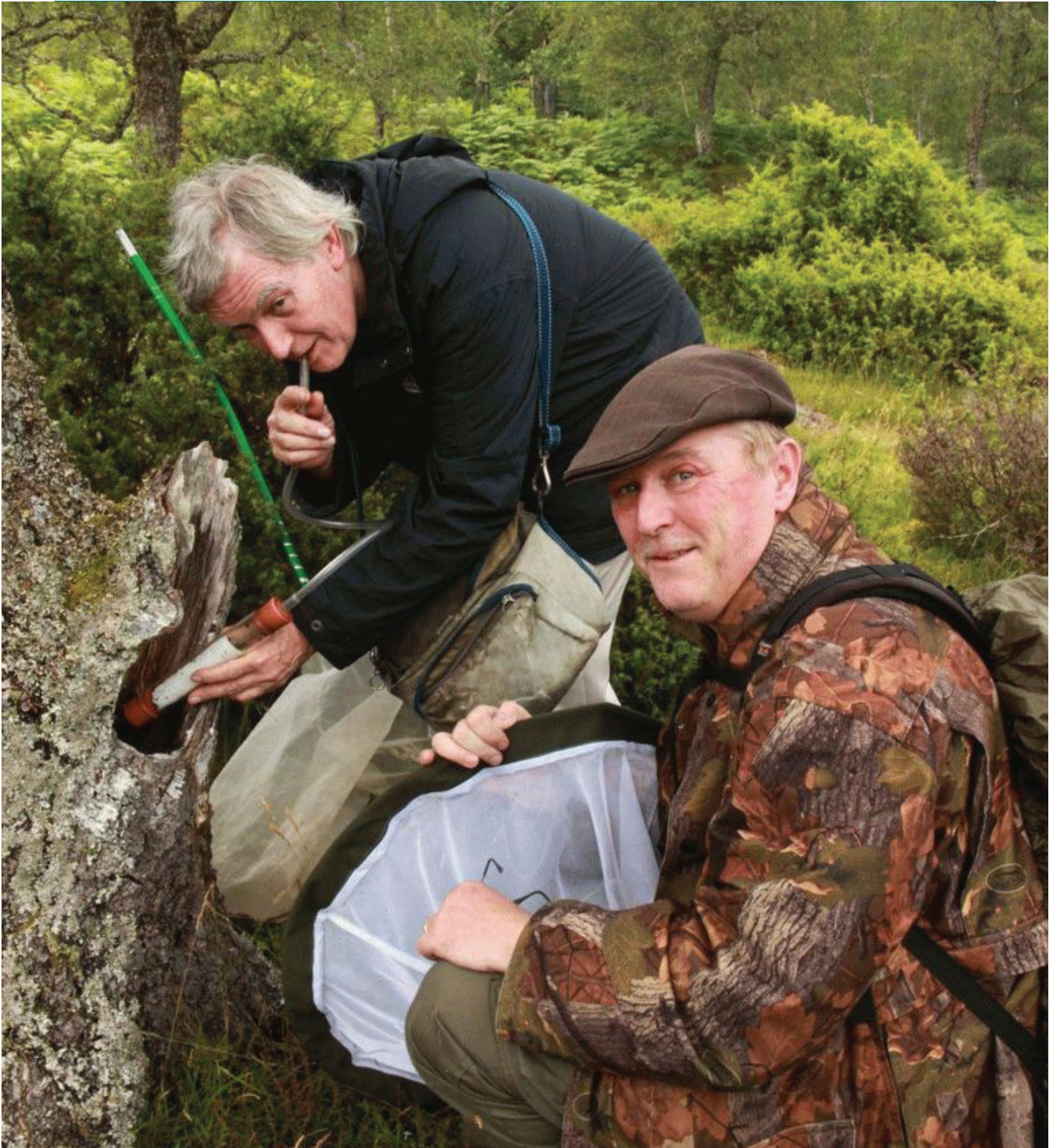




BULLETIN OF THE  
**Dipterists**  
Forum

**Bulletin No. 74**

**Autumn 2012**



# Bulletin No. 74

Autumn 2012

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Subscription to Dipterists Digest - £9

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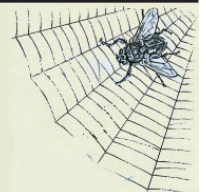
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**Dipterists Forum Website** [www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/](http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/)

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



Photographs: Front cover Peter Chandler pooting in birch rot hole, together with Adrian Plant. Alan Watson Featherstone, (above) *Lophosia fasciata* (Tachinidae) from Mountsorrel, Leics (SK581150) in the window of a cafe, 27 Jul 2012, det. Peter Chandler, Steve Woodward & Helen Ikin (aka the "Toblerone fly" in emails - ed). Other photographs as supplied by the authors or the editorial panel who would be pleased to receive illustrations for general purposes - many thanks for those already sent. If you want to catch the next front cover, please note that the orientation must be upright (portrait)



# BULLETIN OF THE **Dipterists** Forum

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## Dipterists Forum Events

## Fly Sheets

The following Newsletters and other special items are incorporated into the package for the printers after completion of the Bulletin. They are not to be found in any pdf version of this Bulletin and they have their own pagination. Please contact the Newsletter editors for full colour pdfs, back issues may also be found on DF website.

**Hoverfly Newsletter #53** 

**Cranefly Newsletter #24** 

**Booking form for meetings** 

**Guidelines for Bulletin contributions** 



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## Editorial

### Localism and deregulation of Planning Laws in the UK

No sooner have we got used to the idea of “localism” as a concept that runs hand in hand with the Planning regulations to help conserve the habitats of our Diptera than major changes are proposed that raises the prospect of a lower standard of protection and a reduction in our part in it. This was pretty fresh information at the time of writing, see an article in the Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/sep/02/george-osborne-deregulation-planning-laws?newsfeed=true> and keep an eye open for this “fast track” legislation which may become Law in October.

### Nature Shop

Shops selling wildlife gear are a scarcity so it was nice to happen across this one on the Norfolk coast between Hunstanton and Wells-next-the-sea. Right next to the filling station in Burnham Deepdale it is worth calling in to have a look at their microscopes and binoculars and they even have a few basic tubes and boxes if you left yours behind. Visit [www.onestopnature.co.uk](http://www.onestopnature.co.uk) - you may see them at the AES exhibition this year too.



