



**BULLETIN OF THE**  
**Dipterists**  
**Forum**

**Bulletin No. 64**

**Autumn 2007**



Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

# Bulletin No. 64

## Autumn 2007

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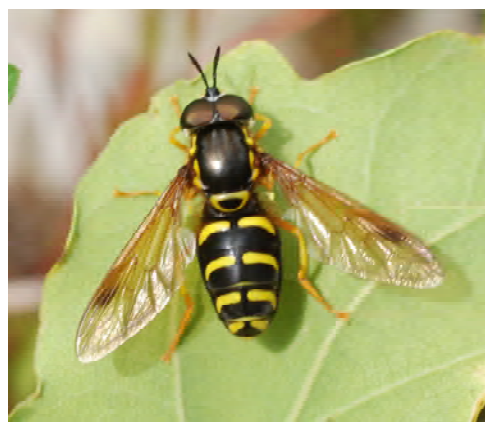
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Tachinid	Chris Raper
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### Contributions to this Bulletin

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 around the time of the Autumn field meeting and in time to provide details of the Annual Meeting.

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.

### Website

[www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/](http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/)

### Forum

[www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/index.php](http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/index.php)

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Articles submitted should be in the form of a word-processed file on disk or E-mail

Please submit in native format and Rich Text Format (.rtf). An accompanying print-out would also be useful. Line artworks are encouraged.

Please note the rather wide borders used in Dipterists Bulletin. For conformity with style would newsletter compilers please try to match this format.



# BULLETIN OF THE **Dipterists** Forum

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

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# Forum news

## Editorial

### A Celtic Adventure

Up, into the hills. The criss-cross of long forgotten tracks, abandoned wayside huts. The village washing lines sobbed at the mountain wind. Sheep bleat and ponies whimper from the mountain top.

Then down into the grim vale of y Styx. The blood red beetle drew up at the Aberystyx Hall: the slow, sad lilt of tear-flecked memories. Uncle Mort sighed deeply and said:

“I wonder who invented hooks.”

“I don’t know.” said Carter.

“Neither do they.”

Then down again into the town festooned and throttled with consonants. In the summer gales the gas lamps creaked like an optician’s laughter. They found a pub with slumbering doors. They went inside. The pub was glum. “Silence for sale”, “Joy slashed by 15%”, “No glasses beyond this point”.

The landlady drew them two pints of thin beer and they moved to a table under a wide moving screen of silent fat headed men. She followed them and sprayed a full can of toilet-freshener into the smoke-room. The thin head on their beers twinkled into non-existence.

Carter choked, snatched up his pipe and stumbled outside. Huddled on a tiny chair under a dripping fire escape he found a damp elderly gentleman wearing a crumpled hat, frayed coat and concertina trousers. He scratched with damp matches in the biting wind, a soggy roll-up clenched between his gums.

“I really feel at home in this place”

“Why?”

“Well look about you. Pessimism run riot, despair run rampant, diptera-dearth in all its glory. Wales isn’t supposed to be cheerful. It’s the repository of all that is gloomy, melancholic and miserable.” “I’m as lonely as a hymenopterist’s sock.” “I’m as miserable as a dipterist’s elbows.” “Do **you** come from these parts?”



Darwyn Sumner after Peter Tinniswood

## News from the schemes

A quiet time for the schemes at the moment, most organiser's efforts are devoted to field work during the summer and it has been a particularly difficult year to discover anything at all. There are signs, however, of feverish activity in the background and we should shortly see some of the results of these efforts.

It is most encouraging to see one of the moribund schemes picked up again, many thanks to Steve Crellin for stepping in to the Sepsidae Recording Scheme. Be prepared to net a few of these over the next season as I'm sure Steve will be chasing you all for records. Sooner than you think, perhaps: he tells me he intends to come to the Glasgow Annual Meeting.

### Scheme promotion at the Glasgow Annual Meeting

Geoff Hancock, our host at the Glasgow Annual Meeting informs me that he is happy to provide a range of facilities to enable Scheme organisers to promote their schemes. I asked in particular about display boards - he has them, microscopes for identification workshop sessions - he has them, a computer projector for your Powerpoint or other presentations - he has this too!

We had a similar session at Preston Montford a couple of years ago and several of us were kept quite busy with identifications, so here is your opportunity to do your scheme a good turn.

Don't forget those Powerpoint scheme outlines I sent out to the Scheme organisers some time ago, they are ideal for a single poster if that is all you can manage - you could even send a print-out or an electronic version in your absence.

### Hoverfly Recording Scheme

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*Newsletter # 43 included with this Bulletin*

David Iliff

### Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

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*Simon tells me that his intention is to stand down soon from organiser of this scheme but that he wishes to see the Atlas through first.*

Simon Hayhow

### Sepsid Recording Scheme

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Steve Crellin has kindly offered to take on this recording scheme, he tells me:

*Records can be in Mapmate or Spreadsheet format*

*I have managed to get hold of the sepsid records on the NBN Gateway which are those used for the provisional atlas. So that is a start at least.*

He can be contacted at:

Shearwater, The Dhoor,  
Andreas Road, Lezayre,  
Ramsey, Isle of Man,  
IM7 4EB,  
steve\_crellin1@hotmail.co.uk



Steve Crellin



# Notice board

## Biodiversity Action Plans

### Final list of Diptera BAP species including common names

Below please find all Diptera species that are currently included in the BAP list. Three of our species were deleted from the list, so that we have a total of 35 Diptera species being included in the final BAP list. This list can be downloaded from the BAP webpage (see <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/bapgroupPage.aspx?id=112> for the full report) and is supposed to be the final list of species that are included. At the moment ministers have not yet agreed to this list (see <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Library.aspx> and follow the “Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group” link)) and therefore further species might be deleted. It is certain that no more species will be added to the list.

I would like to thank everybody for their generous support over the last 2.5 years during this tedious process. I appreciated all your help, comments, data and support very much; without which I would not have been able to attempt this task. Please also note the “thank you” note by Deborah Procter and Ant Maddock at the end of this article.

The actions necessary for each species are not finalised yet in the BAP process and this might take rather a long time. Hence, we as dipterists should now move on and start conserving the species we are concerned about. So, if you feel strongly about this, please read my appeal under the heading ‘Adopt a species’.

According to several sources and requests, we need to have common English names for all BAP species. It will be very difficult to get publicity in the non-scientific press if the species do not have common (English) names. The list on the BAP webpage contains common names for all BAP species. As these had not been finalised when the list was published on the web, we had a chance to comment. However, better than having these imposed on us, I have asked several of you including the Dipterists Forum Committee to make suggestions and comment on these. The names given below are mostly based on majority decisions, except if the proposed name had already been used in the press. I have not attempted to change any names for existing BAP species except for *Blera fallax*, which will be called ‘Pine Hoverfly’ as these have already been used in non-scientific publications. I thank all of you very much for your comments and hope that we can now get on and do something for the species involved.

- Amiota variegata*, The Spotty Sap Fly (Drosophilidae)
- Asilus crabroniformis*, Hornet Robberfly (Asilidae)
- Asindulum nigrum*, Fen Flower Gnat (Keroplastidae)
- Blera fallax*, Pine Hoverfly; this was called ‘a Hoverfly’ before (Syrphidae)
- Bombylius minor*, Heath bee-fly (Bombyliidae)
- Botanophila fonsecai*, Fonseca’s Dune Fly (Anthomyiidae)
- Callicera spinolae*, Golden Hoverfly (Syrphidae)
- Campsicnemus magius*, Fancy-legged Fly (Dolichopodidae)
- Chrysotoxum octomaculatum*, Broken-banded Wasp-hoverfly (Syrphidae)
- Clorismia rustica*, Southern Silver Stiletto-fly (Therevidae)
- Clusiodes geomyzinus*, Pine Heart-Wood Fly (Clusiidae)
- Dolichopus laticola*, Broads Dolly-Fly (Dolichopodidae)
- Dolichopus nigripes*, Black-footed Dolly-Fly (Dolichopodidae)
- Doros profuges*, Phantom Hoverfly (Syrphidae)

