BULLETIN OF THE

Dipterists Forum

Bulletin No. 62/63 Autumn 2006 + Spring 2007

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin No. 62/3 **Autumn 2006 + Spring 2007**

Coordinator's Comments

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

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 future issues

Conopidae, Lonchopteridae, Ulidiidae & Pallopteridae

Mr D K Clements
7 Vista Rise, Radyr Cheyne, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2SD
dave.clements1@ntlworld.com

Culicidae - Mosquitoes

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

Dixidae - Meniscus midges

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

Drosophilidae - Fruit Flies

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

Sepsidae

vacant

Tachinid

Chris Raper
22 Beech Road, Purley-on-Thames, Reading, Berks RG8 8DS
chris.raper@hartslock.org.uk
Matthew Smith
24 Allnatt Avenue, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5AU
MatSmith1@compuserve.com

Larger Brachycera

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

Mycetophilidae and allies - Fungus gnats

Mr Peter J Chandler (see Dipterists Digest)

Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Cranefly

Mr A E Stubbs
181 Broadway Peterborough PE1 4DS

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

Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

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

Darwyn Sumner

Hoverflies

Dr S G Ball
255 Eastfield Road Peterborough PE1 4BH
stuart.ball@dsl.pipex.com
Mr R K A Morris
roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

Newsletter editor -
David Iliff
Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 9HN
davidiliff@talk21.com

Tephritid Flies

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

Stilt & Stalk Fly

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

Other Officials

Anthomyiidae

Mr Michael Ackland
5 Pond End, Pymore, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5SB
mackland@btinternet.com

Empid & Dolichopodid

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

Chironomidae

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

Pipunculidae

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

Simulidae

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

Publications

David Heaver
5 Albert Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2DN
davyh@blueboottle.com

Publicity Officer

Mr. R.K.A.Morris
7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE
roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

Membership Secretary

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

Conservation Officer

Barbara Schulten schultmay@onetel.com

Dipterists Digest Editor

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

Dipterists Forum Officials

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

Field Meetings Secretary

Ken Merrifield kenmerrifield@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer

Judy Webb judy.webb@virgin.net
01865 377487

Secretary

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

Programme Secretary

Jon Cole jon.cole@ukonline.co.uk

Web Site Maintainer

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

BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

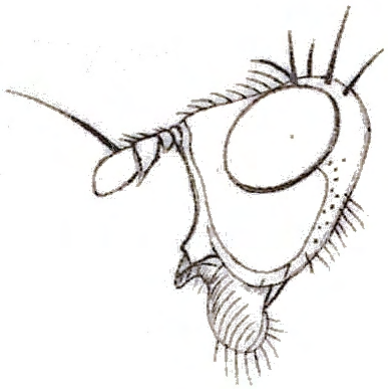
Bulletin Nos. 62 + 63

Autumn 2006, Spring 2007

ISSN 1358-5029

Bulletin Editor Darwyn Sumner

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



Contents

PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY Obtainable via subscription to Dipterists Forum. Contact Mr M. Parker, 9, East Wyld Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0RP

Scheme Organisers

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

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 future issues

Conopidae, Lonchopteridae, Ulidiidae & Pallopteridae

Mr D K Clements
7 Vista Rise, Radyr Cheyne, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2SD
dave.clements1@ntlworld.com

Culicidae - Mosquitoes

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

Dixidae - Meniscus midges

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

Drosophilidae - Fruit Flies

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

Sepsidae

vacant

Tachinid

[3.3][][][]
Chris Raper
22 Beech Road, Purley-on-Thames, Reading, Berks RG8 8DS
chris.raper@hartslock.org.uk
Matthew Smith
24 Allnatt Avenue, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5AU
MatSmith1@compuserve.com

Larger Brachycera

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

Mycetophilidae and allies - Fungus gnats

Mr Peter J Chandler (see Dipterists Digest)

Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Cranefly

Mr A E Stubbs
181 Broadway Peterborough PE1 4DS
[][][]
co-organiser: John Kramer
31 Ash Tree Road
Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TE

Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

Dr I F G McLean
109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 4TZ
ian_mclean@jncc.gov.uk
ianmclean@waitrose.com
[][][]
Darwyn Sumner

Hoverflies

[][][][]
Dr S G Ball
255 Eastfield Road Peterborough PE1 4BH
stuart.ball@dsl.pipex.com
Mr R K A Morris
roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com
Newsletter editor -
David Iliff
Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 9HN
davidiliff@talk21.com

Tephritid Flies

3.x [][]
Mr Laurence Clemons
14 St John's Avenue
Sittingbourne
Kent ME10 4NE

Stilt & Stalk Fly

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

Study groups

Anthomyiidae

Mr Michael Ackland
5 Pond End, Pymore, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5SB
mackland@btinternet.com

Empid & Dolichopodid

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

Chironomidae

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

Pipunculidae

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

Simulidae

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

Workshops

David Heaver
5 Albert Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2DN
davyh@bluebottle.com

Field Meetings

Mr. R.K.A.Morris
7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE
roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

Membership

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

Conservation / BAP

Barbara Schulten schultmay@onetel.com

Dipterists Digest

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

Dipterists Bulletin

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

BENHS Representative

Ken Merrifield
kenmerrifield@yahoo.co.uk

Publicity

Judy Webb judy.webb@virgin.net
01865 377487

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Jon Cole jon.cole@ukonline.co.uk

Web Manager

Stuart Ball
255 Eastfield Road Peterborough PE1 4BH
stuart.ball@dsl.pipex.com

Website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/

BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists Forum

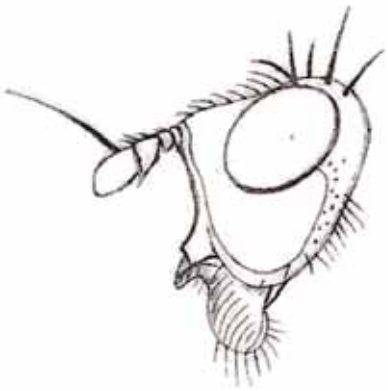
Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin Nos. 62 + 63

Autumn 2006, Spring 2007

ISSN 1358-5029

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

PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY Obtainable via subscription to Dipterists Forum. Contact Mr M. Parker, 9, East Wyld Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0RP

Forum News

Editorial

Darwyn Sumner

Measuring England by the pound

I wear lots of hats at the moment. I don't claim to have a thorough understanding of the entire world of biodiversity but I'm in a position at the moment to draw some interesting connections between the seemingly different worlds connected through an interest in it. Second only to the subject of metadata for creating instant yawns is the subject of Planning. So many different perceptions exist about this activity and much bias as folk tend to judge on the basis of what's disappeared and learn nothing about what has been saved. Quite a bit of recent legislation and guidance has been issued to these folks recently - all of it having a knock-on effect to those who gather and disseminate biodiversity information. Local Authorities, for example, are obliged to follow "Local Development Framework" guidelines when drawing up their "Local Plans". By law these latter are available to the public and all must show that they have taken into account these guidelines and others (e.g. PPS9). The responsibility to protect and enhance biodiversity is therefore very much strengthened. A great pity that none of this results in enhanced availability of funding for those doing the biodiversity information gathering and analysis and also that the science in the guidelines is so flawed. Stuart Ball in his presentation at the National Schemes and Societies conference was able to demonstrate some statistics about population change using the resources of all the major datasets on the NBN Gateway over an area the size of the UK; the LDF guidelines expect us to do the same annually on all BAP and Wildlife & Countryside Act species on the basis of records collected casually by amateurs over an area the size of a small City or other Local Authority. Anyone care to provide annual data about population changes in *Doros profuges* at Yealand Hall? Chief Executives in Local Authorities can get severely ticked off by their inspectorates if they don't. The guidelines also tell us that all habitats should be measured in hectares - including hedgerows?

Ad-hoc bioconformity

The Oldie is not the sort of place one expects to find accounts about biodiversity but Jonathon Briggs had a crack at explaining BAPs in their February issue. He observes that critics complain about the submerging of conservation into an "awful new bureacracy", hitting out at the complexity created by the fact that these plans are in tiers, from Country, through Regions and on down to County level, along the way taking a dig at the concept of SMART objectives (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic & timebound) and the word biodiversity.

It is not clear exactly what he is advocating in his article except that the target should be "conserving some voles", but his criticism of the work: "lots of people have lots of meetings at national, regional, and local venues, to discuss what should be done about water voles in their patch." entirely misses the point that much of the hours of labour are spent by unpaid volunteers through under-resourced agencies and partnerships aimed precisely at ensuring that, as one Local Wildlife Site representative at a recent Defra seminar indicated, the local landowners & agents, who are immediately responsible for the land management essential to this conservation, receive appropriate advice at the most appropriate point - i.e. in the field.

Gratifyingly he reports that the new duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which places responsibilities on public bodies to take account of biodiversity throughout all their work, means that another round of people will have to learn the meaning of biodiversity. Perhaps somehow we'll stem the tide of habitat loss through education about who does what and for how much in the world of biodiversity, since the majority of the British public still thinks that biodiversity is a washing powder. Perhaps Jonathon Briggs needs to be at the front of such a queue, unless ad-hoc bioconformity achieved by magic wands waved by Country-wide unscientific policy makers is your preferred solution. He can be taught at editorial@theoldie.co.uk

"Please bring an exhibit if you can"

This is a request made at every AGM. At some of the venues we go to, this request can be expanded beyond the simple idea of bringing along your best trophies of the year. At the Glasgow AGM, Geoff Hancock tells me that he will make **display boards** (and velcro tape) available to us so do please take advantage of this, your exhibits can now be accompanied by photographs and charts.

Bring along any troublesome specimens too; there will be much expertise from the Recording Schemes at the AGM and whilst no arrangements have yet been made about formal workshops, many of us will be happy to do a few identifications on the hoof.

News from the schemes

Several of these schemes are currently at risk, the Sepsidae recording scheme is moribund following the withdrawal of its organiser and the organisers of both the Conopid and Larger Brachycera schemes may not be in a position to continue. This is not a true reflection of the interest in these groups. Perhaps keen dipterists could view this as an opportunity to assist the current organisers with a view to ensuring their continuation. Now would be a very good time to start; were I not doing one already the Sepsidae scheme would be very rewarding and not particularly onerous - Alan Stubbs in particular is knowledgeable in this group and would surely help an enthusiast get started.

All the contact details are on the inside front page.

Scheme representation at exhibitions

Following a good deal of interest at an AES exhibition a couple of years ago, Dipterists Forum came up with a couple of ideas to help publicise the schemes and recruit more contributors. The first of these was the idea of putting together a big A3-sized poster which had a few pretty pictures and gave basic details about the scheme. Such posters could be used at any event that Dipterists Forum went to. They would answer the kind of questions that were asked at these exhibitions e.g. "Have you got any details of the Hoverfly Recording Scheme" and perhaps stimulate people to have a go at the less exotic groups. I'm pleased to say that we now have a few of these posters completed (or nearly so) and intend to use them at the AES and at our own AGM. These are the Pipuncilid scheme, the Empid and Dolochopodid Scheme (from the self-confessed "artistically challenged" Adrian Plant), the Stilt & Stalk Fly and the Cranefly Schemes. All of whom will benefit greatly from this kind of publicity. Details of this were published in Bulletin 61 and I distributed copies of the Microsoft PowerPoint files to the scheme organisers at the time.

If any organiser wants a bit of publicity for their schemes then this is a cheap and easy way to do it, please look again at these files and try to let me have your designs back before the next Bulletin deadline.

Geoff Hancock tells us that he will make poster space available at our Glasgow AGM, so straight away your scheme will be advertised at Dipterists Forum's big event of the year.

Conopid Recording Scheme: Conopidae, Lonchopteridae, Ulidiidae and Pallopteridae (picture-wing flies)

I am intending to have a major push to finish computerising the conopid dataset this winter, a job which is long overdue. If all goes well, I anticipate making a final 'call for records' next year prior to preparing a draft atlas, although I'm not sure who will publish such a thing now that Monks Wood has been consigned to the dustbin of history. This in turn may be a prelude to my turning the scheme over to someone else to run in the future, but I'll see how it goes...

David Clements

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Newsletter # 42 included with this Bulletin

Because of the delay in distributing the Autumn 2006 issue of the Hoverfly Newsletter, there will not now be a Spring 2007 issue. Copy already sent to the editor will be included in the Autumn 2007 newsletter, and the new deadline for further contributions is 20 June 2007.