### More bumbling about

Also nice to see an informed article about pollinators in New Scientist, following all the misinformation we’ve seen recently in the newspapers. Anthony King’s “Plight of the bumblebee” (11th August, p42) is worth a read; it’s mainly about bumblebees but hoverflies get an honourable mention too. Let’s hope we don’t finish up like the USA where honeybee hives have to be shipped in or areas of China where wild pollinators have disappeared so that pear and apple trees have to be hand-pollinated. Potential for a useful hoverfly project here, how about comparing the yield of 2 apple trees, one of which had netting which selectively prevented bees getting in but allowed (some) hoverflies to do their work?

### Open access publishing

I hope to provide more information about this in the next issue of the Bulletin. If the idea of freely-available articles via the internet is of interest to you then take a look at the blogs of Steven Curry at <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2012/06/21/finch-report-open-access/> and contact me with your thoughts about the UK Government’s Finch Report.

Darwyn Sumner

### The Dipterists Song

(sung to Python’s *Lumberjack Song*.-or the *Admiral’s Song* from HMS Pinafore if you’re less cultured Apologies to Tom Patey in either case)

On Friday night I leave the town  
And head for the field with serious frown  
Wear welli boots, camouflage, waistcoat and flat ‘at  
With my 10X hand lens, look at turds for Scats  
Poot up *Scathophaga* and their commensal mites  
Funny but my mouth tastes like a load of garlic

*Chorus*

*I’m a dipterist and I’m OK*

*I pin all night and sweep all day*

*The drumming of halteres is music to my ears*

*And I thrill to hear a muscid hum*

*So they made me a member of the Dipterist Forum*

One day I went collecting on the wind chilled moor  
I spied a fine example of the doli *Microphor*  
With steady head and sturdy legs I braced myself to strike  
But on an ill-timed backswing, knocked the vicar off his bike  
The sodden cleric frothed in rage and with fiendish yell  
Consigned my soul to burn in a flyless hell

In Hades hall were phorids, supping on decay  
I was in my element, and had a field-day  
Wallowing in ordure, I gazed upon the sight  
Of mating *Megaselia* in ecstatic nuptial delight  
Tubed the lot in one fell swoop, pausing only to cry with glee  
Oh Satan please take care of Hell’s biodiversity

The Devil was not amused and slung me out of hell  
As not much feeds on sulphur that’s probably just as well  
Now I’m free to wander the fields and fells again  
With boiling genitalia I am entertained  
Playing golf or football is far too humdrum  
That why I am a member of the Dipterists Forum

Adrian Plant (see front cover)

### Reviews

Please 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.

Darwyn Sumner

# Notice board

## Recording Schemes

### Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

A new scheme organiser is now in place: Martin Harvey (see contact details on back page). Martin will be coordinating the data and setting up a new website. Although he is experienced in running recording schemes, Martin doesn't claim to be a great expert on Large Brachycera, having seen only a third of the species so far (he's looking forward to seeing the rest!). But in best Dipterists Forum tradition he will be drawing on the knowledge of other members to help with various aspects of the scheme, and an 'advisory panel' is being established to provide additional expertise. This panel currently includes David Gibbs (who has a particular interest in Bombyliidae), Andrew Grayson (Tabanidae), and Malcolm Smart (Asilidae). The previous organisers of the scheme are also on hand to help, and indeed Simon Hayhow is continuing his involvement in working towards a new atlas.

At the time of writing Martin is in the process of setting up a suitable database for the scheme, and does not yet have access to the scheme's existing data, so please don't rush to send in lots of records just yet! But the new data systems should be in place during autumn 2012 – watch the DF website for updates. BENHS hope to have the second edition of British Soldierflies and their allies (Stubbs and Drake) available in the autumn as well, and we are planning a BENHS training workshop on this group of flies in the coming winter, so there is lots to look forward to. Many thanks to Simon Hayhow for his work in running the scheme in recent years, and providing a good base to build on for the future.

Martin Harvey

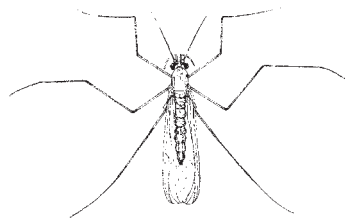
### Dixidae and Thaumaleidae

#### A NEW RECORDING SCHEME ORGANISER REQUIRED

My 1975 FBA key to British meniscus midges (Diptera, Dixidae) included distribution maps of the species. When I was asked to undertake a second edition I decided to add the trickle midges (Thaumaleidae), in part because the delightful aquatic larvae of these two families are especially sensitive to the presence of surfactant pollutants such as detergents. In the second edition (Disney, R. H. L., 1999. British Dixidae (Meniscus Midges) and Thaumaleidae (Trickle Midges): Keys with Ecological Notes. Freshwater Biological Association, Scientific Publications 56: 1-129. ISBN 0 900386 60 6) I replaced the distribution maps with summary statements and referred the reader to updated maps produced by the late Kathleen Goldie-Smith in 1990 (Dipterists Digest 3: 8-26 (1989)).

Since the publication of the second edition of my keys I have undertaken no further work on Dixidae or Thaumaleidae, as in my 'retirement' (I am now 73) I am restricting myself to the Phoridae (scuttle flies) of the world. However, there is clearly a need for a new enthusiast to take over the Dixidae Recording Scheme, as our knowledge of the distributions of the species is still very patchy. I suggest that a rejuvenated scheme be combined with a recording scheme for the Thaumaleidae.

Are you the right person to take up this challenge?



Henry Disney  
e-mail: rhld2@hermes.cam.ac.uk

## Conservation

### News from the Conservation officer

#### Government review of species afforded special protection measures

Every five years the list of species given special protection under law is reviewed, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has just opened the sixth such review, covering England, Scotland and Wales. The formal consultation has begun and runs until March next year. The Forum's views are being sought. I would welcome suggestions for species that we should ask to be included, for discussion.

To be given protection under Schedule 5 (the one that covers insects), in brief a species must be

- Native or internationally protected, and**
- Endangered or likely to become endangered, and**
- Have recognised taxonomic status.**

To meet the second criterion, the species must be threatened by intentional killing, by collection, or by intentional or reckless damage, disturbance or obstruction to structures or places of shelter or protection essential for survival (eg breeding structures). Importantly, changes in land use or land management leading to habitat fragmentation, deterioration or outright habitat loss do not count. The term endangered refers either to those species in a JNCC-approved British Red List using the revised IUCN criteria of Extinct, Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable, or to those known from only a single locality or with a severely fragmented distribution.

