in the UK. The Diptera collections with over 250,000 specimens and more than 1,500 types are one of the most important in the UK. They include the Verrall-Collin Collection, the best single collection of British Diptera. A reference collection of British Diptera, with more than 50% coverage of species, is housed separately.

Parts of Collins and Verrall's library are in the Hope Entomological Library, but the library is certainly worth a visit in its own right. It is the third largest entomological library in the UK and has an excellent coverage of Diptera literature, including most major journals, most works prior to 1900, and an extensive off-print collection of more than 60,000

Meetings

titles. The archives contain the diaries of Lt. Col. J.W. Yerbury, a contemporary of G. H. Verrall. Should you wish to peruse a particular book, journal or diary on Saturday or Sunday, please contact us with the details well in advance. We will collate a list of these requests and Darren Mann (Collection Manager and Curatorial Officer) has kindly offered to try and make these available.

More information on the Diptera collections and the types of the Verrall-Collin and Bigot-Kowarz collection, which have already been entered into the online database, can be found at <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/onlinedb/diptera/dipintro.htm>. You can find more information on the museum at www.oum.ox.ac.uk. If you wish to check that a particular book or journal is in the library, you can do this via the internet on the universities OLIS library catalogue: <http://library.ox.ac.uk/>. Some of these web pages may be updated in early spring, so please have another look later in the year.

Programme

Friday, 24th November 2006

In the afternoon the Hope Entomological Library will be available to Dipterists Forum members from 2.00 to 5.00 pm. Prior booking with John Ismay and Barbara Schulten (email below) is essential. It will be possible to photocopy papers at 5p / page. The librarian is Stella Brecknell. Stella has offered to give a brief talk and exhibit some of the Library's entomological treasures if sufficient interest is expressed. Please let us know if you are coming to this session.

Saturday, 25th November 2006

The museum will open for Dipterists Forum at 10.00 am and the programme will start at 10:30 am with talks in the main lecture theatre. There will be a coffee and lunch break. Coffee will be provided free, but people may bring sandwiches or several good pubs are located nearby for lunch. The museum does not have catering facilities.

The lecture programme will include talks by Darren Mann, Jane Smith, Graham Rotheray, Keith Harris and Colin Plant. Titles will be announced nearer to the AGM. In the afternoon the programme will include the AGM of Dipterists Forum and reports from some of the Recording Schemes. Exhibits will be welcome.

We will arrange a Dipterists supper in the evening if there is sufficient interest. This will be in a selective local restaurant (probably Chinese). Could you please let us know if you wish to come to the supper so that we can give the restaurant plenty of notice?

Sunday, 26th November 2006

Sunday is the chance to see the Verrall-Collin and other collections in the Hope Entomological Collections. This meeting will be lead by Darren Mann, Collections Manager and Curatorial Officer. Darren has offered to lead a short tour of the museum. The Hope Entomological Collections will be opened to Dipterists Forum members at 10am, but please note that the museum does not open to the public until 12.00 on Sundays. Access arrangements will be announced nearer to the time.

Accommodation: No accommodation will be arranged, because the college options would be disproportionately expensive. However, Oxford has a wide range of B&Bs and guesthouses available and these can be booked by internet at <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/tourism/where-to-stay.cfm> or by phoning the accommodation booking line on 01865 726871 (Open: Monday-Friday, 9.30-12.00 and 14.00-16.00). There is a charge of £5 for booking through the agency and the B&Bs are typically £30 to £42 per person in a shared room depending on facilities. Alternatively, search the web. Make sure you get a B&B within an easy bus ride of the OUMNH on Parks Road. We know that several B&Bs can be found north of the museum off Banbury or Woodstock Roads, North Oxford, an easy bus ride from the museum with buses running late. Otherwise check bus connections to the museum before booking on www.oxfordbus.co.uk. You need to get off at the bus stop called Keble Road for the museum.

Parking: Please note that parking is not available at the museum and off street parking in the area is expensive. The options are parking at your B&B in Oxford if you are staying there or using the Park & Ride if visiting for less than 72 hours (see <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/services/park-and-ride.cfm>). Several Park & Rides are located on the major orbital routes and currently some are free. Water Eaton (north of the Banbury Road) is the easiest for the museum. The bus fare to the City Centre is about £2 return.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Oxford in November. Please don't forget to let us know whether you would like to see the library or come to Dipterists Supper.

John Ismay and Barbara Schulten

Spring Workshop 2007

Preston Montford

March 2007

Sciomyzidae & Scathophagidae

(Alan Stubbs, Stuart Ball & Darwyn Sumner so far)

Summer Field Meeting 2007

I am investigating the possibility of a meeting based in Aberdeen. I have details of hall of residence accommodation but so far have received no response to my e-mail requests for further information.

Roger Morris

Fly leaf



And now ...

.....Nuisance Insects

Recent legislation has tightened-up on Nuisance Insects. But what does this term mean?

Well, I will tell you what a Nuisance Insect means. It is that fly which has taken ages trying to run through a key, only to hit the impasse couplet where either choice is correct depending which leg you look at. There may have been hundreds of specimens to choose from, but the very specimen I carefully pinned and labelled has different legs bristles one side compared with the other. This cannot be a fluke since I have a flair for inadvertently selecting such specimens.

Of course the public view of a Nuisance Insect may differ from that of a dipterist. It may be a delight to have a huge horsefly buzzing about ones person. This is fair and legal combat. It is a duel as to who bites who first. Yes it is a nuisance if it sneaks up and bites you first, but it is a more serious nuisance if it flies away before you have netted it.

Some flies are a genuine nuisance as any visitor to the West Highlands in mid summer will know. 'No-see-ums' can see you but you cannot see them, and it is not one-to-one. This is not fair combat. And, moreover the wretched things are too small to pin.

As the innocuous sounding Clean Neighbourhoods Bill (now Act) was being rushed through the final days of the last parliament, nuisance insects emanating from business premises were included. It took Buglife to point out that NGO nature reserves were managed by businesses, and that all farms are businesses, so *de facto* the public could complain about too many flies almost anywhere. Who knows: 'my child was nearly stung by a *Stratiomys potamida*'?

Hydrotaea irritans would have qualified. However, since it has seemingly declined even faster than the house sparrow, it may meet the criteria for Priority Species status in the Biodiversity Action Plan. That would have been a fascinating challenge to the new Act. However, sense has prevailed so countryside businesses are excluded. Perhaps such species qualify as New Sense insects.

Alan Stubbs

Contributors

Please note the following deadlines for the next two bulletins:

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.

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.

The Bulletin is the Dipterists Forum's means of reporting on all of our activities to the membership. This edition has been particularly notable for the number of important items which were not sent to the editor. I have been able to fill the gaps only in some cases.

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.