Had there been a spring newsletter it would have included details, provided by Gunilla Stahls, of the International Symposium on Syrphidae, which will take place at Siikaranta, Espoo, Finland, in the period 29 June - 3 July 2007. General information and a registration form are posted on the www.syrphidae.com website, thanks to Bastiaan Wakkie. Additional information will posted when available, so please check the website regularly.

David Iliffe

Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme

In a response to Alan Stubbs, Dave Heaver and myself, regarding the Preston Montford Workshop this year, Stuart Ball sent us an account of his own recent efforts regarding this scheme . Because this was a personal message to us, it would be wrong of me to publish his letter. He states, however that "*Andy Foster has apparently resigned as a scheme organiser so is out of the picture*".

Stuart was intimately involved in the production of the Sciomyzidae atlas 20 years ago, several of us have championed their cause for some time, Alan knows the group well and we're all going to be involved in delivering the workshop at Preston Montford this March. Unfortunately Ian McLean cannot be at our workshop as he's doing a

Forum News

workshop at Dinton Pastures but he is currently providing support. A perfect opportunity to again discuss the future of a scheme which enjoys so much interest from many dipterists.

Darwyn Sumner

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Newsletter # 26 included with this Bulletin.

Simon Hayhow, the Scheme organiser, contacted me recently, revealing he was moving from his job at Fleetwood Museum to a new one in Fife. Simon's message was somewhat short on detail but his friend, Barry Brigden filled in the details a little more. Simon is now Executive Director of the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther, Fife which he began at the beginning of December; his son and wife, Jane (now fit and well) will join him in their new Anstruther house at the end of March. I am sure members will join me in wishing Simon success in his new job; perhaps he'll join the Malloch Society now and start generating some interesting records from Scotland. (ed)

Mike & Val Hackston

Conopidae Recording Scheme

Despite rumours to the contrary, admittedly well-founded, readers may be surprised to hear that the Conopid Recording Scheme is not, in fact, dead in the water. A Herculean effort over this winter, mainly by my colleague Mandy Stiltz, has seen a large part of the paper records database transferred into MapMate. Unfortunately, not quite enough to make a draft atlas worthwhile for this bulletin, but we certainly intend to have an atlas ready for the autumn bulletin. We should have all of the remaining records that we have here entered by about the end of March, so this summer is the time to get any additional records to me, preferably in an electronic format which is readable in MapMate, but any other paper format will also do.

There are also some changes in names affecting the UK fauna, but we are still sorting these out. Jens-Hermann Stuke and I have a paper nearly finished which revises the *Myopa testacea* group, and Jens-Hermann has just published a very handy paper revising the *Thecophora atra* group – which includes our species – and which now includes some new and better-understood segregates which just might occur in Britain (Stuke, J-H, 2006: *Thecophora pusilla* auct. – ein Artenkomplex (Diptera: Conopidae). *Beitr. Ent.* 56(2): 269-279). I have this paper in PDF format, and can send it to anyone who might like a copy.

Recorders should also note that the email address which has been shown in the Bulletin for the last few years has, alas, been incorrect. My current email address is **dave.clements1@ntlworld.com**.

Finally, my thanks to all those noble stalwarts who have continued to send me batches of conopid records in recent years, despite the complete lack of incentive to do so. Your reward awaits in heaven, but in the meantime you should have a draft atlas very soon.

David Clements

Picture-Winged Flies Recording Scheme

Yes, I know I know. Even deader than the Conopid Recording Scheme. Sigh. Well, actually, the PWFRS atlas is next. Draft atlas possibly by the autumn Bulletin, or failing that for the spring of next year. I promise. No, really. Keep those records coming in.

In the meantime, *Herina longistylata* has gone back to being called *Herina lugubris* – Bernhard Merz managed to find the 'lost' type specimens – and the '*lugubris*' of European authors is now called *rivosecchii*. The latter has still not so far been found in Britain, but must surely be here somewhere. See the excellent paper by Merz for details (2002: A revision of the *Herina lugubris* species group (Diptera, Ulidiidae, Otitinae), with a description of two new species. *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* 109(2): 407-431).

David Clements

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme

Not a great number of incoming records, I'm afraid. I'm pleased that I seem to have encouraged a handful of people to take an interest in them but by and large they are the regular crew who take things like this anyway. The thing is, it's not too difficult to find a few during a season and if you home in on the right spot it's a bit of fun to watch them. So my tip for the forthcoming season is to look out for even the tiniest flushes or damp spots in wet woodland where the vegetation is lush and indicates a bit of dappled light is coming through, then look around on the leaves for a minute or two before crashing your net through it all; you will find more that way. You're bound to see *Neria* and *Cnodacophora* at least once this year.

It seems, however, that the records are of a good deal of interest to someone as the NBN Gateway figures below indicate. If the users of these records would care to contribute to the scheme then please get in touch, I can let them have a very useful key.

Month	Metadata	Data download	Grid map
Dec-06	2	0	1
Nov-06	9	0	3
Oct-06	16	0	5
Sep-06	6	0	0
Aug-06	24	0	0
Jul-06	1	0	0
Jun-06	0	0	1
May-06	3	0	0
Apr-06	4	0	0
Mar-06	15	0	0
Feb-06	10	0	0
Jan-06	16	0	0

Darwyn Sumner

Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme

The bulk of existing data on several thousand record cards was passed to BRC during 2006 and it is hoped that data entry will proceed during the course of 2007 with the intention of producing distribution maps in due course. This should also be an encouragement to me to make a start on preparing an identification handbook to the subfamily Mycetophilinae.

The fungus gnat recording scheme card has also been replaced by a pair of A4 cards, newly produced by BRC in 2006, that list all the 540 species currently known as British, although *Brevicornu verralli* was accidentally omitted from the first printing. This is an advance over the previous card which only included about two thirds of the known species, most uncommon species having to be written in the box provided. It was also an opportunity to take account of changes since the first card was produced in 1986 and bring the nomenclature up to date. It also includes three as yet unpublished changes, providing names for the *Docosia* sp. indet. of the 1980 RES Handbook (revision of the genus by Jan Sevcik in press), the as yet nameless *Cordyla* sp. near *murina* (revision of the genus by Olavi Kurina in press) and a name change for *Exechia frigida* of the British list (Kjaerandsen, Kurina & Olafsson in press on the Fungus Gnats of Iceland).

Further updates to the British fungus gnat fauna were published in two papers that appeared in the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* during 2006, the first (**19,** 41-49) jointly with Jostein Kjaerandsen adding a new species of *Pseudexechia* from Wales and the second (**19,** 77-89) adding six species to the British list from Scotland and including three other nomenclatural changes. A further name change of *Boletina dispecta* of the British list to *B. bidenticulata* Sasakawa & Kimura has already been noted in the Digest.

Most recently I was passed a female specimen, collected on his kitchen window last October by Graham Collins, that belonged to the genus *Greenomyia*, previously unrecorded in Britain. Though there are three species of the genus in Europe this specimen does not appear to belong to any of them, but in having the body and antennae entirely dark coloured it runs closest to the Indian species *G. nigricoxa* Brunetti. Like some other species of the genus this specimen has a dark wing tip and runs in the RES Handbook close to *Leia* from which it differs in having the ocelli remote from the eye margins. Any other odd gnats turning up in the home should be forwarded for examination.

Forum News

This appears to be another example like *Leia arsona* of a species that has been introduced with plant material and unless males are also found it may not be possible to confirm its identity and origin. With South American species of the keroplatid genera *Lyprauta* and *Proceroplatus* already established, like *Leia arsona*, in nurseries in the Netherlands it can be expected that such species will also turn up here in due course. The likelihood of such introductions will no doubt increase with the continuing uncontrolled distribution of plants around the world.

Milichiidae Keys

The Milichiidae are a small family of small dark coloured flies of which most members do not regularly come to the notice of dipterists. They do, however, have an interesting range of habits of both adults and larvae, some species having associations with ants or spiders, while a few species are saproxylic. The 1998 checklist included 18 species of the family of which two were there confirmed as British and six others newly introduced as a result of my previous examination of museum and other collections of the family. These changes have not yet been formally introduced elsewhere since the appearance of the checklist.

A manuscript key to the 18 known British species of Milichiidae was prepared some years ago and has been circulated to a number of dipterists over recent years. This key was not illustrated but it is intended to prepare figures and complete the work this year. This updated key can then be circulated for testing when available to anyone who lets me know they would be interested in carrying this out. Any comments from those who have already used the key and any resulting records would also be appreciated. Any specimens for checking would also be welcomed.

Peter Chandler

Peter also tells me that the English translation of the Dutch key to European families of Diptera has now been published (ed)

Northants and Peterborough Dipterists Group

Aimed at people who are interested in recording Diptera in Northants and Peterborough. Ideally you should have some experience with at least one of the groups of Diptera but if you are keen to learn and join in you are most welcome. If the demand is there we can arrange training and identification workshops.

Aims & Scope of the Group:

The following are some ideas about what the group could do:

- A winter workshop where problem specimens are brought along for second opinions
- Some more formal "square-bashing" in the area in order to fill in gaps in the national atlases. Northants is still poorly recorded in many parts.
- Assisting Reserve Wardens/Wildlife Trust Ecology Groups in recording species on reserves.
- Possibly preparing and publishing a county atlas for hoverflies or even some other groups if we get the coverage.
- Support network for helping with identification of specimens.

Initially the group was proposed to support people interested in hoverflies but feedback suggests that we should cover all Diptera families where there is someone in the group with an interest.

Contact: John Showers showersjohn@aol.com 01536 710831

Flies from fungi

... or how to keep people out of your kitchen for months

Being keen on both fungi and flies, it was obvious that it made sense for me to combine the two for the 3 days of the autumn field meeting in October in Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire. Roger Morris had arranged an excellent meeting venue with great sites to visit, but he could not arrange for good fly collecting weather. Rain for some part of every day meant I was very happy to abandon swinging my net in favour of collecting rain drenched fungal caps in plastic bags from each site. It has been a good year for autumn fungi in most areas and soon other members of the group were pitching in to help, bringing me toadstools of all descriptions and in various stages of disintegration from each site we visited.

The aim of course, was to find caps well infested with fly larvae and rear them through to adults at home, so that we could gain further identifications for our site lists. A properly identified food source (i.e. correct name for the fungus) adds greatly to the value of the rearing. To this end I had brought a good selection of my fungal ID books with me. The problem with that is of course, that a cap well maggotted may have lost many of its distinctive features (my mycological friends curse upon cutting a cap to see internal structure or a colour change and noting nothing except happily wriggling Diptera). The other problem with fungi is that you have to identify them quickly – hours of intensive work the same evening is necessary before they lose distinctive colour/smell/taste/texture needed by the keys. Photography helps, but what mycologists usually do is record smell/ taste/texture/size, take several photographs of a specimen, then immediately slice and quickly dry it for later work. The dried portions can be used to study the microscopical details essential in many keys at ones leisure at home. Obviously one cannot dry a specimen that is home to a whole community of fungicolous diptera one is hoping to rear through to adulthood. Many of my identifications were tentative because I just could not do the microscopy on the specimens. Even so I managed the good total of 99 fungi to species with an extra 4 to genus only for the 3 days. There were many (to me) spectacular finds. A few are the golden chanterelles with their peppery taste and wonderful apricot aroma. Jasmine scented *Tricholoma album* and the disgusting, coal gas scented, delicate, white and lilac caps of *Cystolepiota bucknallii*. For colour, the amazing caps of *Boletus pulverulentus* which instantly turned deep inky blue on bruising or cutting. The massed, weird 'burnt sparkler like clubs of *Clavariadelphus fistulosus*.

Luckily the guest house owner was very kindly disposed to us with our microscopes and fly paraphernalia, allowing some people the opportunity to pin collected flies the same evening. He even allowed me to spread out the days fungal haul on newspaper all over the breakfast table for the couple of hours intensive identification needed every evening. That is quite a lenient view, because some fungi virtually liquefy before ones eyes, so some mess can result.