Currently there are no flies on Schedule 5. This reflects the fact that very few species are known to be threatened by collection or by destruction of the specific micro-habitats they require to survive. While there are many endangered Diptera species in Britain, these are very largely at risk because of habitat loss, fragmentation or mismanagement, none of which are sufficient reason for inclusion in the specially protected lists. Working with organisations such as Buglife, our challenge is largely to secure improved habitat protection and management: the Biodiversity Action Plan process is better suited to this than Schedule 5, through helping to prioritise action and spending. Currently there are 35 species of fly recognised as being priorities for conservation action within the UK BAP.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the Scottish Government was consulting on whether the aspen hoverfly *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* and pine hoverfly *Blera fallax* should be added to Schedule 5. The Dipterists Forum supported this proposal on the grounds that the larval habitats are very restricted and vulnerable both to collection and reckless damage by forestry operations. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) tells me that it is now considered unlikely that they will be included. However, SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) recognise the success of management measures implemented for the two species over the last decade and will take further steps to develop favourable management. They recognise that much has already been achieved through the goodwill shown by private landowners and individuals as well as by a wide range of conservation bodies.

Are there any other fly species which meet the three criteria given above? Do please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Despite helping to look after a herd of cattle for over 20 years, I have never seen a warble-fly or bot-fly (Oestridae). This is a great relief to my wife who is the stock manager, but I must admit to wishing to have at least glimpsed one. I do not suppose for a moment that Government would agree to any proposal to place such species on the protected list – and imagine the outcry – but, theoretically, such species meet all three criteria, being endangered because of the intentional use of pesticides such as avermectins designed specifically to kill them (along with other parasites). I mention this only to promote lateral thinking!

## New Forest challenges

Despite glorious weather (how lucky we were), experienced members attending the spring meeting in the New Forest commented on the low numbers of flies present in comparison to times past, and attributed this to the fact that nearly everywhere we went the sward was closed grazed with very little diversity of structure and no flowers. Numbers might perhaps be expected to be low reflecting the two previous dry summers, but since plenty of flies were in evidence in other, ungrazed, woodlands nearby in Hampshire, this could only be part of the explanation. Flies seeking nectar were limited to

searching out the rather few flowering hawthorns present - these no doubt providing a lifeline for those specialised deadwood flies for which the New Forest is famed.

I have corresponded with Natural England over this, and the officer responsible for the Forest has asked for a site meeting to learn more about our concerns. Hopefully an ecologist from the Forestry Commission which manages the New Forest will be present too. Natural England report that there is no evidence of any increase in cattle and pony numbers in recent years, and suggest the high levels of grazing may be due to an increase in deer numbers.

The management of the New Forest is complex, with several key players and many competing interests. However, Natural England now has a Higher Level Stewardship agreement with the Verderers, the body responsible for managing rights of common, which include grazing, with the objective of maintaining or restoring the Forest to favourable condition for wildlife. This, together with the new National Park status, surely affords an opportunity to influence management to benefit flies and other invertebrates.

The primary purpose the National Park is, after all, to enhance its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Still, if deer really are the culprits, workable solutions may be hard to find.

Returning briefly to species in need of special conservation measures, while in the New Forest I felt privileged to be shown a goat moth *Cossus cossus* tree, a veteran oak riddled with the larval burrows of this species. Such trees are especially good for invertebrate communities associated with sap runs, including species of Diptera – we saw several *Ferdinandea cuprea*, a hoverfly, during our brief visit.

Also, there is a very rare tachinid, *Xylotachina diluta*, which is an obligate parasitoid of goat moth larvae. Sadly, though, the moth is rapidly declining, reflected in its recent placing on the priority BAP species list. Indeed I was told that some believe the tree we saw

to be the last such one in the whole of the New Forest. (Another nearby goat moth tree had recently blown down.) This is very worrying. Since goat moth trees appear diseased, and the moth is regarded as a pest by some foresters, the species may be at risk from the intentional damage to a structure essential for its survival. Perhaps we should join forces with Butterfly Conservation to suggest that this is a species that should be added to Schedule 5? Just another off the wall thought!



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01837 810416

## Adopt a species

This will be my last contribution under this heading as I am handing over the co-ordination of 'Adopt a Species' to Robert Wolton, our Conservation Officer ([robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk) , 01837 810416) now.

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. Currently 16 of our 35 BAP species and 4 species with conservation status have been adopted. Thank you very much for all your hard work and good luck with your quests. Without you this work would not be possible.

During the last BAP Review and my time as Conservation Officer, I noted that far too little is known about Diptera species. For many we cannot even assess a conservation status as we do not have enough information. Most of the research into such species was conducted by a very small number of people. These were also the specialists who could write identification keys, help with identifications, run courses etc. However, often it is not necessary to be a specialist on Diptera to work on the natural history of one species or a group of species. It is sufficient to be able to identify these species with certainty and for many species this can be learnt quickly. Hence, the start of this scheme in 2007.

This scheme is hoping to find specialists or non-specialists alike who are willing to conduct some research (field or desk based) on a fly species or group of species or in a certain area or habitat. This scheme is particularly for BAP, RDB or notable species or areas where these can be found. Also, if you would like to take on a species or help threatened species by conducting some more general research, then please contact Rob. Likewise, If you have any information on such species or their habitat that you would like to share with fellow dipterists, then Rob would like to hear from you.

## News from 'Adopt a Species'

### The Malloch Society has adopted five species



Scottish National Heritage (SNH) has awarded a contract to the Malloch Society this year to study BAP flies. Most of these are species the Malloch Society had adopted. During this project known habitats of targeted species will be surveyed by using sweeping, direct search, water pan or other appropriate sampling methods agreed with the project manager. The objective is to record and estimate the range of five species: Pine Heart-Wood Fly (*Clusiodes geomyzinus*), Large Birch Lance-fly (*Lonchaea ragnari*), Mountain Dance-fly (*Rhamphomyia hirtula*), Scottish Yellow Splinter (*Lipsothrix ecucculata*) and Northern Yellow Splinter (*Lipsothrix errans*). Concurrently the habitat of a species will be evaluated according to information available for each species.

