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Dipterists Forum Forum

www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/index.php

Photographs: Front cover *Xyphosia miliaria*, Tephritidae, mating, voyeuring, Darwyn Sumner, *Mycetophila blanda* & *Cheilosia caerulescens* (above) & *Norellia spinipes* (opp) Alan Outen & the hairy legged Asilid by Seth Irish (p9). Other photographs as supplied by the authors or the editorial panel who would be pleased to receive illustrations for general purposes. If you want to catch the next front cover, try turning your camera through 90˚

Errata: The *Calliphora* on the inside front cover of the last Bulletin was actually *Protocalliphora azurea* - thanks to several hawk-eyed members.

BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum

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Editorial

Closing down?

The recently announced closure of 400 libraries across the UK should give us cause for concern. When Local Authorities need to make cuts the first targets are the libraries and the second are the local museums. It is not clear just how severe that might be but I have certainly heard that some local museums are considering closure of buildings and long-term storage of some of their assets.

Access to collections isn't always as straightforward as we may be accustomed to find in our regional and national museums, some are stored away in conditions which can be rather tricky to get at. So if you have a nearby local museum which you know to have Diptera collections, keep an eye open for any cuts, try to make arrangements to look at them - and review your arrangements for the disposal of your personal collection when you too get "archived".

White Paper on the Environment

As part of the UK Government's consultation exercise on the proposed White Paper on the Environment, both NFBR and ALERC responded (Alan Stubbs too had comments - which were seen by the ALERC group before their submission - so we weren't left out). A reply has been received from Richard Benyon MP (Minister for Natural Environment & Fisheries), selected quotes from his letter may reassure the recorders and conservationists amongst us:

You will know that Defra and our agencies have been strong supporters of biological recording, providing funds for national schemes and societies, local record centres and the National Biodiversity Network Trust. In many respects the network of voluntary recorders in this country provides a fantastic example of the Big Society approach to conservation.

For the future, Defra's Business Plan sets out our commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment as a top priority. It also commits us to publishing a Natural Environment White Paper which will be a bold and ambitious statement outlining the Government's vision for the natural environment. The White Paper will be accompanied by a new biodiversity strategy setting out our approach to conserving biodiversity in England. Alongside this, we will need to consider how we should use data and evidence both in targeting conservation effort and assessing our progress.

It's so reassuring that we are a fantastic example of a principle that UK Government discovered yesterday.

Small child: to Dipterists Forum photographic competitor
"Hey mister, it's flown across to the other side of the stream now"

Cash for flies

One of the consequences of current reforms in which the functions and resources of a number of Public Bodies are to be considerably "modified" is that they will no longer be permitted to lobby. Power is being taken away from the likes of Natural England, Environment Agency, CCW etc. and being given to local communities. That's us - Dipterists Forum is the kind of community that David Cameron means. Start practising your oratorial skills - you are now officially a watchdog.

If you have an interest in such issues, Sue Everett's column in "British Wildlife" provides a good deal of information and if an uninformed community group does decide to build a parking lot on your paradise then check out Biodiversity Offsetting at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/offsetting/bio-offsetting.htm - you could get cash for your lost flies.

National Federation for Biological Recording Conference

Plenty of topics in this conference - **The Future of Biological recording in the UK** - to interest us all. The first day has talks about NBN, ALERC, The BBC Breathing Spaces programme, Biological Recording in Scotland and the OPAL project. Day 2 has talks from Defra about the Biodiversity Strategy, Butterfly Recording's slant on recording, an angle on recording and environmental change from CEH and NFBR's strategy. After lunch we have John van Breda (the man behind the 2nd part of **Recorder**'s development (following Stuart Ball)) on new technologies for recording, Social Biological Recording from Charles Roper (yes - you do know his dad) and Sarah Whild from Birmingham University will talk on training the next generation of recorders.

All at Holiday Inn, Bristol on 7-8 April 2011, contact John Newbould 01305 837364 john_newbould@btinternet.com I'll see you there

Reviews

Do keep your eye open for things that might be of interest to the readers of the Bulletin. Books on Diptera are not published very often but there are other topics like conservation and biodiversity that definitely interest us. Equipment for photography, microscopy, collecting and breeding too. Do drop a note to the editors.

News from the Schemes

Recording in 2011

The recording schemes were well represented by presentations at this year's Annual Meeting in Oxford and all of them seem quite busy. There is an opportunity for anyone with a keen interest in **Larger Brachycera** to assist Simon Hayhow with the scheme with a view to taking it over in the near future, please contact Simon.

The software that the organisers use for their schemes is indicated on the back cover of the Bulletin. Those who use **Recorder** may be interested to know that JNCC are no longer able to maintain the current level of staff investment in this package (monitoring the forums, developing requirements, testing etc.) and are seeking private sector support for this kind of work. The situation is that **Recorder** is reckoned to be a stable application but that any new development will require such private sector support.

http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk

Larger Brachycera News — Simon Hayhow

Martin Drake, Steve Hewitt and Andy Godfrey published '**Flies of exposed riverine sediment**' in British Wildlife (Vol 21, No 5). This covered work on the two charismatic Silver-stiletto flies *Cliorismia rustica* and *Spiriverpa lunulata*. This work has greatly extended the known distribution of both species, with *Cliorismia* now known from Northumberland and Perthshire. For management purposes it is clear the estuarine river shingle flies have slightly different requirements to beetles but it is undisturbed river processes on which both ultimately depend.

In late June, 2010 Andy Foster was sweeping for beetles in a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Reserve and found *Villa cingulata*. The habitat was a quality hay meadow on a flood plain. Long herb-rich grassland on well-drained calcareous soil has been the more typical habitat for this species. Was this a stray or can it use other types of meadow? A further visit found adjacent unimproved fields with cattle and no hay cut. They had some plants of a base-rich nature so perhaps the meadows are not so dissimilar from the more typical 'downland' swards. Further observations are welcome. We still do not know if the host is a noctuid moth larva for this species.

On 28th July, 2010 Phil Porter reported *Choerades marginatus* at Whisby LNR in Lincolnshire. This is an area of recolonised gravel pits with no immediate ancient woodland. It comprises unimproved grassland with hawthorn hedges on well-drained soils. It is a widespread species of southern oak woods but scarce around the Midlands. Other associations with habitats like wood pasture and pine and spruce have been described but it would be interesting to know more on habitat requirements for this saproxylic species.

Revision of British Soldierflies and their allies

By November the stock was down to only three unsold copies. Martin Drake and myself have been assembling information for a small scale revision and we are grateful for some advice already received.

This note is addressed to those many other dipterists who have, and hopefully use the book.

The aim is to try to keep the book in print (with a hopefully only short gaps). Thus the focus is on minimal but essential up-date, focusing on the rarer and lesser known species where the published statement is significantly out of date. The broader picture of distribution of widespread species will be covered in a BRC atlas (under preparation by Simon Hayhow).

1. Please let us know of any snags as a user.
2. Inform us of any unpublished observations which may be useful for the authors to know of at this stage (we would prefer to be told than for you to feel your observations are too insignificant).

Alan Stubbs (alan.stubbs@buglife.org.uk)

Empids and Dolichopodids — Adrian Plant & Martin Drake

Martin Drake tells us he hopes to become more obviously involved in this scheme shortly.

Sepsid Recording Scheme — Steve Crellin

I would like to wish a happy and prosperous New Year to all the members of the Dipterists Forum and to the regular contributors to the Sepsid Recording Scheme in particular.

I've had one batch of records for 2010 so far, which reached me from Laurence Clemons.

Please remember the scheme when you are out and about recording during 2011 even if it is a record of one of the commoner species.

Your record may well fill a gap on a distribution map.

Cranefly Recording Scheme — John Kramer

Newsletter #21 is included in this Bulletin.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme — David Iliff

Newsletter #50 included with this Bulletin

Oestridae Study Group — Andrew Grayson

Watch out for this man if he seizes
His net when a nearby sheep sneezes
He's hatching a plan
To catch if he can
The cause of the poor beast's myiaseses

Andrew gave a terrific presentation at the 2010 AGM (Ed)

Tephritidae Recording Scheme — Laurence Clemons

Newsletter included with this Bulletin

Notice board

International Academic Society of Dipterology

During the past few months there have been a number of emails discussing this matter. The person who has been very positive about it all and whom I'm sure would be pleased to discuss it further with any Dipterists Forum member so inclined is Adrian Plant.

So here is his note to the DF Editors on the matter:

At ICD7 in Costa Rica there was discussion about the possibility of forming an international academic society of dipterology and the ICD Council was charged with looking into this. It seems pertinent that this is brought to the attention of the DF membership via the Bulletin or perhaps discussed at the AGM. It could be that the Forum might want to make representations to ICD7 Council over the matter. I gather that Barbara will be writing a report on ICD7 for the Bulletin (see below). If so the proposal might be mentioned there?

The lead article in NADS' Fly Times (http://www.nadsdiptera.org/News/FlyTimes/issue45.pdf.) provides some information on this.

Adrian Plant

The Bulletin Editors will be more than happy to report on further progress on this issue. It's a little tricky to cover ongoing debates so we would be glad if the people currently discussing it would kindly produce a summary. In the meantime, talk to Adrian. (Ed)

When is a fly not a fly?

So when **is** it so? When it's in a no-fly-zone perhaps? Or when it's just a no fly? Well no, not exactly. Confused? - you might well be!

So what is this all about? Well, I recently came across a 2006 article (on facebook no less!) by a certain Valery A. Korneyev from Ukraine in collaboration with Allen L. Norrbom from the USDA describing a new species of uncertain familial position in Tephritoidea from Madeira under the magnificent name of *Nosferatumyia no!!*

In their etymology they state "the genus name is derived from 'nosferatu' (which means 'nondead'in Latin, according to Bram Stoker's 'Dracula'), referring to its dark coloration, weird head shape, and possible nocturnal activity; combined with Greek 'myia', fly" and "the specific epithet is from the Latin exclamation 'no', meaning negation. It is used in the sense of the exclamation in reference to the extremely uncommon shape of the head and is considered a noun in apposition.

Hmm - so that's it then! Now you know! It all sounds a bit negative to me with undertones of voodoo and zombies. Furthermore I do not remember coming across "nosferatu " or "no" during my school Latin lessons nor is either word in my Latin dictionary (Kidd, 1957). But I was no good at Latin anyway and the dictionary is only a pocket sized one.

References

Koeneyev, V.A. & Norrbom, A.L., 2006. Genera of the Subfamily Tachiniscinae (Diptera, Tephritidae), with discussion of the position of Descoleia Aczél and *Nosferatumyia*, gen. n. (Tephritoidea Incertae Sedis). Instrumenta Biodiversitatis VII: 105-155; juin 2006

Kidd, D.A., 1957. Collins Gem Latin Dictionary

Malcolm Smart

Using digitised Diptera literature from the Biodiversity Heritage Library

One amazing component of the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL, www.eol.org) is the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL, www.biodiversitylibrary.org), which aims to digitise all taxonomic literature ever published and linking it with the species pages on the EOL. I am introducing you to this great tool to make you aware of the ongoing digitisation project and hope you will use it for your research. The number of journal volumes and books hosted by BHL is growing rapidly and I have downloaded several old publications for my research already. It pays off to check back from time to time or subscribe to the RSS feed to find out about new volumes being added. Below is some information about the BHL, some hints for downloading, and information on new developments.

All literature digitised by the BHL is made freely available to any researcher or amateur in the world through the web-site. Initially, nine institutional libraries were partners in the BHL and new ones have joined with a BHL Europe (http://www.bhl-europe.eu/) being formed recently. Initially, all core literature pre-1923, which is out of copyright in the USA, amounting to approximately 400,000 titles (= 80 million pages) will be digitised. Then all pre-1923 literature (approximately 600–750,000 titles, 120–150 million pages) and all taxonomic literature (estimated at 1.4–1.6 million titles, 280–320 million pages) will be digitised in high-resolution. In cases where books or journals are still covered by copyright the BHL will approach the publisher and try to make an agreement to digitise the journal and provide access to the PDFs to the publisher as well as to users through the BHL web-site. Smaller natural history museums, for example, might be interested in waiving the copyright and getting their journals digitised as they might not have funding to do so by themselves. The digitisation service by the BHL is completely free to the institutions/publisher.

Digitisation is being done through the use of two SLR cameras photographing pages in at least 300 dpi as TIF images. The text in the images is then recognised using sophisticated OCR algorithms (BHL uses ABBYY Finereader http://finereader.abbyy.com) and all taxonomic names are identified by using TaxonFinder from uBio (http://www.ubio.org) to be able to search the documents for their taxonomic information. To date, 31,128,901 pages are available from 42,891 titles and 82,897 volumes (13 August 2010). All pages digitised have permanent URLs (e.g., http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/8340143 shows the page of the original description of Nemomydas venosus (Loew, 1866) Asiloidea: Mydidae) and therefore this page can be linked to a taxonomic web-site or links included in your taxonomic publication. More detailed information about the BHL can be found on their wiki web-site (http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/About) as well as their blog (http://biodiversitylibrary.blogspot.com).

Library catalogues are great tools to provide access to journal volumes or books, but are not capturing data concerning every article within a journal volume. The BHL is currently no different in that one could initially only download entire journal volumes from which one had to extract the article of choice. Now, a new way is provided in which one can download an article/chapter of a digitised journal volume/book if one has page numbers at hand. The BHL asks the user to voluntarily provide the bibliographic information about the article/chapter of choice so as to provide direct access to the article/chapter for future users. For Diptera we can get this information from Systema Dipterorum (Biosystematic Database of World Diptera, BDWD, http://www.diptera.org/). Details of how to download articles in this way can be found on

Biodiversity Offsetting. If you want to read more, there's an article in The Ecologist at http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/499256/what_is_biodiversity_offsetting_and_how_would_it_work.html

the BHL blog (http://biodiversitylibrary.blogspot.com/2009/01/article-download-now-available.html).

Another great addition to the BHL project is the formation of a CiteBank (http://citebank.org/), which allows dipterists to upload privately scanned/digitised articles in order to make them available to the broader dipterological and entomological communities.

In some instances, complains have been voiced that figures in the provided PDF are of a lower quality. This is related to the text being recognised with OCR and the figures being compromised in the process. The BHL provides three types of data for download, (1) a PDF (with text OCR), (2) a plain text file (with the OCR text itself), and (3) the page image. All figures can therefore be viewed when downloaded as an image in high quality.

I hope you will start using the Biodiversity Heritage Library for your research.

Torsten Dikow
Biodiversity Synthesis Center, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL, USA
tdikow@fieldmuseum.org

Microscope or Computer?

(As Harry Hill would ask)

Students of Dipterology will have noticed the current phenomena of large numbers of pictures of flies being posted to various web sites by enthusiastic amateur photographers. They are usually accompanied with a request for identification. The major site (with the most postings) is diptera.info, but the Dipterists Forum site is now attracting similar photos.

I have myself in the past responded to some of the postings of Anthomyiidae photographs, tempting by the opportunity to show off my specialist knowledge (aren't we all a bit like that?), and also because few other responses were forthcoming. Unfortunately with this family a general dorsal view of the fly, even taken with a high specification camera and macro lens, rarely shows the characters required even to place the fly in the correct genus. It is the problem of sufficient depth of field not being obtained at high magnification, so that the chaetotaxy of the legs is rarely visible. A good example is the difficulty of capturing the length of aristal hairing which is critical in Anthomyiidae. A further problem for me occurred when a photo of an interesting anthomyiid fly was placed on the diptera.info site. I emailed the photographer, asking if he had any voucher specimens he could send me for positive identification. He replied, " Oh! I don't kill any flies, just snap them!" A pity that this admirable Buddhist philosophy is not extensively applied in many parts of the world with regard to *Homo sapiens.* I must add that the diptera.info site has a great deal of other information and references which are invaluable to the dipterist, which makes it very useful.

Another drawback (to me) of responding to these internet photos is that quite often the guessed ID is followed by an offer to send me the specimen (even boxes of them) for proper identification, Much as I would like to help, life is too short, and anyway I have boxes of my own still waiting study. I appreciate that many groups or families of Diptera not only make memorable images, but many can often be identified from a picture. The larger Brachycera spring to mind. Recent books, such as the excellent Bugs Britannica (2009) by Peter Marren and Richard Mabey have a host of wonderful photos of invertebrates doing interesting things, even simulating or inspiring modern art. I was so impressed by the folk legends surrounding these creatures that I had to buy the book! The life history of flies is what I think these photographers should be concentrating on, but please catch a specimen if your captured images are something new, so we can find out what species it really is.

Well I suppose one can't have all the advantages of email and the vast resources offered by the world wide web without what might be construed as the unimportant trivialities of life. When I started to study flies way back in the 1950s a request of information about types in some distant museum necessitated buying an aerogram, getting it to fit into a typewriter (remember those?), and eventually going to the post office to despatch it. Perhaps a week or so later one might receive a reply asking for further enlightenment! Now it is all so easy and inexpensive.

So the answer to the title of this communication is - both, but they do different things. If you really want to know the names of the more difficult to identify flies, get a microscope, study the literature, go the many courses offered by the Dipterists Forum, and you will be hooked for life.

Michael Ackland

BAP & Conservation

New officer needed

Due to personal circumstances I had to announce that I will step down as BAP and Conservation Officer at the 2011 AGM, after having been in this role since 2004. I feel that I do not have enough time to fulfil the role as I understand it, but also would like to commit more time to taxonomic work.

Should you feel strongly about conservation and consider stepping in for Diptera, a large and important group that is so often forgotten, please get in touch with me or another Committee member and take on this role. It can be very rewarding if you are willing to put a little bit of time aside. I understood my role as follows:

- To support work on our BAP species by alerting people of funding possibilities, trying to get Diptera included in larger projects, but also to supply the information I have or to point people to the correct people to ask for such information (if known to me), hence, making it more likely that a bid is successful
- To encourage and support conservation of Diptera by stepping in for flies, trying to get people to work on RDB species etc
- To collect information on our BAP species, e.g. papers etc so that a future Review is made easier, but also in case somebody asks for information so that I can pass it on
- To help finalise the actions needed for our BAP species by participating in meetings (if possible and time allows), by presenting our view (based on the actions decided by DF some time ago)
- To update the membership in the Bulletin
- To coordinate Adopt a species

This role is not written in stone and the Committee has already indicated that it can be shaped by whoever takes over from me. Please get in touch even if you would like further information. We all have gone a long way already, but it is necessary that this work is kept up, so please volunteer for this role. I am happy to help

and support the new officer if needed and will pass material on in order to ensure consistency in this role. I am willing to continue to coordinate 'Adopt a species' for longer if you feel that you do not want to take over this as well.

News in short

- Dipterists Handbook – the second edition was published at the end of November and Peter Chandler did a wonderful job editing it (see details elsewhere in this Bulletin).
- Please note that this handbook includes a chapter on conservation that gives more information on the conservation of Diptera in the UK, including its history. It also details the role that Diptera play in providing ecosystem services. It provides a wealth of information and much of it is relevant to the conservation of Diptera.
- John and I attended the 7th Dipterology Congress in Costa Rica in August and I will report in more detail in the next Bulletin. It was a wonderful event and it felt good to share the enthusiasm for our flies with more than 200 like-minded workers. During the Congress a proposal was made for an international society of dipterists; a consultation on this has been started in the latest FlyTimes (see: http://www.nadsdiptera.org/News/FlyTimes/issue45.pdf for more).

When seeing the newest draft of the Acalyptrata Review (in a very late state!) I noticed that we have a wealth of information on some species, but for others we cannot even decide which conservation status they should have as we do not know enough about them. This was also reflected on a world basis at the Congress – I was shocked to learn how few people work on this rather large group of fascinating flies. Please ask yourself if you are willing to contribute by taking up one of these small families. For most of them you do not need a large amount of storage space as they are rather small, but often very pretty. So far, we are fortunate here in the UK that we have dipterists that can help you taking up this group, but time is getting short if we do not want to lose knowledge!

ADOPT A SPECIES

You might recall that I appealed for volunteers to come forward for this scheme in several Bulletins in 2007 and 2008. I am not going to repeat a summary of this call again, but rather refer you to these two Bulletins or the Dipterists Forum webpage, where you can find it in the Forums section.

News from 'Adopt a Species'

I would like to thank all of you who already adopted a species and have contributed to this or other Bulletins or kept me updated so that I could summarise your work.

Your work is very encouraging and I hope that some other dipterists might follow. Currently 16 of our 35 BAP species and 3 species with conservation status have been adopted. I do not have an update for you this time, but those of you who attended the AGM might have heard Judy Webb's excellent talk on *Milichia ludens*. It made very clear how much can be achieved when you concentrate on one or a few species. Thank you very much for all your hard work and good luck with your quests. I would very much like to receive updates on any of the adopted species, so please get in touch.

So far *Blera fallax, Campsicnemus magius, Cliorismia rustica, Clusiodes geomyzinus, Dolichopus laticola, Dolichopus nigripes, Dorycera graminum, Empis limata, Hammerschmidtia ferruginea, Idiocera sexguttata, Lipara similis, Lonchaea ragnari, Milichia ludens, Mintho rufiventris, Myolepta potens, Odontomyia hydroleon, Rhamphomyia hirtula, Rainieria calceata* and *Salticella fasciata* have been adopted as single species.

Richard Underwood kindly volunteered to try and find detailed records for the species of Lauxaniidae that are included in the Acalyptrata Review (in draft). If you know of any older records, for which only the county is know, please get in touch with Richard (if necessary via me) as it might help him with this not very easy task.

Please help our threatened species by getting involved in their active conservation and adopt a species. I hope to hear from you soon.

Please bear with me if you do not always get an immediate response from me. Sometimes I am buried under work and, as I am doing this job in my spare time as a volunteer, I sometimes have to ask for help from other dipterists. I might sometimes need to approach several before I can help. I will eventually get back to you, but this might occasionally take some time.

Please contact me again if you have not heard from me in response to an email as we recently managed to lose some emails due to computer problems.

If after reading all this you feel that we should stop talking and rather start to help our threatened species, then please get in contact – you might be able to help! If none of the BAP species is in your area, why don't you try and work on one of the species included in the Species Statuses (RDBs)?

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

Membership Matters

This year has been another very successful year as regards membership. The figures detailed below reflect the hard work and organisational skills of many on the Dipterists Forum Committee, some of whom attended the Dipterists Forum Stall at the Amateur Entomologists Exhibition. There and elsewhere, our Publicity Officer has once again produced various publicity leaflets and adverts. The Dipterists Forum Website has also stimulated much interest and has contributed towards this year's success, with an increasing number of application forms downloaded.