## Notice board

*Dorycera graminum*, Phoenix Fly (Ulidiidae)  
*Dorylomorpha clavifemora*, Clubbed Big-headed Fly (Pipunculidae)  
*Empis limata*, The Borders Dance-Fly (Empididae)  
*Eristalis cryptarum*, Bog hoverfly (Syrphidae)  
*Gnophomyia elsneri*, Royal Crane-fly (Limoniidae)  
*Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*, Aspen Hoverfly (Syrphidae)  
*Idiocera sexguttata*, Six-spotted Crane-fly (Limoniidae)  
*Lipara similis*, Least Cigar-Gall Fly (Chloropidae)  
*Lipsothrix ecucullata*, Scottish Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)  
*Lipsothrix errans*, Northern Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)  
*Lipsothrix nervosa*, Southern Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)  
*Lipsothrix nigristigma*, Scarce Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)  
*Lonchaea ragnari*, The Large Birch Lance Fly (Lonchaeidae)  
*Myolepta potens*, Western Wood-vase Hoverfly (Syrphidae)  
*Neoempheria lineola*, Giant Wood-gnat (Mycetophilidae)  
*Odontomyia hydroleon*, Barred Green Colonel (Stratiomyidae)  
*Phaonia jaroschewskii*, Hairy Canary Fly (Muscidae)  
*Rhabdomastix japonica*, A River-shore Crane-fly (Limoniidae)  
*Rhamphomyia hirtula*, Mountain Dance-Fly (Empididae)  
*Salticella fasciata*, Dune Snail-killing Fly (Sciomyzidae)  
*Thyridanthrax fenestratus*, Mottled Bee-fly (Bombyliidae)

I received the following e-mail from Deborah Procter several weeks ago. It explains the further process, but also expresses her's and Ant Maddock's gratitude for all the help provided by many people during this BAP Review.

*Dear All*

*The BAP species list; and the habitats list, have now been published: please see the note below from Ant Maddock. Please note that the distribution information for invertebrates is not complete, further work to complete the picture is needed. Further work is obviously needed to move from a list to a series of conservation actions. As I find out more about the process I will let you know.*

*I'd like to add my thanks to those expressed by Ant: we could not have done it without you!*

*All best wishes,*

*Deborah Procter, Species Advisor, JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY, UK*

[www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk) [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk) [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)

### **Species and Habitat Review Report**

*Dear all*

*After a huge amount of work by many people the report to the Partnership on the Species and Habitats Review is now ready and can be viewed on the UK BAP website (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>).*

*The Priority Species and Habitats Review Working Group and the Priorities Review Group recommend that UK List of Priority Species and Habitats is formally adopted, and authorised*

## Notice board

*for publication as such on the UK BAP website. Information as to the geographical distribution of species and the signposting of priority action categories is offered as a draft for further consideration, and it is recommended that these are developed further via a consultative process which could also be undertaken via the website.*

*Once again the Priorities Species and Habitats Review Working Group and the Priorities Review Group thank all those who have contributed their expertise and time to this exercise. Please forward this email to people who may be interested.*

*Best wishes*

*Ant Maddock PRG and BRIG Secretariat*

Please don't forget to read on if you feel strongly about conserving our BAP or RDB species!

**Barbara Ismay, BAP and Conservation Officer**

## Adopt a species

Do you feel that we should stop talking and rather start to help our threatened species? If yes, then please get in contact – you might be able to help!

If you feel that you would like to work on one or a group of BAP species or RDB species, please contact me, either by e-mail ([schultmay@onetel.com](mailto:schultmay@onetel.com)) or by telephone (01844-201433). You could adopt a species or a group of species and thus resolve some of the open questions about these species.

### Possible tasks

You could visit known sites and observe the species. You might be able to solve questions like where do they breed, what is their preferred habitat etc. Another option is to monitor the species on known sites and try and find new sites. But please pass records / or failure to find the species on to the relevant recording scheme if one exists. Should this be a species without a recording scheme, you might wish to gather records and help refining the knowledge of their distribution.

Some BAP species are already being worked on and have lead partners coordinating the work. This project is not intended to duplicate on-going work, but to find people willing to take on additional tasks, to continue previous work or to work together with the lead partner.

But please contact me first as other people might like to work on the same species / group of species and you could form a team or divide tasks between you. Also, as the co-ordinator of this project I will bother you from time to time to remind you to share your progress or problems encountered with more dipterists.

Below please find a list of BAP species and their crude distribution. Please contact me if you feel you would like to work on a species. I will forward all the information I have gathered on the species to you or inform you where you can get hold of it (if it's a report).

### Must it be a BAP species?

No, you can also work on RDB species and I will coordinate that as well. However, I might have to refer you to other dipterists for information on these.

Please don't hesitate, our species need you and you don't need to be an expert on them. Others are there to help!

### BAP species and their crude distribution

*Amiota variegata*, The Spotty Sap Fly (Drosophilidae)

- o New Forest, Hampshire and Forest of Dean (Gloucestershire)
- o seems to be associated with *Cossus* (Goat Moth) infested trees

*Asilus crabroniformis*, Hornet robberfly (Asilidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Mike Howe, Countryside Council for Wales, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=117>)



## Notice board

- o unimproved grassland and heath in southern England and Wales

*Asindulum nigrum*, Fen Flower Gnat (Keroplastidae)

- o Southern England and East Anglia
- o This species is found in open wetland habitats (floodplain grazing marsh, fens)

*Blera fallax*, Pine Hoverfly; this was called 'a Hoverfly' before (Syrphidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Andy Amphlett, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=147>)
- o native pine woods in Scotland (Speyside)
- o Further information might also be available from the Malloch Society

*Bombylius minor*, Heath bee-fly (Bombyliidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Dr John Muggleton, British Entomological and Natural History Society and Stephen R Miles, British Entomological and Natural History Society, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=158#6> )
- o ENGLAND & ISLE OF MAN – Lowland sandy heathlands and acid coastal sand-dune systems with *Calluna vulgaris* in Southern England, and one site on the north coast of the Isle of Man (IOM).

*Botanophila fonsecai*, Fonseca's Dune Fly (Anthomyiidae)

- o Only known from one highly threatened site in Scotland (Sutherland) beside a Caravan Park
- o was found in dunes

*Callicera spinolae*, Golden Hoverfly (Syrphidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Jon Webb, Natural England, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=180> )
- o 4 localities in East Anglia
- o This species occurs in parklands containing areas of mature woodland and Ivy.

*Campsicnemus magius*, Fancy-legged Fly (Dolichopodidae)

- o Mainly coasts of southern England (Thames estuary)
- o This halophilic and thermophilic species needs bare banks for mating (A. Stark, Germany, pers. comm.) 'Bare mud beside pools and ditches is a requirement for adults.' (quotation from Empidoidea Review, Falk & Crossley, 2005)'

*Chrysotoxum octomaculatum*, Broken-banded Wasp-hoverfly (Syrphidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Dr John Muggleton, British Entomological and Natural History Society and Stephen R Miles, British Entomological and Natural History Society, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=214#6> )
- o ENGLAND – Lowland heathlands in central Southern England, Hampshire, Surrey, Dorset.
- o Lowland Heathland and heathland edge habitats.

*Clorismia rustica*, Southern Silver Stiletto-fly (Therevidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Mike Williams, Environment Agency, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=225#6> )
- o Unmodified rivers. Extensive sand and shingle bars: North East, North West and South East England, South Wales; Welsh distribution: 13 sites including 9 on the R. Usk and 3 on the R. Monnow

## Notice board

### *Clusiodes geomyzinus*, Pine Heart-Wood Fly (Clusiidae)

- o Scottish Highlands, only two recent records
- o Believed to be associated with stumps - Pine woods and plantations
- o Further information might also be available from the Malloch Society

### *Dolichopus laticola*, Broads Dolly-Fly (Dolichopodidae)

- o Norfolk Broads
- o Fens and wet woodlands
- o since 1985 only known from 4 sites (Empidoidea Review, Falk & Crossley, 2005)

### *Dolichopus nigripes*, Black-footed Dolly-Fly (Dolichopodidae)

- o Bure Valley (Norfolk)
- o Fenlands

### *Doros profuges*, Phantom Hoverfly (Syrphidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Ian Middlebrook, Action for Invertebrates, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=270#6> )
- o Rare in England – scattered localities in the south-east and isolated sites in the south-west and north-west. On Mull in Scotland, but absent from Wales and Northern Ireland.
- o Upland/Lowland Calcareous grasslands Various deciduous woodlands

### *Dorycera graminum*, Phoenix Fly (Ulidiidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Jon Webb, Natural England, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=271#6> )
- o This species has been found on a number of brownfield / grassland sites. Its life history is still unknown.
- o Southern England: in recent years it has been recorded only from Kent, Essex, Oxford, Surrey and Worcestershire and most sites are unprotected and many are in the Thames Corridor.