Work continues on *Blera fallax* although at a much lower level than when Scotland's Species Action Framework (SAF) project was in place - there is however a SAF wind-up conference in November when *Blera* will be featured along with other work <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B1060262.pdf>. Also we are just finishing off SNH funded work on the aspen hoverfly (*Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*) this year looking at genetic variation between populations.

For future news, you might want to check the webpage ([www.mallochsociety.org.uk](http://www.mallochsociety.org.uk)).

Iain MacGowan

Malloch Society, c/o Iain MacGowan, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW, Scotland; e-mail: [iain.macgowan@snh.gov.uk](mailto:iain.macgowan@snh.gov.uk)

Please get in contact with Iain directly or via the Malloch Society webpage. If you feel that your comment is of interest for other Dipterists Forum members as well, why don't you post it on the Dipterists Forum webpage under Forum and there under 'Adopt a species' if you are a member of Dipterists Forum.

### ODONTOMYIA HYDROLEON

I will continue to keep an eye on *Odontomyia hydroleon* for another year.

I did my annual count on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and got good results – 6 male and 11 female in an hours sweeping under heavy cloud and with occasional light drizzle.

Roy Crossley

### Contacting authors

If you wish to contact any of the authors, where an email address is not given, then please email me (Barbara Ismay) and I will forward this to them, or try and get in contact with them via the Dipterists Forum webpage. You can post a query or information for the author under Forum and there under 'Adopt a species' if you are a member of Dipterists Forum

Barbara Ismay

Co-ordinator of 'Adopt a Species'

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new co-ordinator of 'Adopt a Species' from now onwards:

Robert Wolton, Conservation Officer

e-mail: [robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone: 01837 810416

# Members

## Membership Matters

Currently we have 467 people registered with Dipterists Forum and 405 who also take the Dipterists Digest. This year to date 381 have resubscribed or joined for the first time. If you have not yet paid your subscription for this year you will not receive the Autumn Bulletin or Dipterists Digest. Chasing late payers is very time consuming so I do urge you to check that you are up to date. I am happy to answer e-mails on membership queries.

All subscriptions, changes of address and membership queries should be directed to John Showers at:

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**Rothwell,**

**KETTERING,**

**Northants,**

**NN14 6JQ**

**Tel.: 01536 710831**

**E-mail: [showersjohn@gmail.com](mailto:showersjohn@gmail.com)**

(note change of e-mail address)

### Membership and Subscription Rates:

Members and Subscribers are reminded that subscriptions are due on 1st January each year. The rates are as follows:

#### Home

Dipterists Forum: £6 per annum. This includes the Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum.

Dipterists Digest: £9 per annum.

Please note that a number of people are still paying at the old pre-2005 rate so please check and amend your payments accordingly.

#### Overseas

Dipterists Forum and Dipterist Digest: £20 pa.

There is only this one class of membership. Payment must be made in Pounds Sterling.

Cheques should be made payable to: "Dipterists Forum".

## Starting a Local Diptera Group

Here in Northants we have been running a local diptera group (Vice-county 32 Diptera Group) since the start of 2007. A number of people have asked me about it as they are thinking of doing something similar so I thought it might be worth describing how we got started and answering some frequently asked questions.

The group started as a result of a Hoverfly Identification Workshop run by Roger Morris and Stuart Ball on behalf of the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants. Roger suggested starting a group so that the local attendees could keep in touch and help each other with identification issues. As a result, I contacted the attendees and also told the local Biodiversity Records Centre that I was trying to arrange a meeting for anyone interested. Roger kindly agreed to attend to help us get started. As I am a regular volunteer at Pitsford Reservoir (Anglian Water and Wildlife Trust reserve) I asked if we could use the meeting room at the reservoir's fishing lodge for the meeting. They kindly agreed and laid on hot water for tea and coffee making in the room, all free of charge. About 8 people attended and we agreed to hold fortnightly field meetings during the Summer to see how things developed. To help keep in touch I

agreed to edit a twice-yearly newsletter for the group so long as I received some articles or photos from other participants.

After a successful first season we agreed to hold weekly meetings from the end of April to September and ad hoc meetings outside this period depending on demand. The group has changed a little since it started but we still have 3 or 4 and sometimes up to 6 people attending meetings from a pool of about 10 people. All records collected are submitted to the Northants Biodiversity Records Centre and the various National Recording Schemes.

The following are some FAQs and suggestions based on our experience.

- Q. How do you find potential members?
- A. Mainly via the local Biodiversity Records Centre (*aka Local Records Centre - for a list see <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>*) and Wildlife Trust by asking them to make people aware of us if they send in records or attend Diptera training courses. The Newsletter is sent to them as well as group participants. It only really needs two people to form a group but a few more active participants make it more worthwhile.
- Q. Do members have to be experienced dipterists?
- A. Absolutely not! We encourage anyone interested in flies, although most of the group have attended one of Roger and Stuart's Hoverfly Identification Workshops at least.
- Q. How do we arrange site visits?
- A. The Wildlife Trust is keen to gather records so I usually discuss which reserves are of most interest to them. They arrange collecting permission with English Nature if it is an SSSI. There are also one or two large estates locally that want wildlife records and will allow access if arranged in advance. Meetings may only consist of a couple of people on some occasions but are still enjoyable.
- Q. Do we arrange indoor meetings?
- A. We hold an occasional indoor meeting during the off-season. It is a matter of demand from group members. So far we have had identification workshops on Empididae and Dolichopodidae (John Showers with kind support from Jon Cole); Muscidae and Fannidae (Jolyon Alderman) and Craneflies (John Kramer). The meetings have been held at Pitsford Reservoir or the ecology laboratory at the University of Northampton. The latter has been kindly offered free of charge by Dr Jeff Ollerton as part of the university's community outreach programme.
- Q. What do we charge for membership of the group?
- A. It is entirely free. We encourage participants to join Dipterists Forum. There are no costs involved in running the group as newsletters are distributed as .pdf files via e-mail and so far our hosts for meetings have provided the facilities for free. Members have agreed to share costs if we ever need to spend money but so far that has not arisen.
- Q. How much effort does the newsletter take?
- A. It is fairly variable. If I receive articles and photos, all I need to do is write a summary of the season so far and assemble the rest. Probably about 2-3 hours on average, twice a year. Occasionally it takes a little longer if short of contributions.
- Q. How do you verify records received?
- A. I am county recorder for Diptera so I have access to the



county's records. Anything that is unusual or difficult to identify I query. I request voucher specimens of these, although I do not always check them personally. When I send in records at the end of the season to the national recording schemes I ask the organisers to indicate any records they want to query. I then contact the recorder about having them verified. This seems to work quite well.