Normally, for rearing flies from fungi, I would immediately put the identified cap on 2cm deep bed of damp coir fibre in a plastic pot then cover with white netting. Sainsburys egg fried rice containers make a suitably deep pot for one cap. Then if the cap disintegrates, the coir would absorb the wetness and also provide a good medium for the larvae to burrow in prior to pupation. Not having a set of my pots primed with coir, I resorted to small zip lock type plastic bags with wads of kitchen roll or tissue in the bottom for each cap to rest on. The bags had to be upright and open at the top to allow oxygen to the larvae. Soon I had a whole rank of such bags lined up on the side in my bedroom. The major problem then was liquefaction of some of the *Suillus* and *Boletus* caps. The tissue was just not as good as coir at absorption. This resulted in the dipteran larvae either drowning in brown goo or making a bid for life by wriggling up and out of the bag! Realising that the centrally heated residence was speeding up the liquefying, I soon decided to place each bag in the cool boot of my car until it was time to depart.

Notice board

At home, I did transfer each bag contents to my 'coir in pots system, with all pots ranged on the side in the kitchen for easy visibility for the daily checking necessary. In the first week or so after return the rotting fungus smell was distinctly noticeable. I did not bother explaining to visitors, except to those good friends who understand! Checking the pots for emerged adult flies made a little interesting break if the days work was long and tedious.

So what emerged? The first wave within 2 weeks of set up was composed of numerous fungus gnats and a few platypezids (*Lindneromyia dorsalis*). Then unfortunately I had to be away for a week. On return I could see a number of rotting corpses of what were probably Heleomyzids. After that came waves of Psychodids, a few Drosophilids and Scatopsids. Finally near Christmas came craneflies of the genus *Ula* and a muscid or two. During the whole couple of months one or two *Lindneromyia dorsalis* kept popping out now and again– certainly interesting that there was no clear emergence wave for this species. I finally decided to clear all the pots away in January and finish the exercise. Mainly in order to get my complete records to Roger. Out of 103 fungus types recorded, I set up about 15 in pots to rear. Of these 15 only 9 were very productive of diptera – resulting in 23 species or genera of flies reared. The best caps were one *Russula ochroleuca* from Cors y Llyn (10 Diptera genera or species emerged) and one cap of *Russula cf sanguinea* from Aberithon Turbary (10 Diptera genera or species emerged). Even 8 species emerged from an unidentified crumbling white bracket fungus on a decaying sycamore stump at Pentrosfa mire. It is planned to publish the full details of the species reared later in Dipterists Digest, as there are new rearing records. Peter Chandler tells me that he had already caught most of the fungus gnats in his sweeping, but that several of the other species were not recorded in his catches. So it will have been a useful exercise and was fun to do.

My thanks to everybody who helped by collecting fungi at each site on the field meeting. Especial thanks to Peter Chandler for all the identifications of reared Diptera. In future, I should obviously come prepared to such an autumn meeting with a large number of egg fried rice containers pre-filled with damp coir in the car. Then the toadstools can go straight onto the correct stuff and not get too soggy in bags! Shades of the work the leaf miner people do – they have to arrive for a collecting and rearing session with a car load of primed boxes. I may have to get a bigger car…

Judy Webb

Atylotus rusticus records

I had a call from Andrew Grayson - he is looking to compile the records of *Atylotus rusticus* that were taken when we were in Sussex. I think that apart from the party that visited Martin Hole's property, there was another party that visited Pevensey levels and a further group that visited Rory's site. Can people let me have details of what was taken and I'll forward them to Andrew (he is not on e-mail and it is too big a job for me to compile a list of names and addresses to send to Andrew.

Roger Morris

The Hope Library

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Situated in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, with its world-renowned collections and breath-taking 19th century, gothic-revival architecture, this unique collection of books, journals and manuscripts is part of the Hope Entomological Collections and as such is one of the largest entomological libraries in the world.

History

In 1849, the Rev. F.W. Hope (1797-1862) bequeathed his vast collections to the University, by deed of gift. The natural history element, known as the **Hope Entomological Collections**, was housed in the 'new museum' for natural history, built between 1855 and 1860. They include insects, crustaceans, arachnids, molluscs: recent and fossil forms, together with the cabinets in which they were housed, as well as books and manuscripts.

His collection of miniatures and engravings, books on history, antiquities and many other subjects are with the Ashmolean Museum and the Bodleian Library.

Holdings

Specializing in taxonomic entomology, with an emphasis on the western Palaearctic, the Library covers all zoogeographic areas and all orders of insects and other arthropods. It holds over 7,500 monographs, 460 journals (of which 110 are current titles) and 66,000 offprints. Among them are many very rare and remarkable items, thanks to the wealth and generosity of the donor, the Rev. F.W. Hope, who also endowed a Hope Chair of Zoology (Entomology) at the University and installed J.O. Westwood as its first incumbent.

The library is not just an historic collection though; it is developing all the time, with acquisition of new key works in print form, as well as expanding access into electronic media.

Special collections

Additionally, the Library holds a major collection of 18th-20th c. entomologists' manuscripts, including those of: F.W. Hope, J.O. Westwood, W.J. Burchell, A.W., F.O. and O. Pickard-Cambridge, J.E. Collin, J. Curtis, J.C. and C.W. Dale, E. Donovan, D. Drury, W. Jones, R. McLachan, R. Meldola, F.D. Morice, R.W.C. Shelford, R. Trimen, G.H. Verrall, J.J. Walker, A.R.Wallace, and many more.

Services

- access to the Oxford Libraries Information System (OLIS): an online union catalogue on which will be found the Hope Library's monograph and journal literature; the Hope Library's vast and historic collection of reprints is indexed on a card catalogue and an *Access* database;
- access to the Oxford Digital Library (ODL): there are two of the Museum's projects in the digital library one of classic works of mainly 19th c. geology and the other similarly for entomology, with an emphasis on Westwood.
- access to certain networked databases via WinSPIRS, including *Zoological record* and *Biological abstracts;* there is also a run of *Zoological record* in print form up to 1988/89;
- access to the University's electronic journal holdings on TD-Net via the University portal OxLIP
- photography
- photocopying
- inter-library loans/photocopies: may be obtained on a cost-recovery basis;
- entomologists working in the Collections can be available to help with queries, though prior appointment is essential. Contact Dr. George McGavin, Assistant Curator of the Hope Entomological Collections (george.mcgavin@oum.ox.ac.uk)

Notice board

Access to the Library

Library hours: 9.30-13.00 and 14.00-17.00 (Monday-Friday). Closed bank holidays and other, variable, times throughout the year

Transport: bus and rail stations are within about 1 mile of the Museum. There is parking at the various park and ride facilities on most major routes into Oxford.

For a **location map** see: http://www.ox.ac.uk/aboutoxford/maps/mainmap.shtml

N.B. **It is not necessary to be a member of Oxford University**: any *bona-fide* researcher needing material at a scholarly level may use this **reference-only** library.

Anyone wishing to consult manuscripts, should contact the Librarian first explaining their interests and the purpose of their visit.

The Curator reserves the right to make a charge for any commercial use of the library.

Further details can be found on our web-pages on the Museum's web-site: http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/library.htm

Details of the Library's monograph holdings may be found in the Oxford Libraries Information System (OLIS) home-page at: http://www.lib.ox.ac.uk/olis where a choice of web or telnet access will be found, or go straight into the web-based version of OPAC at: http://www.library.ox.ac.uk.

Another useful link is: http://www.lib.ox.ac.uk for the Oxford University Library sector home-page, from which there is a link to OxLIP and also to the ODL.

A list of the entomology archives may be obtained from the Librarian.

Contact the Librarian/Archivist:

Ms. Stella Brecknell

The Hope Library, Oxford University Museum of Natural History,

Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW

Tel. 0044(0)1865 272982 Fax. 0044(0)1865 272970 E-mail: stella.brecknell@oum.ox.ac.uk

News on BAP and other species in need of action

Fresh from the press: The list of species that will become BAP is finalised and decided upon.

The number of BAP-Diptera will be 38 species in total, with 21 species retained as BAP and 17 new species. In total 14 species were rejected. I received the news that this list cannot change anymore a week before the deadline for this Bulletin. Hence, I did not have enough time to sift through the results of all groups in detail, so will just give you an overview in this note. In total there will be 479 terrestrial invertebrate BAP species when the Review is finished. However, this might still take some time.

What comes next?

During the next stage the conservation action required for each species will be decided. This will be compiled from the data that we have submitted over the last 22 months as follows:

- the key actions that are required, in priority order;
- the broad category into which each of these actions falls;
- success criteria for each species.

This mammoth task has been taken on by Deborah Procter, JNCC, for the invertebrates. She will compile suggestions for each species and send these out to specialists on each group. We hope to receive these compilations by 5. February and I might then have to contact some of you once again.

It will also be decided whether species can be grouped together or included under a Habitat Action Plan. In the latter case, we as dipterists have to ensure that these species will not subsequently be forgotten.

The Priorities Review Group hopes to finalise this work before the next meeting of the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee on 25th April. In this case the final list including the categories mentioned above might be published before the summer. Otherwise, we will have to wait until winter. After publication the work on each species might have to be fine-tuned further.

'Data Deficient' suggestions for BAP

When compiling the suggestions for the BAP list, we found several species that we could only classify as data deficient. These are species, which were suggested for BAP, but for which the data was not sufficient to assess them against the criteria for the BAP Review. For most of these we could not assess whether they were declining or their habitat was threatened and some may be extinct in the UK. These species are mentioned below and behind them you find their distribution as far as it is known. Should you wish to work on these, please contact me and I will pass on the little information that I have. I might in future then ask you again about your work. Please remember, even negative records are important for these species, but any distributional data should be passed on to the Recording Scheme Organizer if such a scheme exists for the species.

Species
Delia pilifemur (Anthomyiidae)
Villa venusta (Bombyliidae)
Athyroglossa ordinata (Ephydridae)
Hecamedoides unispinosa (Ephydridae)
Platypalpus rapidus (Hybotidae)
Syndyas nigripes (Hybotidae)
Odinia rossi (Odiniidae)
Chamaesyrphus caledonicus

Why were species rejected for BAP?

The first stage at which species were rejected was after we had assessed all information available to us at that time about these species against the criteria that had to be met by a species to be accepted as BAP. This process included consulting UK and European experts on the species. At this stage 77 species were rejected as they did not fulfil the criteria. Species did not meet the criteria for the following reasons and thus were rejected:

- 29 species were not declining or threatened in Europe (using the IUCN criteria used in the currently published Reviews)
- For 13 species a threat in the UK was not demonstrated (using the IUCN criteria used in the currently published Reviews)
- Searching for the species was the only action possible for 10 species as they had not been recorded for at least 25 years
- The taxonomic status was unclear for 2 species
- 3 species were recent additions to the British list and it was felt that we do not have enough data for these to assess their status
- The data for 11 species was not strong enough to make them BAP, e.g. a decline was not demonstrated

Notice board

- 11 species were suggested, but forms were not submitted for these and we did not feel able to supply these
- One species was a former pest species and increasing the population was not a possibility

The second stage at which species were rejected was after we had submitted the forms with suggestions for new BAP species to Buglife. During the next almost two years several committees considered the suggestions for all invertebrates. When taking the broader view and newer data into account they rejected a further 14 species, which are the species I am referring to in the first paragraph of this note.

Links to more information:

For those of you who would like to find out more about existing BAP species / habitats, the 2005 reporting round on their status or what's going on with BAP in general, I recommend you try the following webpages:

www.ukbap.org

www.jncc.gov.uk (and either search for BAP or follow the link on the left 'UK Biodiversity')

www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk

www.nbn.org.uk

Enjoy searching through these, but don't forget the time – actively working on our species in need might help more.

What about species not included in BAP?

We have many species that could not be included in the BAP Review, but are threatened and as such are included in the recently published Species Status Reviews. For some of these the information we have is so vague that even the threat status could not be assessed, hence they are included in these Reviews as 'Data Deficient'. These really need your help. The Reviews usually mention where the gaps in our knowledge are and you might find that some of these species occur in your area. Often it is the habitat we are not sure about, sometimes their ecology and sometimes the early stages. So please don't forget to work on these as well.

Is this only something for real experts?