### *Dorylomorpha clavifemora*, Clubbed Big-headed Fly (Pipunculidae)

- o East Norfolk (3 sites)
- o Reedbeds
- o Confined to high quality sites with Phragmites beds in East Anglia

### *Empis limata*, The Borders Dance-Fly (Empididae)

- o Welsh / English borders of VC 35, 36 & VC 33
- o Apparently confined to periglacial sand deposits along and near to the Monnow & Usk rivers and old parkland at Moccas.
- o Endemic species

### *Eristalis cryptarum*, Bog hoverfly (Syrphidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Norman Baldock, Dartmoor National Park Authority, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=288#6> )
- o Dartmoor currently; previously south-west England
- o On Dartmoor, the species appears to rely on seepages within rhos pasture grassland and moorland edge that are not too acidic.
- o Seepages and perhaps swamps with diverse vegetation, circum-neutral to slightly acid, lightly to moderately grazed.

*Gnophomyia elsneri*, Royal Cranefly (Limoniidae)

- o Windsor Forest; High Standing Hill area only
- o highly specialised saproxylic species
- o Porridge-like wet wood-mound at base of hollow large beech trees
- o Lowland Wood-pasture and Parkland

*Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*, Aspen Hoverfly (Syrphidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Carl Mitchell, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=349#6> )
- o Further information might also be available from the Malloch Society
- o Scotland: 8 metapopulations, all in NE Scotland, mostly in Strathspey.
- o Aspen stands of at least 5ha in extent
- o For breeding, fallen aspen timber of minimum size 20cms diameter.

*Idiocera sexguttata*, Six-spotted Cranefly (Limoniidae)

- o Gower and New Forest
- o Seepages where vegetation is sparse

*Lipara similis*, Least Cigar-Gall Fly (Chloropidae)

- o 3 sites in East Anglia
- o Reedbeds
- o The species develops in the stems of Phragmites, destroying the seedhead. It needs reedbeds and is more abundant in thin Phragmites cover among grasses and scrub
- o There is also an inquiline associated with this species, *Cryptonevra consimilis*, which has the same distribution and conservation status.

*Lipsothrix ecucullata*, Scottish Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Athayde Tonhasca, Scottish Natural Heritage, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=416#6> )
- o C 15 sites in the Scottish Highlands and fringe.
- o Rotten logs on seepages and in streams

*Lipsothrix errans*, Northern Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)

- o Existing BAP species, but no lead partner, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/SpeciesGroup.aspx?ID=14> )
- o Wales, northern England and Scotland
- o wet rotting fallen trees and branches in shaded, woodland streams

*Lipsothrix nervosa*, Southern Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Mike Howe, Countryside Council for Wales, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=418> )
- o Mainly South England and southern Wales, scarcer in Midlands. Some rare northerly records including Scotland
- o wet, rotting twigs and branches in seepages in deciduous woodland; it is believed to require continuous shade and a constant supply of rotting timber.

*Lipsothrix nigristigma*, Scarce Yellow Splinter (Limoniidae)

## Notice board

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Ian Middlebrook, Action for Invertebrates, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=419#6> )
- o C. 20 sites in North Welsh borders , S Lancashire and Cumbria.
- o Woodland streams, where the larvae live in wet, rotting, fallen trees and branches lying in the stream, especially in log jams.

### *Lonchaea ragnari*, The Large Birch Lance Fly (Lonchaeidae)

- o Scottish Highlands
- o Mature birch trees in ancient birch woodland.
- o Further information might also be available from the Malloch Society

### *Myolepta potens*, Western Wood-vase Hoverfly (Syrphidae)

- o Existing BAP species, but no lead partner, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=464> )
- o Moccas Park, Herefordshire
- o This genus is known to breed in rot holes in trees.

### *Neoempheria lineola*, Giant Wood-gnat (Mycetophilidae)

- o New Forest, Cirencester Park
- o Lowland beech woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland wood pasture and parkland
- o This species is considered to develop in fallen hollow trunks and old stumps of beech.

### *Odontomyia hydroleon*, Barred Green Colonel (Stratiomyidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Mike Howe, Countryside Council for Wales, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=481#6> )
- o Open, base-rich seepages which support the larval stage. Suitable nectar sources for adults within close proximity of breeding seepages.
- o Fen and marsh
- o 2 sites only; 1 in north Yorkshire and 1 in Ceredigion, west Wales

### *Phaonia jaroschewskii*, Hairy Canary Fly (Muscidae)

- o Thin scattering of sites in northern England plus New Forest and Burnham Beeches
- o This species is found on sphagnum in healthy wet bog systems.
- o Lowland raised bog
- o This species is a good indicator for the quality of sphagnum bog, i.e. it disappears when the bog deteriorates.

### *Rhabdomastix japonica*, A River-shore Crane-fly (Limoniidae)

- o Unmodified rivers. It is assumed that the larvae needs wet sands of river banks. This species is thought to occur on banks of rivers where sand shoals are present.
- o A species of exposed riverine sediment
- o England, Scotland, Wales

### *Rhamphomyia hirtula*, Mountain Dance-Fly (Empididae)

- o Very high Scottish mountains in the Cairngorms Massif (above 800 metres)
- o This species might be an indicator species for climate change.
- o Further information might also be available from the Malloch Society

## Notice board

*Salicella fasciata*, Dune Snail-killing Fly (Sciomyzidae)

- o Coasts of Southern half of England and Wales: Norfolk (3 sites), Lincolnshire and Pembrokeshire
- o Host snails (Helicidae)
- o In Britain sparsely vegetated coastal dunes and shingle

*Thyridanthrax fenestratus*, Mottled Bee-fly (Bombyliidae)

- o Existing BAP species, lead partner: Dr John Muggleton, British Entomological and Natural History Society and Stephen R Miles, British Entomological and Natural History Society, further information also available on the UK BAP webpage (see: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=606#6> )
- o ENGLAND – Lowland sandy heathlands below 90m in central Southern England only.
- o Lowland Heathland below 90 metres on sandy but not gravelly soil. Lowland Heathland with Coastal Sand Dunes (acid) – one site.

Please note that Buglife is trying to raise more funding to coordinate actions on BAP species from all invertebrate orders.

Please help these species by getting involved in their active conservation and get in contact. I hope to hear from you soon.

Barbara Ismay, BAP and Conservation Officer, Co-ordinator of 'Adopt a Species'  
e-mail: [schultmay@insectsrus.co.uk](mailto:schultmay@insectsrus.co.uk) or telephone: 01844-201433.

## Membership matters

Members are again reminded that Subscription Rates from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005, are now as follows:

- Home :               Dipterists Forum £6 per annum and Dipterists Digest £9 per annum  
Overseas :           Dipterists Forum £7 per annum and Dipterists Digest £10 per annum

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

Also, updated Bankers Order Forms are available on request either by post or by e-mail attachment.

The Numbers of Members & Subscribers on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2007 is as follows :

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dipterists Forum Members      | 270 as on 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2007 |
| Dipterists Digest Subscribers | 257 as on 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2007 |

These figures include some 20 New Dipterists Forum Members, 19 of whom are also Dipterists Digest Subscribers

There are still some 41 former ( 2006 ) Members of the Dipterists Forum and some 40 Subscribers to the Dipterists Digest, who have yet to renew for this year, and are currently off the mailing list, those individuals will be sent reminders towards the autumn, (if they haven't renewed by then! ) But, besides that, the Membership outlook is good and I expect Dipterists Forum Membership to exceed 300 by the end of this year.

There will also be a Dipterists Forum stall at the Amateur Entomologists Exhibition at Kempton Park Racecourse, On Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007, Starting at 11.00am. This will be manned by various Committee members, and advice on a wide range of issues including all membership issues can possibly be resolved here, back issues of the Dipterists Digest will also be on sale, all members & potential members are welcome to introduce themselves.

**Mick Parker, Membership Secretary**



## Notice board

### Wonderful – the light has dawned on another dipterist

Barbara (now Ismay) has stepped into the elephant trap of common v scientific names. Excellent, for that means I am not alone.