- Q. Do we carry out any projects or research as a group?
- A. So far, no. Some individual members are actively carrying out projects or research work and several group members are involved in project work for the Wildlife Trust's Ecology Groups programme, where there is a Hoverwatch project using a regular hoverfly count transect to help in monitoring woodland ride management. We did discuss at the formation of the group producing a county hoverfly atlas and long term I still have this in mind. However, it is a big county and fairly few recorders so this is something for the future.
- Q. Do we have a website?
- A. No. I have considered it but I do not think a website is worthwhile unless it can be regularly updated. At present I think I would struggle for content but will consider it again if there is the interest in square-bashing the county.
- Q. Has the group been successful?
- A. I think so. Although numbers are small, we are enthusiastic and have increased the number of county diptera records more than threefold since we started. We have identified a number of important sites for diptera in a county where records for less popular taxonomic groups are very sketchy over much of the area. We have made new friends and can share our experiences with like-minded folk. So I am very pleased Roger suggested doing this.

If anyone has any further questions please feel free to contact me via the e-mail address at the start of this article.

John Showers

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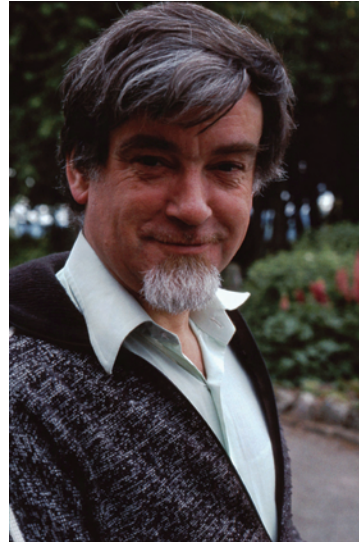
## Obituary

### Peter Dyte 1930 - 2012

We lost one of the stalwarts of the Diptera world when Peter Dyte died, aged 82, on 2 July this year. As befits an Englishman that we dipterists regarded as one of the great authorities, Peter's interest and contribution to his favourite family, the dolichopodids, was entirely in a 'hobby' capacity, although his interest started way back as a post-graduate. Professionally he was an accomplished entomologist at the Pest Infestation Laboratory at Slough, where he was an authority on the control of stored grain pests. But this clearly took up only part of his energy and enthusiasm. Not content with just the British fauna, he became an acknowledged authority on the world fauna, contributing the sections on dolichopodids in the catalogues of the African, Oriental and Australasian regions. He left a copy of the Palaearctic catalogue covered in notes and corrections, which will one day help to sort out the errors in dolichopodid nomenclature.

On the domestic front, Peter provided the dolichopodid section of the 1976 and 1998 British check lists. He published relatively few papers on the British fauna but they included original work on the adult behaviour (mate-guarding) and, over 50 years ago, on larval

biology which is still one of the few contributions to the non-adult stage. His paper on the distinctions between dolichopodid and empidid larvae is still much quoted. He was still rearing larvae from many habitats this year, and it would be a shame if his efforts remained unpublished. The photographs shows Peter at two of the four dipterists meetings that he attended in the 1980s.



Peter Dyte at the Muir of Ord meeting, 1984 (taken from *A Dipterists Handbook*, Fig.1).

His large collection of world dolichopodids has been left to the Natural History Museum, London, along with his large collection of reprints and his unpublished notes and manuscripts, that are likely to be valuable to visiting overseas dipterists. The BENHS will be receiving his entomological library and any British specimens not required by the NHM, which can be seen in due course at Dinton Pastures.



Peter Dyte with Mike Pugh, David and Anne Clements, and Joan Morgan at the Carmarthen meeting, 1986.

Those of us who knew him only as a dipterist missed out on some fascinating aspects of Peter's other interests. Who'd have thought that he was also interested and published on the genetics of domestic cats, and has a picture of his most famous pet in the Burmese Cat Club's official book about the Burmese breed? He also won plaudits for his contributions on irises from the Royal Horticultural Society and the British Iris Society. Then there were his tropical fish, birds and other pets.

Everyone speaks of a happy, generous and intelligent man who gave freely of his time and encyclopaedic knowledge – an example to us all.

Martin Drake

# Meetings

## Meetings

### Reports

## Spring Field Meetings 2012

Three field meetings were run in 2012. They were designed to attract to differing parts of the Forum and were intended to provide opportunities for members from as wide a geographical coverage as possible. Each was successful in its own right but they all highlighted the problems of recording in 2012. Rather more importantly, each meeting was attended by members who had either not attended meetings before, or who we had not seen for several years.

### New Forest

12-13 May 2012

This was the first visit to 'The Forest' by DF for many years and it was hoped that we would have a chance to encounter some of the specialities for which the forest is famed. A small advance party arrived on the Thursday evening and was based in Bournemouth where Titanic Brewery's 'Plum Porter' provided one of the more noteworthy attractions.



Forum members in the New Forest in May 2012. In the foreground: Rob Wolton (L) and Howard Bentley (R).

We were immensely lucky to coincide our meeting with a break in the bad weather and enjoyed 3 warm but windy days. Flies were sparse, however, and few of the specialities showed in numbers. The relative paucity of nectar sources meant that hoverflies and tachinids were hard to find, and there was a general comment that those parts that we visited were dreadfully over-grazed. We hope to feed our comments back in order to influence subsequent management, but at the moment the forest is in a very poor state for its entomology.

Records have yet to be submitted but some of the more noteworthy include 3 specimens of *Psilota anthracina*, numerous specimens of *Brachyopa bicolor* and *B. pilosa*. *Chrysogaster virescens* was exceptionally abundant and there were a few specimens of *Orthonevra geniculata* which is rarely seen in southern England.