The Number of Members & Subscribers on the 30th December 2010 is as follows :

Dipterists Forum Members	**384**
Dipterists Digest Subscribers	**342**

These figures include some 57 New Dipterists Forum Members, 33 of whom are also Dipterists Digest Subscribers.

There are some 19 former (2009) Members of the Dipterists Forum, including some 15 subscribers to the Dipterists Digest, who have either resigned, or have yet to respond, to renewal requests for this year.

This amounts to a net gain of some 38 New Dipterists Forum Members and 18 Dipterists Digest Subscribers. There are also an additional 10 current Members who have upgraded their Membership to include the Dipterists Digest or the Bulletin. The steady growth in membership of the Forum and of subscription to the Dipterists Digest is especially pleasing, with the figures listed being the highest ever!

On a sad note, one death was reported during the year, that of Mr Ken Durrant who was aged 89 and resided in Norfolk.

In addition to the figures relevant to 2010, there are some fifteen new Dipterists Forum Members, eleven of whom are also Dipterists Digest Subscribers and whose membership starts on the 1st January 2011.

It is envisaged that once again, that there will be a Dipterists Forum stall at the Amateur Entomologists Exhibition. However, at the time of writing (30th December 2010) there is no confirmation of date! Therefore, an update will be published in the Autumn Bulletin and also on the Dipterists Forum Website.

Membership & Subscription rates :

Members and Subscribers are reminded that Subscription Rates are as follows:

Home

Dipterists Forum £6 per annum and Dipterists Digest £9 per annum

Unfortunately there are still a very small number of members and subscribers who have paid at the old pre 2005 rate. I would be grateful if those who have yet to top up their membership fees could please do so. Pay me in person if you wish, I plan to be at all the Dipterists Forum Events this Spring and Summer. Also, updated Bankers Order Forms are available on request, either by post or by e-mail attachment.

Overseas

There are a number of important changes in the overseas rates for all Dipterists Forum Members and Subscribers to the Dipterists Digest. The steady rise in overseas mailing costs have regrettably necessitated a review in the Overseas Membership and Subscription and as a result the Dipterists Forum will now have only one category of Overseas Membership.

For Overseas Members, this will be a joint Dipterists Forum & Dipterists Digest Subscription category only, (There will no longer be a separate membership for the Digest or The Forum).

New Overseas Rate : Dipterists Forum & Dipterists Digest £20 per annum

I wish you the very best and good luck in 2011!

Mick Parker, Membership Secretary.
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Checklist of British Isles Diptera updated

As indicated below in the account of species only recorded from Ireland an update of the checklist was desirable. This had already been partially achieved on the Forum website with the incorporation by Stuart Ball of the changes reported in the Digest, which was completed up to 2003. Since then the Digest sections including corrections and changes have been posted on the website in the form in which they appear in the journal, without incorporation in the database.

A full update of the checklist has now been achieved by incorporating all the corrections and changes that have appeared in *Dipterists Digest* into the original text and this will be placed on the Forum website.

By using the original text as a basis it was possible to clearly indicate where changes have occurred. To enable them to be readily identified all changes from the original text have been highlighted and in order to indicate the nature of these changes they have been colour coded.

- Additional species are highlighted in yellow.
- New synonyms that involve two or more species listed as valid in the original list, thus reducing the overall total, are highlighted in blue.
- All other changes are highlighted in green. These include other nomenclatural changes that do not change the composition of the list, taxonomic changes, corrections to spelling or dates, additional or changed text in family introductions and notes, as well as all new references.

It is also hoped that by showing all corrections that have previously been reported, any user will be encouraged to point out any further errors or discrepancies that may have so far gone unnoticed. Any corrections or changes to the checklist will continue to be documented in each issue of Dipterists Digest and it is intended to update this list following the publication of each issue of the Digest.

Peter Chandler

Diptera species recorded from Ireland but not from Britain – has the British list now reached 7000?

The 1998 British Isles checklist cited 29 species of Diptera as recorded in Ireland but not yet in Britain. Ten of these were Chironomidae, a family that has recently had more active workers resident in Ireland than in Britain. Some other species had first been recorded from Ireland but later recorded from Britain. For a long time it was thought that the soldier fly *Oxycera fallenii* was confined in the British Isles to a few localities in County Wicklow. However, while the checklist was in preparation it was discovered by John Coldwell in 1997 at a site in Yorkshire, so was removed from the exclusively Irish category. Details of the English record are given in *British Soldierflies*. In this case the extreme rarity of a conspicuous fly had disguised its distribution.

It was to be expected that most if not all such 'Irish' species would subsequently be found to occur in Britain and this has proved to be the case for at least 7 of the 29 species so listed in 1998, including 3 of the chironomids and 2 of the 3 syrphids. There is some doubt regarding two agromyzids on the list; Spencer (1976) in his Scandinavian key referred to *Amauromyza gyrans* as occurring in England (but this could have been a mistake for Ireland) while there is a record from Herefordshire of *Phytomyza farfarella* (*Chromatomyia* in checklist) on the NBN. The latter record apparently came from diaries of Dr Francis Rose so was presumably based on mines rather than insects. Confirmation of occurrence in Britain of both species from reliably named specimens would be desirable.

However, a further 17 species including 7 chironomids have had their first record for the British Isles from Ireland since 1998. Four of these including 2 of the chironomids have later also been recorded from Britain. The position of one of these four species *Syrphus rectus* is anomalous. A probable English specimen was reported by Plant (2000) and it was concluded that it could easily be overlooked among common species of the genus. A further possible English specimen has recently been found but there is considerable doubt as to the validity of the species (Roger Morris pers. comm.).

Thus of the 46 species involved, of which the present status is indicated in the Table below, at least 33 are still recorded within the British Isles only from Ireland, although, as it can be seen from the comments on the above mentioned three species, it is not easy to be sure of the precise number of exclusively Irish species. It is also possible that there are British records of some of these species that have been overlooked or have yet to be published. There are some curious Irish specialities such as the syrphid *Pipiza festiva* and the large striking muscid *Mesembrina mystacea*, both records resting on single specimens, although both species are widespread in Europe. Full details of the references cited can be found in the Checklist Changes sections in *Dipterists Digest*.

The recently published *Dipterist's Handbook* stated under each family in the section *Identification of British Diptera* the number of species currently accepted as on the British Isles list compared to that in the 1998 checklist. The totals calculated for each family gave an overall total of 7032 species, which exceeds by ten the total given in the then latest issue of *Dipterists Digest* (Volume 17, part one), suggesting that errors have crept into previous calculations. However, small errors have become apparent in the totals given in the Handbook for some families so the true figure was somewhere between the two.

To resolve this discrepancy it was decided that a fully revised update of the checklist was necessary. Consequently all the changes that have been noted in Dipterists Digest have been incorporated into the text of the 1998 list. This includes those to appear in the issue in preparation (Volume 17, part two), which should have been published before this Bulletin appears. The resulting adjustments to family totals bring the overall total to 7031, taking into account 6 species not included in the Handbook totals. It will be apparent that, by subtracting the approximately 33 exclusively Irish species from the overall British Isles total, the list for Great Britain now approaches 7000. This cannot be claimed precisely because there are still some names in the list that will fall to synonymy and others like *Syrphus rectus* whose status is uncertain. On the other hand there are further species known to occur in Britain but yet to be published, so the official list for Great Britain will certainly exceed 7000 in 2011. As species awaiting addition in both Mycetophilidae and Tachinidae have been found by Ivan Perry he can justly claim to have contributed to the surge over this landmark.

Table. Species of Diptera listed from Ireland but not from Britain in the 1998 checklist and species with first British Isles record from Ireland since 1998.

Family	Species	++ 1998 checklist	added since 1998	recorded in Britain
Limoniidae	*Hoplolabis yezoana*	++		Parker 2005
Limoniidae	*Orimarga attenuata*	++		
Mycetophilidae	*Brevicornu arcticum*	++		
Sciaridae	*Cratyna phili*		Menzel *et al*. 2006	
Sciaridae	*Phytosciara ornata*		Menzel *et al*. 2006	
Psychodidae	*Mormia satchelli*	++		
Psychodidae	*Panimerus goodi*	++		
Psychodidae	*Sycorax feuerborni*		Withers 2002	
Ceratopogonidae	*Bezzia taeniata*	++		
Chironomidae	*Chironomus nudiventris*		Langton 2002	Langton 2004
Chironomidae	*Cryptochironomus defectus*		Langton 2002	Langton & Ruse 2005
Chironomidae	*Parachironomus subalpinus*	++		
Chironomidae	*P. swammerdami*	++		
Chironomidae	*Polypedilum aegyptium*		Langton 2002	
Chironomidae	*Saetheria reissi*	++		
Chironomidae	*Corynocera ambigua*	++		
Chironomidae	*Paratanytarsus dimorphis*	++		Langton & Ruse 2005
Chironomidae	*Rheotanytarsus nigricauda*	++		Brennan *et al*. 2003
Chironomidae	*Tanytarsus aberrans*		Murray & Baars 2006	
Chironomidae	*Diamesa cinerella*	++		
Chironomidae	*Chaetocladius insolitus*		Langton 2004	
Chironomidae	*Metriocnemus beringiensis*	++		
Chironomidae	*Parakiefferiella scandica*		Langton 2002	
Chironomidae	*Pseudorthocladius rectangilobus*	++		
Chironomidae	*Anatopynia plumipes*	++		Langton 2004
Chironomidae	*Telmatogeton japonicus*		Murray 2000	
Dolichopodidae	*Campsicnemus dasycnemus*	++		
Dolichopodidae	*Syntormon setosum*	++		
Phoridae	*Chaetopleurophora spinosior*	++		
Phoridae	*Megaselia haraldlundi*		Buck & Disney 2001	
Phoridae	*Megaselia killarneyensis*	++		
Phoridae	*Megaselia longistyla*		Disney 2008	
Syrphidae	*Cheilosia ahenea*	++		Parker 2001
Syrphidae	*C. psilophthalma*	++		Falk 2002
Syrphidae	*Paragus constrictus*	++		
Syrphidae	*Pipiza festiva*		Speight 2002	
Syrphidae	*Syrphus rectus*		Speight 1999	Plant 2000 (queried)
Sciomyzidae	*Pherbellia stackelbergi*		Staunton *et al*. 2008	
Sciomyzidae	*Tetanocera montana*		Speight 2007	Stubbs 2009
Agromyzidae	*Amauromyza gyrans*	++		Spencer 1976
Agromyzidae	*Phytomyza farfarella*	++		NBN record
Agromyzidae	*Liriomyza trifolii*	++ introduced		Bartlett & Powell 1981
Chloropidae	*Lasiosina chandleri*		Ismay 2001	
Muscidae	*Mesembrina mystacea*	++		
Sarcophagidae	*Sarcophaga portschinskyi*	++		
Sarcophagidae	*S. discifera* (= *S. sorror*)	++		

Peter Chandler

Review

Equipment

Illumination - the new LEDs

There appears to have been a leap forwards in the development of white LEDs recently. These have considerable potential for reducing energy loss through inefficient conversion to light (most bulbs losing a heck of a lot through heat). Small torches, for example, have evolved from a single feeble low power white LED, through higher output ones and clusters of the same to the current Luxeon LEDs (Philips, NL) pushing out a formidable 100 lumens from a single diode. I'm coming close to forgiving the two researchers who gabbled incessantly about them in the quiet coach of the train from Aberdeen a couple of years ago.

Microscope users will be familiar now with the ring units packed with LEDs (Bulletin #??) and many of these were on sale at the recent AES show. I was disappointed not to find any simple spotlight illuminators on sale though, evidently it will be some time before the gooseneck halide room-heaters go out of fashion.

I had two applications in mind for the two high power white LED items I've just purchased; firstly to illuminate objects on my dissecting microscopes (they are basically stands with hand-lenses on top - clearly there's nowhere to fit my LED ring light) and secondly to act as modelling lights for desktop macro flash photography.

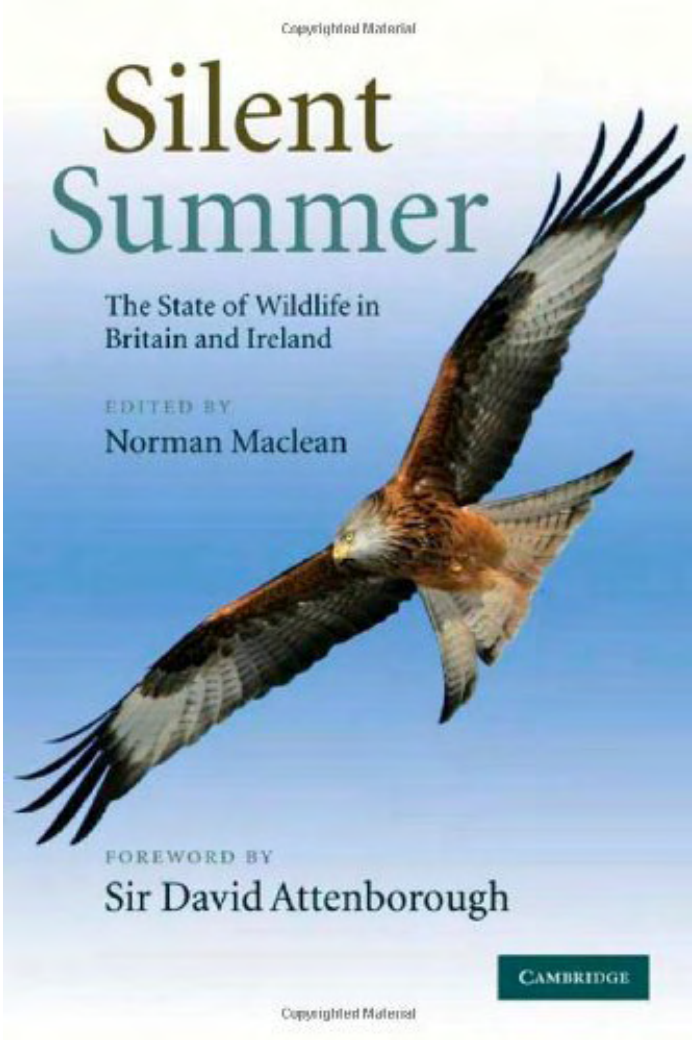
The Stanley tools people use fairly powerful white LEDs in their Maxlife range of torches. The legs containing the AA batteries flick out and the head folds downwards to create a little free standing tripod illuminator. Not brilliant for microscopy but it's just the job for your in-car emergency kit.

The tiny Refrakta torches (from Maplin) use the somewhat expensive CR 123 batteries that are commonly found in flash guns, fortunately Maplin also market rechargeable versions of these. In years to come these powerful LEDs will gradually find their way into microscope illuminators but in the meantime a bit of ingenuity (jubilee clips?, retort stands?, desktop tripods?) with a couple of these torches could well save both money and the environment - or at least the environment inside the sweatshops at Preston Montford.

Books

Biodiversity

Maclean, N. 2010 (Ed.). Silent Summer: The State of Wildlife in Britain and Ireland. Cambridge University Press, 765 pp., hardback £27.99. ISBN 978-0-521-51966-3.

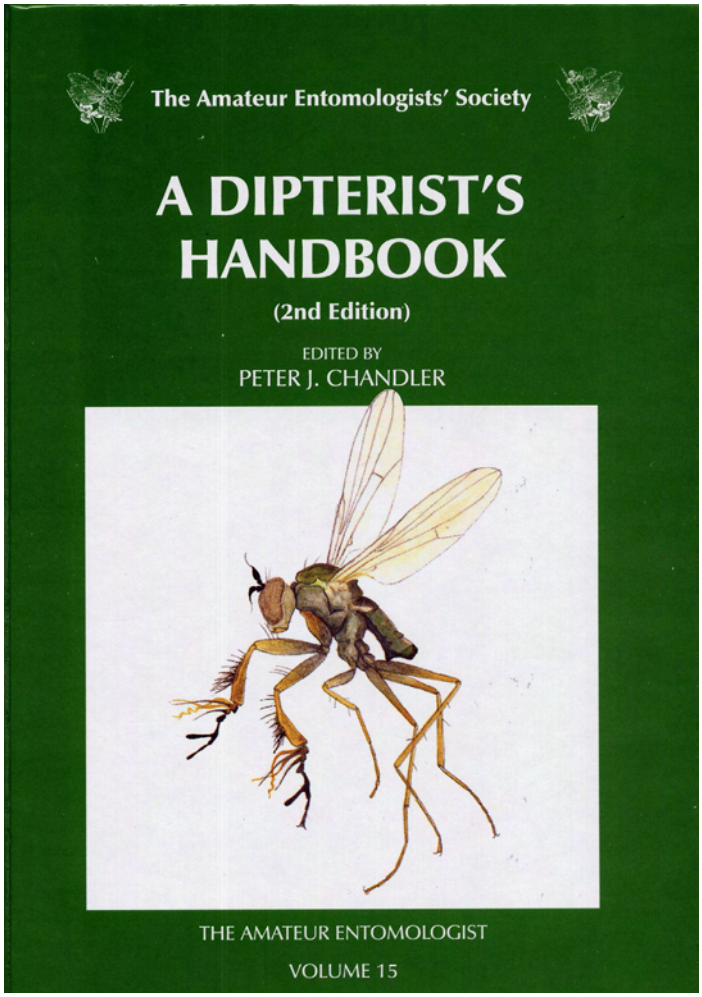


There's an excellent review of this book by John Badmin in NFBR's Newsletter #41. Taking its name from the classic **Silent Spring** by Rachel Carson, this is intended as an update of the current status of our flora and fauna. The breadth of the account will appeal to entomologists, Alan Stubbs summarised the information on three insect Orders.

Darwyn Sumner

Diptera

Chandler, P. 2010 (Ed.). A Dipterist's Handbook (2nd Edition). The Amateur Entomologists' Society. 525 pp., hardback.



A Dipterist's Handbook New Edition

The Second Edition of the Dipterist's Handbook has been published. It has been fully updated and is a hardback book comprising xiii + 525 pages and including 32 colour plates. It was edited by Peter Chandler, with contributions by most of the original and 21 new authors.

Dipterists Forum members will benefit from the same discount as AES members and the discounted price is £32. It will be available for sale at this price at workshops and field meetings, as well as at the BENHS at Dinton Pastures and in the Diptera section at the Natural History Museum. Any member unable to purchase it in person please contact Peter Chandler in order to obtain it at the standard postage rate and avoid the £12 rate charged by the AES for postage and packing. The amount to pay for UK members including postage and packing is £36.68 and cheques should be payable to Peter Chandler. Contact details are in this Bulletin and in Dipterists Digest.

This Handbook provides a work of reference for everyone interested in the study of flies, both beginners and experienced dipterists. The first edition appeared in 1978, since when there have been considerable advances in knowledge of Diptera and new techniques and equipment used in their study have developed. All topics covered in the first edition have been fully updated and new subjects have been added so that it has grown substantially to more than twice the size of the first edition. It is illustrated by 172 colour photographs in the plates and on the rear cover, which include a wide range of flies. In the Plates these are arranged according to their principal habitat associations. The front cover illustration is a painting of the bizarre dolichopodid *Campsicnemus magius* by the late Peter Skidmore, author of the section on Dung (regarding *C. magius* see Bulletin No 68 Autumn 2009, page 17 'The quest for the Saltern tangle-foot fly').

As in the first edition great emphasis has been placed on the habitats and biological associations of flies and it brings together a summary of the latest knowledge of all aspects of the biology of Diptera at the species level. This reflects the huge diversity in biology and habitat associations of adults and larvae. It also demonstrates where increases in knowledge could be made by the contribution of anyone interested in making observations, whatever their level of experience in the study of Diptera.

Additional subjects not covered in the first edition include an explanation of the classification of Diptera and a bibliography of key works for the identification of both adults and larvae. Some specific habitat associations are covered in greater detail to reflect increased ecological knowledge of flies and the greater significance now being placed on some habitats in the conservation of Diptera. The section on conservation has been expanded to reflect the increased importance of this subject. The important role of flies in nature is emphasised, such as in recycling of waste materials and in pollination of many plants, as well as being valuable as environmental indicators of the health of the ecosystem. The Handbook also covers the treatment of some flies as pests because they are involved in transmission of diseases, are parasitic on vertebrates or attack crop plants but emphasises that others are significant in providing biological control as predators or parasitoids of other pest insects.

The chapter on behavioural studies has been expanded to cover techniques in more detail. Forensic entomology is another increasingly important subject, for which an expanded account has been provided. There are also sections on the history and activities of Dipterists Forum and on Recording Schemes. The Handbook is concluded with an account of changes to the British Diptera fauna that have taken place in the period since the appearance of the first edition.

Peter Chandler

Publications

How not to find reprints

It's not often that the BBC's "Saving species" programme on Radio 4 mentions flies so I was intrigued by their inclusion in an item about extinction by Clive Hambler of Oxford University. He's just published a piece of research in **Biological Conservation** entitled "*Extinction rates, extinction-prone habitats, and indicator groups in Britain and at larger scales*". (http://www.ox.ac.uk/media/news_releases_for_journalists/101004.html). A downloaded pdf will cost $40.

Meetings

Reports

Autumn Field Meeting

Sidmouth & Porlock

9-18 October 2010

Happiness is: a fungus gnat dancing in the net or, better still, several gnats dancing in the net. This really ought to be the motto of the autumnal dipterist. The autumn field meetings are mainly aimed at improving our knowledge of the fungus gnats and craneflies and are highly dependent upon the identification skills of Alan Stubbs and Peter Chandler. The rest of the team often take the role of parataxonomist – collecting the dancing flies for Alan and Peter. It is a great format because it greatly increases our knowledge of these autumnal flies whilst making use of people whose field year would otherwise cease a month earlier.

Autumn on Exmoor

This twin venue meeting followed the same format as the very successful Newton Stewart/Galashiels meeting last year. Our two venues sought to maximise a long journey to Devon and to look at two very different areas; offering notable contrasts in terrain and soils. Twelve members attended.

The south-east Devon coastline is spectacular, as illustrated by the magnificent Chalk cliffs at Branscombe. Elsewhere along the coast there are towering soft rock cliffs that reflect the high rolling undulations that reach 200 metres or more above sea level. All of these features are noteworthy as part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site whose geological interest spans the Triassic to the Cretaceous. Inland, the pebble bed heaths are especially important; they are largely dry and well-drained but flushes in some places make this the habitat for the southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*. Elsewhere there are deep valley woodlands with streams, and hillsides with flushes. There are strong calcareous influences in places, arising from the extensive deposits of Chalk. Sections of the under-cliff are vegetated and these, together with towering cliffs and deep valleys whose estuaries are attenuated by shingle barrier beaches, give the coast its very special character.