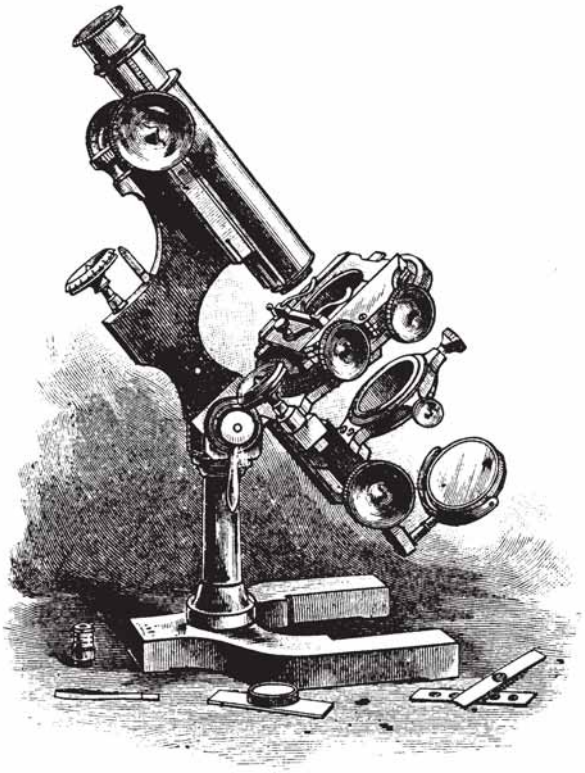
No, everybody with some knowledge of Natural History can help to unravel the mysteries of our species. So, if you feel strongly about conservation and know about a species or a group of species in your area that were included as 'Data deficient' in the BAP Review or the Species Status Reviews (see http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5 for downloads), please get in touch with me. Please also contact me, if you do not know how to identify the species you would like to work on. If I am not able to help you I very likely can point you towards somebody who can.

Please remember: Our species need your help!

Barbara Schulten BAP and Conservation Officer

Review

Microscopy



Photomicrography

Members who attended one of the AGMs at Cardiff a few years ago will recall an intriguing photomicrography suite that the museum had acquired. Consisting of a microscope, a motor that drove the focus in tiny increments, a camera mounted on the microscope and a computer with image-processing software, this was capable of producing some pretty impressive photomicrographs. What it does, effectively, is take a set of photographs, all focussed at slightly different depths on the object and combine these images so as to produce a final picture with an enormous depth of field. The price of the equipment at the time was completely beyond the pocket of the amateur but time moves on and this sort of technique is gradually becoming available to us.

Stuart Ball was the first to give us an inkling that this sort of image manipulation was within our reach when he wrote and made available (free) a piece of software that combined images in this way. Together with the flood of relatively inexpensive digital cameras onto the market and a number of fixings (largely thanks to our ornithological friends who like to affix cameras to telescopes) which would allow the cameras to be attached to our microscopes, the opportunities began to open up for some fine photomicrographs (or should that be microphotographs), some of which we've seen exhibited by the likes of Chris Spilling & Malcolm Smart at various Dipterists Forum venues.

Since then, digital cameras have gradually dropped in price or increased in quality, taking over from film cameras at an enormous pace. So too, the gadgets one can use to affix some sort of digital recording device (including your digital camera) have increased in number and variety whilst developers of image processing software now market their efforts at affordable prices.

So here's an acount of a number of gadgets and tips which the photomicrographically-inclined might wish to investigate further:

Digital image recording:

Camera body microscope tubes

These involve the removal of the lens from your SLR or digital SLR camera and attaching this to a microscope mount on a tube. This is the old-fashioned, "optically correct" way of taking photographs down a microscope as all the optics are determined by the microscope designers. The tube will probably need to contain some optical components, typically they are manufactured by the maker of your microscope and are provided with a T mount appropriate to your camera make. You can get a good idea of this kind of thing from the Meiji microscope site at www.meijitechno.co.uk but all the other major microscope manufacturers such as Olympus & Zeiss do them.

Eyepiece adaptors for cameras

Point a camera at your microscope eyepiece and you can obtain an image. These kind of adaptors, termed "digiscopes" in the ornithological fraternity, can also be attached to telescopes. Eagle Eye Optics at www.eagleeyeuk.com sell these kind of adaptors as does Alana Ecology at www.alanaecology.com

Chris Spilling suggests Brunel microscopes at brunelmicroscopes.co.uk. They actually provide a useful introduction to help with your choice of adaptor.

Microscope digital cameras

Why buy again when you already have a digital camera with better resolution? At a resolution of 3.3 megapixels one may cost you £2,390, a low cost models at 1.3 megapixels around £260. Just bung them on top of your eyepice tube, connect to a USB port and you've got the live image on your computer monitor. These thing come into their own in a teaching environment; combined with a projector they would be great

at our Preston Montford workshops.

Try Motic at www.wedgwood-group.com/microscopes_digital_cameras.htm, www.thesciencefair.com or www.alanaecology.com. Chris Spilling's tips are www.gxoptical.com and Brunel microscopes also have a range. For a good introduction to Digital Imaging Microscopes try www.meijitechno.co.uk/vision-camera-frame-grabbers.htm

Camera digital cameras

ZigView - A small digital screen which affixes to the eyepiece of digital SLRs and can be rotated to any angle. With digital SLRs, like the old film type, you do not have a continuous view on the screen at the back of the camera like you can have with some non-SLR digital cameras. These viewfinders will allow you to get up to the tricks you could with the swivelling viewfinders on non-SLR digital cameras such as holding the camera at arm's length for macro shots in the field or remote-viewing down the microscope when the camera is attached. Details at www.intro2020.co.uk/pages/zigview.htm and sold by Bristol Cameras at www.bristolcameras.co.uk

Image management & manipulation

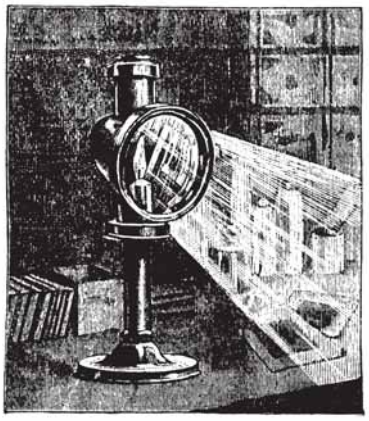
There are so many different applications on the market at the moment that it is difficult to see the wood for the trees. Full reviews of these kinds of things are the stuff that keep PC periodicals circulating month after month. All I really want to do here is pass on a couple of tips given to me by naturalists over the past few weeks, two of which I reacted to by buying immediately.

The first tip came from Craig Slawson (arachnologist) about an application which helps organise digital photographs on one's computer. Until now I'd been relying on my memory of where stuff was and what I'd got and using Paint Shop Pro's browser to view them in batches. More modern stuff arrives with your digital camera and gives you the ability to download pictures from your camera and fiddle about with them a little bit - terribly unimpressive stuff really. Next step up from this are the popular commercial products like Adobe Photoshop Elements 5.0 (30 day trials can be readily obtained), they allow you to categorise all your pictures to some extent but they are really intended for pictures of people, with features such as automatic red-eye correction and face-recognition system built in (which incidentally calculated that a *Doros* head was a human face). Craig's suggestion was **IMatch** (www.photools.com/products.php) which I downloaded as a trial and bought within 2 days, in which time I'd got all my Diptera photographs sorted by Family and was well on the way to labelling them up to species, type, quality etc. and was able then to locate anything I wanted no matter where I'd stored them on my hard disk. It's a bit of a shallow learning curve but once you've pointed it at the folders where you keep your digital photographs, a bit of intuition and a bit of trial and error allows you to build up your own hierarchical category system to find, view and catalogue any way you want. Craig mentioned something similar called IrfanView (www.irfanview.com); I haven't pursued this one.

The second tip was from Graham Finch (lepidopterist) who told me tales of what some of his friends had been up to with photomicrography. The application here is **Helicon Focus** sold by Brunel Microscopes (www.brunelmicroscopes.co.uk/focus.html). This is the application that takes a series of digital images all shot at a different focal plane (e.g. down a microscope - although not confined to that) and combines them into one confocal image. Just like the one that Stuart Ball wrote and gave away but, if he'll forgive me, better.

Illumination

A Candle Lamp for Photographers.



An excellent introduction to the whole subject of illumination for "vision applications" can be found at www.alrad.co.uk/imaging/FAQ-Illumination.htm The article divides the topics into Fibre optics, Light emitting diodes (LEDs), High frequency fluorescent lighting and Halogen lighting and details the advantages and disadvantages of each. Users of fibre optic light sources have a wide range of website sources to explore but a certain amount of interest has been shown at various DF workshops into the idea of using LEDs. The advantages these have to offer are that the price is lower and the light unit requires no expensive or heavy power supply - a great asset on expeditions when weight or space is at a premium. Their disadvantages are that this a hot light source and will heat the object being illuminated if close to it, and they do not have as much flexibility nor can they be focussed as well as a Fibre Optic light system.

The simplest approach for a straightforward microscope illumination is a ready-made LED torch. These normally suffer from the disadvantages that

they do not have much flexibility and this is not helped by the fact that they contain their own power source. One particular design, however, has its own flexible mount and the power source (just a small pack of batteries - that's 3x1.5v = 4.5v, not 3x1.2v rechargeable = 3.6v) is attached by wires: the **Ledco** range (www.ledco.co.uk) includes a range of torches intended for mounting on one's head. Stripping off the extraneous straps and taping the mount onto your microscope produces a very acceptable light source.

Another example of a device adapted in this way can be found at the Microscopy-UK website at www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artjun06/ae-coldlight.html where Andrew Entwistle shows how to adapt a USB flexible LED light. The USB ports on your computer have a 5 volt supply and you can obtain all sorts of silly gadgets like cup-warmers and fans; the LED lights are intended for use with laptops. Manufacturers include Zipling, Hama and Belkin (who have a range of gadgets with the potential for adapting; their clip-on retractable USB lamp has a clip which allows you to attach the lamp to "any suitable device edge".)

Andrew's methodology gives some idea of the processes involved in adapting these gadgets to a separate power supply and even to upgrading the LEDs to ones with a higher light output.

If you want to start from first principles and buy the raw LEDs themselves then you need a shopping expedition which includes both Maplins and B & Q. At Maplins (www.maplin.co.uk) you will require 5mm White LEDs N29AT, the little black collars which go round them, one 47ohm resistor for each LED, and a 5volt power supply (either a transformer which gives 4.5volts or a battery holder and 4 AA rechargeable batteries - which are 1.2v each so plain AAs won't do as they are 1.5v); I'll assume that you've already got wires, solder, soldering iron and anything else like tiny connectors, boxes and switches to make your project look more or less sophisticated. Take those black collars to B & Q and find the rack of metal and plastic sections, the collar will fit inside an aluminium tube 10mm diameter and this tube will fit inside another one of 12mm diameter (if you file the burred edges). Stating the obvious that as diodes they will only work one way round with respect to your power supply is my last tip; I take no responsibility for burned fingers, frustration with the need for five hands and escalating costs of power supplies and accessories as you enter into the dark mysteries of amateur electronics. Good luck.

Northamptonshire Natural History Society: Microscopy Section

Their Annual Exhibition of Microscopy is a hugely enjoyable event for anyone with an interest in microscopy. The Society have their own rooms, an excellent venue for events like this. Given the dedication of many Dipterists Forum members to their equipment, this is something not to be missed, to spend all day discussing photomicrography and lighting, perhaps recruiting a new member or buying new or second hand bits and pieces. They are a very friendly group of enthusiasts and would welcome someone taking a Diptera microscopy exhibit - which Judy Webb tells me is exactly what she is going to do, so assistance with stunning photos and specimens to Judy, please.

Held on June 24 2007 at The Humfrey Rooms, 10 Castilian Terrace, Northampton. NN1 1LD, 10:00am to 4:00pm, doors open at 9:00am.

Contact Mike Gibson email stmarysmrg@yahoo.com, website http://www.nnhs.info/index.htm

Darwyn Sumner

Review

NBN Gateway matters

There has been a very gradual increase in the number of Dipterists Forum members applying for better access to records on the NBN Gateway (www.searchnbn.com). The degree of usage from outside our organisation, though, is immense. Dipterists Forum as a group has a higher level of access to the records there than do individual members of the public. This means that if you **join the Dipterists Forum group** - which currently has 14 members - you will automatically have the level of access you desire (like the ability to download records). **Please do it this way**; when the number of datasets that the Dipterists Forum manages on the site increases to a couple of dozen and a couple of dozen individual members begin to apply for access to individual datasets, I'll be faced with 24x24 tasks instead of just 24. At the moment anyone applying for access to individual dataset access I'm simply adding to the Dipterists Forum group but that doesn't stop the regular automatic nags from the Gateway team which want to know why I've left it so long to grant an individual's access to a dataset.