### Members attending:

Robert Aquilina, Chris Bentley, Howard Bentley, Peter Chandler, Stephen Downes, Martin Drake, Mike Edwards (Dorset), Una Garland, Alessandro Giusti, Brian Harding, Seth Irish, John Kramer, Alan Lawson, Erica McAlister, Ken & Rita Merrifield, Mark Mitchell & Candice Padmore, Nathan Medd, Roger Morris, Fran Paterson, Chris Raper, Glenn Rostron, John Showers, Duncan Sivell, Malcolm & Mary Smart, Alan Stubbs, Peter Wing and Rob Wolton.

## Great Fen Project

16-17 July

The 'Great Fen' project is an innovative attempt to create a vastly bigger fenland nature reserve linking Holme Fen and Woodwalton Fen NNRs. Our visit was an exploratory meeting to determine the viability of engaging on a more regular basis. Regrettably, we coincided with one of the windiest days of the season and although we managed one day's collecting, it was concluded that a second day would not be wise as the weather had been decidedly unhelpful. The second day was therefore cancelled and then turned out to be far better than the first day!



Forum members (Stuart Ball, Roy Crossley, James McGill and Jonathan Cole) outside the Rothschild bungalow at Woodwalton Fen.



*Dictenidia bimaculata* provides a photographic interlude at Woodwalton Fen.

Apart from vast numbers of *Tropidia scita* my own haul was unremarkable, but Alan Stubbs found *Dictenidia bimaculata* which posed obligingly for photographs. Roy Crossley reported taking the Dolichopodid *Hercostomus plagiatus* which he had last seen some thirty years previously at Chippenham and Wicken Fens. Full data have yet to be assembled, but the list is not expected to be exceptional.

**Members attending:**

Stuart Ball, Jonathan Cole, Roy Crossley, Alan Lawson, James McGill, Roger Morris, Alan Stubbs.

**Bridlington**

**29 June to 1 July**

This was an attempt to link up with the Yorkshire Naturalists Union in order to explore the soft cliffs between Bridlington and Scarborough. The intention of making links with recorders from Yorkshire was achieved and a small party assisted the economy of Bridlington.



Waiting for the tide to go out at Cayton Bay. We abandoned our attempt to get to the woodland.

As has been the case for much of 2010 the weather was windy, but in keeping with other meetings we managed to avoid the rain! Our venue afforded access to several excellent soft cliffs and we hoped for a wide array of Dolichopodids and Stratiomyidae. A combination of wind, rain and the tides made this a challenging meeting but we visited several very interesting soft clay cliffs at Cayton Bay and Reighton (gannets provided a great spectacle diving after fish just a few hundred yards offshore), and the Chalk cliffs at Flamborough Head where seepages yielded the tiny *Oxycera pygmaea* in very large numbers. For some of us, our weekend was nicely rounded off by good views of puffins and other nesting seabirds.

**Members attending:**

Stuart Ball, Gavin & Annie Boyd, Jonathan Cole, Roy Crossley, James McGill, Roger Morris and Derek Whiteley.

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

## Other meetings

**Perivale Wood, Middlesex**

**19 May 2012**

This site at Greenford, Middlesex is the property of the Selborne Society and is the second oldest nature reserve in Britain. It overlaps the 1km squares TQ1583 and TQ1683 and comprises 11 hectares of ancient woodland, old permanent neutral pasture and two small ponds. The reserve does not have public access, and a visit to record Diptera was requested by Peter Edwards, who has been involved with the management of the site for many years. There has been no thorough entomological assessment and the reserve is considered to be under-recorded for Diptera. It has, however, been visited by several dipterists over the years and in particular Ken and Rita Merrifield have recorded about 200 species of Diptera on occasional visits to the wood over the past 15 years.

The weather locally prior to this meeting had not been good and we anticipated that adverse conditions might prevail. However, although it started cool we had a reasonably fine day. Peter Edwards and Nic Ferriday of the Selborne Society hosted the meeting and conducted us around the varied habitats of the site.

The sixteen species of craneflies recorded, mainly by John Kramer, included *Erioptera griseipennis* from several areas and *Achyrolimonia decemmaculata* in the woodland; *Tipula vernalis* was numerous in the pasture. A male of the winter gnat *Trichocera saltator* was an unusually late record for that species. The fungus gnat catch was disappointing with only 11 individuals of 7 common species seen during the day. It was concluded that the late season and last year's drought in the south-east had contributed to this low catch.

In general a range of common spring Diptera was recorded, with *Bibio marci* and the two common species of *Dilophus* frequent. At least 15 species of syrphids and 10 species of empids were recorded, including 7 species of the genus *Empis*, mostly at hawthorn blossom, and the hybotid *Oropezella sphenoptera* was frequent in the woodland. Brian Harding contributed records of several families of calyptrates. The scathophagid *Cleigastra apicalis* was present by the larger field pond. Allan Lawson and Ken & Rita Merrifield also recorded insects of other orders, including more than 70 species of Coleoptera. Orange tip butterflies *Anthocharis cardamines* were frequent.

In late afternoon an active sap run on oak was inspected. At first it had only attracted a bluebottle but then the sun broke through and a female of the syrphid *Ferdinandea cuprea* appeared. Then a male and female of the platypezid *Agathomyia antennata* alighted on hazel foliage nearby, the first flat-footed flies that I had seen this year. At the end of the day Peter Edwards observed that a robin, nesting in the roof of the hut by the entrance to the reserve, was returning with its beak full of craneflies to feed its brood.

We had an enjoyable day and I am grateful to Peter Edwards and Nic Ferriday for the opportunity to visit this reserve, and their company during the meeting.

**Members attending:**

Peter Chandler, Brian Harding, John Kramer, Allan Lawson, Ken & Rita Merrifield.

Peter Chandler

## Clarence House Bioblitz

The Bioblitz at Clarence House Garden

22 June 2012



Inside Clarence House. Andrew Halstead and Jeremy Thomas meet Prince Charles.