In relation to the BAP species list revision she has written to a small group of people concerned thus:-

*Having lived in the US, Canada and now in the UK, but being German I find it rather difficult to learn all the different common names and often get confused which species people talk about when they only use the common name. Hence, I prefer the scientific name for insects. However, having talked to journalists I know that they often don't like using scientific names or even omit these from articles for the general public. Therefore, it could be useful to have common names as well as scientific names. But before proposing the umptienth name for the same scientific species you might like to check the following webpage of the Entomological Society of America: [http://www.entsoc.org/Pubs/Common\\_Names/index.htm](http://www.entsoc.org/Pubs/Common_Names/index.htm). If you follow the link 'Use and Submission of Common Names' you will discover that they have introduced rules for Common Names already early last century and that for more than 2000 insects such names exist. It might be useful to check first whether a common name already exists for one of our species before introducing another one. I also heard rumours that Australia has similar rules. Should we perhaps adopt these rules before bringing more confusion than clarification? Even generic names can be confusing as Hoverflies are Flowerflies in the US.*

Never mind the USA or Australia, Barbara should be lobbying the Dipterists Forum Chairman, her husband, that we should have our own registration site for English names. This is the big opening I have been seeking. I can now formalise my common names for hoverflies, and of course crane flies. Alexander only gave scientific names to 10,500 species, a number I can easily exceed for common species even in the first year.

Anyone want to sponsor me?

**Alan Stubbs**

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# Review

## National Federation for Biological Recording

The **National Federation for Biological Recording** is the UK organisation for practitioners involved in biological recording. It draws together people from a wide range of sectors who are involved in biological recording: suppliers, managers and users of information about species, habitats and wildlife sites. It offers a forum for discussion (e.g. a Recorder conference in 2008) and the sharing of knowledge, promotes the importance of biological information in many areas and, significantly for us, represents the biological recording community. The following article, from the retired head of the Biological Records Centre, Paul Harding, is typical of the kind of work that NFBR are doing to promote best practise in all issues surrounding biological recording. I am much indebted to Paul for taking the trouble to write the following “Dipterists Forum” version of his paper first presented to NFBR.

### Formal recognition for biological recording? <sup>1</sup>

Paul T. Harding <sup>2</sup> pha@ceh.ac.uk

*There appear to be no explicitly formal or binding obligations under present or European legislation, or through international agreements, which require any organisation in the UK to make, compile and maintain biological records (Burnett, et al. 1995). <sup>3</sup>*

### Background

This carefully worded statement of fact in the CCBR Report is as true today as it was in 1995. However anodyne it may be, this crucially important statement avoided the main issue: whether or not legislation should be introduced to formalise biological recording. The main sponsoring organisation (DoE) would not sanction any suggestion in the report regarding the need for legislation. The subsequent establishment of the NBN Trust, the NBN Gateway to over 27 million biological records, and NBN’s developmental work with local records centres (LRCs) and national societies and schemes, have done little to improve formal recognition of any form of biological recording, including LRCs.

This issue was certainly not new in 1995 and the need for a legislative basis for biological recording has been repeated many times, and in many places, in subsequent years. The whole edifice that is biological recording in the UK is built on the sands of informal relationships and trust. Although typically British, this is not a sustainable, 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to the supply and delivery of biological records.

### Comparison with other environmental information <sup>4</sup>

In the UK, information is collected, compiled, maintained and disseminated, as a matter of explicit governmental policy (usually formalised by legislation), on all aspects of the environment. For example, these include agricultural production, archaeological features, cartographic information, human demography, land ownership, protected wildlife sites and habitats, and weather records. The list is almost endless, but notably excludes conventional biological records.

Perhaps the most appropriate comparisons to biological recording are the maintenance both of archives and archaeological Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs). The maintenance of archives has always been a statutory function, including those held at a county level, surviving through many changes in local governmental structures. The existence of SMRs (also known as Historical Environmental Records - HERs) is enshrined in separate legislative instruments for England and Wales, and for Scotland. However, as Fraser (1993) <sup>5</sup> observed, *the structural weakness of SMRs is that they are dependent on the continued existence of their parent authorities, and local government is in a continual state of review.* The same weakness applies to LRCs, but without even the benefit of a legislative basis. Country and national organisations are also in a continual state of review leading to similar structural weakness with

## Review

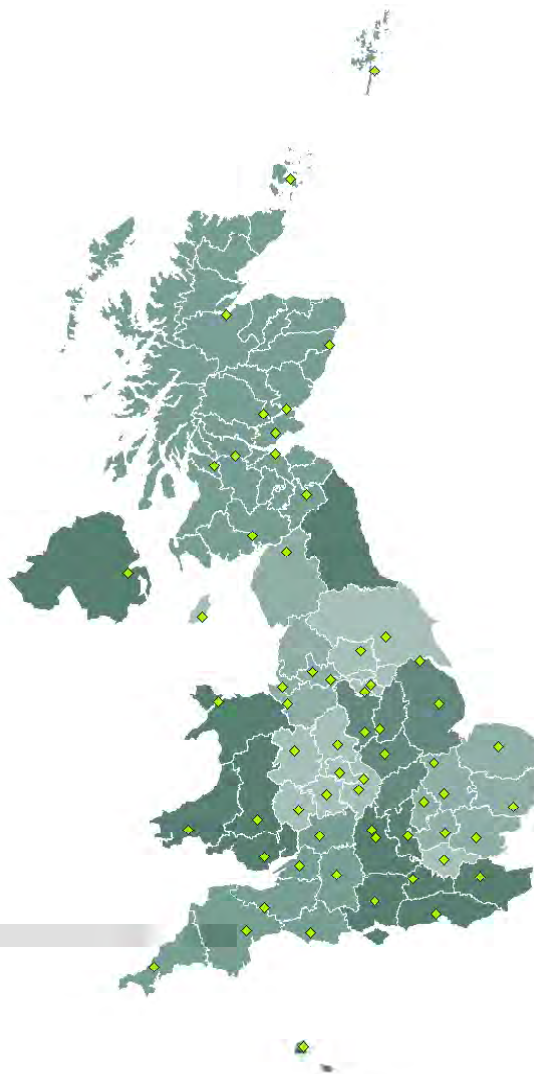
regard to their own databases and those that they may sponsor or support, such as LRCs. Whether the forthcoming White Paper *Heritage Protection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* will improve the lot of HERs has yet to be seen, but it certainly provides a model for how biological records should be considered in legislation.

### Demand, but no supply?

A need for biological records is increasingly enshrined in legislation in the UK, but only rarely is the supply of such information even considered.

Defra recently published their *Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty*. Appendix 2 of this Guidance lists 29 separate items of legislation relating to the Biodiversity Duty (2 International, 7 European, 20 England and Wales). In the section on Forward Planning (4.5) the need for local authorities to develop a good evidence base recognises, albeit tangentially, that *Local and/or Regional Record Centres can provide a vital role in enabling local authorities to obtain good quality baseline information on habitats and species*. This is probably the most explicit statement to come from any governmental source regarding the existence of LRCs in relation to local authorities! The same section (Box 4.2: Useful Sources of Baseline Information) states that *Local and/or Regional Record Centres provide information on local biodiversity* and goes on to state that *NFBR provides a UK wide organisation for those involved in biological recording*.

Another recent (2006) Defra document *Local sites: guidance on their identification, selection and management*, similarly identifies a role for LRCs in this context, but avoids placing a commitment on local authorities to have any responsibilities for biodiversity data.



Distribution of Local Records Centres

### Opportunity for action?

There has probably not been a better time to attempt to raise again the issue of the need for a legislative basis for biological recording and, especially, for LRCs. NFBR should take a lead on this, preferably in close association with NFBR's natural partners, including ALERC, BRISC and ALGE. In the case of LRCs, important aspects should be that LRCs must be user-driven, and the desirability and benefits of common standards for LRCs.

### What NFBR will do

At a recent meeting of NFBR Council it was agreed that a small working group would be formed under the chairmanship of Paul Harding. The objective would be to inform NFBR (and partners) on opportunities to target action, based on a joined-up approach to piecemeal activities. The working group will:

- include representatives of partner organisations and call on other advisers as necessary;
- promote the need for formal recognition for biological recording;
- prepare or commission a concise review<sup>6</sup> of current activities in this and related areas;
- seek advice on the most suitable ways to approach governmental organisations to lobby for action.