The Exmoor coast, on the other hand, is dominated by acid soils and is interrupted by a sequence of immensely steep valleys with fast-flowing rocky stream and rivers. It has a rocky coastline that is extensively tree-covered. The Moor itself rises to 1300 feet within just a mile or two of the coast and the regular occurrence of 1:4 or 1:5 sections of road bear testimony to the deep crenulations on its northern coastal flank. Many of these steep valleys are heavily wooded. There are some magnificent oak woods with extensive ground cover that is dominated by ferns such as hart's-tongue fern *Asplenium scolopendrium* (Alan found the mines of the agromyzid *Chromatomyia scolopendri* in two localities). Horner Wood, which is close to Porlock, is particularly noteworthy for its huge oak pollards that indicate the immense antiquity of the wood and its past management as wood pasture.

The two venues also differed in weather: bright and sunny on the Devon coast, and overcast and cool in Somerset until the Saturday. This was also reflected in our efforts and the catches we made. For example, we not only recorded flies on the Devon coast but also noted colonies of the recently arrived mining bee *Colletes hederae* at several coastal localities – it is clearly extremely well-established along this piece of coast.

Andrew Halstead

And so, on to the flies. This was not a spectacular year, even though we comfortably exceeded 100 species of gnat (148 species). Possibly the most interesting record was the Platypezid *Paraplatypeza bicincta* which Malcolm Smart caught. This and other Platypezid records (the total the haul of Platypezids was 6 species) accrued by Malcolm (4 species) demonstrate the value of his long net handle as nobody else does at all well for this family of fungus-dwellers.

Rob, Alan & Malcolm

The other record of note was the discovery of larvae of *Microdon myrmicae* on Aylesbeare Common, including a larva from the nest of a black ant (*Lasius niger*/*platythorax*) as well as from the more conventional *Myrmica* nest. The association with *Lasius niger*/*platythorax* is extremely odd and may represent a *Myrmica* nest that has been displaced by *Lasius* ants.

Although the fungus gnat total of 148 species was respectable (107 at Sidmouth and 113 at Porlock), individual site lists were extremely disappointing on the Devon coast. Results from Exmoor were much better and several sites yielded lists in excess of 40 species. The best list was for Selworthy Common with 46 species of gnat. It is likely that several of the best sites would have been much more productive in good weather and my general impression is that the woodlands in the deeply incised Exmoor valleys were potentially very species-rich. Species-richness does not equate to rarity and much of the fauna was pretty cosmopolitan. The most interesting record was perhaps that of *Keroplatus testaceus*, which occurred on several occasions and is clearly much more widespread than its Nationally Scarce designation suggests. This is definitely one for down-grading to "Local".

Peter in the "laboratory"

Craneflies were very scarce, yet again, and there was little of note to report. *Tipula pagana*, a normally common autumnal species was almost entirely absent, and the genus *Tipula* as a whole was conspicuous by its general absence. Notably, however, *Tipula paludosa* turned up on several occasions, including a male – these dates were much later than might be expected.

One frequent reflection was the comparison between gnat and cranefly catches of today contrasted with those of 30 years ago when the Autumn meetings were yielding lots of exciting records and as many as 150 species of gnat in a four-day meeting! There are two critical points: firstly there have been several catastrophic droughts that have undoubtedly had a profound impact on the gnat and cranefly faunas; and secondly that the approach to meetings has changed. We now stay together as a group rather than splitting into separate parties to visit a wider range of sites. Moreover, we rarely manage more than 3 sites in a day. Consequently, it would be fair to say that the level of effort going into modern recording is much lower than its historical counterpart. On the positive side, the pace is more relaxed and we don't burn the midnight oil sorting specimens. Our focus combines entomology with a social gathering that allows one to catch up with friends.

As usual, we had the odd incident that could be a sketch from "Last of the Summer Wine". For example, Malcolm & Mary Smart have a new dog (Mara, a brown and white Border Collie) who holds a pathological dislike of cars and has an apparent death-wish because she tries to chase them, despite Malcolm or Mary trying valiantly to stop her! On this occasion it was my turn to provide the entertainment by slipping whilst crossing a stream and ending up sitting in it! Thankfully, no cameras were at hand so there is no definitive record of the episode and the best that can be found is one of a semi-bedraggled me holding a very wet pooter. I can of course claim that I was testing the damp-proofing of the famous Merrifield pooter: it completely failed this test and my catch died by drowning rather than by asphyxiation!

Another day - another pooter disaster

This was an excellent meeting that will provide many happy memories – the magnificent Chalk cliffs at Branscombe, red Triassic cliffs at Sidmouth and Axmouth, fantastic pebble-bed heaths dominated by a mixture of *Calluna* and *Ulex gallii*, wonderful deep valley oakwoods on the fringes of Exmoor, and of course the magnificent panoramas of both the coasts of Somerset and Devon. As with all write-ups, this will not really capture the full delight of the autumn field meeting but hopefully it will encourage others to think about joining us for part or all of the next trip: even if you don't do gnats you could become a parataxonomist.

Members attending: Peter Chandler, Una Garland, Kim Goodger, Andrew Halstead, Erica McAlister, Ken & Rita Merrifield, Roger Morris, Malcolm & Mary Smart, Alan Stubbs and Rob Wolton.

Roger Morris

AES Annual Exhibition

Kempton Park, London

2nd October 2010

Judy, Roger, Andrew and Howard

Annual Meeting

Dipterists Day

Report on the Dipterists' Day and Annual General Meeting at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, November 2009

Friday 26 November

About a dozen Forum members assembled on the afternoon of Friday 26th November to take the opportunity to use the Hope Entomological Library. Thanks to Darren Mann and his helpful staff, papers and manuscripts were read and photocopied. I took the opportunity to look through a box of the diaries of Col. J.W. Yerbury (1847 -1927) and got to know a bit more about this character. In the evening many members met up in the local pubs, ...

Saturday 27 November

... but dutifully assembled at 10.00am the next day for the start of Saturday's programme. On the balcony of the Museum there were exhibition cases of insects to be examined, and it was good to see Ian Johnson and his wife, (Pemberley Books) there, as usual, with their bookshelves full of good things to read. Also there to tempt our purses was the new edition of A Dipterist's Handbook, published by the AES, Edited by Peter Chandler, with contributions from many members of the Dipterists Forum.

After coffee we went into the Lecture Theatre to begin the meeting. Chairman Stuart Ball opened the meeting and conveyed the apologies of one of our speakers, Jolyon Medlock, who was unfortunately ill and unable to attend. Darren Mann, the Hope Entomological Collections Manager, then welcomed about 45 members to the Museum, our second meeting here this millennium. In his introduction, Darren described the many famous historical specimens, and the collections such as those of Westwood, and the Dales, and the Verrall-Collin collections. There are also reference collections available for study, with about 50% coverage of the British Diptera, and outreach work from the Museum to make contact with the public including the local schools. The collections and library are available to Forum members to use, by appointment. There is on-line access to the collections catalogue (www.oum.ox.ac.uk)

Malcolm Smart followed Darren, to go through the arrangements for the day, including those for the dinner in the evening.

Chloropidae, Home and Away

John Ismay

John Ismay then opened the morning programme of talks with his presentation on 'Chloropidae, Home and Away'. He said that there were some 2,400 described species worldwide, and described the diagnostic features of this Brachyceran, Acalyptrate family. These included the reduced venation, absent anal cell, fused discal and basal cells and (usually) a conspicuous frontal triangle. The carinate proepisterna, looking like sharply padded shoulders, are another good diagnostic character.

The approximately 190 British species are divided into two subfamilies, the Chloropinae and Oscinellinae. In the former the costa runs to veins R^{4+5} while in the latter the costa runs further round the wing margin to veins M^{1+2},

As regards their ecology, they are found in a range of habitats. On grasslands they may be collected from flowers of the Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) family, on which they feed. A good source of chloropids on wetlands are the tussocks of *Carex* from which they may be removed using a suction sampler. On sand dunes, the younger tussocks of marram grass yield specimens in a similar way. There are about ten species which are saltmarsh specialists, and of those living in woodland, a number, such as *Gaurax* species, feed in fungi. *Siphunculina* feeds on dung.

There are a large variety of life histories. Grass stems provide a home for *Oscinella*, grass seeds for *Dicraeus*, while the genus *Lipara* form plant galls. Decaying vegetation, both on plants, and on the ground provide food for species such as those of the genus *Elachiptera*. More unusual habitats are occupied by some foreign species. *Lasiamba* lays its eggs in mantid egg cases, while *Batrachomyia*, and Australian genus, forms galls on frogs. Some are predators of Homoptera, while there is a rare South African genus, *Eutropha*, which feeds on carrion.

John cautioned care in interpreting food source from habitat. Some larvae which are found in grass stems, after hatching as first instar larvae, first destroy the apical meristem. Later instars then feed on the bacteria which colonise and decompose the dead grass tissue. Reeds provide a very large fauna and John showed pictures of reed stems damaged by the larvae of *Oscinella maura*. One example was *Lipara lucens*, where the larvae caused a hard woody case to be made, thus protecting it from bird predators. Another genus found in reed stems is the striking *Platycephala*, with its flat head, and porrect antennae, looking to me very like a Sciomyzid.

About 15 British species are inquilines, living in the galls which have been produced by another species.

Many Chloropids are of economic importance. Some, like the frit fly, are primary pests of cereals, while *Dicraeus* may affect hay yields when present in sufficient numbers. In the Tropics, some species of Chloropidae are 'eye-gnats, vectors of eye diseases, when they visit the eyes of people to drink the tears. Some species are beneficial by eating homopteran pests, or pollinating orchids.

John then talked a little about the phylogeny of this group. Chloropids are most diverse in the rainforests, and on the African savanah, and most of the genera world-wide are not grass-feeders. The ancestors of the existing species were probably saprophagous. Our current ideas about evolutionary relationship are skewed by the preponderance of work on the Palaearctic species in the Northern Hemisphere, where-as the Southern Hemisphere species are more important in any significant discussion on evolutionary relationships.

John ended his talk by thanking Barbara for her help, and acknowledging the photographers whose work he had used to illustrate the talk.

Bogs & Bottoms

Steven Falk

After a break for coffee the meeting continued with a talk by Steven Falk entitled (by Malcolm, it must be said !) 'Bogs & Bottoms' in which he described the Dipterous fauna of some of the Mires in the New Forest. Steven said that there were 90 separate mires in 20 valley systems in the New Forest, and he had found over 700 species there, to date, from 13 sites. More than half of the Lowland Valley Mire of western Europe is found in the New Forest. It is therefore a very important locality and there are species present there that are absent from other British peatlands. He then discussed drainage, and pH changes and went through the different kinds of wetland types present in the New Forest, together with

their botanical indicator species, and showed pictures of some of the flies found there.

The mires had an excellent Dolichopodid fauna, while most Sciomyzid species are found on poor fen with a higher pH than true bog. Other wetland biotopes range from a calcareous seepage, with tufa, and a pH up to a value of 8, to large artificial 'ponds', such as Hatchet Pond near Beaulieu. The cattle, deer and ponies provide good feeding for tabanids, and a car with engine running and doors open can make an excellent Malaise trap for these flies. When these large mammals die they provide an excellent source of food and the species count around the carcasses shoots up.

Steven said that a useful book, 'The New Forest' by Paul Brock, will be published next year by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and that collecting permits could be obtained from the Forestry Commission at Lyndhurst.

After some questions, and thanks to the previous speaker.

The ant, the fly and the Poplar tree

Judy Webb

Judy Webb continued the programme with a talk about her local conservation work, entitled 'The Ant, the Fly and the Poplar tree'.

Judy's work began in 1999 when she started to gather evidence to preserve a site on the edge of Oxford, near Milham Ford School and the River Cherwell. The site contained a complete row of a clone of the Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* var *italica*) These trees were planted in 1939, some had fallen in 1988, and others had suffered die-back in the crown. Ultra-sound was used to test the heart wood and because many of the trees were rotten the Council wanted to remove the trees. One of these trees contained a nest of the Jet Ant (*Lasius fuliginosus*) in the base of the tree. These ants farm the aphids living on the poplar leaves, taking them into their nest for the winter, to re-populate the new leaves in the Spring. They also feed on caterpillars and cultivate the fungus *Cladosporium*, which they use to strengthen the walls of their characteristic nests. Judy showed us a piece of this nest with its thin wood-walled chambers and large, sponge-like spaces. They can only disperse by taking over the nest of another ant species and this limits their spread.

Milham jet ants in poplar

In the event the Council agreed to limit their felling, and 5m high severely pruned 'candela' were produced from the row of tall poplars. These have since re-sprouted to produce leafy trees.

The fly in the title, which forms a third part of this interesting story, is the Acalyptrate fly *Milichia ludens* (Milichiidae). It is a rare/vulnerable species, the larvae of which are commensal with the jet ant perhaps feeding on the nest debris. Donisthorpe in his book 'The Guests of British Ants' (1927), mentions the association of this fly with the ant. The adults appear from 30 April until the end of July and are most abundant in June, but remain inconspicuous, sitting on the bark of trees, but not on flowers, even when these are plentiful nearby. Other species of flies, including other Milichiids, such as 2 species of *Phyllomyza* are also associated with the Jet Ant. Other flies, for example *Gnophomyia viridipennis* (Limoniidae) and *Odinia* sp (Odiniidae) are associated with the rotting Lombardy poplar trees at Milham. Thanks to Judy's efforts, though the ant's nest is no more, this interesting story still continues on the nature reserve there.

Milichia ludens (photo Phil Cutt)

Milichia ludens wing (photo Phil Cutt)

The meeting then broke for lunch, to re-assemble for the AGM at 2.00pm, which finished at 3.15 pm. The Minutes of the AGM are recorded elsewhere in this Bulletin.

There then followed another two talks ...

Bot & warble flies: An introduction to the Oestridae

Andrew Grayson

the first of which was on 'Bot and Warble Flies An Introduction to the Oestridae (sens. lat.)' by Andrew Grayson, who is the Organiser of the Dipterists Forum Oestridae Study Group. Andrew first explained the possible origin of the word Bot, which refers to oestrid larvae, and is probably derived from Butt, which is an alternative word for a barrel, and the origin of the word Warble, which is an Anglo-Saxon word for a boil.

Colwell, Hall & Scholl (2006) **The Oestrid Flies**, published by CABI, Wallingford, recognised 134 extant species world-wide, and a range of these were then illustrated by Andrew. Both fossil and extant species are found in both the 'Old' and 'New Worlds'. One fossil species has even been found within the frozen remains of a Mammoth in Siberia. The so-called Human Bot-fly, *Dermatobia hominis*, is native to Tropical Central and South America. It is a rather atypical oestrid for two reasons. Firstly, it transmits its larvae to host-animals using other captured flies as porters, or vectors, for its eggs; and secondly; its larvae can successfully complete their development in a wide range of animals. Andrew ended this section with a picture taken of a larva emerging from the top of the head of an unfortunate man, who had contracted the larva in Belize, so if you ever go to Belize, don't remove your hard hat!!

To some of Andrew's audience his message spelled disaster

It goes without saying that the Oestridae have a variety of gruesome life cycles.

Some species are larviparous, and the main development-area of the larvae within their hosts leads to the species being termed as either nasopharygeal, intestinal or subcutaneous.

Andrew then presented pictures of the species currently on the British list and told us a little about them. *Hypoderma bovis* and *H. lineata* have both been eradicated from Britain in the latter part of the 20th century, but semi-wild populations of ponies are often not treated for oestrid infections and this has been important for the survival in Britain of some of the horse bots (*Gasterophilus*). Members of the Oestridae Study Group have to be made of stern stuff and, in his section on hints for collecting, Andrew advised that investigating the nasal discharges of sneezing sheep and goats may reveal expelled larvae of *Oestrus ovis*. The task is perhaps easier for horse bots. Searching high points in the landscape, fresh horse dung and even horses, sounds relatively pleasant! The Dipterists Forum 2011 Summer Field Meeting will be based in Exeter, and the attendees should note that the *Gasterophilus* fauna of the Exmoor Ponies is not known, but may be as rich as that found in the much more thoroughly worked New Forest.

Dipterology in Paradise

Barbara Ismay

The final talk of the day was given by Barbara Ismay and was appropriately about Dipterists rather than Diptera. With the title 'Dipterology in Paradise' Barbara described the seventh International Congress of Dipterology, which took place from 8-13 August, 2010. It was attended by about 150 dipterists, 10 from the UK, and based in San José, Costa Rica. The programme encompassed a wide variety of contemporary issues ranging from forensic and agricultural dipterology, the evolution and ecology of flies, and Neotropical and Afrotropical dipterology. One of the most important occasions was the launch of the Manual of Afrotropical Dipterology. There were workshops and poster sessions and even some field work, and all in very beautiful surroundings. The next congress is scheduled to be held in Potsdam in 2014 and the website can be consulted for details.

Before closing the meeting Stuart reminded the members present about the 6th International Symposium on the Syrphidae, to take place in Glasgow from 5-8th August 2011. In addition to a series of interesting lectures there will be an excursion to the Trossachs on Monday 8th of August. Details will be in the Bulletin and on the Forum website.

On Saturday evening about 25 members enjoyed the Dipterists Supper at a Chinese Restaurant, organised by John and Barbara Ismay, and on Sunday morning the Hope Entomological Collections were open for our use.

As usual it was good to have some time to talk to other members and I left with my batteries re-charged. Thanks are due to Malcolm Smart, our Indoor meetings Secretary, to John and Barbara and to Darren Mann and his staff, for all the work they put in to making the meeting a success.

John Kramer

With thanks to the speakers for their help in making this summary.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

of the Dipterists' Forum held at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, November 2010 (2:00 p.m.)

Chair: Stuart Ball. About 45 members were present.

1. Apologies

were received from Jon Cole, David Iliff, Graham Rotheray, and by e.mail Peter Herkenrath, Erica M^{c}Alister, and Jolyon Medlock.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held at the Natural History Museum, London, on Saturday 28th November, 2009 and published in the Spring Bulletin 2010, were accepted unanimously by the meeting as a correct record.

Matters arising.

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme (Martin Drake)

Simon Hayhow's wish to retire as Organizer of the Larger Brachycera R.S. was announced in the 2009 AGM Minutes and Martin announced the need for a replacement. There was a discussion on the nature of this role, and the possibility that it could be divided if necessary.

3. Secretary's Report – John Kramer

The committee met, as usual, three times during 2010; in Spring, Summer and Autumn. The main business was the organization of the calendar of events for the year, and many of the other topics we discussed will be raised in the reports by the other Officers.

At the Summer meeting the Committee offered the support of the DF for the **International Syrphid Symposium** to be held at The Hunterian Museum, Glasgow in August 2011 and Stuart will say more about this later.

The publication of the Reviews of Scarce and Threatened Species by the JNCC is an item which has appeared on our agenda for the past 10 years and more. It is these Reviews that report the conservation statuses of rare ('RDB') species. It is felt that they are too important to be allowed to languish, and should, if possible, be published by the Dipterists Forum, from where much of the data was derived.

The Forum continues to thrive and a membership of 400 is in sight, a growth of about 100 members in the decade. There has also been good attendance at the field meetings. The year started on 5-7th March with the Preston Montford weekend Workshops. 'An Introduction to Fly Families' was led by J. & B. Ismay, and a workshop on the Muscidae by Steven Falk and Mike Bloxham. The Summer Field Meeting was held at the Stackpole Centre 12-19 June. Short Field Meetings were held at Windsor Forest and Great Park (22-23 May), on the Somerset Levels, based at Wells, (22-25th July) and an Autumn field meeting (9-16th October) based at Sidmouth.

Newsletters were produced by the following Schemes in 2010: Anthomyiidae, Cranefly, Fungus Gnats, Hoverfly, Larger Brachycera, Oestridae, and Sciomyzidae

There are plenty of interesting things to do and I would encourage anyone not currently involved to make contact with a scheme organizer.

As has already been mentioned, the **Larger Brachycera** scheme will need a **new Organizer** soon and if anyone is interested in helping Simon Hayhow with a view to taking over the job in the near future, I'm sure that he would be glad to hear from you.

Publicity, recruitment and support for Dipterists have moved even more into the foreground this year, and we have increasingly looked outwards to offer more support to would-be Dipterists and beginners. The Hoverfly Recording Group has again led the way, with Roger and Stuart putting on a number of introductory courses at different venues ranging from the Shetland Isles to London. This workshop looks like becoming a franchise. John and Barbara have also done good work with their introductory courses to Dipterology. The Cranefly Recording Scheme is following these good examples with a workshop at the NHM, London, in February 2011. An OPAL (Open Air Laboratory) grant has been successfully applied for by Roger and Stuart and we now have the kit to enable any workshop leaders to project microscopic images successfully.

Last year I mentioned the growing importance of our website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk and requests for the identification of flies from digital photographs has been popular. It is clear that this is an important way that many people come to appreciate the beauty of flies. The popularity of digital photography has continued to increase and our Bulletin Editor, Darwyn Sumner, has proposed that we instigate a **Photography Competition** to encourage people into dipterology via this route. The first competition will be open to DF members only and be judged at the AGM a year from now, so get those cameras busy during the 2011 season, and watch out for more details in the Bulletin.

In 2007 a Publications Sub-Committee was set up to review the scope for a revision of *The Dipterist's Handbook*, originally published in 1978 by the AES, and the production of a revised version of the Handbook was recommended, and here it is ! The Editor, Peter Chandler, and his team of authors are to be congratulated for all of their hard work. It is an impressive effort.

In response to requests for the Bulletins to be available as pdfs on the DF website these had now been uploaded by Stuart, and these, together with an updated checklist and some keys, are now available.

Barbara Ismay has announced that she wishes to resign the post of BAP Officer, as from the AGM of 2011, so if there is anyone interested in conservation of flies who would like to volunteer for the post, any application would be gratefully received and Barbara will say a little about her role later in the meeting.

The question as to what role the DF should play in the conservation of the 35 species of BAP Diptera has been raised in Committee. It was felt that the DF lacked the organisation and resources and that the proposal and work of Lead Partners for the BAP Diptera species should be left to the professionals, such as the Hymettus Group.