I gave Stuart Ball full administration rights to this group as well, I rather hope that that means he can grant the rights for all his Field Week datasets (which he and Roger Morris are working on) to the group.

Membership Matters

The Numbers of Members & Subscribers on the 31st December 2006 is as follows :

Dipterists Forum Members	293 as on 31st December 2006
Dipterists Digest Subscribers	281 as on 31st December 2006

There are some 18 Individuals who were Members of the Dipterists Forum and or Subscribers to the Dipterists Digest during 2005 but having failed to renew during 2006, have subsequently been removed.

Dipterists Forum Members	14 as on 31st December 2006
Dipterists Digest Subscribers	17 as on 31st December 2006

During 2006 some 17 Individuals joined the Dipterists Forum, 15 are Dipterists Forum Members and 16 are Dipterists Digest Subscribers

There are another 8 new individuals, all of whom are both Dipterists Forum Members and Dipterists Digest Subscribers and whose membership started on the 1st Jan 2007

And Finally does anyone know the present address of :

DR C.M. HARTFIELD (Formally of) The HORTICULTURAL RES. INST. WELLESBOURNE WARWICK CV35 9EF

and the present address of :

MR R. HUTCHINSON, (Formally of) 49, GENEVA GARDENS, CHADWELL HEATH, ROMFORD, ESSEX. RM6 6SL

Thanks in advance. All the best,

Mick Parker, Membership Secretary.

Meetings

Reports

A Dipterists Ramblings 2006

Spring at last! : Well, sort of!, after trying to appear during March and April it finally made an appearance during late May, for two weeks only!, the shortest spring period that I have yet known!, there was nothing wrong with the temperatures!, just the lack of sun, With high winds, cloud and rain, dominating most of my free time, and this in turn reduced the numbers of spring species that I did eventually encounter, Its seems to me that springs are not what they once were and its not simply just early Springs, because, I think, that we all agree that spring is much earlier, but also that the quality of Spring appears to be in decline, with numbers of spring species, well down! and now every Spring seems to be worse then the last!, I appreciate that species like the Beefly : *Bombylius major* are now on the wing in early March, when the sun allows! But if you go back ten years or so, their appearance tended to start from late March and they would be in good numbers! This no longer appears to be the case, although still reasonably common on some sites, they are almost absent from others!

This Spring, I only encountered *B major* on half of the sites that I visited, usually it would be one of the first species on my list, but now, I leave some sites wondering how on earth I haven't seen it! Even in good sites with an abundance of wood spurge flowers, which would normally be crowded with Hoverflies and other species, are increasingly barren. I remember one Spring day in Oakers Wood in Dorset, recording over 40 species of Hoverflies, now I struggle to get twenty, I always look forward to the spring, but I miss the real ones, will we ever see them again? Perhaps 2007 will be better? Somehow I doubt it!.

An account of some of the new species that I caught in 2006.

I had one of my better days on the 16th July 2006, in the Cranbourne Chase area of Dorset, With three species that I had never captured before, the first two arrived in the same sweep of the net! (Which is how it should be!) I targeted a south facing area of mixed "creepers" mostly "old mans beard" some ivy and with wild roses on one side, I would not normally sweep near rose bushes, but, it looked too good a site to ignore, a cautious series of sweeps followed and "Halleluiah"! I had caught two species that were obviously new to me and they promptly turned out to be : the Tephritidae: *Rhagoletis alternata* and the Tachinidae: *Lophosia fasciata*. But, by far the best, was the hoverfly *Callicera aurata*..this Magnifacent beast had eluded me for years (No! not this particular individual! Just the species!!!) anyway so there I was, wandering innocently and recording diligently! Moving onwards through the woods, I arrived at an area where I recently encountered one small pale specimen of the Picture -Wing fly *Otites guttatus* (Ulidae) quite a rare species in Dorset, "I must get to grips with Otites"! I thought!

Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw what I initially thought was a large specimen of *Ferdinandea cuprea* on account of the brassy sheen of its abdomen, I could not see much of this hoverfly as it was moving in and out of sight in bramble growth, But, eventually it came fully into view and was clearly *C aurata*, and this was the first time that I had seen it alive! I was naturally quite excited as I am from time to time in woodland! Time stood still and the following five minutes took three hours!!

Those following three hours are detailed here :

The C aurata was hovering among the bramble flowers, frequently dipping below the "canopy " of Bramble growth and reappearing on a flower lower then the surrounding flowers! Making a sweep of the net very awkward!, I will just wait! I thought!, whilst I spoke to it in soothing terms gently encouraging it to martyr itself! "Come on"! "Come here"! "This way! Yoo-hoo! I am over here!! Come to Micky!", but it continued to ignore me! I had to keep stock still, staring at it, not daring to even wink, in case it vanished out of sight!

Eventually it alighted higher up on the bramble, at this point my eyes were popping out of my head!, it was now only 2 feet away! And well within netting range, I just needed to avoid the Bramble thorns and would be mine!...all mine!!

One sweep was all it took, and god! Did I celebrate! Handstands were followed by cartwheels and all manner of celebrations! By the time that I had composed myself I was a hundred yards from my net!!

Anyway, when it was safely in a container, I had a detailed look at it, and it was an absolutely superb specimen! I was well pleased!!

On the way home I was overwhelmed by the need to tell everyone!

And this, I attempted to do! It,s true that I caused Gridlock on the Blandford bypass

With Police responding to reports of someone "flashing their Flies"and uttering "Otites"! I want Otites"! …….It's a shame that I missed the rest of the Season!!

Meetings

Redbridge rumpus!

Last year, (2005) I ventured near to a site (SY 800 884) in Dorset, that I had never recorded on before, it is near a place called Redbridge, and has a bridle path running right through the middle of it, this affords ample opportunities to record on both sides of the track. My first species of note was the RDB 2 Beefly *Bombylius minor*, which was a good record, as the area was further west than the other mainland colonies, As it was now late August, knowing that most of the recording season had gone, I made plans to return the following year.

I approached the Gamekeeper, to formally ask for permission to record on this site, he was a bit unhelpful, initially accusing me of being a lumberjack! He explained that there were areas designated SSSIs and SNCI all around him. He gave several reasons for refusal, including the presence of pheasants – which were not noted, but he eventually relented, and I had a good look at the site, which was good!

I spent a couple of hours on the area that he suggested, and with the conditions being windy, I moved behind some gorse, sat down and ate some lunch. I then became aware that I was being watched. I gave no indication that I knew this and just carried on with my meal, I assumed that it was my friend the gamekeeper; certainly, someone was watching me from the high ground from the south. I finished my meal and got to my feet and carried on recording.

Within a minute a landrover rumbled towards me, It was the gamekeeper suggesting "I think you should get yourself back on that track."

I continued to record for another twenty minutes or so, whilst walking the long way off the site.

So, here is a list of the Notable & Rare species recorded :

The Notable Hoverfly : *Pipiza lugubris*.

The Robberfly : *Choerades marginatus*.

The Beeflys : *Bombylius minor* and *Thyridanthrax fenestratus*.

The Picture wing flies : *Campiglossa producta* and *Trupanea amoena* (Tephritidae)

The Conopid Flies : *Zodion cinereum* and *Myopa fasciata*.

The Cuckoo-wasp : *Hedychrum niemelai* (Hymenoptera : Chrysididae)

I also caught an odd looking Conehead (Cricket) which I did not recognise, it turned out to be a Large Conehead *Ruspolia nitidula* (Tettigoniidae) a recent addition to the British list, The information that I have at present suggest that this is the 3rd British record. I also saw Sand Lizards, Grizzled Skipper, Silver-Studded Blue, plus, I also took a migrant Vestal moth, this completes my rarities list, But I am quite sure that there is more.

On another day, close to an area of open access, (which incidentally is surrounded by restricted land there is no legal way of reaching this open access site) I was surprised to see large numbers of mallard ducks within a pond which was ring fenced and then completely covered in netting, imprisoning all within. I assume that they had been reared there and were destined for food, there must have been several hundred, all within a small area. I have never seen anything like it before.

This site needs intensive study, I can direct anyone to local accommodation if required.

Mick Parker.

The Spring Meetings

The following meetings were all held, with considerable success and much praise is the due of all the organisers and contributors of the events.

From an Editorial point of view, I have always had a great deal of difficulty in doing justice to their efforts by ensuring that some sort of write-up is made of each of them. By the time the organisers have done their bit (or should I say lot!), I imagine the sigh of relief and haven't the heart to chase them for an account. Similarly the contributors; it seems unfair to press any one of them for an account of their workshops after a full weekend poring over hot microscopes. So too, the other officers are pressed with many other jobs which they perform. Thus it is that reports on our meetings are something of a hit and miss affair. This issue has been brought to the attention of the committee and possibly some form of solution may arise. In the meantime could I thank all those whose hard work has gone into making the unreported events in this section such a great success.

Darwyn Sumner

Dolichopodids & Empids Workshop 17-19 March 2006 Preston Montford

Adrian Plant & Roy Crossley, organised by David Heaver

Spring Field meeting Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 May 2006 - Herefordshire

Roger Morris

Field Meeting Saturday 10th June 2006 - Burnham Beeches

Martin Albertini, John Ismay and Barbara Schulten

Field Trip - France

June 10 – 17th 2006

The Dipterists' Forum Field Meeting in France, 10-17 June 2006.

I had previously made contact with Phil Withers to do some ID work with his Malaise Trap samples from a local Nature Reserve. Among the samples I had identified the Limoniid cranefly *Achyrolimonia neonebulosa*, which was confirmed as being a first for France. Phil suggested to the Dipterists Forum Committee that we run a field meeting there, and that was how this initial link began.

We arrived at our destination on Saturday 10 June in two ways. Mick and I had flown from Stansted Airport, via Easyjet, to Lyon airport, hired a car and driven the 20-30km northwards to Phil Withers house. There we met with Darwyn and Joyce who had driven down from the ferry in a leisurely two-day journey. Since part of our gite was, for that night only, occupied, Mick and I spent that night at Phil's, while Darwyn and Joyce occupied the vacant flat at the gite. Fortunately, there was enough room in Phil's car for the whole team, and we had the first of many pleasant evenings in the best way possible in France, enjoying an evening meal and a glass of wine together, in the open air on the terrace of a local restaurant.

The next day we went to visit the local Nature Reserve at the Fondation Pierre Vérots. The region itself is called 'Les Dombes' (La Dombes, and la Dombe are both equally correct since the name is very old.) It is a region of lakes, as a glance at the map will show you, and these are largely due to human activity. Construction of lakes began in the early thirteenth century by Cistercian Monks, in order to breed fish. This was not all. A three-year water-meadow cycle, an unusual rotation of crops, was carried out; two years of fish farming was followed by drainage of the lake and one year of crop growth. This utilised the minerals released from the excretory matter of the fish, and the decomposing humus on the lake bed. Even today, after a 50% decline, there are about 1,000 lakes spread over an area of 12,000 hectares.

The nature reserve of the Fondation , created by Pierre Vérots, contains a number of lakes on the south-western edge of Les Dombes. Their management differs in that the old water-meadow rotation is now no longer used, and the lakes and their surroundings, remain as permanent freshwater habitats. This means that they can be exploited by all aquatic and marsh organisms; amphibians, birds, plants, dragonflies, and of course, by Diptera. So not only could we enjoy the flies but visits were attended by egrets, purple herons and black kites, and lots of *Libellula depressa* (vermin to all Dipterists!). The water fern *Marsilea* was also present.

Monday 12 June was also spent exploring the biotopes of the reserve. The Lake margin of Ètang Riquet yielded *Nigrotipuls nigra*, and *Erioptera squalida*, another first for the French list. Dead wood habitats abound and

Meetings

Dictenidia bimaculata and *Ctenophora pectinicornis* were also found. It must be said at the out-set that much of the cranefly fauna is very familiar to me and most of the British wet grassland, marsh, woodland, wet woodland and carr communities are similar.