### Can you help?

Offers of help or advice or constructive comments would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Paul Harding by email [pha@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:pha@ceh.ac.uk)

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> “Biological recording” as defined in the CCBR Report (Vol. 1, p 145), with the products being “biological records”.

<sup>2</sup> I am very grateful to Charles Copp, Martin Hicks and Trevor James for their help in developing this paper.

<sup>3</sup> Burnett, Copp & Harding (1995) Biological recording in the UK: Present practice and future development. Summary Report. Department of the Environment. [The CCBR Report]

<sup>4</sup> Environmental is taken here to mean anything relating to the natural or anthropogenic environment.

<sup>5</sup> Fraser, D. 1993. The British archaeological database. In: Archaeological resource management in the UK: an introduction, edited by J.Hunter & I. Ralston, 19-29. Stroud: Alan Sutton.

<sup>6</sup> As a minimum the review should cover: Defra’s recent guidance documents (see above); several recent reviews relating to LRCs and biodiversity data needs; the results of and response to the LRC funding petition; forthcoming Heritage White Paper; NBN-related documentation on LRCs, including proposals for accreditation.

# Meetings

## Reports

### Annual General Meeting 2006

(please note that the report of the Annual Meeting, the entire 3-day event, was published in Bulletin #62/3)

#### Oxford University Museum of Natural History

3.00pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Chair: Malcolm Smart. About 45 members were present.

**1. Apologies** were received from Peter Boardman, Austin Brackenbury, Simon Hayhow, and Gill Mears,

**2. Minutes and Matters arising.**

The minutes of the AGM held at Preston Montford Field Study Centre, Shropshire, on Saturday 19 November, 2005 were distributed and accepted unanimously by the meeting as a correct record.

**3. Proposed Changes to the Constitution.**

The Committee recommended the following changes to the Constitution for ratification by the Annual General Meeting of members:

- a) The Chairman be elected for two years, and for the two years following the period of office may serve on the committee as Vice Chairman.
- b) Up to three ordinary members should stand down from the committee each year, after serving a two year term of office, to be re-elected or replaced. When ordinary members are appointed to specific offices during their term they need not stand down, but stand for annual election as is customary.

The secretary explained that Paragraph a) was to formalise what happened at present, with the former president remaining on the Committee. It would have the additional benefit that, in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice- Chairman would fill that role. Paragraph b) was due to the moves of Committee members to newly created offices. The original number of six members, alternately elected three and three had now been lost.

The proposed changes were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

**4. Secretary's Report.**

During the past year, Forum meetings have included our Spring workshop (17-19 March) at Preston Montford, this year on Empididae and Dolichopodidae, led by Roy Crossley and Adrian Plant.

The Summer Field Meeting (24 June – 1 July) was based at the Plumpton College, Lewes. The Autumn Field Meeting in Radnorshire, (18-22 October) was based at Llandrindod Wells.

There were also a Spring Field Meeting in Herefordshire, an Autumn meeting in Radnorshire, based at Llandrindod Wells, and a very enjoyable Field Meeting in France in June, organised by Phil Withers and based in La Dombes region, about 25km north of Lyon. In addition, an attempt to carry out field work on the north Norfolk coast was defeated by severe wet weather.

The Committee met in March, June and November. Some topics will be raised in the reports of Officers but others discussed were as follows:

#### PUBLICITY AND RECRUITMENT

At last year's AGM we appealed for someone to fill the then vacant post of Publicity Officer. At the end of that meeting Judy Webb volunteered and was immediately and gratefully co-opted on to the committee.



Since then Judy has done an excellent job. One result is the beautiful new 3-fold publicity leaflet which was first used on November 11, at the BENHS Exhibition, and will be used at similar future events.

Recruitment to the Committee was another issue, and two vacancies for 'Ordinary Members' now exist for election to the committee next year. These will be advertised in the Spring Bulletin.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Apart from the publicity leaflet, there have been no major publications by the forum this year. With two of the Reviews of Scarce and threatened Species published, the third Review on the Acalyprates is close to being finished, while the Calyprate Review still requires significant work. A review of the Status of British Hoverflies has been undertaken by Stuart Ball and Roger Morris.

### **RECORDING SCHEMES**

Work on the Crane-fly Atlas continues and useful maps are now accessible on the NBN Gateway. ([www.searchnbn.net](http://www.searchnbn.net)). Some members had said that records which they had sent in were not mapped, and when this was raised with Gavin Broad he said that a further process was required after Excel spreadsheets were submitted, and this took time. For the Fungus Gnats Recording Scheme work has started at the NBN to enter about 150-200,000 records from Peter Chandler's record cards, an estimated six months work, so that distribution maps will also be available for this group on the Gateway.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Spring Workshop will be held from 16-19 March 2007 at Preston Montford Field Study Centre, Shropshire. It will be on Sciomyzidae and Scathophagidae and led by Alan Stubbs, Stuart Ball and Darwyn Sumner. The Spring Meeting will study the Norfolk Pingos from 19-20 May. The Summer Field Meeting will be held at Aberystwyth from 13-20 July, while the Autumn meeting will be based in the Charnwood Forest Area, based at Loughborough from 17-21 October.

Points of Information were raised as follows:

Roger Morris flagged up the Spring 2006 weekend field meeting, omitted from the Secretary's Report, which was held in Herefordshire (13-14 May), and also that historic data had been added to the Hoverflies database, including the records from Summer Field Meeting in York in 1996.

Stuart Ball said that it took about 2 weeks to enter data, received as an Excel spreadsheet, on to the NBN Gateway.

### **5. Treasurer's Report Jon Cole**

Jon presented his Account of Income and Expenditure to the Meeting and it was accepted unanimously. He also highlighted a decision by the committee to grant up to £50, with prior permission of the committee, to cover the transport costs of any committee member travelling to a meeting such as the AES annual meeting, or the Kettering Entomological Fair, for the purposes of recruitment,

### **6. Membership Secretary's Report Mick Parker**

Mick reported that there were 289 DF members and 277 DD subscribers on 22 November 2006. There are also 5 new members for Jan 2007.

### **7. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report –Peter Chandler**

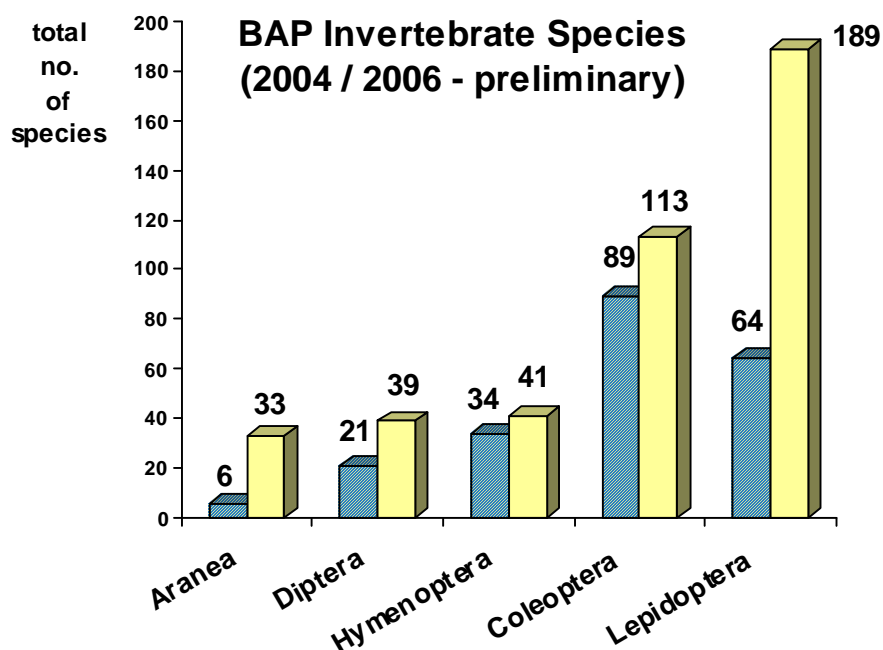
Peter reported that 2 editions of the Dipterists Digest had been published during 2006, but just one of Volume 13, so we needed to catch up. Following problems with blank pages, and poor quality of some colour printing, our printers have now been changed to Henry Ling, who print the BENHS journal. The first part of volume 13 was printed by them in August with satisfactory results. The paper quality is better and we have reverted to stapling to enable the journal to lay flat when opened. Peter asked for comments regarding members' preferences for centre stapling over Perfect Binding. PJC then commented on the need for more contributions to the next issue of which publication early in 2007 is expected. Only 30 pages were complete and although a number of other papers were in the pipeline including two with colour plates, more copy was necessary to achieve an issue.