As a precursor to National Insect Week the Royal Entomological Society, with the assistance of Cicada Communications Limited, arranged a Bioblitz on 22 June 2012 at the garden of Clarence House, the London residence of HRH The Prince of Wales. This involved a team of eight entomologists organised by Andrew Halstead and was a full day's event. A group of 30 children and their teachers from Wolsey Junior School, New Addington, Croydon also took part in the morning, following a presentation to them by Luke Tilley and Roger Key. The morning's proceedings were observed by Prince Charles, who was accompanied by Jeremy Thomas, president of the RES. Although originally expected to attend for only 15 minutes, the Prince spent at least 30 minutes with the children and entomologists. An ITN camera team was also present, resulting in a simultaneous lunchtime report of the event.



employed during the visit, including a suction sampler operated by Roger Key and beating trays by Roger Hawkins and Stuart Hine. Identification of finds is to be completed by early August so that a report can be supplied to Prince Charles by the end of that month, including any recommendations on how to maintain and improve the biodiversity of the garden.



The lavender bed infested with rosemary beetles, and garden view behind.

As well as Andrew Halstead (sawflies and other pests) the team of recorders included David Baldock (aculeate Hymenoptera), Graham Collins (Lepidoptera and Neuroptera), Roger Hawkins (Coleoptera and Hemiptera), Peter Chandler (Diptera) and Stuart Hine of the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity, which relates with the public at the Natural History Museum. A mercury vapour light trap, Malaise trap and several water and pitfall traps had been set up on the preceding day. Various techniques were



Inspection of Stuart Hine's beating tray. Left to right: David Baldock, Stuart Hine, Andrew Halstead, Luke Tilley, Prince Charles and Jeremy Thomas.

The garden is a rectangular area of about half an acre, situated in central London at the northern side of The Mall, opposite St James's Park. It comprises a central lawn with two large plane trees, surrounded by herbaceous and shrub borders, a rose garden, lavender parterre and a small vegetable garden. All gardening is done organically. One end of the lawn had been left uncut and contained a colony of orchids (*Dactylorhiza* species); this is where the Malaise trap had been set up. There are no water bodies in the

garden, so it was at first surprising that the most evident insects on an initial tour were chironomid midges, of which several species were numerous throughout. It is concluded that these originated from the lake in nearby St James's Park. This may also be true of the empid *Hilara ternovensis*, abundant in the borders nearest to the Park, a single male of the dolichopodid *Poecilobothrus nobilitatus*, usually a pondside species, and one female of the horse fly *Chysops relictus*, the only biting fly recorded. A 10km grid line forms the southern boundary of the garden, so these species may have strayed from a different hectad.



Prince Charles poised to sweep the long grass.

The area of long grass, partly shaded by a plane and various shrubs, was the subject of much sweeping by both entomologists and children and this is where Prince Charles carried out a few sweeps when handed a net by Luke Tilley. A report on the ITN website (headed "Prince Charles De-bugs Clarence House") stated that "the Prince was shown a robber fly, which lies in wait for its prey, a parasitic wasp and a more benign oak bush-cricket" that were among his catch. It also reported the Prince's amusement on learning that many entomologists put the net on their heads to stop the insects escaping; he declined to try this out.



The Prince points at an interesting fly in Peter Chandler's pooter, with Jeremy Thomas behind.

The robber fly mentioned above was *Dioctria baumhaueri*, which was present in numbers, especially among the long grass, evidently finding plenty of prey among the numerous small insects inhabiting this area. I had been sweeping there for some time when Prince Charles arrived in the area and I had a variety of flies in my pooter, including *Sphaerophoria scripta*, several muscids, the tachinid *Ocytata pallipes* that parasitises earwigs, and various small acalyptrates. After he had inspected the contents and asked about some of them, I showed him a tube containing a *Dioctria*, which he recognised from his previous catch. This was not the only robber fly present in the garden as a single *Leptogaster cylindrica*, another species that is usually found among long grass, was caught in a pitfall trap.

In other orders some species only recently established in this country were recorded, including the harlequin ladybird, the rosemary beetle and the plane bug. The bush-cricket mentioned above was in the nymphal stage, but one kept alive by Roger Hawkins was later confirmed to be the recently introduced southern oak bush-cricket *Meconema meridionale*. Among Diptera the only species that might be claimed to be in this category was a single individual of the tachinid *Phasia barbifrons*, a bug parasitoid. The Diptera so far identified include more than 100 species. Identifications of chironomids, phorids and cecidomyiids are awaited, and Peter Langton, Henry Disney and Keith Harris are thanked for kindly agreeing to look at specimens of those families. Martin Drake has assisted with identification of ephydriids, of which 5 species were recorded.

The potential of this part of London was shown by the LNHS survey of Buckingham Palace Garden carried out from 1995 to 1999, reported in *London Naturalist* supplements 78 (1999) and 80 (2001), which recorded 667 species of Diptera, and brought the total Diptera list for that garden, including an earlier survey in the 1960s, to 708 species. That garden is much larger at nearly 40 acres and the range of habitats much greater, and it is not sur-



The Prince inspecting his catch with Luke Tilley and Andrew Halstead.

# Meetings

prising that many of the species found at Clarence House were also recorded there. It will be interesting to compare the results when all records have been collated, but a single day's visit cannot provide such a comprehensive inventory of species as was achieved at Buckingham Palace. For example, of the two robber flies recorded at Clarence House only *Dioctria* was also found there, but *Machimus atricapillus*, which is more of a woodland edge species, was present. The horse fly *Haematopota pluvialis* was recorded at Buckingham Palace Garden in the 1960s, but no Tabanidae were found there in the 1990s survey. It was then concluded that suitable habitat for their larval development was no longer present, so *Chrysops* turning up at Clarence House is of particular interest.

As might be expected most species so far identified from Clarence House are common and widespread, with some families better represented than others. For example only 2 species of crane-flies were seen; several *Nephrotoma flavipalpis* were observed in the borders and a single *Symplecta stictica* was swept.



Prince Charles identifies *Dioctria baunhaueri*.

On the other hand Lauxaniidae was well represented with 8 species, including 3 species of the less frequently encountered genus *Homoneura*, which were present among some of the denser vegetation around the periphery; most seen were *H. patelliformis* but *H. interstincta* and *H. tesquae* were also recorded. At Buckingham Palace the 16 species of this family recorded included all those found at Clarence House except *H. interstincta*. Fungus gnats were sparse, with one *Mycetophila pictula* swept and a few *Orfelia nemoralis* in the Malaise trap, so no comparison can be made with the 56 species recorded at Buckingham Palace Garden.

We were well looked after at Clarence House, with a buffet lunch and morning and afternoon refreshment breaks (with Duchy Originals biscuits), and it provided a suitable base from which to go forth in search of ever more interesting finds as the day advanced. Despite dire weather predictions we were only intermittently hampered by insignificant drizzle, and a strong wind insured that any wetness was temporary.