On Tuesday 13 June we headed about 50km north-eastward towards Bourg en Bresse. Here was a fine old forest – Forêt de la Réna. Dead wood species included the beautiful *Ctenophora festiva*.

On the 14th we went our separate ways. I back to the Fondation Reserve to explore further, and Mick and Darwyn off to a local river bank. At the Fondation I found some excellent Alder Carr which yielded *Rhipidia uniseriata*, and *Prionolabis hospes*, the latter not yet found in Britain.

The 15th found us further East on the edge of the Alps. Les Sagnes is an *Equisetum*/ *Phragmites* marsh at an altitude of 1025m, and then, after lunch, we went on to a spectacular glacial cirque, the Cirque de Saint Même, complete with water fall and alpine stream. This was in the Réserve Naturelle Haut de Chartreuse.

We spent our last day about 100km to the east of Lyon at the Réserve Naturelle du Marais de Lavour. The area was hollowed by glaciers at the end of the last ice age. Sediment was deposited by the rivers Rhône and Séran and the lake gradually filled and made peat. The area was previously farmed with sheep and horses, but agriculture was always difficult. Farming has gradually disappeared since the 19th century and woodland has become established. In the 1960s, using modern methods, cereal cultivation was started and in 1984 the reserve was created to protect these habitats from destruction by the expanding cereal agri-business.

We had no rain all week and the weather was hot and sunny, which added to the enjoyment.

Our thanks go to Phil Withers for organising our accommodation and our programme of visits, and to Benoît Castanier, manager of the Fondation Vérots Nature Reserve. Thanks also go to our hosts at the Gite, Raquel and Jean-Pierre Jacquemet, for their friendly hospitality, and the most delicious marmalade ever tasted, and also to Joyce for all the sustaining butties!

John Kramer

Summer Field Meeting, 24th June - 1st July 2006 - Sussex

Cold Plumpton Farm

The sukebind was in the bud when we ventured to Cold Plumpton Farm; how ennervating was the warm wind of the late spring. The Quivering Brethren directed us through unlit corridors to rooms where the sins burning in our marrows kept us warm, though not lit. Elfine slipped across the rooftops in the early morning, impelled by a jammed shower room door. Day slipped into day, fly slipped into tube and beer slipped into throat at "The Condemned Man" in Howling. You can't have a farm college without sheds; in the well-appointed labs our daily discoveries were the prizes against which our thoughts drummed themselves like drowsy yaks. The something nasty in the woodshed, where the bicycles were kept, was your author smoking his pipe:

Seth Starkadder

Autumn Field Meeting, 18th - 22nd October 2006 - Radnorshire

Roger Morris

Annual Meeting 2006 - Oxford

Hope Department, Oxford

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

The annual AGM and Dipterists' Weekend took place at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History from 24-26 November 2006

Friday, 24th November 2006

About a dozen members assembled at 2.00pm on Friday afternoon, 24th November for a private viewing of the Hope Entomological Library (*see item in this Bulletin*). There was a brief introductory talk by the librarian, Stella Brecknell and then a guided tour of an exhibition of some of the treasured volumes. We then had access to the library where we were able to view and photocopy books and papers.

Saturday, 25th November 2006

Saturday was the day of the Annual General Meeting. The Museum opened at 10.00am and about 50 members attended in the august atmosphere of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Here is to be found the lecture theatre where the famous T.H. Huxley - Bishop Wilberforce debate on Darwin's Theory of Evolution took place in 1860.

The programme of talks began in the large lecture theatre at 10.30am with a welcome and introduction from **Darren Mann, the Hope Entomological Collections Manager and Curatorial Officer**. Darren said that the Hope Collections were accessible from 9.00am to 5.00pm, five days a week, and access is possible at weekends, by appointment. They contain collections of an estimated 6 million specimens of Diptera and other orders of Insects. The collections also contain some famous specimens, such as the Bath White of 1702, and Livingstone's Tsetse fly and over 20.000 specimens of type material. There is a Reference Collection of some 60 drawers, and a General Collection, comprising some 420 drawers. Diptera collections include the Verrall-Collin British and Palaearctic collections, including the types of Kowartz and Bigot, and that of the Dales, father and son, which includes the types of Walker, and Curtis. There are on-line catalogues of the types in the Verrall-Collin British collection, and in the Bigot Exotic collection.

Keith Harris then gave us an interesting illustrated talk on the **British Gall Midges, Cecidomyiidae**. There are about 650 species, comprising about 10% of the British dipterous fauna. Photographs were shown of the galls, the adults, and of the larvae, with their characteristic 'sternal spatula', useful in identification. The taxonomy and some examples of life cycles were described. Keith then gave some tips on collecting and mounting and discussed the literature currently available, including the AidGap Key which covers 430 species. Study of this group by professionals is currently at a low ebb, apart from in Japan, so there is plenty of scope for amateurs to contribute and the Plant Gall Society are building a database. Much of the ecology of gall midges remains to be learnt and Keith said that he would be pleased to help anyone taking up the study of this group.

After coffee, our speaker was **Jane Smith** who talked about her applied research into the **cultivation of mushrooms at the Horticultural Research Institute, Warwick**. A number of different flies are involved, and since chemical control is not possible annual losses to the industry due to pests can amount to about £7million. These pests include the cecidomyiid *Heteropeza pygmaea and Mycophila speyeri*, which produces larvae paedogenetically, when the eggs hatch inside the abdomens of female larvae. Also present in the growing sheds are the sciarid flies *Bradysia difformis*, *Lycoriella ingenua*, and *L. castanescens*, which feed on and damage the compost. Some phorids may also spread diseases to the mushrooms. A number of biological control measures have been tried, in order to reduce the losses, and these include nematode larval predators and species-specific bacteria.

Colin Plant then gave **an introduction to leaf miners**, showing pictures of the mines caused by larvae of Agromyzid and Anthomyiid flies. About 80% of leaf mining flies can be identified from their mines to species level, with another 5% similarly identified to the level of genus. However, there are still a large number of mines which cannot be attached to a species, and adult flies with unknown mines. Some problems with rearing were discussed and Collin said that help with identification was available from Robert Edmunds at www.leafmines.co.uk

Everyone then broke for lunch and went for a chat with friends. Ian Johnson of Pemberley Books was also present with a lot of tempting offers! (www.pemberleybooks.com)

We re-assembled at 2.30pm when **Graham Rotheray**, of the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, gave us a talk entitled '**Losing your Head**.' this, he explained, was derived from his daughter's description of his obsession with larval head capsules!!! However Graham produced a fascinating and well illustrated talk about the

Meetings

microscopic structure, function and phylogenies of larval head capsules from brachyceran and cyclorrhaphan larvae, showing how they could be derived one from the other, and evolutionary lines could be established. Hopefully the paper will be published soon so that those who missed it can also enjoy it, and those present can enjoy it again.

After a short break, the Annual General Meeting followed.

After the meeting, with only a little time available to us before the Museum closed for the day, Darren Mann kindly conducted a group of us day-visitors on a lightning tour of the collections, the high point of which was a visit to the Huxley Room. (ed)

In the evening the festivities were continued at 7.00pm at the Xian Chinese Restaurant where good company and good food were enjoyed in plenty!!

Sunday, 26th November 2006

Sunday morning found us once more at the Museum where we had access to the Hope Entomological Collections. We occupied ourselves according to our differing interests and I started with the Craneflies in the Reference Collection. I then had a brief look at specimens in the Dale Collection, and also the J.C.Dale Catalogue. The specimens span the period from about 1840 to about 1905 so data from these collections could be interesting. I was pleased to see that the specimens in the Dale were carded and therefore well protected against damage. Craneflies are otherwise very fragile, especially if the pins get stuck in cork when left for a long time.

So a very enjoyable and interesting weekend was had by all the participants. Thanks again are due to all of the people who made it possible.

John Kramer

Forthcoming

Verrall lecture

March 7

Probably the last one at RES Queens Gate, John Badmin sends the following abstract for a lecture preceeding the supper:

Michael Akam

Laboratory for Development and Evolution

University Museum of Zoology, Department of Zoology

Cambridge

Over the last twenty years, we have begun to understand how the diversity of animal forms arises from underlying differences in the genes that control their development. Studies of insects have played a leading role in this work, taking as their starting point the sophisticated genetic and genomic analysis of *Drosophila*.

While some aspects of development are ancient and extraordinarily well conserved, it is becoming increasingly clear that in other respects, not all insects work like *Drosophila*. Even the early steps of embryonic patterning in beetles and wasps differ fundamentally from the cyclorraphan flies, and one of the "master control genes" of *Drosophila* appears to be an innovation of the flies themselves.

I will illustrate how the process of development itself has been evolving, focussing on one ancient family of developmental control genes, the Hox genes, and on the changes that have occurred within this gene family during insect evolution.

Spring Workshop 2007

Preston Montford

March 16 to 18 2007

Sciomyzidae - Alan Stubbs & Darwyn Sumner

Scathophagidae - Stuart Ball

This year's offerings are split between two groups:

Sciomyzidae, those nice snail-killing flies that you always find a few specimens of in any net sweep around a pond or marsh. They are an ideal group to launch into if you have been doing hoverflies or members of the larger brachycera.

Scathophagidae, of which Stuart says: "*I am working on an update to the Scathophagid key for the Spring Workshop. Roger and I had several trips into Scotland this year and I managed to get material of several of the rarer species I was lacking - the only one we went for and did not manage to find was Gonatherus planiceps. I got quite a bit of fresh material this year so I can produce decent photos of characters - both for the key and for illustrating talks.*"

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 attendence. I aim to close the booking list this year at the end of February.

There has been a slight price increase for this event, with shared rooms now going at £105 and the single occupancy ones now at £130. Given that in 1998 we were paying £75 for a shared and £90 for a single room, the rises do not seem that bad. From the last workshop it became clear that I take the joining details for granted. So, aim to arrive at PM before 6.00 (but after 4) on the Friday, as dinner is at 6.30. If you are going to be late you can phone PM to let them know. Things tend to finish around 3.30 on the Sunday, though there is no formal end as such.

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 dheaver@toucansurf.com with Dipterist Forum in the title. I will then add you to the attendence spreadsheet which I use to send to PM.

As ever, if you have never been to a workshop, please do come. We continue to have a few new people at each workshop which is always 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/, with best wishes.

David Heaver

Meetings

Spring Field Meetings

Norfolk Pingos

19-20 May 2007

This is an opportunity to visit some of the classic Norfolk sites. We will be based at guest houses in Castle Acre. Accommodation in local guest houses – price around £30-£35 per night we think. Please me know by the end of March 2007.

Langley Park Country Park

26 May 2007

joint meeting Buckinghamshire Invertebrate Group and Dipterists Forum

organisers: daytime, John Ismay & Barbara Schulten, evening: Martin Albertini

Langley Park Country Park is managed by Buckinghamshire County Council. The grid reference is TQ 009 817. This historic parkland of 130 acres, a former deer park, now contains many veteran trees, mainly oaks, but also beeches, hornbeam and chestnuts. You can also find small areas of acid grassland and heathland and sphagnum bog. Langley Park supports a rich fauna of saproxylic beetles. Many are rare species. It is located close to Burnham Beeches and Windsor Forest.

For the day meeting we meet north of Langley Park at the offices in Black Park (TQ 006 829) before driving in as few cars as possible into Langley Park. 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 will be available at Black Park. After the day meeting there will be a possibility to use the office building for tea. There are pubs nearby for an evening meal, before the evening session, including moth trapping, commences at 20.30, meeting as for daytime session.

For further information on Langley Park log on to: http://www.friendsoflangleypark.co.uk/index.htm

Please confirm details nearer the time with one of us, our contact details are: John + Barbara: 01844-201433 or on the day 07985 943535 or Martin Albertini: 01628 633749 or on the day 07729 368933. Should you have any queries regarding Langley Park you can also contact Andy McVeigh, Buckinghamshire County Council, tel: 01296 – 382392 or on the day 07885 622176.

We would be glad to see many of you there.