## Meetings

### 8. Report from the Conservation & BAP Species Officer - Barbara Schulten

After the last AGM several organisations including the Statutory Agencies were invited to comment on the draft of the BAP Review. Subsequently, the number of accepted Diptera species changed during the year and we were consulted several times for additional information. Therefore, I would like to thank you for all your help.

The final BAP Invertebrate List was submitted to the Priority Review Group on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006. The numbers at the moment are as follows:



Key - stripes: 2004, yellow: preliminary 2006

Currently, the data for Diptera is as follows: old: 21 species, all retained. New: 18 species.

Total: 39 species. Rejected: 13 species

Please bear in mind, these figures are preliminary and can change.

What comes next? The Priority Review Group will assess all taxa including botany, mammals, birds etc. and choose the most appropriate action. They will also consider whether grouping species together is possible. They aim to produce a list before Christmas so that they can consult the experts again. The final list is supposed to be finalised some time next year.

But please don't forget that other species need your help as well! 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. So please don't forget to work on these as well.

### 9. Election of Officers:

It was proposed by Roy Crossley that the proposed Officers of the General Committee listed below be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Chris Spilling and the members elected unanimously.

Chairman:	John Ismay
Vice-Chairman:	Malcolm Smart
Secretary:	John Kramer
Treasurer:	Jon Cole
Membership Secretary:	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Secretary:	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Secretary:	David Heaver
Bulletin Editor:	Darwyn Sumner
Publicity Officer:	Judy Webb
Website Manager:	Stuart Ball
Conservation/BAP Officer:	Barbara Schulten
Committee Members:	Alan Stubbs

Malcolm thanked the Committee for their work and the new Chairman took the Chair. John Ismay then thanked Malcolm for all his work on behalf of the Dipterists' Forum. John also thanked all of the Oxford Museum staff who had helped us and said that they would also be thanked by letter. John also said that he Museum is very keen to encourage people to use the facilities, including the library, and hoped that members of the Dipterists Forum would avail themselves of the offer.

The next AGM will take place in Glasgow in November 2007

### 10. Any Other Business.

- a) There was a request from Adrian Plant that Recording Scheme and Study Group organisers send in reports of progress and information from their groups. DS said that the Forum had started off as recording groups, and yet signs of this activity in the Bulletin, with a few notable exceptions, had dwindled to a fraction of its initial size. Even a paragraph from each group would be appreciated.
- b) Darwyn Sumner said that, in order to have improved access to the NBN datasets, the Dipterists' Forum could sign up as a group, instead of individually, and that he would raise this, together with the question of the administration of the field meeting datasets, at the next committee meeting.

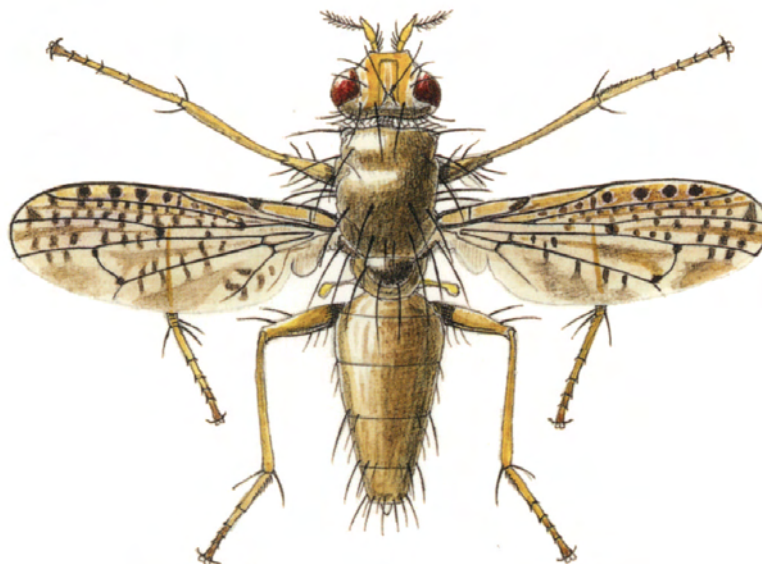
**John Kramer, Secretary**

## Meetings

# Spring Workshop 2007

**Sciomyzidae (Alan Stubbs & Darwyn Sumner), Scathophagidae (Stuart Ball)**

This was my second Spring Workshop, having attended last year's Empid and Doli workshop. I had enjoyed that one so much that I enrolled for this year's workshop on Scathophagids and Sciomyzids. Coming as a complete beginner to the groups, I was a little apprehensive that I would struggle with them. My main experience with diptera so far has been with the hoverflies and larger Brachycera. However I need not have worried, there was always someone on hand to help



when there was a question about a particular feature in the keys.

On Friday evening we had an introductory presentation from Darwyn Sumner and a talk from Alan Stubbs on Sciomyzids followed by a very informative talk on the Scathophagids from Stuart Ball and after dinner he then gave us an illustrated talk on his recent visit to the Falklands whilst we enjoyed a pint of the excellent beer from the centre's bar. Saturday was spent in the laboratory looking at specimens of Scathophagids, testing out the key that Stuart had prepared and working through Sciomyzidae specimens using the key that Darwyn Sumner had prepared. Stuart's key worked very well indeed and the excellent colour photographs really helped, Darwyn's key too was straightforward to follow and well illustrated. Where anyone had difficulty the point was noted and the keys will be updated to clarify the couplet.

Both Stuart and Darwyn are to be congratulated on producing such good results. It must have taken a lot of hard work. Some of the real strengths of these workshops, I have found, is the helpfulness of everybody there. If you get stuck someone will explain the terminology or show you the key feature and compare it to the other half of the couplet. The other strength is the availability of so many specimens to look at. You can really get a feel for the groups and can compare similar species so that the wording in the couplets really does make sense. Trying to do this on your own with just a few specimens can be really disheartening if you get stuck.

The weekend is not all hard work and peering down microscopes. The centre provides excellent meals, the rooms are comfortable and everyone is very welcoming. The bar provides a pleasant place to relax in the evening and the rooms are basic but comfortable. I would recommend these weekends to anyone who wants to develop their diptera identification skills. If I had one criticism, it would be that the laboratory was very crowded and if these workshops continue to grow in popularity a second room will be needed. However that is a minor criticism. I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and look forward to the 2008 workshop. The programme for that is not yet fixed but suggestions included: an introduction to the Diptera families; Tachinids; Sarcophagids plus "the Bottles" or Tephritids.

Make sure you keep mid-March 2008 free in your diary for the next workshop. I shall.

**John Showers**

## Spring Field Meeting 2007 - Norfolk Pingos

17-20<sup>th</sup> May



Based in the lovely village of Castle Acre, near Swaffham, this was a very successful and enjoyable meeting. Almost every guest house in Castle Acre must have been occupied by Dipterists, as there was an excellent turn out. Full credit to Roger Morris for managing to squeeze everyone in and for arranging visits to some really interesting local sites.

The main focus of the meeting was the Pingo areas. So what's a Pingo? Simply put it is a 'periglacial feature' which means they formed long ago around the main ice sheet front when Britain was in the grip of the last ice age. 'Pingo' means 'small hill' in Inuit. The important thing from the dipterist's point of view is that these are a diverse set of small wetland areas with a long uninterrupted history back 10,000 years to their formation at the end of the last glaciation. Each started as an ice mound (like a blister) within the soil, fed by a spring or soil water flow from below. As the ice core continued to increase in size, so the surface soil was pushed up into a mound – some reached considerable size. At the end of the glacial period, the ice front retreated and the ice that formed the blister core of

the pingo melted, soil on top of the pingo slid down the sides to land in a ring-shaped bank known as a 'rampart' around the hole where the ice had been, now a small lake or pond. Life colonised the lake and over the thousands of years, sediment and peat accumulated so that the hollow filled up, leaving marsh, fen, swamp or bog vegetation on the surface today. Some have been cut over to remove peat in the past and have thus been artificially put back to an earlier stage in succession, meaning they have open water or inaccessible swamp vegetation today (that is inaccessible to every body except Malcolm Smart with his very long net).