FUTURE MEETINGS 2011

4 – 6 March. DF Identification Workshops Preston Montford (Introduction to Fly Families, and Fungus-feeding Flies). 2 – 9 July. Summer Field Meeting 2011 - Exeter

The next AGM will be on Sat 26th Nov 2011, at Manchester Museum.

4. Treasurer's Report - Howard Bentley

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2009

I think the sheet in front of you is more or less self-explanatory, so I'll just point out its major features. Our main sources of income are subscriptions and sales of the Dipterists Digest, and our major expenditures are the printing and distribution costs of the Digest and the Bulletin, with comparatively small amounts to cover officers' expenses and so on. Thanks to the collapse of interest rates our income from this source fell from £412 in 2008 to £26 in 2009. Printing costs rose, but increased membership and a rise in sales of back issues of the Digest offset this. The balance sheet shows a rise in the surplus of income over expenditure from £202 in 2008 to £787 in 2009. However, about £500 in expenses incurred during 2009 were not presented to the bank until January 2010, so this apparent rise is somewhat illusory.

Once again I should like to extend my very sincere thanks to Tony Pickles for his work in auditing our accounts.

I should just say a word about membership. The accounts should not be taken as a reliable source of figures about membership; the only reliable source of such information is Mick Parker, whom you will hear from next. He has figures for those who have paid their subscriptions **for** a given year. What the accounts show is those who have paid subscriptions **during** a given year. Since some pay early (two years at a time for example) and some pay late, my figures for membership will not coincide exactly with Mick's. His are the ones that matter.

OUR PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION

As of Thursday of this week we had a total of £15643 in our two bank accounts. This is £1360 more than we had at this time last year. Thanks to excellent work by Stuart Ball and Roger Morris we obtained an OPAL grant for £3675 for the purchase of a microscope, camera and other equipment which allows projection onto a screen of specimens under the microscope. This will be available for use by members giving courses. The grant covered the expenditure exactly, so our overall financial position is not affected.

FUTURE PLANS

I announced last year a projected change in the way our field meetings are financed, with the Forum taking over from Roger Morris the payment of deposits and invoices for accommodation etc, and the receipt of members' payments. That change has now taken place, and this has resulted in an increase of traffic through our current account. The original plan was to establish a separate account for this purpose, but when we looked at the detail this seemed to have no real advantages, so the traffic takes place through our existing single current account. This will, of course, increase the workload for our auditor, and I wrote to Tony Pickles to explain the change. I am delighted to say that he took it in his stride and has agreed to continue to audit our accounts, for which I am extremely grateful. That concludes my report.

A short discussion followed.

Darwyn Sumner asked what were the costs of Bulletins 69 and 70. HB replied that he did not have detailed figures to hand but would let Darwyn know.

Stuart Ball said that our income and expenditure were now balanced rather precariously and, when the committee reviewed the situation next year it was very likely that, after 6 years at its present level of £6, the subscription would be raised, perhaps to £10.

HB pointed out that there was now much more traffic through the DF accounts due to the new arrangements for payment for the Field Meetings and Workshops, and due to the OPAL grant, which had gone through the Forum accounts.

A Vote of Thanks to our Auditor, Tony Pickles, was proposed by Howard and carried unanimously by the meeting. A letter will be sent to Tony Pickles as a record of our gratitude for his work on our behalf.

5. Membership Secretary's Report – Mick Parker

There are currently 382 paid up members of The Dipterists Forum with another 46 subscriptions outstanding. This year we have had a total of 56 new members and so the Forum has grown by a record number. There are currently 29 overseas members, over the year there has been 2 resignations and 1 death.

The Chairman thanked Mick and Judy for their work during the year.

6. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report – Peter Chandler

As reported last year the second part of volume 16 was published before the end of 2009 so that three issues were produced during that year, getting the publication schedule back on course. This was made possible by one of these issues being devoted to the Diptera of the Western Isles by Peter Skidmore.

There was a problem with the printing of volume 16 part two as some copies were printed with some pages missing and others duplicated. This was fortunately realised before distribution took place and all copies were returned to the printers for checking, resulting in a short delay in distribution. Unfortunately at least one defective copy still slipped through to a subscriber, for which I apologise. Many copies also had smudges on the cover, of which the worst ones had to be rejected. This is the third time that we have had problems with printing since changing to Henry Ling, although they have generally performed better than our previous printers, and hopefully it will be the last such problem.

It was hoped that having got back to the appearance of the two issues of a volume in the same year that this would continue. The first part of Volume 17 appeared in July, including 34 varied items. As in the previous two years this summer issue included all contributions that I had received by the time it went to the printers. Once again it was uncertain whether enough material would be available to produce another part this year and unlike last year this has not yet proved possible because insufficient material has so far been received. Currently I have 68 pages of text and I am expecting another moderately long paper shortly when it should be possible to complete an issue. There is every chance of it being ready to send to the printers in December but realistically publication is unlikely before January.

Again I urge all members to contribute articles and notes. We can only maintain regular publication if sufficient text is received and

ideally enough to have material in hand for another issue when each part appears. The issue published this year included more colour plates than previous issues. They were well distributed through the text as they were illustrating ten papers and notes. This has generally been welcomed. Also for the first time the cover illustration was in colour, although not entirely devoted to Diptera. The next issue will also include a number of colour plates and this will continue wherever appropriate to illustrate papers.

Roy Crossley resumed the distribution this year after stepping down briefly for the previous issue and I am grateful to him for his continuing assistance. Again I thank Mike Pugh for proof reading and Mick Parker for continuing to boost the number of subscribers. I also thank all those who have contributed to the journal.

7. Chairman's Vote of Thanks

Just prior to the Election, the Chairman, Stuart Ball, announced the retirement of Alan Stubbs from the Committee, saying that it was an historic occasion for it was on Alan's initiative that the Cranefly Recording Scheme was set up in 1973, followed in 1976 by the Hoverfly and Larger Brachycera schemes. In 1994 the Dipterists Forum was created from these beginnings and Alan has been the driving force and guiding light as Secretary of the Forum until 2000, and as a member of the Committee continuously, up to the present.

The Chairman proposed a Vote of Thanks to Alan which was carried unanimously and warmly applauded by all of the meeting.

Alan then responded explaining some of the events in the history of the Forum, and ended by thanking the Forum for their support.

Stuart also announced that Barbara Ismay the Conservation and BAP Officer was resigning at the 2011 AGM and he thanked her for all her hard work in proposing the list of BAP species of Diptera. Any volunteer for the post has the opportunity to work themselves in, in tandem with Barbara, during 2011.

8. Election of Officers

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and other elected officers with specific responsibilities (detailed below) require annual election. The constitution (7c) currently requires nominations 30 days in advance of the AGM. Ordinary elected committee members serve for two years.

The Officers and General Committee proposed for re-election for election this year, 2010 are as follows:

Office	**Officer**
Chair	Martin Drake
Vice Chair	Stuart Ball
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	Howard Bentley
Membership Secretary	Mick Parker
Field Meetings Secretary	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Secretary	Malcolm Smart
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Assistant Editor and Publicity Officer	Judy Webb
Website Manager	Stuart Ball
Conservation/BAP Officer	Barbara Ismay
Committee Members	**1. John Showers (Elected)**
	2. John Ismay (Elected)
	3. Erica McAlister
	4. Chris Spilling
	5. Vacancy
	6. Vacancy

Posts 3 & 4 were elected in 2009 and are therefore due for re-election in 2011.

Following the Election, the new Chairman, Martin Drake took the Chair. After thanks to the previous Chairman, Martin asked for Any Other Business.

9. Any Other Business

a) Conservation and BAP Officer - Barbara Ismay

Barbara thanked those who had 'adopted' a species and said that there was still work to be done on the life histories of many RDB species. She asked for any volunteer for the Office of Conservation and BAP Officer to make contact with her. Barbara then described the sort of things that she had been doing while in the Office. Essentially it was about supporting work on the conservation of Diptera, especially the BAP species, and collecting and providing information about the BAP and RDB Diptera.

Barbara said that she would be pleased to continue to run the 'Adopt a Species' scheme.

She also announced that the Acalyptrate Review of Scarce and Threatened Species was nearly ready and should see publication during 2011. In addition, there had been some forward movement with the Calyptrate Review.

In conclusion Barbara drew attention to their flyer and announced that she and John would be leading a Workshops on An Introduction the Diptera, to take place on 12-13 February at the Hill End Camp, Oxford.

b) Field Meetings' Secretary – Roger Morris

Roger announced that there would be three field meetings during 2011. The week-long Summer Field Meeting would be based at Exeter University and take place from 2-9 July. Details were in the Bulletin.

There being no other business, the Annual General Meeting closed at 2.55pm.

John Kramer, Secretary

Forthcoming Events Calendar 2011

Dipterists Forum & selected meetings

Check the Dipterists Forum website for changes and meetings added after publication of this Bulletin, www.dipteristsforum.org.uk)

4-6 March 2011, DF Identification Workshops. Beginner's workshop on 'Introduction to Fly Families', Advanced Workshop on 'Fungus Feeding Flies (Fungus Gnats & Flat-footed Flies) Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury. Details in this issue and posted on the DF website and on FSC website: www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford

5 **March 2011, Tachinidae Identification Workshop** led by Chris Raper & Matt Smith. BENHS, Dinton Pastures, Hurst, Reading. For up to 20 people. Bookings to: Ian McLean [ianmclean@waitrose.com].
See also: www.benhs.org.uk

12 **March 2011**, BENHS **AGM and Presidential Address plus talks**, tours and discussions. University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW. See: www.benhs.org.uk

7-8 April 2011. The Future of Biological Recording in the UK. NFBR. Holiday Inn, Filton. Filton Road, Bristol BS16 1QX. John Newbould 01305 837384 john_newbould@btinternet.com

16 **April 2011. Buglife Members Day.** St Mary's Church, Peterborough, PE1 1TT

7 **May 2011** One day BENHS joint meeting with Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. Topic will be 'Entomology in the Uplands. See: www.benhs.org.uk

12-15 May 2011, **DF Spring Field Meeting to Abergavenny, S Wales. Contact** Roger Morris to book (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com).

3 **July 2011, Insect Festival 2011. York Museum and Gardens. York YO1 7FR**

2-9 July 2011, DF Summer Field Meeting to Exeter, based in the University. Booking deposit of £40, full payment by 01 May 2011. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

5-8 August 2011, 6th International Symposium on the Syrphidae. Glasgow. Submission of Abstracts 31 May 2011, Final Registration 15 June 2011.
Contact: roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

19–22 August 2011, Identification of Hoverflies. For novices. Taught by Roger Morris and Stuart Ball. Preston Montford Field Study Centre, Nr Shrewsbury. See FSC website: www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford

7-11 September. Ento '11 Royal Entomological Society's Annual National Meeting, Chatham, Kent. See http://www.royensoc.co.uk/meetings/20110907_ento11.htm

1 October 2011, AES Annual Exhibition and Trade Fair, Kempton Park, London Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5AQ, UK. DF will have a publicity stand and publications for sale. See www.amentsoc.org

8-16 October, DF Autumn field Meeting to Castle Barnard/Morecambe Bay Please check DF website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk where details will be posted as soon as known.

5 **November** 2011, BENHS Annual Exhibition and Dinner, Imperial College, London. DF members invited to exhibit flies.
See: www.benhs.org.uk

19 **November Worcestershire Entomology Day.** More details when known. Check DF website: www.dipteristsforum.org.uk.

26 **November 2011, Dipterists Day and DF AGM. Manchester University Museum**. Additional activities on **Sunday 27 November 2011.** Details of the programme will be announced on the DF website: www.dipteristsforum.org.uk as they become available.

BENHS Dinton Pastures Open Days in the Pelham-Clinton Building, Hurst, Reading. Open 10:30-17:00 on the **second** and **fourth** Sunday in each month except from May – Sept when open only on the **fourth** Sunday in each month**.** We encourage you to bring along your pinned flies and use the Diptera Collections and library for identification. Other Dipterists are usually present meaning good chat and assistance with identifications may be possible. The grid reference for Dinton Pastures is SU 784718, turn left off the B3030 driving North from Winnersh. Parking charges apply in the Country Park. The site is about 15 minutes walk from Winnersh station, which has trains running on a half-hourly service from Reading and Waterloo. See: www.benhs.org.uk

April-Sept/Oct 2011 The Northants and Peterborough Diptera Group hold meetings every weekend from end of April until some time in September/October. Contact John Showers on: ShowersJohn@aol.com

Judy Webb

Diptera Identification Workshops 2011

Preston Montford Field Studies Centre

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th March 2011

Beginner's Workshop – Introduction to Diptera (Two-winged Flies)

Led by Stuart Ball & John Ismay

Arrive Friday in time for supper at 6.30pm - depart 4.00pm Sunday.

This is an introductory course on the Identification of Fly Families. It is designed to help people getting started with identification and recording of this fascinating group of insects which are very varied in their behaviour and can be found in nearly all habitats. They can also be used in the assessment of the quality of many different types of habitat.

The course is aimed at absolute beginners and will guide them through many hurdles, both as a group and as individuals. Each attendee gets individual help and will work using a microscope on their own individual set of specially prepared flies which are examples of the major Dipteran families found in the UK. A set of keys with colour illustrations has been specially produced for this course and these in themselves have been much sought after! Each attendee leaves with their own set of valuable keys plus advice on how to collect and pin flies for identification and for retention as voucher specimens.

All materials and equipment (microscopes, lights etc.) will be supplied by the Field centre.

Advanced workshop – Fungus Feeding Flies (Fungus Gnats & Flat-footed Flies)

Led by Peter Chandler with assistance from Judy Webb

Arrive Friday in time for supper at 6.30pm - depart Sunday afternoon.

Feeding on fungi as larvae is a common life style scattered throughout the Diptera, with more than 540 British species in 45 families of flies having now been reared from fungi and a few hundred more likely to depend on them. This Workshop will cover two of the groups that are particularly tied to fungi, the small family of Flat-footed Flies (Platypezidae) and the five families of Fungus Gnats (Bolitophilidae, Ditomyiidae, Diadocidiidae, Keroplatidae and Mycetophilidae).

The 33 species of Platypezidae include the 5 species of small black Smoke Flies (*Microsania*) with unknown larvae but well known as adults by their attraction to wood smoke, but the rest are fungus feeders of which the adults may be found running about in a jerky fashion on broad leaves where they feed on honeydew. The expanded hind tarsi of many species, especially the females, gives them their English name. Most members are remarkable for their sexual difference in coloration, with males often drab while females may be brightly marked with distinctive patterns of grey, silver, yellow, orange and red, requiring the sexes to be keyed separately. All British species are included in the **Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica** volume entitled 'The Flat-footed Flies of Europe.' A separate British key has yet to appear so a cut down version, covering only the British species, will be provided.

The Fungus Gnats have been neglected but are by no means as difficult to name as might be thought. They vary greatly in size and coloration and many have distinct wing markings. Their great diversity in form will be demonstrated by showing a range of species from each of the main groups. Less than 200 of the 550 British species have yet been reared from fungi but many of the others must also have this habit, so there is plenty of scope to add to knowledge of their biology. Not all are fungus associated; some develop in rotten wood, mosses, liverworts, bird's nests and caves. The four smaller families and the smaller subfamilies of Mycetophilidae are covered by an RES Handbook (Hutson et al. 1980) that keyed 204 species, to which 33 have since been added. That leaves only the large subfamily Mycetophilinae with 313 British species for which a handbook is in preparation. The draft keys need to be tested and testing of the generic key will be a priority for this Workshop. The 25 genera of this subfamily are mostly recognised by characters of the wing venation. Within genera the structure of the genitalia is most important and the male genitalia are often distinct enough for species recognition from published figures without any preparation, although confirmation by mounting is desirable to discern fine details and the techniques for achieving this will be described.

Judy Webb will contribute a colourful slide show on fungi (everything from Devil's Boletes and Morels to Fly Agarics and Scarlet Elf cups) and will talk about identifying them and finding the ones that are good food sources for fly larvae. There will be a practical demonstration of methods of successfully rearing from fungi, along with examples of the range of species that can be obtained in this way.

Specimens for checking keys will be provided, but please bring any that you have collected yourself. If you have your own microscope, lamp etc. then please bring them along. The centre does have some, so don't feel that you cannot attend if you don't have them.

Fees & Booking Procedure for either workshop

Dipterists Forum members:

Single Room Resident: £162 full board accommodation
Shared Room Resident: £142 full board accommodation
Non-resident: £87 incl. packed lunches & evening meals

Non Dipterists Forum members (fees include one year's DF membership):

Single Room Resident: £242 full board accommodation
Shared Room Resident: £222 full board accommodation
Non-resident: £167 incl. packed lunches & evening meals

To book a place on either of these workshops please contact

Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1DX
Tel: 01743 852 040 Fax: 01743 851 066

Email: enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org

You will be requested to pay a deposit of £50 (cheque payable to Field Studies Council) to the address above. Payment of the

balance of the course fee will be due 30 days before beginning of course. Cancellation after this date may leave the customer liable for the full amount - a condition which is accepted when the booking is confirmed. Make sure that you note that you are a DF member on the booking form in order to secure your members discount.

I regret that, due to an oversight, the fees quoted for these workshops in the Autumn 2010 Bulletin (No.70) did not reflect the latest revisions advised by Preston Montford. The corrected figures given above are in most cases just £2 higher than those quoted in Bulletin 30. I apologise for any inconvenience or confusion caused

Organiser: Malcolm Smart

Field Meetings 2011

Spring 2011

12-15 May 2011 - Abergavenny

Full details will be posted on the website, in due course. The meeting will be one based in guest houses that we used previously. Members who wish to participate should register your interest with Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com). No deposit is required at the moment but may be needed in due course.

Summer 2011

2-9 July - Exeter University

This meeting will be in the Halls of Residence of Exeter University. A block booking for 25 people has been made and these will be allocated on first-come-first served basis. Rooms will have a wash basin and there will be shared bathrooms etc - around one between 6. The price for the meeting will be between 315 and £325 depending upon numbers attending (the meeting room hire is a fixed price for the group). Payment in full, to Dipterists Forum, will be required by 01 May 2011 and any late bookings thereafter will attract a 10% surcharge as described in the note on new arrangements. Cancellation after 30 May 2011 cannot be refunded.

Booking forms together with a deposit of £40.00 made payable to Dipterists Forum should be sent to Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire). This deposit will be refundable less £10.00 if cancellation prior to 01 May 2011.

Autumn 2011

08-16 October - Castle Barnard/ Morecambe Bay

In common with the past two meetings, this is proposed as a two-venue meeting with options for members to attend only part of the meeting if they prefer a shorter trip. Accommodation will be in guest houses. Members who wish to participate should register your interest with Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com).

Other Meetings 2011

Book Launch at the Bird Fair

19 August - Rutland Water

The Hoverfly Recording Scheme is pleased to announce that there will be a new hoverfly book suitable for the novice published in August 2011. The Hoverfly Recording Scheme has teamed up with ethical publishers "WILDGuides" to produce this all-colour introduction to hoverflies, which will provide illustrations of 154 of the the British fauna, including representatives of all genera.

The "Britain's Wildlife" normally series retails at £17.95 + p&p (appx. £20.00) but the Recording Scheme has reached an agreement where it will be able to market the book at a pre-publication offer of £16.00 inclusive of p&p. Arrangements for this are in hand, but in the first instance please let Roger Morris know of your interest in purchasing this landmark volume.

The deadline for registering for the pre-publication offer is 30 April 2011.

More will be posted in due course, but potential purchasers who contact me (roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com) will be automatically forwarded a booking form and details of arrangements.

The book is scheduled to be launched at The Bird Fair at Rutland Water on 19 August.

N.B. Roger and Stuart are running a course elsewhere, at Preston Montford, on this day. If birds and a book are not enough for you, give some of the local Dipterists a call (Darwyn, John Kramer, maybe John Showers of the Peterborough group) - we know the area.

Dipterists Day & AGM 2011

26-27 November - Manchester Museum

This will be held at Manchester Museum on Saturday 26 November 2011 with additional workshops, opportunities to visit the Museum Diptera collection, and check identifications with experts on Sunday 27 November 2011. Details of the programme will be announced on the DF website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk as they become available. See also an account of the Manchester Museum collections in DF Bulletin #70

Malcolm Smart

And now ...

Treat yourself to a fly

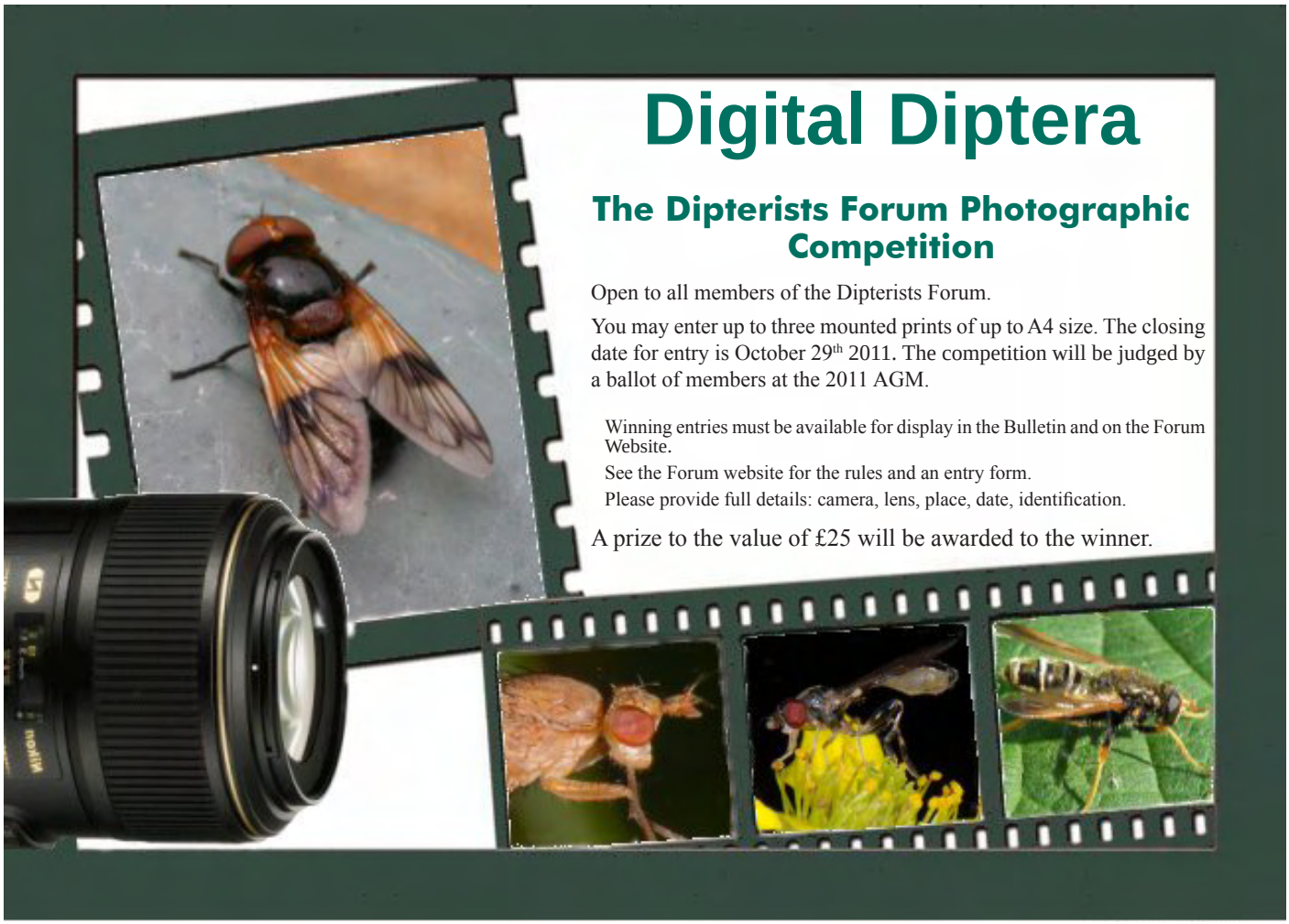
You know the feeling. High hopes that your day's outing will produce lots of goodies are dashed. Weather wrong. Seasonal emergence predictions up the creek. Some idiot has trashed the site by mowing down the vegetation, flowers included. Marsh dried up because some fool has dug the ditches even deeper. Nothing else for it, comfort food is needed via buying an ice cream.