Martin Albertini, John Ismay and Barbara Schulten

German Dipterists Meeting

The following is a summarised translation of an invitation to the annual meeting of the Arbeitskreis Diptera (= AK Diptera), an informal association of German dipterists. This meeting 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 during the last two years and very likely will have to miss this year as well. However, Jane Smith, who gave the excellent talk about cultivation of fungi and associated flies during our last AGM, has already booked her place. In 2004 some of the talks were in German, some in English and many of the German dipterists had good English. The original German text with much more detail can be found at http://www.ak-diptera.de/einladung/einladung2007.php. More information about this group can be found in last years Bulletin (61).

Invitation

to the 23rd meeting of the Arbeitskreis Diptera from 15th to 17th June 2007 in Knüllwald (Hesse, Germany) [40km south of Kassel]

The next meeting of the AK Diptera will be in Knüllwald (Hesse, Germany) from 15th to 17th June 2007. The local organisers are Hans-Joachim Flügel (Lebendiges Bienenmuseum [=Living Bee Museum] Knüllwald) und Rolf Angersbach (LAG [=country work group] Entomologie, NABU Hessen [Nature Protection Society Hesse]). The talk session will be in the conference room of the YMCA-House 'Hof Largesberg' on 15.06.2007. The participants will stay in the same house (see picture on webpage) [in bunk beds] or for participants who would prefer single or double rooms in holiday apartments close by. Interesting possibilities for field trips on 16.06.2007 can be found in the

Beisetal [=Beise Valley] which is close to the house. This area includes old broadleaved forest, wet meadows, areas with springs, hedges, and a natural creek as well as the Halberg [local mountain or hill] with calcareous grasslands in various stages of succession including broadleaved forest.

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

Should you be interested in giving a talk, please contact Dr Frank Menzel (menzel@zalf.de) until 10th March 2007 or book a place until 1st April. You can find more information on the above mentioned webpage (in German). The technicalities are very similar to last year and you can find them in Bulletin No. 61. The price per day in bunk bed accommodation is Euro 30.00 if you bring your own bedding or add Euro 5.50 if you need to borrow this.

Should you wish to participate and have problems with the German either email Dr. Frank Menzel directly or get in touch with us,

John Ismay & Barbara Schulten

Summer Field Meeting 2007

Aberystwyth

14 to 20 July 2007

A fantastic opportunity to visit some of the classic welsh peatlands and dunes. We will be based in the Halls of Residence of Aberystwyth University. Early booking is recommended as this is likely to be a popular venue and we may need to organise additional rooms. Overall costs are expected to run to around £30.00 per day depending upon numbers. A deposit of £35.00 is required (payable to Roger Morris).

Roger Morris

Autumn Field Meeting 2007

Charnwood Forest

17-21 October

We will be based in guest houses in Loughborough. This meeting is geared to those who don't want to hang their nets up too early and may appeal to those interested in leafminers. An indication of interest is sought so that accommodation can be organised.

Meetings

Annual Meeting 2007

Hunterian Museum (Zoology)
Glasgow University

Weekend of 24 November, 2007

Friday, 23 November

The museum is open to the public until 5.00pm and will remain available thereafter for those attending the Dipterists' Forum meeting.

Anyone wishing to examine the collections and have the facilities to study them (microscopes, etc) should make contact in advance.

Saturday, 24 November

The full selection of talks has not been finalised but will include local contributions from Iain McGowan (Lonchaeidae) and David Horsfield (Saproxylic Calyptrata). The Entomology Curator will introduce the session with a brief description of the museum, its history and contents. Other contributions are invited.

Annual General Meeting

Members' exhibits

Displays can be laid out in the museum where there is plenty of space; the building is not open to the public on a Saturday.

Much, much more than the usual Dipterists Forum exhibits at this venue, please! See the note in the editorial, we have a decent amount of space, display boards for your photographs and John Kramer is currently negotiating with Scheme Organisers and the museum to see what we can do about identification workshops.

Dipterists' Supper

It will be possible to organise a buffet-style meal with drinks on Saturday evening for a reasonable fixed price. This will be within the museum premises. Nearer the time details of the cost will be made known to those intending to come to the meeting and asked to indicate their wish to be included in this.

Sunday, 25 November.

Studying the collections can continue, if required

Details of the museum and its collections, location, etc., can be supplied in advance by contacting:

Geoff Hancock, Curator of Entomology,
Hunterian Museum (Zoology), Graham Kerr Building,
University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ.
***Tel*: 0141 330 2194 *Fax*: 0141 330 5971 *email*: ghancock@museum.gla.ac.uk**

Summer Field Meeting 2008

Glenmore Lodge, Cairngorm

NH989094

28 June to 5 July 2008

This is a major opportunity to visit the classic Scottish sites. Accommodation in single and twin rooms but with shared bathrooms etc. Current prices in the order of £32.00 for shared rooms and £42.00 for single rooms, subject to inflation. Early booking required as a deposit is required by spring 2007 (I have already put down a limited deposit to make this booking). 30 places have been reserved with the intention of opening the meeting to a wider membership of the BENHS to ensure full utilisation of accommodation. A deposit of £35.00 (payable to Roger Morris) is sought – first-come first-served.

Bookings and further information:

Roger Morris, **7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 1QE. roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com**

Fly leaf

And now ...

.....CLIMATE MODELLING

It is said that if a butterfly flaps its wings in Amazonia, that could cause a storm somewhere else, perhaps Scunthorpe. Could it be that our dry winter was a result of a lack of butterflies in Amazonia?

So have the number-crunching computers factored in flapping butterflies? I'll bet not. Until recently the boffins had not even allowed for the fact that ocean water would expand as it warmed up, so all estimates of rising sea level had to be revised.

What has this to do with flies? Well, for a start there are far more flies than butterflies, and they whirr their wings faster. I'm sure someone should factor that into computer modelling. Who knows, a house fly circling a lamp shade in Scunthorpe could result in Amazonia turning to desert even more rapidly than currently predicted. I am not sure whether there are any house flies in Scunthorpe, an area omitted from our field meetings, but that should be no impediment to modelling.

But let's turn to facts. The increase in global temperatures was gentle until about the early 1970's. Ah, now, in 1973 the Cranefly Recording Scheme was launched upon the World, and in 1976 we began the Hoverfly Recording Scheme and the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme - 1976 was a record heat wave. Whereas previously there were few dipterists, now DF membership is approaching 300 in the very period when global warming has been rising ever more steeply. Co-incidence or key factor?

What's so special about dipterists? We use white nets, and many of us adopt sweeping. Hence, the increase in British dipterists flapping white nets correlates precisely with the faster melting of polar ice. Boffins sitting in front of computers in their ivory towers have missed this crucial ingredient of the necessary equations - if a butterfly can cause world perturbations of climate, think what nets with a 16 inch 'wing-span' can do.

OK folks, do we keep quite about this or take our global responsibilities on the chin? This clearly requires serious modelling. Is adjusting our rate of swing of a sweep net amenable to modulating world climate. If butterflies are fast heading for an extinction crisis in the Amazonia, how many dipterists do we need in Britain to hold the climatic status quo?

The White House will be over-joyed that at last there is a rational explanation for changing global climate. Perhaps I should have my bag packed awaiting the call from Capitol Hill - senators are bound to present a Congressional Medal for getting their nation off the hook. They may even offer me the directorship of a leading US climatic modelling outfit, at which point the truth will emerge that I have not the foggiest clue about computers or programming.

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.

The Bulletin is the Dipterists Forum's means of reporting on all of our activities to the membership.

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.

Cranefly Recording Scheme Newsletter 14

Spring 2007

Dipterist’s Forum Field Meeting in France. 10-17 June 2006

Our host for this visit was Phil Withers who is a resident in the area, and we stayed in an excellent Chambre D’hôte in a village called Sainte Euphémie, about 25km north of Lyon. The weather was very warm and dry and we often spent time in the cool of the evenings sitting on the patio of our flat, before and after a trip to one of the excellent local restaurants. When the patio light came on it attracted a few craneflies, one species of which was *Tipula (Mediotipula) siebkei* Zetterstedt. This is a species which has been found only rarely in the UK. Of course little can be learnt of the ecology of species which are caught at lights, but at least I now know it is there.

One of the attractions was the Fondation Vérots Nature Reserve, located a few kilometres to the east. [N45º 56.616 E04º 55.020] and I spent a few days exploring that site. The whole region, La Dombes, developed an interesting rotation of crops, with fish farming alternating with wheat growing when the lakes were drained. There are three now permanent lakes in the reserve, with well vegetated margins, also dykes, alder carr and woodland; a good mix of biotopes in which Craneflies thrive. Phil Withers has run a Malaise trap in the reserve for a few years now, and it has produced some interesting species. These have included *Tanyptera atrata, Nephrotoma cornicina, N.flavipalpis, Diogma glabrata, Gnophomyia viridipennis, Limonia nigropunctata, Rhipidia uniseriata, Helius longirostris*, and *Achyrolimonia neonebulosa* (Alexander) (New to France).

The lake margins yielded such marshland species as *Nigrotipula nigra, Helius flavus, Euphylidorea dispar, Phylidorea ferruginea, P. longicornis, Limnophila pictipennis* and *Erioptera squalida*. This latter was another first for France. There was also the non-British *Dicranomyia tristis*, together with *Ilysia maculata* and *Molophilus griseus, M. ochraceus*, and a number of other marshland species common in England.The grassland between the lakes and the woodland yielded *Limonia phragmitidis, Limonia stigma, Nephrotoma appendiculata* and *N.quadrifaria*.The woodland produced *Dictenidia bimaculata*, and *Ctenophora pectinicornis*, as well as the common *Austrolimnophila ochracea, Neolimnophila dumetorum*, and *Epiphragma ocellare*. *Limonia macrostigma, Rhipidia uniseriata*, and the non-British species *Prionolabis hospes*, (non-British) were among the species recorded from the alder carr.

All together, fifty species have been recorded from the Reserve.

Phil also took us to a number of other interesting sites. One of these was the large old Forêt de la Rena. [N46º 07.654 E05º 13.968] Here *Ctenophora festiva* (non-British) and *Atypophthalmus inustus* occurred, together with a community of craneflies to be found in similar British woodlands.

Another site was a marsh, Les Sagnes, [N45º 15.892 E05º 46.134]situated at 1025m, on the edge of the French Alps and dominated by *Equisetum*. It was a hot day but the delicate ‘blue’ bodied *Tipula (Yamototipula) caesia* Schummel (non-British) was quite common, along with other marshland species, such as *Eloeophila miliaria* (non-British), *Limnophila schranki, Tricyphona immaculata, Molophilus propinquus* and *Ptychoptera lacustris*.

On the same day we explored a very large glacial cirque, the Cirque de Saint Même, [N45º 23.758 E05º 53.469] with a small river which begins as a waterfall, and a beautiful limestone seepage. A species of net-winged midges (Blephariсidae) *Liponeura* sp, was present around the moss-covered boulders in the torrent. Also present were *Pedicia straminea* and *Dicranota subtilis*. Pooting the dripping seepage yielded wet specimens of *Antocha (Orimargula) alpigena* (non-British), and *Elliptera omissa*,

By way of contrast we also visited visited a carr, the Réserve Naturelle du Marais de Lavour [N45º 49.980 E05º 44.805 which lies in the node between the River Rhône and its smaller tributary the River Seran. Here *Gonomyia bifida* was common, along with *Erioptera (Mesocyphona) fossarum* (Loew) (New to France), *Limonia trivittata* and other marshland species. In the afternoon we explored the bank of the near-by River Seran, and an open marsh. This latter yielded *Nephrotoma guestfallica, Tipula pruinosa, Illysia maculata, Molophilus occultus, M. ochraceus and M.medius* together with other marshland craneflies. *Dicranomyia modesta* andwere common.

It was an excellent field meeting, very much enjoyed by all four participants, and our many thanks are due to Phil Withers for the work that he did to organise our visit and for the help which he gave us while we were there. The week yielded two species new to France, to add to the single new species from Phil’s Malaise trap material. I should also like to thank Dr. Jaroslav Stary for the identification of *Erioptera (Mesocyphona) fossarum* (Loew) and confirmation of *Achyrolimonia neonebulosa* (Alexander).

John Kramer

NOTE BENE !!

Please note the publication of this excellent book, available from Pemberley Books (www.pemberleybooks.com)

Fauna Helvetica 14. Limoniidae & Pediciidae de Suisse. Sigitas Podenas, Willy Geiger, Jean-Paul Haenni & Yves Gonseth . Centre Suisse de cartographie de la faune. Schweizerische Entomologische Gesellschaft. 2006. pp375 Hardback. £35

It will be reviewed in the next edition of the Dipterists Digest.