The erratic cutting history and random colonisation events mean that the Pingos may be very varied in botanical character – one might be moss mat with sphagnum and marsh lousewort, whilst the next open water with floating aquatics like lilac water violet, yellowcress and potamogeton. Yet others were dominated solely by huge sedge tussocks separated by black deep water, or nothing but common reed or another dominated by just tubular water-dropwort. The ones dominated by carr woodland were the most spectacular to me – true primeval swamp with floating fern mats, blackcurrant bushes, and black water pools with fallen rotting trees at crazy angles. Here as one swept the marginal vegetation, clouds of mosquitoes were disturbed. These wetlands of great antiquity and botanical diversity are known for their very diverse dipteran fauna – being very rich in craneflies, stratiomyids and sciomyzids.

East Walton Common and Thompson Common are classic pingo sites. We also made forays to East Winch Common (mainly heath land), Roydon Common (a part with moist heath woodland, very wet poor fen meadow and carr) and Laziate Pits (disused sandpits). On the final day we included a site in the middle of the Breck, near Thetford: Barnham Cross Common (a mosaic of calcareous and acid grassland plus patches of scrub and young oak trees).



## Meetings

Now to some news on finds. Many people will not have had time to fully work through their catches, but here follows a few early comments. Julie Locke captured *Odinia boletina* from Barnham Cross Common (must be some good bracket fungi there that I missed!). John Showers took the stratiomyid *Odontomyia tigrina* (Nb) from both East Walton and Thompson Common. Ken and Rita Merrifield took *Lipara lucens* (the large chloropid that breeds in galls on common reed) from East Walton Common. Roger Morris reports: some nice flies – at East Walton Common - *Orthonevra brevicornis* (Nb). The last time I saw it was in the 1980s but I got it at E. Walton on both Friday and Saturday. Also *Xylota abiens* (Nb). East Winch Common - *Trichopsomyia flavitarsis* (also seen at Thompson Common) - not rare but quite local. Laziate Pits - the conopid *Conops vesicularis* (Nb) A good total of 20 species of hoverflies taken at Roydon Common.

Malcolm Smart was pleased to see *Pherbellia dubia*, a first for him, from Barnham Cross Common and at East Walton Common he recorded *Tropidia scita* which he had not seen for many years. Roy Crossley reports: Thompson Common on the Sunday morning was lovely, but a little early in the season for dolies and possibly a little too late for the spring empids! I only recorded 8 species of each, which for mid-late May was an unexpectedly small number - perhaps I had lost the plot. The one nice thing I found there was the sciomyzid *Pherbellia griseola* (Nb) which was new to me. East Walton Common produced only 7 empidoids - pathetic, but the wind didn't help, and I know it is a super site. Roydon Common produced 10 spp. and nothing out of the ordinary - again the weather was against it.

Alan Stubbs reports: I noted a fair number of species but goodies were sparse due to the difficult season of an exceptionally dry April. At East Walton Common (SSSI) the best find was the RDB1 tortoise beetle *Cassida denticollis* (det Mark Pavett but I forget who nabbed it). In a beetle status review in 1992 (JNCC) the last record was in 1963 in Kircudbright and there are no old records for East Anglia. To my surprise I found *Pelidnoptera nigripennis* (millipede parasite) which is normally northern (rather than the common *P. fuscipennis*): West Norfolk (pingoes included) is noted for northern species. Craneflies were below full fettle for the time of year: *Tipula pabulina* was found on the dry ground within the alder carr area, a local species previously recorded here. Others found the horsefly *Hybomitra bimaculatus*. East Winch Common (SSSI, Norfolk Wildlife Trust NR) plus *Cassida denticollis* again, just one (det Mark Pavett). From Laziate Common sand pit area some captures by others that I saw: - Jon Cole caught *Nephrotoma crocata* (cranefly, likes sandy soil but way out geographic record). Jon was also pleased to see a pair of *Brachypalpoides lentus* in cop. Yet others recorded *Lasiopogon cinctus* (robberfly, good geographic record). From Castle Acre where we were staying, Andrew Halstead gave me a cranefly sample from a field by the priory: a *Trimicra pilipes* may be new to Norfolk and quite probably East Anglia. It is probably elusive rather than genuinely rare, far more easily found in a light trap than by day-time search. Roydon Common (NR, possibly outside NNR). In the north-east sector with alder carr I found the craneflies *Thaumastoptera calceata* and *Molophilus bihamatus*, plus the sciomyzid *Pherbellia pallida*. In a wet meadow with a boardwalk: the cranefly *Phylidorea abdominalis* (some East Anglian records but still a good find). At Thompson Common (SSSI, NR) *Cordilura aemula*, a pingo pool speciality as far as East Anglia is concerned. This was taken by quite a few people. At Barnham Cross Common (SSSI) *Dolichopus micans*, a Breckland speciality.

From that wet meadow next to Castle Acre priory Andrew Halstead also found some good stratiomyids - *Odontomyia tigrina* and the rarer *O. argentata* (RDB 2) also the sciomyzid *Psacadina zernyi* (RDB 2) from both East Walton Common and Thompson Common.

On a non Diptera point, some of us were impressed by the numbers of ticks at these sites. Andy Brown reports pulling no less than 7 from his person upon returning home!

My own memories of the trip – finding the Pingo with sheets of water violet (*Hottonia palustris*) in flower. I have been looking to see and photograph this beautiful lilac flowered member of the primrose family for some years. As for Diptera – the capture of the spectacular large striped hoverfly *Sericomyia silentis*

sunning on a log in the carr area of a pingo at East Walton was a good moment and I was very impressed by the very hairy asilid *Dysmachus trigonus* shown to me by Alan at Laziate Pits. When I got home there was more fun in store. Rearings from the *Polyporus squamosus* (Dryad's Saddle) bracket fungus found for me by Roger Morris at Thompson Common. It was so pristine, fresh and apparently un-colonised by Diptera that I nearly didn't bother to set it up to rear. What a mistake that would have been, because as it disintegrated, loads of things started to emerge. Amongst the numerous mycetophilids I was most impressed by male drosophilids of the species *Leucophenga maculata*. These are good sized beasts for drosophilids, with spotted abdomens and spectacular silvering of the head and entire thorax. They looked like a lot of tiny little searchlights, wandering around in the rearing pot with their typical ambling drosophilid gait.

Apart from the flies, there was also the social aspect to the meeting. As several people commented, the company was excellent, the B & Bs were great and the socialising pub meals very enjoyable. Well done all round again to Roger as organiser, I think!

Judy Webb

## The Dipterist Summer Field Meeting 2007

### A Beginner's Impression



I took 13:00hrs coach from London Victoria. It was quite a long journey, but it made arriving all that more special. Aberystwyth is a small coastal town in north Wales which boasts a castle and a university. We were staying at the latter. Accommodation was comfortable and rates reasonable with cooked breakfast and dinner included.

My intention was to learn about field techniques in which I am a complete novice and there was ample opportunity to build up on theory. Did you know that it is not uncommon for female flies to have their eyes situated further apart than the males? I also learnt about how to remove a biting tick using flat ended tweezers and alcohol.

Everyone was really approachable and helpful even supplying me with equipment. I was really struck by how friendly and considerate people were. The university had an arts centre and I seized the opportunity to view a film.

The Dipterist Forum does important work recording fly distribution for conservation purposes. The experience has inspired me to hopefully join the beginner's workshop and Summer Field meeting 2008.

Karen Clarke

## Meetings

### Forthcoming

## Annual Meeting and Dipterists Days 2007

Hunterian Museum (Zoology), Glasgow University

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 23rd, 24th & 25th November, 2007

### **PLEASE BRING AN EXHIBIT IF YOU CAN ALSO BRING SPECIMENS FOR IDENTIFICATION**

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

### **DIPTERIST DAYS PROGRAMME**

#### **Friday 23 November 2007**

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.

#### **Sat 24 November 2007**

**10:00AM**

Assemble and set out exhibits.

The exhibits may be viewed during the coffee and lunch break.