A difficult choice I know but rather than pay for an ice cream, why not purchase a fly of your choice. Nature reserve visitor's centres should have a vending machine. You put in the slot the equivalent sum to that you would have spent on an ice cream, decide between a pinned specimen or a very chilled live specimen, and press the button for the species desired. Then you can return home full of the warm glow that your outing was not wasted.

How did I arrive at this very practical notion you ask? – or you ought to have asked. Well the Chinese got there first. A vending machine sells live chilled Shanghai Hairy Crabs in a plastic bag, and if the machine serves up a dead crab, you get three live ones in compensation. I have no idea whether such gastronomic delicacy is preferable to Chinese ice cream but evidently they have not got round to the idea of pinning and setting such arthropods.

The problem is that the concept requires someone else's fridge, in a suitable location miles from home. The answer is to have a small portable fridge run off the car battery so that you can have your own mini vending machine. (No car? Sorry you have to carry the battery or accept dead flies only). The big advantage is that you can unscrew the casing and get your money back. Why, so that you can buy an ice cream. You see, comfort food and comfort fly at no extra cost.

Alan Stubbs



Britain's Hoverflies

by

Stuart Ball & Roger Morris

Dipterists Forum
Advance copy booking form
Expected publication date August 2011

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

e-mail address .....

Please send me ..... copies of the WildGuide to Britain's Hoverflies at the pre-publication offer of £14.00 + £2.00 p&p. = **£16.00**

I enclose a cheque for ..... Date .....'
(Cheques payable to Dipterists Forum)

Signed .....

Send to: Roger Morris, 7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE

Please note, the publication date is currently advisory.

Hoverfly Newsletter
Number 50
Spring 2011
ISSN 1358-5029

With this edition of the newsletter we have reached the landmark of the 50th issue. The first was dated October 1982, a year before the publication of the first edition of British Hoverflies, and since then we have managed to compile two issues in most years, thanks to a rich vein of articles supplied by you, the readers. That first issue, mainly the work of Philip Entwistle, the first editor, featured notes on three species that were than relatively new to the British list, *Dasysyrphus friuliensis*, *Eriozona syrphoides*, and *Parasyrphus malinellus*, so it is perhaps appropriate that this 50th in the series should include a piece by Alan Stubbs on species new to the UK.

Some contributors have expressed concern at the early copy deadline (late November) for the current newsletter, a month earlier than was customary in the past. This change has been made to fit in with the closure date for the Spring Dipterists Forum Bulletin which has been brought forward to 31 December. The copy dates for the autumn issues of the newsletter and bulletin remain as before. Thus, although there will continue to be two issues of each per year, they are not equally separated in time; there is a seven month gap between the spring and autumn issues, but only a five month gap before the spring ones.

Articles and illustrations (including colour images) for the next newsletter are always welcome. Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 51** (which is expected to be issued with the Autumn 2011 Dipterists Forum Bulletin) should be sent to me: David Iliff **Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HN, (telephone 01242 674398), email:davidiliff@talk21.com**, to reach me by 20 June 2011.

The hoverfly illustrated at the top right of this page is *Xylota xanthocnema*.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme update Winter 2010-2011

Stuart Ball
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Although the 2010 field season has been extremely disappointing in many respects, it has also yielded surprises, including a new *Dasysyrphus* and a new *Syrphus* courtesy of Ian Rabbarts and Mick Parker respectively. We will let them announce their finds properly before going further, but suggest that recorders really need to be looking carefully at their *Parasyrphus punctulatus* specimens and also at *Dasysyrphus pinastri/venustus* specimens. These are exciting additions to the British fauna and will hopefully be joined by others soon. There remain tantalising reports of *Milesia crabroniformis*, and we hear that *Temnostoma* species are on the move in Europe.

We have not been idle either. Our ongoing jobs list includes organising the 6th International Symposium on the Syrphidae, writing an updated atlas that will hopefully be one of the components of delegates' packs at the Symposium (provided sufficient sponsorship is gained), and writing a WILDGuide to hoverflies! Meanwhile, we have also won an OPAL (Open Air Laboratory) grant to buy a camera microscope and to print course literature for our very popular "*Introduction to Hoverflies*" course.

The first time we used the new microscope was a course we ran for Shetlands Biological Records Centre in early August. Neither of us had been that far north before so we decided to make the trip into a holiday and did a grand tour, including one excellent day in the Spey Valley, three days on Orkney and ten days on Shetland, including three nights on Fetlar in search of Red Necked Phalarope. We dipped on the Phalarope but got amazing views of Dotterel on the *Racomitrium* heath on the plateau of Cairngorm: there were at least twenty birds and we got really great views of some. Our haul of hoverflies was less impressive but we did get a new site for *Eristalis abusivus* on Shetland and saw a huge amount of the coastline, which includes a spectacular array of stacks, tombolos and barrier beaches. It is a fantastic place to go and well worth a trip if you enjoy wildlife. We got great views of Otters, were regularly mobbed by Great Skuas, handled a Storm Petrel, and visited numerous colonies of Fulmars and Shags. Harbour and Grey Seals were abundant and we even saw the occasional Harbour

Porpoise. Sadly we did not see Killer Whales so we will just have to go back!

The Hoverfly Symposium is for us a major event. As readers will know, we have attended all of the past five and have used them as a platform to publicise the Recording Scheme and the work that it is doing. Most importantly, we have shown how your data can be used in a much wider context – looking at range change, predicting responses to climate change, phenological change, and of course producing atlases and status reviews. This year we hope to go one better and actually produce something in print!

The atlas that we will produce for the Symposium will be a combined effort between the Hoverfly Recording Scheme and the Scottish Hoverfly Recording Scheme and consequently it will be the first time that the combined data will be available as maps. Its authorship will include Kenn Watt and Graham Rotheray. As we have previously said, the atlas will also be distributed free of charge to those contributors who have submitted 150 or more records since 2000. Those readers who still have a stash of un-submitted records can do so, but hurry – we will be finalising the text by early May so the last date for records is 30 April 2011.

WILDGuide: *Britain's Hoverflies*

We have been working on this book for much of the Autumn and it looks like it is set to be a really nice product. We hope to illustrate live photographs of 150 species of hoverfly; but this is only part of it as there will be close-up photographs of key characters from preserved specimens. We hope that this will make the book an essential companion to Stubbs & Falk.

The publishers, WILDGuides, are a small independent company set up by Rob Still and Andy Swash, with Rob doing the design and Andy the editing. Their business model is to be an ethical publisher with a proportion of the profits going to conservation bodies and related organisations such as Dipterists Forum. This approach means that Dipterists Forum has been given the opportunity to act as agent for the pre-publication offer and to draw an income from that part of the venture.

Thus, we are pleased to announce that there is a pre-publication offer for Dipterists Forum members and for people who use the Dipterists Forum and Hoverfly Recording Scheme websites. The "Britain's Wildlife" series normally retails for £17.95 + postage and packing, bringing the total cost to about £20.00 for UK residents. We will be offering the book at £16.00 including Postage and Packing to a UK destination. This will mean that for every book sold Dipterists Forum will make £4.00 which we hope to use to underpin the cost of printing the forthcoming hoverfly atlas. Any residue will go towards other Dipterists Forum ventures such as the production of teaching materials for our very popular *Introduction to Flies* course.

To make sure you get your copy of *Britain's Hoverflies* you need to send the reservation form accompanying this bulletin, together with a cheque payable to Dipterists Forum for £16.00. The form must be returned to Roger Morris no later than 30 April 2011. The projected publication date for the book is Friday 19th August at the Bird Fair at Rutland Water. The Authors will be there for signing in the morning but will leave at lunch time to go to Preston Montford to run a hoverfly course!

Other editions in the "Britain's Wildlife" series include Butterflies, Dragonflies, Orchids, Arable Bryophytes and Reptiles & Amphibians. The full catalogue can be viewed at http://www.wildguides.co.uk/.

We are writing a smaller guide that will form part of a new series of introductory books on the plants and animals that are likely to be found in the urban environment and related wildlife areas. This will cover approximately 60 species and will be marketed at below £10.00. It is written in such a way that we hope it will appeal to the absolute novice who does not want to spend huge sums on a bumper book of hoverflies but does want to find out what they have seen whilst out for a walk or going round the garden. It will probably be less appealing to Dipterists Forum members but will make an ideal present for children in much the same way as the "Observers" and "I-Spy" series did for previous generations. The publication timetable for this venture is a little further away so expect an announcement on the Dipterists Forum website www.dipteristsforum.org.uk in the spring.

6th International Symposium on the Syrphidae, 5-8 August 2011

There have been regular calls for this Symposium series to be held in the UK and so it is appropriate that in 2011 it is to be held at Glasgow University from 5-8 August. The organising committee comprises Stuart Ball, Francis Gilbert, Geoff Hancock, Roger Morris & Graham Rotheray. The venue takes advantage of nearby Halls of Residence which means that accommodation will not be expensive (around £25 for a single room with shared facilities). The main event – 3 days of talks and posters - will hopefully be followed by an excursion to Loch Lomond on the 8th. This will be dependent upon numbers wishing to participate.

The cost of the meeting itself has yet to be finalised – this will depend upon how much we attract in sponsorship, and how many people attend. The basic fixed costs per person are daily catering for morning and afternoon breaks plus a buffet lunch, but the group costs comprising room hire and janitorial commitments do not vary with numbers so, the more people we get there the cheaper the costs per person are. We hope that this will be kept to below £100 but VAT plays quite a big part in the cost and everybody will be aware of the recent hike in VAT to 20%!

The event organisers have approached a number of possible sponsors and are hopeful that there will be sufficient sponsorship to make possible the publication of a new hoverfly atlas to supersede the one we published in 2000. We are also setting up a fund to assist students and delegates from poorly resourced places. At the time of writing (November 2010) we have been promised support from Dipterists Forum and have also had an encouraging response from the Smithsonian Institute's Williston Diptera Research Fund. Meanwhile we are awaiting responses from the major societies in the UK.

Although the use of the term Symposium conveys a grand event, these meetings are exceptionally down to earth – they are gatherings of people with similar interests meeting to enjoy their mutual passion for hoverflies. They are not stuffy and academic, and are very informal, so it would be really good to see lots of members of the Recording Scheme at this event. This is a great opportunity to come and engage with many of the people whose names you will recognise from species added to the British list in recent years. It is also the place where you could present your own studies – if not a presentation then maybe a poster? If not a poster, the why not just attend to meet people and see what is going on. Pictures of the last meeting in Novi-Sad accompanied the write-up for that meeting (see Hoverfly Newsletter 47) and hopefully convey the very informal atmosphere.

Deadlines set are:

- Submission of Abstracts – 15 May
- Registration – 15 June

News updates will be provided on the Recording Scheme website www.hoverfly.org.uk.

Do come and join us and make this a big event in the hoverfly calendar for 2011. Expressions of interest should be sent to Roger Morris roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com.

Hoverfly Training Events

In our last update we announced that we had sought a grant of nearly £4,000 from **OPAL** (*The Open Air Laboratory*) a **Heritage Lottery Fund** initiative to encourage greater public participation in biological recording. Our bid was successful and we are now equipped with a microscope and camera supplied at a very reasonable price by GX Optical of Cambridge. What is more, we have five years' supply of course literature. This means that we can make our courses even better by projecting images of real animals so that everybody can start to understand the wonders of challenges such as hairy humeri, plumose arista or hairy squamae without queuing to peer down the microscope and thinking they have seen something! This is a great step forward.

To gain this grant we must of course do something! Our contribution is to run training courses for prospective hoverfly enthusiasts and we are now committed to running events at the Natural History Museum (January), and for the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (March) and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough (February and March). We have already run courses for the Field Studies Council at Preston Montford (August), for Glasgow Naturalists (September) and for Shetland Biological Records Centre (August) as part of this commitment.

We are now working on a bid for funding for a set of microscopes so that we can run courses in places where the group does not have access to a supply of microscopes. If this is successful then we will be appealing for groups to organise a venue and students so that we can enthuse a new generation of hoverfly recorders. If you know of a group that would like to organise such an event then please let us know (contact Roger Morris at roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com.

A review of extra and potential extra hoverflies

Alan Stubbs

181 Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 4DS alan.stubbs@buglife.org.uk

The Second Edition of British Hoverflies was published in autumn 2002. Such is the pace of study that there are at least a dozen extra species have now been either confirmed as occurring in Britain or have circumstantial evidence that they may do so.

Named new species.	7
Unconfirmed named new British	5
Name for 2002 un-named species	1
Un-named new species	3
Further new potential forms/taxa	2
	—
	18

Excluding *Melanostoma mellinum* complex with c.5 further taxa.

Attention is drawn to a further 5 species that may potentially occur in Britain. Obviously it would be possible to extend such a list unduly. Some hoverflies, as other insects, have been changing distribution rapidly in recent decades so that historic status is no longer a sufficient guide.

NEW KEY WORKS AND MONOGRAPHS

BARTSCH, H. et al. 2009. *Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Tvavingar, Blomflugor: Diptera: Syrphidae: Syrphinae*. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala.

BARTSCH, H. et al. 2009. *Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Tvavingar, Blomflugor: Diptera: Syrphidae: Eristalinae & Microdontinae*. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala.

HAARTO, A. & KERPPOLA, S. 2007. Finnish Hoverflies and some species in adjacent countries. Pianopaikka, Keuruu.

REEMER, M. et al., 2009. De Nederlandse Zweefvliegen (Diptera: Syrphidae). *Nederlandse Fauna* **8**. [atlas]

VAN VEEN, M.P. 2004. Hoverflies of Northwest Europe: identification keys to the Syrphidae. KNNV Publishing, Utrecht.

The 2007 and 2009 books are superbly produced, though nearly all the text is in native tongues. Both the Finnish and Swedish works have colour illustrated keys in English as well as their native tongues. The Finnish book has a pinned specimen photo of most species. The Swedish book has nice paintings of most species and a generalised distribution map covering the whole of Scandinavia for each species. These two publications substantially improve the understanding of the Arctic Scandinavian fauna.

The Dutch book is a distribution atlas, the accounts having in English a short summary statement on status.

These books take presentation to a much higher level, frankly making *British Hoverflies* style look archaic (as also the 2004 key). However, such generous use of colour comes at a price via subsidy for artist's work or publication costs, or both, and even so the selling price is not cheap. For efficiency and keeping costs down, the 3rd Edition of *British Hoverflies* will maintain its established style this time round. It is anticipated the updated 2011 provisional British hoverfly atlas, due in 2011, will be well illustrated.

The big gap in modern published works on the fauna of NW Europe is NW France. Here there are extra species such as *Milesia crabroniformis* (see entry below). The earlier key works for Denmark and Belgium are now somewhat out of date as regards taxonomic improvements and species newly moving into the western fringe of Europe.

ADDITIONAL CERTAIN OR QUESTIONABLE SPECIES (since 2002)

Cheilosia caerulescens: Wing vein r-m darkened. Garden species on imported house-leeks. Published.

***Dasysyrphus hilaris*:** Yellow face without dark stripe, sternites entirely yellow or almost so. Confirmed as a separate species.

***Dasysyrphus pauxillus*:** Resembling *pinastri* (ex. *lunulatus*) but male frons angle is obtuse (acute in *pinastri)* and the female frons is only dusted grey near the eyes (grey dust band in *pinastri*). The third antennal segment is yellow beneath and the scutellar hairs mainly yellow. It is a relatively small species. One British specimen.

***Dasysyrphus* Species A:** Dieter Doczkal is working on this ally of *venustus.*

***Orthonevra intermedia*:** Tibiae partly yellow as in *geniculata* but cross-vein-m clear and stigma uniformly coloured . (in *geniculata* r-m clouded and stigma bicoloured). Published.

***Melanogaster parumplicata*:** The 2002 version of *British Hoverflies* includes this species and the text to *aerosa* makes passing mention. Two females from grazing levels sites key out as *parumplicata* but advice received from the continent is that the face profile character can be variable. Whilst *aerosa* is a species of acid bogs, it is now particularly important to trace a male of *parumplicata* taken on grazing levels (flat coastal or floodplain grassland with ditches in place of hedges as field boundaries). Pevensey Levels, the North Kent Marshes, and the coastal marshes of Essex and Suffolk are good candidates, and one female inland in Yorkshire. Status uncertain, Please check collections.

***Milesia crabronifomis*:** Very large, hornet mimic. Two probable sightings in Cornwall. Published as probable sightings.

***Pipiza festiva*:** Front tarsi entirely yellow, as *luteitarsis* . Spots on tergite 2 practically merge. Old specimen from Ireland. Published; some uncertainly of det. .

- Abdomen with pale hairs; tergite 2 with rather narrow rectangular well separated spots, with can be vague and greyish in the male. ***luteitarsis***

- Abdomen with black hairs, at least dorsally; tergite 2 with a large pair of spots, often fused. ***festiva***

***Scaeva dignota*:** See *British Hoverflies* key p. 104. Photo appears to be this species, no specimen. Probable.

***Syrphus admirandus*:** Resembling *ribesii* but the frons just above the lunulae is yellow (not black) and the sternites are usually entirely yellow. A recently described species. Old specimen in a Scottish collection but without data saying it is British. Very plausible in the Scottish Highlands. Uncertain British.

***Syrphus nitidifrons*:** Not easy to recognise as a *Syrphus* since tergites 3 and 4 have well separated bars, and the dorsal surface of the squama has few if any hairs. The frons is shining black, the female virtually without dust spots. A specimen from Dorset was exhibited in autumn 2010 by Mick Parker. Accepted British, formal publication awaited.

***Trichopsomyia lucida*:** Outer cross vein oblique so unlike *T. flavitarsis*. New key below. Published

***Xanthogramma stackelbergi*:** A split from *pedisequum.* Ventrally, the membrane between tergites and sternites 3-5 (sometimes also 2) is completely yellow (key in Barstch et al., 2009). The sides of the thorax have 4 bright yellow patches, including one rearwards of the wings as some Sp. A). Male tergite 2 side spots blunt oblique. Apparently OK**.**

***Xanthogramma* Species A:** There is a further split (Wouter van Steenis working on this). If the sides of the thorax have extensive bright yellow, but the membrane between the tergites and sternites alternating black and yellow the specimen may belong to this extra species, the problem being intermediates with *pedissequum* (ideally with only 1 vertical yellow patch on the side of the thorax but there can be extra markings). Specialist agreement on existence of this unnamed species.

***Microdon*:** Giant larva (Rob Walton).

NEW NAME

Eupeodes goeldlini = Species B (Published).

NEW FORMS

Chrysotoxum bicinctum

Form A. Wing broad and darkening confined to below the stigma.

Form B Wing slightly more pointed and darkening extending to near wing tip.

Current opinion on the continent is that these are variants of the same species, the form with darker wings mainly occurring in Britain: a very few intermediates. The female third antennal segment is longer than in the male but there may be variation. Segregation may allow recognition of ecology and phenology.

Melanostoma scalare

Form A (? species). Antennal segment 3 entirely dark.

Form B (? species). Antennal segment 3 entirely pale beneath.

It has long been said that there are 2 species in Europe: possibly more. In order to see if there is any simple way of treating this two decades freeze, the above treatment is floated to encourage others to see if such a treatment makes sense. One aspect is whether ecological differences become apparent.

Melanostoma mellinum

Regrettably the species complex recognised some 20 years ago is still fraught on a Europe wide scale, though making sense in some districts. In has been said that another 5 or 6 cryptic species occur in Britain and Ireland.

POTENTIAL EXTRA SPECIES

***Callicera fagesii*:** The most frequent species in the Netherlands. It is all too easy to jump to the conclusion that any *Callicera* taken in mid summer outside the Scottish Highlands must be *aurata*. See key in 2002 version of *British Hoverflies* which gives various other options.

***Dasysyrphus lenensis*:** Tergites 2 and 3 markings do not reach the lateral margin so there is a resemblance to *pinastri*. The latter species has short rounded dark spots on the sternites, bar right across in *lenensis* and *pauxillus*; third antennal segment of *lenensis* is black (as *pinastri*), but *pauxillus* has the underside of that segment yellow..

***Brachyopa grunewaldensis*:** The pit on the third antennal segment is minute so specimens could be overlooked as *insensilis.* The scutellum is entirely covered in microtrichia (largely bare in *insensilis*).

***Eristalis picea*:** In the Netherlands this species is associated with fenland so there is a good chance that it occurs in Britain, the Broads and East Suffolk coastal fens being of prime potential. It has some darkening of the wing below the stigma as in *horticola* but the abdomen markings are too dull. To be sure one would need to hinge-out and examine the male genitalia.

***Psilota*:** The standard British species is *P. anthracina.* However, in the Netherlands *atra* occurs in much the same restricted area. Less likely is *inupta* (Central Europe).