Why not Adopt a Cranefly?

There are plenty of rare and little-understood craneflies which need to be studied in depth and the process of selecting BAP species has recently increased our awareness of this need. The list below, rejected as BAP species, may be useful:

TIPULIDAE

Nephrotoma aculeata. N. quadristriata, N. sullingtonensis.

Tipula bistilata, T. gimmerthali, T. nodicornis, T. yerburyi

LIMONIIDAE

Arctoconopa melampodia,

Dicranomyia aperta, D. halterata, D. magnicauda, D.mellicauda complicata, Dicranomyia rufiventris

Erioptera edwardsi, E.fascipennis, E. flavissima, E. meijerei.

Geranomyia bezzi

Gonomyia hippocampi, G. alboscutellata.

Helius hispanicus

Idiocera bradleyi, I. punctata, I.sziladyi.

Limonia masoni

Molophilus czizeki, M. pusillus.

Neolimnophila placida

Orimargo virgo

Ormosia aciculata

Paradelphomyia dalei

Phylidorea heterogyna

Rhabdomastix inclinata

Symplecta chosensis, S. pusilla, S. scotica.

Tasiocera collini

We have already had some recent good examples eg, Andrew Godfrey's paper on *Lipsothrix*, Peter Boardman's papers in Dipterists Digest on *Phylidorea heterogyna* and *Idioptera linnei*, and in David Heaver's study of *Ellipteroides (Protogonomyia) alboscutellatus.* (Dipterists Digest 2006 Vol.13 No.1)

Derek Whiteley, with access to Derbyshire habitats, is interested in *Limonia masoni*, and Geoff Hancock has recommended *Nephrotoma lunulicornis*, so why not chose a species which occurs in your neighbourhood? Distribution maps on the NBN Gateway might help. (www.searchnbn.com) or the list of RDB species from your County would be another place to start.

Craneflies in Leicestershire - a Brief Over-view

The Victoria County History of Leicestershire of 1908, lists just nine species of craneflies in the list of Diptera published there, and this was due to the activity of W.A Vice. One hundred years later we can list 120 species, and so, despite the dearth of resident dipterists, some progress has been made. Leicestershire is a relatively uniform environment as regards the biotopes found there. There are no mountains, or large areas of moorland or bog. There is no coastline, and no limestone valley with calcareous seepages. With a lower diversity of biotopes there is less species diversity, and even waterfalls are in short supply, and so, therefore, is *Dicranomyia didyma*.

Most of the soils are heavy clays and so there are marshes, wet pasture and some wet woodland.

Of course wet pasture grades into marshland, or into lake, pond or canal margins and some marshland species are also found in wet woodland. Flowing water habitats such as rivers, brooks and streams, flow through woodland and pasture and occasionally form flood meadows.

Most of the species that have been recorded in VC 55, are, not surprisingly, to be found in marshland wet woodland.

The marshland community consists of about forty species and includes *Ilysia occoecata, Molophilus pleuralis,* and *Thaumastoptera calceata. Trimicra* pilipes has been recorded by Alan Stubbs in 1991 from the edge of a flood slack, but, since this habitat is vulnerable, it remains to be seen whether it has survived the recent drought summers.

There are about the same number of woodland species to be found, with 58 species being the record. These include *Nephrotoma guestfallica, Tipula selene, Euphylidorea dispar* and *Rhipidia uniseriata.*

Another rarity was *Erioptera veralli* from a stream margin in Launde Park Wood

One of the most interesting areas in the county is the Charnwood Forest area in the north of Leicestershire. This year the Dipterist Forum will be holding a short Autumn field meeting here from 17-21October. The igneous rock produces a thin acid soil and a few unpolluted streams such as Linford Brook. There on the stream margins can be found *Pedicia littoralis, Eloeophila verralli* and *Molophius niger*. *Sphagnum* moss occurs locally in the area and *Prionocera turcica* has been recorded at a few sites here. We have just one record of the much rarer *P. subserricornis*, taken near Groby by Derek Whiteley in August 1989, who also recorded *Nephrotoma croccata* nearby, in June of the same year. Other local Charnwood rarities include *Tipula flavolineata, Crypteria limnophiloides, Ormosia pseudosimilis,* and *Euphylidorea lineola.*

Tipula staegeri occurs in the Charnwood woodlands in the Autumn, but *Tipula signata* has yet to be recorded.

In this region good quality indicators are as follows:

Old wet pasture - *Tipula pruinosa; Erioptera squalida.*

Marshland - *Pedicia rivosa, Tipula maxima.*

Woodland - *Dictenidia bimaculata, Epiphragma ocellare.*

Wet Woodland - *Rhipidia uniseriata, Atypophthalmus inustus*.

Another local European rarity which should be mentioned, with just one record, is *Limonia masoni*, which untypically turned up in a spring-fed spinney in the north west of the county, to where perhaps, it had been blown. I last recorded it on the Brecklands, which are more typical, and its Leicestershire breeding site has yet to be discovered.

There remains plenty of work to be done within VC55. There are a few other biotopes to explore, and no doubt other species will be added to the list, ... and then there is the larval ecology!

John Kramer Co-organiser Cranefly Recording Scheme

Tephritid Flies Recording Scheme

In the three years since *A provisional atlas of the Tephritidae* (*Diptera*) *of Britain and Ireland version 2* was produced the general statistics, as of 27 January 2007, are shown below.

Number of species		79
Number of named recorders		403
Number of records		18037
Number of records with definite date e.g. 01 JAN 2000		16320
Number of records with vague date e.g. JAN 2000		982
Number of undated records		735
Precision of records	2 figures:	2916
	4 figures:	8237
	6 figures:	6497
	8 figures:	387
Number of 10km squares covered		1344

The main changes to the earlier list are that data for *Tephritis praecox* (Loew) and the recent addition *Tephritis divisa* Rondani have been acknowledged, the collector/recorder A. Lazenby has been synonymised with A.S. Lazenby and records pertaining to R.M. Payne should be attributed to R.G. Payne. 'New', although not all direct, contributors include P. Bergdahl, G. Boyd, J. H. Boyd, A. F. Brazenor, P. Butler, R. A. Chapman, M. Cotterill, D. Dana, P. Davis, R. Dickson, R. Edmunds, J. Flanagan, P. Follett, G. Glombeck, H. I. Griffiths, P. H. Grimshaw, J. Hart, P. Harvey, T. Higginbottom, G. N. Holland, I. R. Hudson, J. W. Ismay, A. W. Jones, J. Kramer, A. Lawson, B. Levey, A. Marston, B. Mitchell, R. Moyse, J. B. Murray, M. Opie, S. Paston, H. Plant, J. P. Robson, J. Rush, M. A. Salmon, B. Schulten, D. Scott-Langley, D. J. Slade, J. Smeathers, A. Smith, R. Thomas, C. Watson, J. Webb, T. White and P. Winter.

The species data, with number of 10km squares and number of records, are *Acanthiophilus helianthi* (Rossi) (59, 84); *Acidia cognata* (Wiedemann) (168, 267); *Acinia corniculata* (Zetterstedt) (25, 40); *Anomoia purmunda* (Harris) (260, 658); *Bactrocera cucurbitae* (Coquillett) (1, 1); *Campiglossa absinthii* (Fabricius) (96, 163); *Campiglossa argyrocephala* (Loew) (18, 26); *Campiglossa grandinata* (Rondani) (4, 4); *Campiglossa loewiana* (Hendel) (29, 31); *Campiglossa malaris* Séguy (17, 37); *Campiglossa misella* (Loew) (113, 318); *Campiglossa plantaginis* (Haliday) (138, 350); *Campiglossa producta* (Loew) (29, 32); *Campiglossa solidaginis* (White) (17, 31); *Ceratitis capitata* (Wiedemann) (11, 15); *Chaetorellia jaceae* (Robineau-Desvoidy) (110, 209); *Chaetorellia loricata* (Rondani) (13, 33); *Chaetostomella cylindrica* (Robineau-Desvoidy) (394, 744); *Chetostoma curvinerve* Rondani (30, 44); *Cornutrypeta spinifrons* (Schroeder) (6, 6); *Cryptaciura rotundiventris* (Fallén) (14, 16); *Dioxyna bidentis* (Robineau-Desvoidy) (107, 214); *Dithryca guttularis* (Meigen) (133, 204); *Ensina sonchi* (Linnaeus) (74, 124); *Euleia heraclei* (Linnaeus) (275, 553); *Euphranta toxoneura* (Loew) (38, 61); *Goniglossum wiedemanni* (Meigen) (38, 68); *Merzomyia westermanni* (Meigen) (112, 222); *Myopites eximius* Séguy (30, 119); *Myopites inulaedyssentericae* Blot (95, 277); *Noeeta pupillata* (Fallen) (75, 138); *Orellia falcata* (Scopoli) (67, 129); *Oxyna flavipennis* (Loew) (35, 65); *Oxyna nebulosa* (Wiedemann) (25, 43); *Oxyna parietina* (Linnaeus) (87, 174); *Philophylla caesio* (Harris) (192, 333); *Platyparea discoidea* (Fabricius) (21, 42); *Plioreocepta poeciloptera* (Schrank) (1, 2); *Rhagoletis alternata* (Fallén) (87, 114); *Rhagoletis cerasi* (Linnaeus) (1, 1); *Rhagoletis meigenii* (Loew) (3, 4); *Sphenella marginata* (Fallén) (212, 467); *Stemonocera cornuta* (Scopoli) (9, 11); *Tephritis bardanae* (Schrank) (289, 606); *Tephritis cometa* (Loew) (112, 347); *Tephritis conura* (Loew) (98, 157); *Tephritis divisa* Rondani (8, 10); *Tephritis formosa* (Loew) (247, 555); *Tephritis hyoscyami* (Linnaeus) (163, 331); *Tephritis leontodontis* (De Geer) (68, 87); *Tephritis matricariae* (Loew) (36, 73); *Tephritis neesii* (Meigen) (223, 520); *Tephritis praecox* (Loew) (3, 7); *Tephritis ruralis* (Loew) (36, 60); *Tephritis separata* Rondani (2, 4); *Tephritis vespertina* (Loew) (427, 1052); *Terellia ceratocera* (Hendel) (36, 83); *Terellia colon* (Meigen) (109, 266); *Terellia fuscicornis* (Loew) (1, 1); *Terellia longicauda* (Meigen) (48, 101); *Terellia plagiata* (Dahlbom) (9, 20); *Terellia ruficauda* (Fabricius) (353, 793); *Terellia serratulae* (Linnaeus) (230, 430); *Terellia tussilaginis* (Fabricius) (299, 646); *Terellia vectensis* (Collin) (21, 55); *Terellia winthemi* (Meigen) (25, 52); *Trupanea amoena* (Frauenfeld) (7, 7); *Trupanea stellata* (Fuessly) (112, 171); *Trypeta artemisiae* (Fabricius) (52,

72); *Trypeta immaculata* (Macquart) (28, 34); *Trypeta zoe* Meigen (137, 282); *Urophora cardui* (Linnaeus) (276, 1091); *Urophora cuspidata* (Meigen) (30, 58); *Urophora jaceana* (Hering) (428, 879); *Urophora quadrifasciata* (Meigen) (178, 382); *Urophora solstitialis* (Linnaeus) (58, 99); *Urophora spoliata* (Haliday) (13, 33); *Urophora stylata* (Fabricius) (378, 882) and *Xyphosia miliaria* (Schrank) (521, 1317).

All data are still being entered manually onto RECORDER 3.3. A single attempt to use the import facility developed for the program created more problems than it resolved and, as I only have Microsoft Excel for Windows 95 version 7, all spreadsheet files received had to be taken to a third party before their contents were revealed. For large numbers of records a tab-delimited text file on 3½ inch diskette or CD-ROM is acceptable but please note that I do not have private e-mail access and have no plans to acquire one in the foreseeable future. Some of the more regular contributors to the scheme e.g. John Bratton, Jon Cole and Andrew Halstead continue to submit records on copies of a site recording card produced about ten years ago and these make data entry very straightforward. Paper records, wherever possible, should be organised in the following order Site, Grid, VC number, Date, Species, Other information.

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