**10:30AM**

#### **Programme of Talks:**

1. **Geoff Hancock** – The Hunterian Museum, its history and contents.
2. **Steve Hewitt** – Riverine Flies

**11:30 AM**

#### **Coffee Break**

**12:00**

3. **Craig Macadam** – Invertebrate Conservation in Scotland
4. **Iain McGowan** – The Conservation of Lonchaeid Flies.

**1:15 - 2:30PM**

#### **Break for Lunch**

Bring sandwiches, or use the local restaurants.

**3:00-3:30PM**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

See below for the Agenda

**4:00PM**

### Awarding of exhibit prize and Close of Afternoon Session

The building must be vacated by 4.45pm

**7:00 - 9:00PM**

## 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. **Please let Geoff Hancock know if you wish to attend.**

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

## Sunday 20th November

**10.00AM**

Studying the collections can continue, if required.

## Recording Group & Study Group Meetings & Presentations

## Bring your specimens for identification by the Scheme organisers

A number of facilities have been made available by the museum to support presentations and workshops by any of the Recording Groups or Study Groups who wish to participate. These include boards for poster presentations, facilities for hands-on workshops and projector/screen/laptop for showing off your pictures. Dipterists Forum Scheme Organisers are currently being contacted by the Secretary so we have as yet no clear idea how many Schemes will be taking part (we have at least the Stilt & Stalk Fly + Cranefly + Hoverflies + Sciomyzids at the moment) but this is an ideal opportunity for any scheme organiser to do a bit of advertising, we don't often get such superb facilities so do make the most of them.

[illegible]

## Meetings

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sat 24th November 2007

The Chairman will open the AGM at 3.00pm

#### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Membership Secretary's Report.
6. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report.
7. Election of Officers:

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

Ordinary elected committee members serve for two years, half of the team standing down each year (7f)

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

Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	To be decided
Membership Secretary	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Secretary	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Secretary	David Heaver
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Publicity Officer	Judy Webb
Web Manager	Stuart Ball
Conservation/BAP Officer	Barbara Schulten
CommitteeMembers	1. Chris Spilling
	2. Vacancy
	3. Vacancy

Please note that the full list of Officers is to be found on the first page of every Bulletin.

#### 8. Any other business.

John Kramer, Secretary



## Income and Expenditure account to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006

	2006 (£)	2005 (£)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions		
Forum	1906	1521
Digest	<u>2870</u>	<u>2469</u>
	4776	3990
Dipterists Digest back issues	367	62
JNCC grant for hoverfly review	1000	-
Interest	<u>199</u>	<u>223</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6342</b>	<b>4275</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Dipterists Digest 12.2	(1611)	
13.1	(1211)	
	(2822)	(2796)
Bulletin 61	(443)	(1243)
Publicity		
Leaflets	(181)	
AES exhibition tables	<u>(29)</u>	
	(210)	(200)
Hoverfly status review expenses	(865)	-
Buglife subscription	(10)	(10)
Forum website	-	(48)
Workshop	(276)	(120)
Subscription refunds	(142)	(183)
Membership secretary's expenses	(196)	(135)
Treasurer's expenses	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(5)</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(4966)</b>	<b>(4740)</b>
<b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>(465)</b>

## Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006

	2006 (£)	2005 (£)
<b>Cash Deposits</b>		
Alliance & Leicester current account	2688	1510
“ “ deposit account	<u>10856</u>	<u>10658</u>
	13544	12168
<b>General Fund</b>		
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2006	12168	12633
Surplus for year	<u>1376</u>	<u>(465)</u>
	13544	12168

Jonathan Cole, Honorary Treasurer

## Meetings

# Field Meetings 2007-2009

The programme of field meetings is gradually progressing and there are bookings and tentative ideas for meetings until 2010. Bookings are sought for all meetings as far ahead as Summer 2008.

### Autumn 2007

**Charnwood Forest**, 17-21 October

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. The group is usually small and is based in guest houses.

### Spring 2008

**Swaledale**, 24-25 (26) May 2008

This is an excellent opportunity to visit the Swaledale area and associated MoD land. Habitats include limestone grasslands and woodland, together with the Swale itself. Accommodation will be in guest houses either in Richmond or Reeth (we have yet to decide where). Early indications of interest are sought in order that we can make bookings for accommodation. The meeting coincides with the Whitsuntide Bank Holiday and as a result it will be possible to extend the meeting to a third day (if people so wish). However, this may also mean there will be competition for accommodation so early booking is needed. Expressions of interest plus a deposit of £20.00 please.

### Summer 2008

**Glenmore Lodge, Cairngorm**, 28 June To 5 July 2008

This is a major opportunity to visit the classic Scottish sites. Glenmore Lodge is a comfortable outward bound centre located close to Loch Morlich on the Cairngorm road. Accommodation is in single and twin rooms (not en-suite). Current prices in the order of £32.00 for shared rooms and £42.00 for single rooms, subject to inflation. The costs will include accommodation and meals. Thirty rooms have been reserved with the intention of opening the meeting to a wider membership of the BENHS to ensure full utilisation of accommodation. So far I have confirmed bookings from sixteen members and indications of interest from a further four, which means that vacant places may become much sought-after in the near future. A deposit of £35.00 (payable to Roger Morris) is sought – first-come first-served.

### Autumn 2008 & Spring 2009 TO BE CONFIRMED

### Summer 2009

**Swansea – dates to be confirmed**

This is a tentative venue, subject to confirmation with Halls of Residence in Swansea. The location gives excellent access to The Gower, the major dune system at Kenfig and to parts of eastern Pembrokeshire.

**Bookings and further information:** Roger Morris, **7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 1QE.**  
**roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com**

## And now... ... publicity



Yes, the Dipterists Forum takes this subject very seriously. So seriously that we have a Publicity Officer. Why? Well, our constitution says we promote the study of flies. One of the big challenges facing us and akin societies is how to attract the next generation of naturalists to take up the study of the less popular wildlife.

Our PO, Judy Webb, has inadvertently revealed a hidden talent that could be the perfect solution. Heard of the 'Ugly Bug' song? Well, I hadn't but that may be a generation thing about watching kids TV. To the amazement of some of us, Judy led a group of about 10 kids through the recorded song, with actions, leading to great acclamation from the adults present.

Now, with little effort, the Dipterists Forum should be able to adapt the tune and wording to create the 'Ugly Maggot' song, with actions devised by Judy. She is passionate about getting kids enthusiastic about insects - who knows, the next Malcolm Smart, still in shorts, could be out there, eager to take part.

Summer field meetings would need to be based at seaside tourist resorts, with advanced billing of twice daily renditions of the 'Ugly Maggot'. Of course, the police would have to close roads to traffic and provide special parking for all the coach tours. The state of the tide would have to be right to enable the over-flow of kids from the promenade to be on the beach. It could also be a wow feature at rock concerts. The possibilities are huge. The Last Night of the Proms could cast aside all those out-moded patriotic bits: instead the London Symphony Orchestra will play 'the Ugly Maggot', whilst on stage 'the fat lady' belts out the words and Judy does the actions: the cameras pan onto the rabble going wild dancing 'the Ugly Maggot'. The encores will be endless and the international viewing figures will go through the roof.

That does not let the rest of the committee off the hook. How about line-sweeping to music whilst going down Exhibition Road during the BENHS annual do at South Kensington)? Ah, our next AGM is in Glasgow - I am sure we could create a media sensation there - led my massed bag-pipes playing the 'Ugly Maggot'.

Perhaps you have a more down to earth approach. I am sure our Publicity Officer is open to ideas.

Alan Stubbs

## Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum

### 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

Whilst all schemes 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, Lonchoptridae, Ulidiidae & Pallopteridae



Mr D K Clements

7 Vista Rise, Radyr Cheyne, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2SD

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### 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



Steve Crellin

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Matthew Smith

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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



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Darwyn Sumner

### Hoverflies



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### Stilt & Stalk Fly



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## Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum

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#### Empid & Dolichopodid



Dr Adrian Plant

Curator of Diptera

Department of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology

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#### Chironomidae

Dr P.P. Roper

South View Sedlescombe Battle East Sussex TN33 0PE

#### Pipunculidae

Mr A E Stubbs (see Tipulids)

Mr Michael Ackland (see Anthomyiidae)

#### Simuliidae

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### Workshops

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