Key to *Psilota* (based on van Veen, 2004).

1. Thoracic dorsum with pale hairs. [*inupta*]

- Thoracic dorsum with black hairs. 2

2. Abdomen black haired. Hind femur about as broad as mid femur. [*atra*]

- Abdomen with mainly pale hairs. Hind femur about

twice as broad as mid femur. *anthracina*

OTHER BITS OF REVISED KEY

***DASYSYRPHUS pinastri* group** currently recorded from Britain **(**bars on tergites 3 & 4 do not reach the lateral margin)

a. Sternites only darkened in middle. ***pinastri***

- Sternites with a complete dark band (at least on sternite 2).

b. Third antennal segment yellow beneath. ***pauxillus***

- Third antennal segment entirely dark (as *pinastri*)

c. Tergites 3 and 4 with upper edges of bars deeply undulating. ***friuliensis***

- Tergites 3 and 4 with bars of fairly uniform width. [***lenensis***]

British Hoverflies 2002 keys *nigricornis* as a potential British species. It is now clear that this species is very unlikely to occur in Britain.

TRICHOPSOMYIA

Our long-standing species, *T. flavitarsis,* is distinctive so the finer niceties of generic characterization could be ignored. The addition of *T. lucida* breaks the mold since it could easily pass for a species of *Heringia* or *Pipiza.*

Generic feature: flat anterior part of mesopleuron with long hairs (side of thorax, upper part in front of wing base)

Key, incorporating *joratensis* (occurs in Holland).

1. Males (eyes meeting above the antennae)……...**2**

…….females (eyes separate throughout)……..**4**

2. Antennal segment 3 at least 2x as long as its maximum depth; maximum width of the face (in anterior view) no greater than the maximum width of an eye ……**3**

…….antennal segment 3 no more than 1.5x as long as its maximum depth; maximum width of the face c. 1.5x the maximum width of an eye……***joratensis*** Goedlin (male)

3. Posterior cell of wing (cell r5 of Ball et al, 2002) ending apically almost in a right angle; antennal segment 3 approximately 3x as long as its maximum depth……***flavitarsis*** (Mg.) (male)

......posterior cell ending apically in a distinct acute angle; ant. seg. 3 no more than 2x as long as its maximum depth.....***lucida*** (Mg.) (male)

4. At the level of the antennal insertions the face (in anterior view) is no wider than an eye at the same level; hairs on hind tibiae including some longer than the width of the tibia……**5**

……..at the level of the antennal insertions the face is approximately 1.5x as wide as an eye at the same level; hairs on hind tibiae shorter than the width of the tibia (frons without dust spots; hind tibiae almost entirely black-haired; posterior cell ending apically almost in a right angle)……...***joratensis*** (female)

5. Hind tibiae black-haired; posterior cell ending apically almost in a right angle; frons without dust spots……***flavitarsis*** (female)

……..hind tibiae silver-white haired; posterior cell ending apically in a distinct acute angle; frons with a pair of distinct, silvery-grey dust spots……***lucida*** (female)

FOLLOW THROUGH

1. Check collections and revise identifications if need be.

2. Inform Hoverfly Recording Scheme organizers of any revised or new data as usual.

3. In particular data on *Xanthogramma stackelbergi* and *Melanogaster parumplicata* will be gratefully received. A new British atlas is under preparation (hopefully in time for the Glasgow symposium, summer 2011) so new taxa need supporting data.

4. Taxonomic enquiries should be channeled via alan.stubbs@buglife.org.uk.

5. Events during the year may provide opportunity for me to examine awkward specimens, including uncertainties with Pipizinae as a whole. By the time of the hoverfly symposium in Glasgow I hope that the number of identification uncertainties can be narrowed down for the advice of the assembled group of European specialists.

Is *Xanthogramma stackelbergi* present in Britain?

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Mention of *Xanthogramma pedissequum* with multiple spots on the thoracic pleura, in a note by David Iliff in Hoverfly Newsletter No.49, reminded me that *X.stackelbergi* might easily be present in Britain. It is very similar to *X.pedissequum*, but only recently has it appeared in identification keys. There is also another European *Xanthogramma* that could occur, namely *X.dives*. *X.dives* and *X.stackelbergi* have been confused both with *X.pedissequum* and with one another. The most recent version of the StN Keys volume (Speight and Sarthou, 2010) contains a key that separates these three species. That key is reproduced below, for those who might wish to check their British material of *X.pedissequum*, in case it includes one of the other species. *X.stackelbergi* is known as far North as southern Scandinavia, and as far South as the Mediterranean. *X.dives* appears to be predominantly a Mediterranean zone species (but its distribution remains poorly known at the moment). It has, however, been found as far North as northern France, where it occurs in chalk grassland. *X.stackelbergi* might be expected at the edge of well-drained woodland. Neither of these species seems very partial to acidic conditions. Females of *X.stackelbergi* seem rather secretive, flying more within woodland than out of it. It is not yet known with which ant species *X.dives* and *X.stackelbergi* are associated.

Both *X.dives* and *X.stackelbergi* have multiple yellow spots on the thoracic pleura. The wings of *X.stackelbergi* are much less heavily infuscated than is normal for *X.pedissequum* and, in the female at least, the actual wing tip of *X.dives* is noticeably darkened.

***XANTHOGRAMMA:* Key to European species 2010**
This key does not include the two Caucasian species *X.caucasica* Violovitsh and *X.maculipenne* Mik.

1 Abdominal tergite 2 wider than long; alula entirely covered in microtrichia **2**

----- abd.tg.2 longer than wide; alula extensively bare (tg.3 with yellow, transverse band; costal margin of wing darkened to wing-tip) ..... ***marginale*** (Loew)

2 Males (eyes meeting above antennae) **3**

females(eyes separated) **7**

3 Eye hairs very sparse, no eye hairs longer than the diameter of the anterior ocellus; tergites 2-4 each with a pair of pale (yellowish), transverse marks **4**

----- eyes hairs dense, longer than 2x the diameter of the anterior ocellus; tg 3, at least, normally with the pair of pale markings meeting in the mid-line to give a transverse yellow band (wings entirely covered in microtrichia; eyes meeting above antennae for a distance greater than one third the length of the frons ..... ***laetum*** (Fabricius) (male)

4 Eyes meeting above antennae for a distance greater than one third the median length of the frons (pale marks on tergite 2 at most 1.25x as wide as long, almost reaching the base of the tergite laterally; hind legs usually with the tarsi and the apical quarter of the femur infuscated, darker than the fore and mid legs, which are yellow, but all legs sometimes almost entirely yellow) **5**

----- eyes meeting above antennae for a distance less than one quarter the median length of the frons; pale marks on tg 2 1.5x as wide as long, well separated from the base of the tergite; all legs entirely yellow (wing membrane may be vaguely darkened, along costal margin and at wing tip, including distal end of cell sm) ..... ***citrofasciatum*** (de Geer) (male)

5 Abdominal membrane between each tergite and sternite with a distinct dark grey band (sometimes missing between tg4 and st4), as long as more than half the length of each sternite (second basal cell of wing 0-25% bare of microtrichia; pale marks on tg.2 usually reaching their greatest length on the lateral margins of the tergite, so that there they extend closest to the posterior margin of the tergite - or at least as close to the posterior margin as elsewhere on the tergite; at the lateral margins of the tergite, the pale marks on tg.3 occupying at least as great a length of the tergite as elsewhere; 1-4 pale marks on the thoracic pleura) ..... ***pedissequum*** (Harris) (male)
----- abdominal membrane between each tergite and sternite entirely yellow, except for between tergite and sternite 1 and tergite and sternite 2, where there is a broad, distinct, dark-grey band **6**

6 Hairs on posterior third of surface of mesoscutum nearly all long; marginal hairs on plumule (and usually also on lower lobe of calypterae) dark brown/black; inner (medial) extremity of yellow marks on tergite 2 usually pointed (but may be rather rounded), the pale marks nearly always reaching their greatest length on the lateral margin of the tergite (i.e. pale marks hardly, if at all, cut away postero-laterally); pale marks on tergite 3 nearly always reaching lateral margins of tergite at their maximum length; anterior margin of black band across sternite 2 straight or with a low, more-or-less rounded median projection; wings with 2nd costal cell yellow, contrasting in colour with the 1st subcostal cell, which is dark grey (or both of these wing cells grey); wing cells m and sm usually darkened at wing-tip, contrasting with the almost clear cell po (2nd basal cell of wing 25-90% bare of microtrichia; 3-4 pale marks on the thoracic pleura) ..... ***dives*** (Rondani) (male)

----- hairs on posterior third of surface of mesoscutum of two different lengths, a distinct, often dense, layer of short

hairs within the general covering of long hairs; inner extremity of yellow marks on tergite 2 very rounded; anterior margin of the black band across sternite 2 with a pointed, median extension; wings with 2nd costal and 1st subcostal cells usually of almost the same yellowish colour, though the 2nd costal cell may be almost clear and colourless and the 1st subcostal cell can be contrastingly grey; infuscation of wing restricted to the area of cell m posterior to (below) the stigma; pale marks on tg.2 often cut away postero-laterally, so that usually they are closest to the posterior margin of the tergite at some distance from its lateral margins; pale marks on tg.3 cut away antero-laterally, so that they occupy a greater part of the length of the tergite at some distance from its lateral margins; (2nd basal cell of wing 20-30% bare of microtrichia; 3-4 pale marks on the thoracic pleura) .... ***stackelbergi*** Violovitsh (male)

7 Tergites 3 and 4 each with a pair of pale (yellowish), transverse marks (in some specimens of *X.dives* the pale marks on tg3 may meet in the mid-line, to make an entire yellow band across the tergite; legs with or without dark marks; eyes with very sparse hairs shorter than diameter of anterior ocellus) **8**
----- tgs 3 and 4 each with a transverse yellow band across entire width (legs entirely yellow; eyes with sparse hairs that are longer than the diameter of the anterior ocellus ..... ***laetum*** (female)

8 Hind legs nearly always partly darkened (dark parts distinctly darker than fore and mid legs, which are entirely yellow); wings with areas bare of microtrichia; stigma brown/dark brown; tergite 2 posteriorly <2x as wide as its length in the mid-line and the pale marks at most 1.25x as wide as long **9**
----- legs entirely yellow; wings entirely covered in microtrichia; stigma brownish-yellow; tg2 posteriorly >2x as wide as its length in the mid-line and with pale marks 1.5x as wide as long (wing membrane often vaguely darkened close to costal margin and at wing tip; abdominal membrane yellow, except for a wide, dark grey band between tergite 2 and sternite 2) ..... ***citrofasciatum*** (female)

9 Abdominal membrane between each tergite and sternite with a distinct dark grey band (sometimes missing between tg4 and st4), as long as more than half the length of each sternite (hairs on ventral parts of the mesopleur shorter than the maximum width of basitarsus 1 in dorsal view; 2nd basal cell of wing 0-30% bare of microtrichia; pleura with 1-4 pale marks)
..... ***pedissequum*** (female)
----- abdominal membrane between at least tergite 3 and sternite 3 entirely yellow; between tergite and sternite 1 and tergite and sternite 2 there is a broad, distinct, dark-grey band; membrane between tg4 and st4 either entirely yellow or with a grey band (pleura with 3-4 pale marks) **10**

10 Median, black, longitudinal stripe on frons broad anteriorly, so that it reaches the posterior margin of the lunule (which is normally yellow) across almost the entire width of the lunule; posteriorly, the median black stripe on the frons usually reaches the black vertex, at least as a thin black line; hairs on ventral parts of the mesopleura usually noticeably longer than the maximum width of basitarsus 1 in dorsal view; 2nd costal cell yellow; wing tip nearly always distinctly infuscated; marginal hairs on lower lobe of calypterae and on plumule dark brown/ black (pleura with 3-5 pale marks; 2nd basal cell of wing 25-90% bare of microtrichia; alula entirely covered in microtrichia) ..... ***dives*** (female)
----- median, black, longitudinal stripe on frons narrowing anteriorly, so that it meets the posterior margin of the lunule across only half, or less, of the width of the lunule; posteriorly, the median black stripe on the frons terminates before reaching the black vertex; hairs on ventral parts of the mesopleura noticeably shorter than the maximum width of basitarsus 1 in dorsal view; 2nd costal cell clear, almost colourless; wing-cell m without infuscation; wing-tip clear; marginal hairs on the lower lobe of the calypterae and on plumule yellow/yellow-brown (2nd basal cell of wing 30-40% bare of microtrichia) ..... ***stackelbergi*** (female)

Reference

Speight, M.C.D. & Sarthou, J.-P. 2010. StN keys for the identification of adult European Syrphidae (Diptera) 2010/Clés StN pour la détermination des adultes des Syrphidae Européens (Diptères) 2010. *Syrph the Net, the database of European Syrphidae*, Vol. 60, 107 pp, Syrph the Net publications, Dublin.

Sphaerophoria loewii breeding in Bedfordshire

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On 29th May 2008, Stephen Plummer (SP) was looking for hoverflies at a private wetland site not far from Stewartby, Bedfordshire, when he noticed an *in cop* pair of *Sphaerophoria* of unusual appearance. He netted the flies, which were resting on low vegetation, and took them home. Consulting Stubbs & Falk (2002), SP considered that both sexes showed the characters given for *Sphaerophoria loewi*. However, as the species is known to occur inland only very exceptionally (see below), he asked John O'Sullivan (JOS) to look at the specimens. JOS was quickly convinced, and passed them to Roger Morris, who kindly confirmed the identification. An interrupted yellow stripe on the side of the thorax

distinguishes this species from other British *Sphaerophoria* except *S. rueppellii*, which differs in having yellow antennae. The male genitalia are also distinctive. The specimens are now in JOS's collection.

SP and JOS revisited the site together the following year, on 28th May 2009, and found a minimum of five individuals of the species (three females, two males), all five being netted and carefully checked. In 2010, SP and JOS visited the site on 21st May; despite extensive searching and sweeping with nets, no *loewi* was found. However JOS visited the site on 3rd June, and found at least four, probably five, individuals (one male, the remainder females). All females appeared to be gravid.

Ball and Morris (2000) state that this is "A very rare species known only from a few widely separated coastal localities." Stubbs and Falk (*op. cit.*) also refer to it as rare and coastal. Both these references mention a single inland record, near Aviemore, in central Scotland, of some years ago. Thus, the Stewartby records are noteworthy, being far inland, confirming breeding, and covering the three seasons up to and including the most recent.

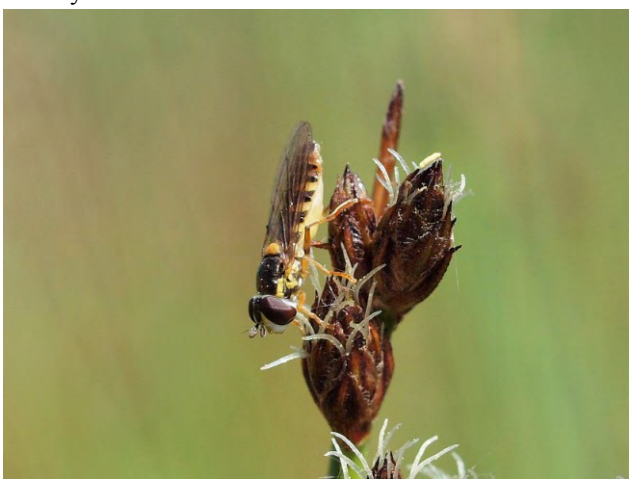
The Bedfordshire site lies in an extensive landscape of former brick-clay workings. An area of shallow open water has a margin of emergent plants, mainly Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Sea Club-rush (*Scirpus maritimus*). A separate small clump of club-rush lies in a damp area some 40 metres from the edge of the water. In the immediate vicinity, and in the surrounding area, there are large reed-beds and other areas of open water, but no Sea Club-rush has been found except at the site. All the flies seen/caught in 2009 and 2010 were at least in close proximity to, and probably all actually in, patches of flowering Sea Club-rush. All were around the edges of the water, except for a single female in 2010, which was in the isolated patch of club-rush. In the authorities quoted above, this hoverfly is mentioned as being associated at the coast with Sea Club-rush and Common Reed; the Aviemore specimen was swept from *Phragmites*. At the Stewartby site, the apparently clear attachment of the adult flies to the flowering club-rush could be simply as a source of nectar/pollen. However, there is also the possibility that the plant may host aphids on which the larvae of the hoverfly feed.

It is hoped to continue to make observations of this small colony in the coming seasons, and wider searches of the Stewartby area are planned. It may be that other inland areas of Britain are suitable: former mineral workings - perhaps in particular flooded former brick-pits - might well produce a pleasant surprise for searchers.

References

Ball S.G. & Morris R.K.A. 2000. *Provisional Atlas of British Hoverflies (Diptera, Syrphidae)*. Huntingdon: Biological Records Centre.

Stubbs A.E. & Falk S.J. 2002. *British Hoverflies*. Reading, British Entomological and Natural History Society.



Sphaerophoria loewi female, near Stewartby, Bedfordshire, June 2010. Photo: John O'Sullivan

Behaviour of *Volucella inanis* female near wasps' nest

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In the roof of my house in Reading this year there has been a nest of Common Wasps, *Vespula vulgaris*, with the entrance in a corner under the gutter. It has been quite a busy nest, with about 25 arrivals per minute in August. The same point of entry had been used by wasps the previous year. On August 22nd I saw that *Volucella inanis* females were in the vicinity of the nest, so I watched to see how easily they could get in. One female tried ten times in one hour. She would fly to within 20-40cm., then walk slowly, keeping in the shade or under cover of creeper stems. Usually she was found by a wasp patrolling the entrance, and after a brief tussle flew off a short distance. That wasp would then actively search the immediate area for 1 or 2 minutes. Twice she got to within 5cm. of the entrance, but was put off by wasps leaving, although those did not attack her. In fact I did not see any female *inanis* gain entry, although there were often one or two to be seen near the nest. They would frequently extend and contract the terminal segments of their abdomens, although one female not showing that behaviour stayed in the shade of a leaf, 40cm from the entrance, for two hours, occasionally grooming. Perhaps she was not able to oviposit yet.

Volucella inanis female (photo: David Iliff)

On September 7th I noticed a *Volucella zonaria* female on the wall near the nest, walking steadily towards the entrance. A wasp leaving the nest touched her briefly on the thorax in passing, but she appeared to ignore this, and gained entry. Unfortunately I missed seeing her leave, with so many wasps coming and going. How long she had been in the vicinity I do not know, but in 2008, again on September 7th, I saw a *zonaria* arrive from a distance at a similar nest site and get through the entrance after 10 minutes. Since *V. inanis* were finding entry to the nest area so difficult, I assumed the entrance might be small, but later found it was a vertical crack about 6cm. long, which naturally I won't repair.

My bedroom window is about 60cm. from the entrance, and on several occasions when the light was turned on, generally after midnight, as many as three *inanis* females promptly came through the open window and flew loudly about the room, generally ending up in the lampshade since attracted to light. There is a possibility that these had simply emerged from the wasp nest which was active in 2009, but considering the time of year and the fact they were all female, it is likely that they were roosting near the nest before trying to oviposit the following day.

V. inanis females are clearly prepared to invest a considerable amount of time at a single site, having spent yet more time locating it in the first place. I wonder then how many nests on average they successfully visit.

Polytunnels – fly traps par excellence

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Polytunnels can be useful for so much more than growing veg. and flowers. Each of the authors has been regularly checking a horticultural tunnel in recent years, and these have proved to be great sources of fly records, acting as effective Malaise-type traps. We recommend having a good look around any you may come across (with a carefully prepared excuse at the ready to explain just why

you are sneaking around the produce – you could even ask permission first!).

John's tunnel is in Bedfordshire and operated by professional gardeners for growing flowers and shrubs. Rob's tunnel in Devon is on the family farm, and used for growing vegetables. On the hoverfly front, between us we have had some good records. For instance, John has captured *Callicera aurata* and *Myolepta dubia*, while Rob has found *Ferdinandea ruficornis*, a species not apparently recorded in Devon before. Among other less common species, we have both also recorded *Criorhina berberina* and *Xanthandrus comtus*. Our tunnels turn up species seldom if ever encountered in the surrounding countryside when sweeping or searching, especially pipizines (*Heringia (Neocnemodon), Pipiza* and *Trichopsomyia*). Since 2003, John has recorded a total of 95 hoverfly species in the tunnel; and in just the last two years Rob has found 74 – all with a lot less effort than more traditional methods!

From our observations, not all polytunnels act as effective fly traps. Situation seems to be the key, though there must be many potentially successful variations. Ours differ from each other in several respects. Rob's is aligned north-south and perpendicular to a natural flight line. The Bedfordshire polytunnel is aligned east-west along the south side of a row of trees: it is some 7m long, 3m wide and 2.5m high, with a house-door sized opening at either end. The Devon tunnel is larger, 15m long by 7m wide and close on 4m high, with large sliding doors at either end. In both cases, the insects collect at the sunny end or corner, conveniently concentrated for the entomologist's tubes or pooter. The presence of flowers in the tunnel seems to have little influence on catching ability.

There are downsides, though: a polytunnel can be a death trap. The regular summer routine involves rescuing larger individuals, especially butterflies (including silver-washed fritillaries in Rob's case), hummingbird hawkmoths and bumblebees. We have to admit that many of the smaller black jobs tend to be left to their own fate. Perhaps they help to fertilise the soil beneath.

Local birds compete with us for the rich harvest of insects – wrens, robins, tits and even migrant warblers. This year Rob surprised an enterprising tree pipit having an easy meal.

Be warned though that not everything attracted to the tunnels may be so welcome. Apart from cabbage whites, harlequin ladybirds, wasps and hornets, they can concentrate horse flies. In June 2009 Rob's polytunnel had so many clegs *Haematopa pluvialis* that harvesting veg. had to be done at a run to avoid being savaged to pieces. But, on the plus side, the tunnel is a magnet for other, more interesting blood-suckers. The large and impressive *Tabanus sudeticus* is a frequent visitor in Devon, along with a number of other *Tabanus* and *Hybomitra* species. *Chrysops relictus* is regular in Bedfordshire, and *C. caecutiens* has appeared on occasions. The polytunnels are rich mines for other fly taxa too – for example centurions (*Sargus* spp.), tachinids and muscids.

The end result of all these interesting insects getting caught is that we both spend an inordinate amount of time ensconced in our tunnels, when in the views of our loved ones we might perhaps be doing more useful things with our lives. Such is the lot of the much misunderstood and maligned dipterist!

We would like to thank Roger Morris for suggesting that we write this article, after correspondence on the Hoverfly Recording Scheme website.

The Devon polytunnel (photo: Robert Wolton)

The Bedfordshire polytunnel (photo: John O'Sullivan)

To see or not to see...

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To see...

On 7th June, 2010, I had an interesting encounter with *Microdon mutabilis* in a tiny woodland glade at Middlebarrow Plain, Silverdale, Lancashire (SD 460765). When I entered the glade I spotted four *mutabilis* flying slowly around just above grass height. One of them was showing considerable interest in a small mounded ants' nest, by flying back and forth just a couple of inches above it. As I watched, suddenly I saw a slight disturbance on the roof of the nest and then suddenly from inside the nest out from the top burst another *mutabilis*. Both flies then left the glade together at speed. I collected four of the ants from the nest and these were later identified as *Formica lemani* by Guy Knight, Curator of Entomology at Liverpool Museum, to whom I give my thanks. I wondered if the fly that had left the nest was a female that had been laying eggs inside it, or possibly one that had newly emerged from its puparium and was anxious to get out and fly off. Could the fly patrolling the nest have been a male waiting for a female to emerge having somehow been alerted to its imminent appearance?

Or not to see...

Yealand Hall Allotment, also in the Silverdale area (SD 492761), is well known as a site for *Doros profuges*. I had not seen it since 2006, and, as far as I know, neither had anyone else. I therefore decided to make a determined effort to remedy this during its flight period in June 2010. I searched diligently at different times on a number of days without success. A few other people were also looking out for it, but had no luck. With Martin Wain, of Butterfly Conservation, a *Doros* search day was organised. Martin and I were the only people who turned up! We were not successful.

I have to wonder if *Doros* is now extinct at Yealand Hall Allotment. But it has always been an elusive species and I haven't given up hope and intend to try again in 2011. It could be that *Doros* spends much of its time in the tree canopy and only rarely comes down, the female perhaps when searching for suitable ant nests for egg laying.

Cheilosia caerulescens in Bedfordshire

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At about four in the afternoon of 20th August 2010, I was with Richard Revels, the wildlife photographer, in the back garden of his house in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (TL1944). Richard was explaining to me how he had planted the garden with insects in mind, when I noticed a *Cheilosia* feeding on marjoram (*Origanum majorana)* next to where I was standing. I casually boxed it and put it in my pocket, expecting it to be something common. However, when I got it home a couple of hours later, I found no similar species in Stubbs & Falk (2002). A male, it was clearly a *Cheilosia* on size, shape and colouration. It had a large and obvious double dark marking at the centre of the wing, but was plainly not the furry *C. illustrata*. On other features, it ran to the *pagana* group in the key in Stubbs & Falk, but it looked completely wrong for anything there, with an obviously projecting lower face, and much of the head brightly shining, though with a broad and strongly marked dust band across the sides of the face. I then remembered a paper I had seen in *Dipterists Digest* (Collins and Halstead, 2008), and looking this up, was quickly convinced that the fly was *Cheilosia caerulescens*. Reference to van Veen (2004) provided further confirmation.

The description given in the *Dipterists Digest* paper was a close fit, except that the Biggleswade specimen had all the bristles on the scutellum pale. The authors referred to such an individual as being among the series they examined at the Natural History Museum, London, but do not seem to allow for this possibility in their proposed amendment to the key in Stubbs & Falk.

This is a mature town garden, long and narrow, in prolonged full sunshine for much of its length, with shrubs and fruit trees at either end, and many nectar/pollen-producing plants. There are no houseleeks (*Sempervivum*, the larval food-plant) in the garden, though there could well be in neighbouring properties, and the area is of generally open aspect.

The next day, I took the living fly to Richard, and he photographed it in his studio. One of the results is included here, and clearly shows the wing markings and the heavily-dusted sides to the projecting face. The specimen was subsequently collected, and I have it in my possession.

The records considered in the original paper were from Surrey in 2006 (South Croydon) and 2008 (Knaphill near Woking, and Wisley). The Hoverfly Recording Scheme has received a further record from Surrey, at Beare Green, Dorking, in 2009 (Stuart Ball *pers. comm.*), and Andrew Halstead showed a 2010 specimen (again from Knaphill) at the BENHS Exhibition in London in November 2010. There appear to be no other records.

The *Dipterists Digest* paper noted that the fly is bivoltine in Europe, with adults peaking in May and July. In Surrey the 2006 and 2010 records were in May, the 2008 records in June, and the 2009 record in July. The Bedfordshire fly, on the wing in late August and looking fresh, was presumably from the second generation of the year.

There are perhaps two most likely ways for this specimen to have appeared in Bedfordshire. One is as a result of natural spread from one of the sites in Surrey. However, these sites are a minimum of seventy kilometres distant from Biggleswade, and one might have expected other reports from areas between. Perhaps more likely is that the fly, or its recent ancestors, came to the Biggleswade area with imported houseleeks. According to the *Dipterists Digest* paper, a garden centre was certainly the source of at least one of the Surrey records, with the imported plants having come from The Netherlands. There are several garden centres, nurseries and other importers/sellers of plants within a few kilometres of Biggleswade.

Cheilosia caerulescens seems not to have spread or increased dramatically in Britain since the first records were made. However, the Bedfordshire record shows that the story is not yet concluded. It will be very interesting to see where and when this hoverfly appears next. Houseleeks, anyone?

Later note: after this article had been submitted for publication, the author was passed an unidentified hoverfly specimen to determine. It proved to be another male *caerulescens* and had been taken by Alan Outen on 2nd September 2010, from *Dahlia* flowers in his garden in Clifton, Bedfordshire (TL1639). This site is some 6.5 kilometres south-west of the first site as the *Cheilosia* flies.

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Collins, G.A., and Halstead, A.J. 2008. *Cheilosia caerulescens* (Meigen, 1822) (Diptera, Syrphidae) new to Britain. *Dipterists Digest*, **15** 23-26.

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Cheilosia caerulescens male, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, August 2010 (Photo: copyright Richard Revels, www.richardrevelsphotography.com)

News from East Cornwall

Leon Truscott

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On 15th August 2010 I found a male *Rhingia rostrata* at rest on a bramble leaf in Penlee Battery Cornwall Wildlife Trust Reserve (SX4349). As far as I know, this is the first record for Cornwall. On 12th September 2010 at the same site, I found another, this time at rest on the leaf of a stinging nettle. In both cases I took photographs in situ.

This CWT Reserve has produced several interesting or notable species in recent years, including *Xanthogramma citrofasciatum* which has been recorded annually since 2005. On 11th June 2010 two specimens were noted there. Another "annual" species here is *Chrysotoxum elegans*. I failed to record any here in 2010, but did find three at nearby Tregonhawke Farm Fishing Lake (SX4152) on 16th June as well as a single *Brachypalpoides lentus*.

Microdon myrmicae was found at a new site, Carkeet on Bodmin Moor (SX2172), where four individuals were noted on 5th June.

Volucella zonaria, although established in southeast Cornwall, seems to have declined in the area. I only managed to record two this year (both in my garden in Torpoint SX4354). However, Andy & Shirley Park photographed one on 8th September near Wadebridge (SW9773), so the odd record is still tuning up further west.

Dipterists Forum
Cranefly Recording Scheme

CRANEFLY NEWS - #21 SPRING 2011

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANEFLY RECORDING SCHEME
For Tipuloidea, Trichoceridae and Ptychopteridae

NOTICES

Cranefly Workshop, Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity,
Natural History Museum, London
led by John Kramer
Saturday Feb 12 and Sunday Feb 13th 2011. (no charge)
To book a place e.mail amc-booking@nhm.ac.uk

Saturday: A guided tour of Alan Stubbs' Cranefly Keys.
Sunday: Identification Workshop. Specimens provided. Bring your own if you wish.
Each day is separate so come for just one day if you want to.

FIELD WORK

Cranefly records from Tiree and Coll, 20-26 June 2010, including a second Scottish site for *Erioptera nielseni* de Meijere (Diptera, Limoniidae)

E. Geoffrey Hancock, Hunterian Museum (Zoology), University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ

As part of entomological field work with colleagues some effort was directed at recording craneflies (Tipulidae and Limoniidae plus Ptychopteridae and Anisopodidae) during a brief visit to Tiree and Coll, two islands of the Ebudes, or Southern Inner Hebrides.
For details of this enterprise see <http://blogs.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/jeannerobinson/>
There appear to be no previous published records of craneflies from these islands. It proved to be difficult to generate a range of species presence across the available habitat. There is no natural tree cover on these islands so there was an expected lack of woodland associates. In addition, the extremely dry weather prior to the visit seems to have affected both numbers of individuals and species giving a total of only 21 from both islands. The paucity of the anisopodid *Sylvicola punctata*, for example, was surprising given the stocking levels of cattle and sheep over the islands. Only one adult was seen although larvae were present in a few cow pats. Neither the generally ubiquitous *Tricyphona immaculata* (Meigen) nor any other pediciid species were collected. The most abundant craneflies were the common saltmarsh limoniid, *Symplecta stictica* (Meigen) and the sand dune tipulid, *Nephrotoma*

submaculosa Edwards. The one interesting record was the RDB Notable (Falk, 1991) *Erioptera nielseni* de Meijere which was found around the Ballyhaugh Loch at the Hebridean Centre, Coll. Here it was common around the water margins and was found in both the light trap and malaise trap as well as in the sweep net.

From the Catalogue of the Craneflies of the World website http://ip30.eti.uva.nl/ccw/ a number of entries for *E. nielseni* indicate that it is associated with swampy margins of fens, often with an element of base richness. In Scandinavia it is regarded as part of the tyrphobiont fauna, defined as cold-adapted boreal and subarctic species, and associated weakly with bogs near the subarctic tree line (Salmela & Autio, 2007). Dr Garth Foster measured all the water bodies for acidity as part of his work on water beetles and Ballyhaugh proved to be neutral at pH7. In being adjacent to local machair habitat, where the base-rich grassland soil is formed by wind-blown shell sand, there may have been localised patches where the pH was slightly higher. Perhaps such a condition is not absolutely crucial for larval development. This is the second Scottish locality after an earlier record from Perthshire. *E. neilseni* was found at both Hare Myre and Stormont, two adjacent lochs near Blairgowrie on the same occasion, 8th July 1977 (information from NBN Gateway).

Ballyhaugh Loch – Coll Photo: E.G. Hancock

The species recorded were

Tipulidae
Nephrotoma submaculosa, Coll & Tiree
Prionocera turcica, Coll
Tipula alpium, Coll
T. oleracea, Coll & Tiree
T. paludosa, Coll (emerged later from larvae)
T. rufina, Coll

Limoniidae
Limonia trivittata, Coll
Dicranomyia autumnalis, Coll & Tiree
D. dumetorum, Coll
D. modesta, Coll & Tiree
Helius longirostris, Coll
Phylidorea ferruginea, Coll & Tiree
Ph. meigeni, Tiree
Pilaria scutellata. Coll & Tiree

P. discicollis, Coll
Pseudolimnophila lucorum, Coll
Gonomyia dentata, Coll
Erioptera nielseni, Coll
E. fuscipennis, Coll & Tiree
Erioconopa trivialis, Coll & Tiree
Symplecta stictica, Coll & Tiree
Ptychopteridae
Ptychoptera albimana, Coll & Tiree
Pt. scutellaris, Coll
Anisopodidae
Sylvicola punctata, Tiree

These were recorded from more than one 10Km squares; details have been forwarded to the Cranefly Recording Scheme. Coll may seem more diverse but no firm conclusions on the relative differences between the two islands can be made based on this brief visit.

Acknowledgments
The Blodwen Lloyd-Binns Fund of the Glasgow Natural History Society and Scottish Natural Heritage part-funded the work. Colleagues in the field were Darren Mann (Oxford University Museum), Garth Foster (Aquatic Coleoptera Conservation Trust) and Jeanne Robinson (Glasgow Museums) who also maintained the blog for National Insect Week covering this period.

References
Falk, S. 1991. A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain (Part 1). *Research and Survey in Nature Conservation* **39**: 1-194 (Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough).
Salmela, J. & Autio, O. 2007. Semiaquatic flies of Kivineva mire, middle boreal Finland, and redescription of *Cylindrotoma borealis* Peus, 1952 stat. n. (Diptera, Nematocera). *International Journal of Dipterological Research* **18**: 47-55.

The Dipterists Forum Summer Field Meeting based at the Stackpole Centre, Pembrokeshire (SR974956, VC 45)

Plenty of good sites were available, either on the Stackpole Estate, or elsewhere on the Pembroke peninsular, and about 60 species of craneflies were recorded.

Close by the Centre are the three arms of the man-made Bosherston Lakes which lie in limestone valleys. The margins of the Eastern Arm, easily accessible from the Centre, provided marshland, reedbeds and some Salix Carr, giving a range of marsh species. On the northern shore, there was a good area of exposed mud from where Reeds had been cleared and Kevin Chuter recorded 3 specimens of *Trimicra pillipes* from here. Following a report from Mark Pavett of a Ctenophorine in the Stackpole Estate woodland, instead of lurking in my usual shaded damp habitats, I stationed myself by a sunlit bramble bush and was rewarded by a female *Ctenophora pectinicornis*, which settled on the leaves.

Woodland streams were explored at Canaston Wood, and Shrubby Bottom NR near East Trewent. At Canaston Wood a good list of woodland/stream species were obtained which included *Dolichopeza albipes, Molophilus flavus and M. bifida*, along with *Dicranota pavida, D. bimaculata*, and *Pedicia (Ludicia) claripennis* from the stream margin. At Shrubby Bottom NR records included, *Thaumastoptera calceata, Ilisia occocata* and *Limonia trivittata. Lipsothrix remota* and *Lipsothrix nervosa* were found at both of these sites.

Another noteworthy habitat was at Blackpool Mill, where a backwater of the Eastern Cleddau River provided a good range of species which included *Lipsothrix nervosa*, and *Gonomyia lucidula.* On or near the coast, there was *Geranomyia unicolor*, and *Molophilus pleuralis* was recorded at the Dune Slack Lake at Freshwater West.

John Kramer

***Dictenidia bimaculata* (L.) in Northern Ireland – K.N.A. Alexander**

This large and dramatic cranefly is only known in Ireland from Counties Cavan, Offaly, Wicklow and Wexford (O'Connor & Speight, 1987). The best documented of the few earlier Irish records are from undisturbed woodlands, with rearing records from decaying birch and alder stumps and trunks. The Irish records are also all from eastern counties and therefore fit well with the British experience of it favouring wet woodland in eastern England (Stubbs, 1992). It, however, develops in the decaying heartwood of large open-grown broad-leaved trees in ancient wood pasture type situations in the more humid west of Britain (Alexander, 2003). Although I have found it but once in the Irish Republic despite many visits (reared from a pupa found in decaying oak in a mature oak woodland in Glenmalur, Co Wicklow, T1090, 13.vi.1993), I found two large populations in historic parklands in Northern Ireland during 2006.

The 2006 work was a parkland scoping study carried out on behalf of the Environment & Heritage Service, and involved a series of visits to each of six historic parklands in five counties. Any cranefly larvae and pupae found in decaying wood were retained for rearing, and two sites produced quite a number: Baronscourt Park, Co Tyrone, H3682 (in beech and oak), and the Great Deer Park, Glenarm, Co Antrim, D2911 (in oak). *Dictenidia bimaculata* emerged from all of them! It had never been found in N Ireland previously, and yet the Glenarm site is an Area of Special Scientific Interest and an Ulster Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Baronscourt is a private estate and so an overlooked population of a large and distinctive insect is much less surprising there. Adult *D. bimaculata* were later seen active in both sites and further specimens were taken in flight interception traps at both sites. This is an exciting addition to the insect fauna of Northern Ireland.

References

Alexander, K.N.A., 2003. Some records of *Dictenidia bimaculata* (Linnaeus) (Diptera, Tipulidae) from western Britain. *Dipterists Digest* **10**: 106.

O'Connor, J.P. & Speight, M.C.D., 1987. *Macrosiphum albifrons, Dictenidia bimaculata, Callaspidia defonscolombei* and *Xyalaspis petiolata*: insects new to Ireland. *Irish Naturalists Journal* **22**: 199-201.

Stubbs, A.E. 1992. *Provisional atlas of the long-palped craneflies (Diptera: Tipulinae) of Britain and Ireland.* Huntingdon: Biological Records Centre.

Craneflies in Leicestershire 2010

Visits were made to Grace Dieu Wood and Brook (SK4318 VC55) in the Spring and in the Autumn, as part of the Loughborough Naturalists' Survey of this site. Four species were added to the Leicestershire list, though none of these are rarities. *Ormosia lineata* and *Tasiocera murina*, were added due to my increased use of cranefly genitalia as a means of identification.The remaining two, *Tipula signata*, and *Pedicia claripennis*, were there because of the quality of the site, as well as, perhaps, to the late autumn visit. *Tipula luteipennis* was also found, Empingham Marshy Meadow being the only other VC55 site where this has been recorded. Both at Grace Dieu wood and at other Leicestershire sites there was a good Spring emergence of species after the severe winter, the *Acutipula* sub-genus being noticeably commoner than usual. Another notable record was made by Steve Woodward of a female *Ctenophora pectinicornis* from Uverscroft NR. John Kramer

Tipula peliostigma

Jon Cole has sent in a record of T. peliostigma which he found for the first time this year in a scrubby strip of woodland along a stream near St Neots, VC 31. He asked, 'What is its current status?' In the 1991 Review by Steven Falk it was listed as Notable, but this was based on records made before 1950. I have a feeling that it is now much rarer. Does anyone have any recent records of this species?

The Dog That Did Not Bark

T. paludosa f. Photo. D. Bryce

Sherlock Holmes famously used negative information in resolving the case of The Hound of the Baskervilles.

2010 was the year when the cranefly did not fly. Well, one in particular, *Tipula paludosa*. Normally it is a common and often abundant grassland species in late summer and autumn, as a walk through longish grass will reveal. In windy weather is can be found in hundreds in the shelter of a hedge or wall. Old literature treats it as almost one of natures biblical scourges, immense armies of leatherjacket larva spoiling lawns, bowling greens and crops by eating the roots of plants. And at night, if windows are left open on warm evenings, adults are attracted lights in rooms, with the express purpose of terrifying the squeamish. Yes, you know the one, even if you were reluctant to put a scientific name on it. Mind, to most people that is THE CRANEFLY, on the assumption that no other craneflies exist.

Since the era of being able to slosh chemicals on lawns and crops, it is now much rarer to see the severe damage claimed before the 1950s. The natural Achilles heel is that the eggs and small larvae are very prone to desiccation. Thus the autumn and winter climate, wet or dry, affects the level of mortality, and grassland which is normally very dry in the summer is seemingly unsuitable for even the larger larvae or pupae.

In Autumn 2010 the media did not bark. Most years I am phoned up to explain why there are so many craneflies all of a sudden, plagues of them, the public has seen nothing like it (they have forgotten that it is like this every autumn). This year, stony silence from the press. No *Tipula paludosa* in my garden, and trips into the countryside drew a blank, or caused major elation when one of these now rare insects was found.

I have been asking other entomologists of their experience. Having mentioned the absence, the widespread reaction is to agree they had not seen the species, or certainly not in the usual high numbers. The exception was the Brighton area; I wonder whether a few timely thunderstorms may have made the difference.

We have had drought before, and excessively hot summers. 2010 had a spring drought but the temperatures were not unduly high, and much of August was wet.

Some other craneflies did reasonably well but those were in the minority. The 1975/6 drought/high temperatures really hit most cranefly species hard and it took about 10 years for many of them to recover.

Some very hot years in the 1990s drastically reduced the numbers of species such as *Ormosia nodulosa* (remaining relatively scarce in woodland ever since) and the hot years of the early 2000s have had ongoing repercussions (not just for craneflies). An interesting species is *Tipula helvola* whose records were sparse and localised until the1990 and it then started to appear much more commonly and its recorded distribution extended northwards, in fact in the early 2000s I could go into a dry wood and find it within a few minutes. Yet in the cooler wet summers of the later 2000s it was again difficult to find on order.

Climate change never has been absent in Britain, it just that some swings have been more extreme. It is useful to monitor what is going on. Usually we record the dogs that do bark but is is also very relevant to record absences (looked and cannot find, or very few to be found) as well as presence (looked and found, or indeed didn't look but still found).

Alan Stubbs

IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS -
LOOK- ALIKES

***Ormosia pseudosimilis* Lundström 1912 v. *Ormosia ruficauda* Zetterstedt 1838**

Tjeder (Tjeder 1972) studied the type series of what was then called *Rhypholophus pseudosimilis* Lund. 1912 in the collection at Helsingfors, Finland. There were 6 specimens, 1 of which was female, 1 male with genitalia.absent, and 4 with male genitalia. Tjeder identified these six specimens as follows: *pseudosimilis* (1 designated lectotype, + 1 other specimen), *ruficauda* (2), *Ormosia murina* Lacks (?), and *Rhypholophus murinus* Goet. (now O.*ruficauda* Zett 1838)

So, even in the original type series there was confusion, but somehow a consensus has formed, perhaps through the distribution of types, and there is a common opinion expressed by Goetghebuer and Tonnoir 1920, de Meijere 1920, Edwards 1938, Tjeder 1972 and Savchenko 1982.

As Tjeder says, *Ormosia pseudosimilis* Lundström and *Ormosia ruficauda* Zetterstedt are closely similar yellowish species, but, Tjeder was clear, the males are distinguished by the structure of the aedeagus (penis). This, in *pseudosimilis*, is divided near the base into a dorsal and a forked ventral part.

Ormosia pseudosimilis
Photo: JK

Ormosia ruficauda
Photo: JK

The ventral part is branched some distance before the tip into two long branches to give a tripartite structure.

In *ruficauda* there is no similar branching of the penis.

This structure is described in Edwards 1938, and figured in Goetghebuer and Tonnoir 1920, de Meijere 1920, and Savchenko 1982. Other differences have also been described but the divided ventral part of the aedeagus is said to be the diagnostic difference.

The diagnostic characteristics used are as follows:

1. Forked ventral part to aedeagus.
2. Both species have a cleft dorsal dististyle well figured in Savchenko 1982.
3. Savchenko 1982 figures a forked projection from tergite 9 for *Ormosia pseudosimilis.*
4. The antennal segments and setae are said to differ (figured in Stubbs 2001, and Goetghebuer and Tonnoir 1920)
5. *Ormosia pseudosimilis* has a tuft of yellow setae projecting dorsally from tergite 9. (Stubbs 2001). It is possible that these are attached to the forked process and that they break off easily.

References:

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2. Edwards 1938, British Short-palped Craneflies. Trans. Soc. Br. Ent 5: 1-168
3. Goetghebuer, M. and Tonnoir, A. 1920, Catalogue Raisonné Bull Soc ent. Belg., 2:131-147
4. Lundström 1912 Acta Fauna Flora fenn., 36, No. 1
5. Stubbs, A.E. 2001. Test key to species with an open discal cell. Cranefly Recording Scheme
6. Savchenko, E.H. 1982 Fauna of Ukraine
7. Tjeder, B. 1972 Notul. ent., 52:79-80

John Kramer

Erioptera fusculenta and E.fuscipennis

E. fusculenta Photo JK

The descriptions of these species by Coe (1) are very similar. *E. fusculenta* is described as having a ‘shoulder with a yellow spot’ but ‘thorax otherwise blackish-grey’. This word ‘shoulder’ was first used by Edwards (2) in his 1938 paper. *E.fuscipennis* is described in Coe as ‘Thorax entirely blackish grey, without yellow markings’.

When these specimens are examined *E. fusculenta* has a significant amount of yellow round the sides of the prescutum. The body is dark coffee-brown.

Both species have a yellow pronotum, which could be regarded as the ‘Shoulder’.

E. fuscipennis may also have some other small yellow markings on the pleura, though not on the sides of the prescutum.

E. fuscipennis Photo JK
(Genitalia of specimen to right.)

E. fuscipennis Photo JK

With care and the right angle of observation the genitalia of these two species are distinctly different

References:

1. Coe R.L., in Coe, Freeman & Mattingley, RES Handbooks, Vol. IX. Part 2
2. Edwards 1938, British Short-palped Craneflies. Trans. Soc. Br. Ent 5: 1-168
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Book Review

Zoosymposia 3. Crane-flies – history, taxonomy and ecology. Dedicated to the memories of outstanding entomologists Dr. Charles Paul Alexander (1889 – 1981), Dr. Bernhard Mannheims (1909 -1971) and Dr. Evgeiy Nikolaevich Savchenko (1909 – 1994). Ed. V. Lantsov. Magnolia Press, Aukland, New Zealand. December 2009. Hardback.

Available from Magnolia Press. e-mail: zoosymposia@mapress.com
http:/www.mapress.com/zoosymposia/

For all those interested in the Tipuloidea, this is a landmark publication. It includes biographies of the three dedicatees, with complete bibliographies for Savchenko and Mannheims, and papers on many contemporary aspects of this group of flies. Apart from the preface and the three biographical pieces, there are 22 papers in all. Their contents may be previewed and the abstracts read at the Magnolia Press website. (See above). The topics range widely from ecology and distribution to taxonomy, and since the interests of Alexander, Mannheims and Savchenko extended beyond the four families of the Tipuloidea, papers on Ptychopteridae, Trichoceridae and fossil groups are also included. Three new species are described, and two papers relate to fossil species. The geographical scope is world-wide with work from Russia, Finland, Japan and Taiwan, as well as a paper by Hancock, Hewitt, Godfrey and Mullin from the UK. Their work on the fine structure of the thoracic gills of *Lipsothrix*, will be familiar to some members of the Dipterists Forum.

For those who wish to purchase the complete Symposium, it is available by post from the New Zealand publishers (See website. NZD115, Hardback). Alternatively the separate papers may be obtained as downloads, with open access to seven of these. The rest may be purchased as pdfs for US$10 each or perhaps obtained from the authors.

John Kramer

Obituary - Paul Freeman
1916 – 2010

Paul Freeman, who died on 31st July this year aged 94, came from Essex and studied at Imperial College, London, where, after his first degree, he continued to do post-graduate research. His studies were interrupted by the war when he served in the Royal Artillery. After a brief time at Imperial College as a lecturer, he took a post in 1947 at the British Museum (Natural History) where he rose to become Keeper of Entomology. He retired in 1981.

The Royal Entomological Society Key to Nematoceran families Tipulidae to Chironomidae (Vol. IX, Part 2, 1950) was authored by R.L. Coe, Paul Freeman, and P.F. Mattingly. Paul Freeman, covered the families Trichoceridae, Anisopodidae, Ptychopteridae, Psychodidae, Dixidae and Chaoboridae in this volume. Freeman also wrote the RES keys to the Sciarid Flies, and, with R.P. Lane, the Bibionid and Scatopsid Keys. In 1951, he published a key to the British *Tasiocera* (Limoniidae).
In addition to this and much more, his work with the blood-sucking black flies of the Ethiopian Region (1953) was internationally important work and he described more than 500 new species of Diptera.

Many dipterists have reason to be grateful for his work.

John Kramer
(Information from the Obituary in The Guardian, 26th August 2010, written by Richard Lane)

The next Cranefly News will be published with the Autumn Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum. The copy deadline for the Newsletter is therefore July 15th 2011.

TEPHRITID FLIES RECORDING SCHEME

Following last year's plea for help Stuart Ball resolved most of the problems with running RECORDER 3.3 working under Windows 7. For my personal records I have continued to use RECORDER 3.3 but for the Tephritidae Recording Scheme have decided to use Access 2003. Here the records table contains the fields Species, Year, Month, Day, Site, Grid, VC, Sex_stage, Collector, Determiner, Site description, Comment, Literature reference and Date_added_updated. With a bit of juggling to convert traditional dates to my format tab-separated text files or spreadsheets can easily be imported and I have set up a form for entering data from my old site cards, still used by Jon Cole and Andrew Halstead. An export query to DMAP has also been constructed so that maps can be produced quickly.

As of 29 December 2010 the database contains twenty-one thousand four hundred and fifty-four records for seventy-nine species, almost two thousand more than the same time last year. Among the more recent contributors I wish to thank Martin Albertini, Tristan Bantock, Nigel Jones, Alan Outen, Keith Palmer, Mark Pavett, Julie Peeling, Sue Poyser, Brian Valentine and John Wheeler for their interest and support.

A start has been made with elucidating the history of Tephritidae recording in Britain and I believe I have traced all references in the *Dipterists Digest*, *Entomological Magazine*, *Entomologist*, *Entomologist's Gazette*, *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* and *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* together with some local synopses. Those in other journals e.g. *London Naturalist, Yorkshire Naturalist* etc. must wait until I have more time (and money). The first reference (*circa* 1776) to a tephritid from a named locality must be *Anomoia purmunda*, described by Moses Harris in the magnificently titled "*An exposition of English insects, with curious observations and remarks, wherein each insect is particularly described; its parts and properties considered; the different sexes distinguished, and the natural history faithfully related. The whole illustrated with copper plates, drawn, engraved, and coloured, by the author*" thus: "PURMUNDUS Fig. 6. *Measures three lines*. The *frontlet*, *thorax* and *legs* are of a yellowish clay colour. The *abdomen* is of a dirty clay colour. The *wings* are prettily clouded, and striped with brown marks. This insect is very scarce, it was found on a leaf near Dartford in Kent.".

While relatively few of the literature records have been added to the database the following table which summarises the number of records for collectors and species, where the year is known, per decade from 1900 may be of interest.

Species	**1900**	**1910**	**1920**	**1930**	**1940**	**1950**	**1960**	**1970**	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	Total
Collectors	34	26	33	52	53	37	37	61	112	139	124	8	
Acanthiophilus helianthi	4	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	7	26	47	3	100
Acidia cognata	7	6	6	17	20	13	13	17	51	87	29	2	268
Acinia corniculata	6				1	2			3	9	25	1	47
Anomoia purmunda	4	2	4	10	10	5	19	30	85	281	306	12	768
Bactrocera cucurbitae										1			1
Campiglossa absinthii	3		4	7	10	2		5	42	80	35	4	192
Campiglossa argyrocephala				1	3			1	8	13	1		27
Campiglossa grandinata					1				1				2
Campiglossa loewiana	2		3		4	1	3	2	4	8	3		30
Campiglossa malaris									11	4	41	3	59
Campiglossa misella			1	4	10	2	10	18	103	121	54	2	325
Campiglossa plantaginis	4	1	1	13	6	2	8	22	115	128	102	2	404
Campiglossa producta	4		1	2				1	1	6	16		31
Campiglossa solidaginis	5			3	10		1		6	6	1		32
Ceratitis capitata	1			2		2			1	6	5		17
Chaetorellia jaceae				2	3	1	1	8	41	88	116	7	267
Chaetorellia loricata				2	2	5				10	20		39
Chaetostomella cylindrica	16	11	8	36	39	9	17	32	155	292	246	14	875
Chetostoma curvinerve								4	5	8	37	2	56
Cornutrypeta spinifrons		1			1	5	1			1	1		10
Cryptaciura rotundiventris		1	1		1			3	3	6	1		16
Dioxyna bidentis	4			4	8	1	4	9	19	64	126	1	240
Dithryca guttularis	2	6	9	3	2		3	8	50	76	50	2	211
Ensina sonchi	4	3	3	11	1	4	9	7	17	15	20		94

Euleia heraclei	8	8	13	17	30	14	11	29	102	221	139	3	595
Euphranta toxoneura	1	3	1	1		1	2	3	7	33	12		64
Goniglossum wiedemanni	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	9	9	29	7		68
Merzomyia westermanni	2		1	14	8	2	4	13	40	89	67	4	244
Myopites eximius		1		6	8		1		26	54	64	3	163
Myopites inulaedyssentericae		1		12	3			2	12	85	181	1	297
Noeeta pupillata	1		4	9	19	5	2	7	24	34	18		123
Orellia falcata			4	13	18	3	1	4	17	39	36		135
Oxyna flavipennis	1	3	1	1	1	5	1	1	6	17	30	1	68
Oxyna nebulosa	2	3	4	7	1			1	7	10	11		46
Oxyna parietina					13	2	4	3	43	76	35		176
Philophylla caesio	4	1	5	6	5	15	15	31	85	111	70	6	354
Platyparea discoidea		1	2	5	1	1	1	2	10	20			43
Plioreocepta poeciloptera				1									1
Rhagoletis alternata	2	1		13	9	1	4	8	18	39	25	3	123
Rhagoletis cerasi		1											1
Rhagoletis meigenii	1										2		3
Sphenella marginata	4	4	2	26	14		5	17	35	131	347	7	592
Stemonocera cornuta				1				3	3	2			9
Tephritis bardanae	17	1	4	24	23	12	24	32	119	233	154	10	653
Tephritis cometa	2			4	2	2	7	14	91	145	110	1	378
Tephritis conura	7	1	2	11	7	1	3	20	43	42	54	1	192
Tephritis divisa											82	3	85
Tephritis formosa	3		2	4	1		2	6	60	253	411	19	761
Tephritis hyoscyami	3	5	5	8	2	1	5	19	87	158	49	3	345
Tephritis leontodontis	5	3	1	9	6	1		3	7	39	40	1	115
Tephritis matricariae											130	3	133
Tephritis neesii	7	1	5	32	23	7	16	13	59	197	287	1	648
Tephritis praecox	1										11		12
Tephritis ruralis	3	3		1	5	2	1	2	15	25	8	1	66
Tephritis separata				2		1							3
Tephritis vespertina	26	14	12	47	35	11	21	52	131	478	402	9	1238
Terellia ceratocera	2	7	4	9	12	8	4	5	11	2	1		65
Terellia colon	5	3	5	18	19	4	3	7	43	77	85	2	271
Terellia fuscicornis											1		1
Terellia longicauda	2	1	8	10	6	1		4	9	40	30		111
Terellia plagiata	1		1	1	3			1	4		1		12
Terellia ruficauda	27	10	18	23	26	15	9	22	117	346	245	16	874
Terellia serratulae	4	1	1	22	26	4	13	11	75	166	146	9	478
Terellia tussilaginis	14	7	16	31	25	14	14	30	83	223	270	16	743
Terellia vectensis				14	6	2	1	3	5	11	19		61
Terellia winthemi				11	6	1	1		3	12	9	1	44
Trupanea amoena						1					5		6
Trupanea stellata	8	1	3	9	5	7	3	6	27	67	37		173
Trypeta artemisiae		2	1	1	2		1	3	20	32	18		80
Trypeta immaculata				1				7	3	18	12		41
Trypeta zoe	7	11	11	12	24	4	15	16	59	76	40	1	276
Urophora cardui	10	2	5	20	21	2	8	24	256	425	425	8	1206
Urophora cuspidata				3	1	1		6	20	10	23		64
Urophora jaceana	7	4	9	13	12	5	9	41	163	433	315	14	1025
Urophora quadrifasciata		1	11	23	14	2	1	5	41	143	244	7	492
Urophora solstitialis	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	4	11	66	18		109
Urophora spoliata				8	4	1	1	1	7	6	6		34
Urophora stylata	1	6	15	30	29	8	20	33	148	389	339	7	1025
Xyphosia miliaria	9	10	6	36	28	14	31	80	295	611	408	21	1549

Finally may I make a plea for relatively large datasets to be submitted on a CD-ROM. My home remains an internet-free zone and I have no plans to change the situation in the near future. While I have a work e-mail address it would be inappropriate to publish this widely as I am not employed in anything remotely to do with entomology.

Laurence Clemons

Field Meetings Dipterists Forum

Booking Form - for rates see Bulletin

Meeting location and dates			
Name			
Address			
Telephone number			
Mobile phone number			
email address			
Intended stay (please indicate days and dates)			
Dietary requirements	Omnivore		Please tick relevant box
	Vegetarian		
	Vegan		
Allergies (food)			
Deposit			
Signature			Date

Please Note: We will endeavour to accommodate for part-weeks but this is dependent upon available accommodation and the policy of the host venue

Payment details:
Cheques made payable to Dipterists Forum

Deposits
Deposits will only be returnable if cancellation occurs before the published cut-off date for reduced rates.

Please send your booking form and cheques to:
Roger Morris
7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE
Email: roger.morris@dslpipex.com

Guidelines

Booking your place at events

Dipterists Forum events

In the past, I took personal responsibility for the finances of the meetings and the necessary guarantees of payment. This has caused problems however. For example, I frequently made deposits amounting to up to 20% of the total cost of the meeting and am no longer in a sufficiently strong financial position to underwrite meetings. In addition, I was also liable if anything went wrong (as we had at Swansea when I was threatened with legal action because the college messed up their records of payments!). Moreover, if my bank account was scrutinised for additional income, the deposits and payments might be regarded as income by the Inland Revenue and I might therefore be liable to tax of this money (incidentally participants have only been charged for actual costs and I have borne the administrative costs myself).

There was also a need to simplify the payment system to avoid the complications of past meetings where final costs were not known until the end of the trip when the bill arrived. High numbers of last minute changes made by members (cancellations and changes to duration of stay) have made the process of working out prices very difficult and vague until the last minute and have complicated administration considerably.

Roger Morris

Administration

The Committee have introduced a simplified system for payment. Firstly, the Forum is now responsible for paying deposits and for administering deposits by members. Secondly, a formal booking system is now established, with written records of members' intentions. A form is included within this bulletin and can also be downloaded from the website.

A 10% surcharge will be added to the price for bookings beyond a specified cut-off date. Cancellations before that date will also lead to return of the deposit, but after the date will be non-returnable.

How to book

Please complete the booking form, you can either copy the page later in this Bulletin or use the separate sheet.

Deposits payable to DIPTERISTS FORUM should therefore be sent together with the **booking form** to:

Roger Morris
7 Vine Street, Stamford
Lincolnshire PE9 1QE

Other events

The Bulletin editors have assembled a list of a wide range of events which we consider may be of interest to Dipterists. Many of these are not organised by ourselves, hopefully we have provided sufficient details

Contributing Bulletin items

Text

1. Articles submitted should be in the form of a word-processed file either on disk (3.5", CD or USB Flash) or via E-mail which should have the phrase "DF Bulletin" in the Subject line. Email text alone will not be accepted.
2. Please submit in native format (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_and_foreign_format) and in "text-only" Rich Text Format (.rtf) and additionally send pictures in their original format. An accompanying print-out (or pdf) would also be useful.
3. Please note the width of the borders used in Dipterists Bulletin; for conformity with style would newsletter compilers please match this format.
4. **Do not** use "all capitals", underlining, blank lines between paragraphs, carriage returns in the middle of a sentence or double spaces.
5. Scientific names should be italicised throughout and emboldened only at the start of a paragraph.
6. Place names should have a grid reference.

Illustrations

7. Colour photographs are now used extensively in the Bulletin, they appear coloured only in the pdf or on the covers.
8. Please include all original illustrations with your articles. These **should** be suitably "cleaned up" (e.g. removal of partial boxes around distribution maps, removal of parts of adjacent figures from line illustrations) but please do not reduce their quality by resizing etc. .
9. Please indicate the subject of the picture so that a suitable caption may be included, in some cases it will be possible for the picture file's name to be changed to its caption (e.g. 049.jpg becomes "Eristalis tenax at Keepers Pond.jpg"). All group pictures should identify all the individuals portrayed.
10. Powerpoint files may be submitted, they are a useful means of showing your layout and pictures are easily extracted.
11. Pictures contained within Word files are of too low quality and cannot be extracted for use in the Bulletin.
12. Line artworks are also encouraged - especially cartoons
13. Colour pictures and illustrations will be printed in black and white (uncorrected) and so it would be wise to see what a B&W photocopy looks like first, although the print quality from Autumn 2009 onwards gave excellent B&W results.
14. A suitable colour photograph is sought for the front cover (and inside front cover) of every copy of the Bulletin, note that it must be an upright/portrait illustration and not an oblong/landscape one for the front cover.
15. Due to the short time-scales involved in production, the editors will not use any pictures where they consider there to be doubt concerning copyright.

Tables

16. Tables should be submitted in their original spreadsheet format (e.g. Excel)
17. Spreadsheet format is also appropriate for long lists

When to send (deadlines)

Spring bulletin

18. Aims to be on your doorstep before the end of February, the editorial team has very little time available during January and so would appreciate as many contributions as possible by the middle of December; the deadline for **perfect copy is the 31st Dec**, it will be printed then distributed in February in time for the March workshop meeting (which may by that time be fully booked). Please note that the date for contributions is now earlier than for previous Bulletins.

Autumn bulletin

19. Aims to be on your doorstep in mid September, contributions should therefore be made to the editor **by the end of July**. It will be printed then distributed in time for final notification of the Autumn field meeting (although you would be well advised to contact Roger Morris before this time and consult the DF website) and in time to provide details of the Annual Meeting. Please note that the date for contributions is now considerably earlier than for previous Bulletins

Where to send

20. Would Bulletin contributors please ensure that their items are sent to BOTH Darwyn Sumner and Judy Webb

Dipterists Forum

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01844-201433

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Recording Schemes & Study Groups

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.

The Gateway symbol NBN Gateway indicates that the organiser has uploaded a dataset to the NBN Gateway

Potential recorders really need to know your preferred recording format so please inform the Bulletin Editor in time for future updates

Chironomidae

Dr P.P. Roper

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Chloropidae

John Ismay

schultmay@insectsrus.co.uk

01844-201433

Drosophilidae - Fruit Flies

Dr B Pitkin

c/o Kim Goodger, Dept of Entomology, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road London SW7 5BD Tel. 020 7942 6986

Culicidae - Mosquitoes

Jolyon Medlock

Health Protection Agency, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JG

jolyon.medlock@hpa.org.uk NBN Gateway

Dixidae - Meniscus midges

Dr R H L Disney NBN Gateway

University department of Zoology, Downing Street Cambridge CB2 3EJ

www.dipteristsforum.org.uk

Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

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Darwyn Sumner

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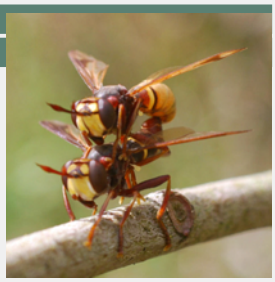
Conopidae, Lonchopteridae, Ulidiidae & Pallopteridae



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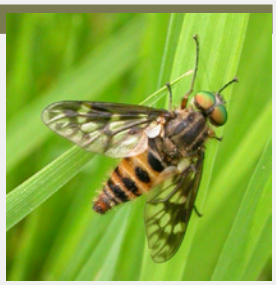
Larger Brachycera



Simon Hayhow

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Sepsidae

Steve Crellin

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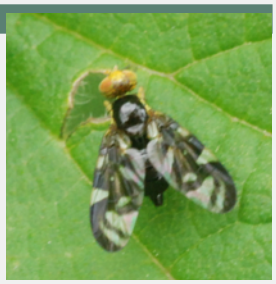
steve_crellin1@hotmail.co.uk

Tephritid Flies



3.x

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Tachinid

3.3

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Matthew Smith

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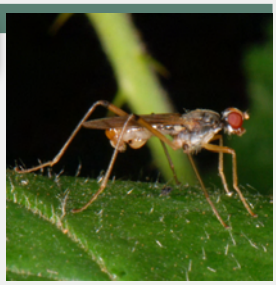
Stilt & Stalk Fly



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0116 212 5075

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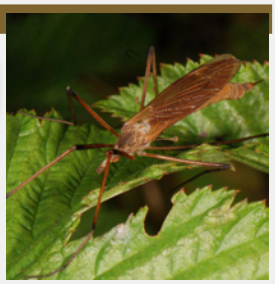
Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Cranefly



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co-organiser: John Kramer

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Mycetophilidae and allies - Fungus gnats

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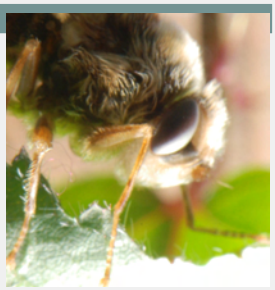
Oestridae



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Empid & Dolichopodid

Dr Adrian Plant

Curator of Diptera, Department of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology, National Museum & Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, CARDIFF, CF10 3NP

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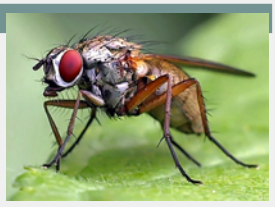
Martin Drake, Orchid House, Burridge, Axminster, Devon EX13 7DF.

martin_drake@btopenworld.com

Anthomyiidae



Mr Michael Ackland

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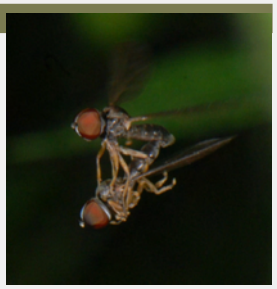
Pipunculidae



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