I am grateful to Jane Chamberlain of Cicada Communications for permission to use the photographs shown here, which were just a few of the many kindly supplied to us.



Roger Key and Roger Hawkins with some of the children.



Group photo of entomologists, teachers and children with sundry equipment: Roger Key on left with his suction sampler, Stuart Hine with beating tray on right.

Peter Chandler

## Summer Field Meeting

Lagganalia Centre, Kingussie, Speyside

22-29 July 2012

This is a short note on the recent DF summer field meeting in Scotland. Identifications are still continuing so the account below is not complete but summarises what I have been told so far.



This summer's field meeting (Sat 21<sup>st</sup> July to Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July) was held close to the Cairngorm mountains with our base being the Lagganalia Centre for Outdoor Education. Weather was much better than expected with four good, warmish days and only two days with intermittent rain. Accommodation was in the main building of the centre with en suite bunkrooms and a good area for use as a lab. Eating facilities were nearby and we were supplied with good basic food in ample quantities. Also in residence, just outside the lab, was a hare, which kept the patio paving clear of weeds and the local red squirrels made an occasional appearance. Ospreys were nesting nearby at Feshie Bridge.

The centre was situated just above the River Feshie so we didn't have far to go for our initial forays on the Sunday. This was just as well as many people had travelled long distances the day before. A total of 33 people attended the meeting made up of 19 in residence at the centre, 8 residing outside (some in tents and others self-catering) and 4 day visitors.



War tactics are discussed ...

Sites visited included the Insh Marshes; the riversides and sands and gravels of the River Spey and Feshie; Cairngorm; Loch an Eilein; Loch Morlich and Rothiemurchus Forest.



... and war wounds exhibited afterwards

Participants obviously had different highlights for the week but for several it was their first time in the area so they have lasting memories of the scenery and specimens that they hadn't come across before. For many *Laphria flava* was a delight with a plentiful population at several sites. *Tabanus sudeticus* commanded the respect of a number of newcomers with it finding us rather than the other way round. Other tabanids in evidence were plenty of *Haematopota pluvialis* and several *Hybomitra distinguenda*.



*Laphria flava*

By Thursday evening more than 140 fungus gnats had been identified by Peter Chandler amongst the considerable numbers of his catch and those presented to him by several other participants. Two noteworthy specimens were *Urytalpa macrocera* and *Dynatosoma cochleare*.

John Kramer was kept busy identifying craneflies that he and others had collected (approx 65 species with others still to be identified). Those of particular interest were *Limonia stigma*; *Limonia dilutor*; *Pilaria meridiana*; *Idioptera linnei*; and *Tipula nodicornis* (by Richard Underwood from the Findhorn sand dunes). It was good to see reasonable numbers of *Discobola annulata* frequently taken in the woods. Martin Drake also recorded *Tipula alpina* and *Hexatoma fuscipennis*.



As usual Andrew Halstead ran the 'Honey Pot' challenge for the most sawflies collected from different sites. This was won, yet again, by Richard Underwood with James McGill coming a close second. The number of sawflies so far identified for the week is 55.

Participants of the meeting gave me names of specimens that were particularly memorable to them and I have listed these below. There will be others of course and once identifications are complete I would urge participants of the meeting to forward their records to the Field Meetings Secretary, Roger Morris.



Our thanks to Roger for organising such an enjoyable meeting.

## Diptera

**Scathophagids** - *Pogonota barbata*, *Acanthocnema nigrimana*, *Scathophaga taeniopa*

**Syrphids** - *Didea intermedia*, *Eristalis rupium*, *Eriozona erratica*

**Stratiomyids** - *Oxycera dives*

**Asilids** - *Laphria flava*, *Rhadiurgus variabilis*

**Therevids** - *Thereva handlirschi* (rare Scottish therevid)

**Dolichopodids** - *Dolichopus rupestris*

**Empids** - *Wiedemannia phantasma* (rare Spey Empid)

**Diastatids** - *Diastata vagans*

**Micropezids** - *Cnodacophora stylifera*

**Sciomyzids** - *Dichetophora obliterata*

**Lonchopterids** - *Lonchoptera meijerei*

## Other groups

**Rhaphidiids** – (Snake flies, appear to be two different species which don't key out to British species)

**Mirid bugs** - *Zygmus nigriceps* (on Juniper);

**Coleopteran** - *Epuraea variegata* (occurs on Fomes)

**Chris Spilling**

## Detour to Dundreggan on 23 July 2012

During the Lagganlia field meeting, the Trees for Life Estate at Dundreggan in Glen Moriston, to the west of Loch Ness, was visited by five of the party, including Keith's wife Janet in addition to those shown in the group photograph. It was the wettest day of the field meeting and rained throughout the 2 hour journey via Spean Bridge and Fort Augustus, but the rain had stopped by lunchtime and the vegetation did dry a little during our time there, so some recording was possible. This was a prospecting visit for me as I am to return there in September to survey for fungus gnats.

The existing woodland on the estate includes birch, pine and aspen, with dwarf birch on the higher slopes, and it is planned to restore woodland and scrub on the open moorland between the estate and Glen Affric to the north. The 10,000 acre Dundreggan estate has been owned since 2008 by the Trees for Life charity, whose purpose is to restore the Caledonian pine forest, on which it has been working for some years at Glen Affric, in collaboration with the Forestry Commission. Dundreggan has already been surveyed by the Malloch Society and by several entomologists from the Liverpool Museum, so information on its insect fauna is building up.

We were welcomed there by Alan Watson Featherstone, who is the founder and Executive Director of Trees for Life. He initially led us through birch woodland up the slope behind Dundreggan Lodge, where aspens present by a stream are being regenerated by protection of suckers growing from the roots of mature trees. A large population of the wood ant *Formica lugubris* was evident in the birch wood, even observed entering the rot hole shown, in search of prey. A highlight of the visit was an old birch trunk in which larvae of the goat moth *Cossus cossus* were developing. An active sap run from this tree was attracting many wood ants and wasps, as well as two of the metallic green chafer *Protaetia cuprea*, which develops in wood ant nests, and which had been seen earlier at hogweed flowers. A greenbottle and a drosophilid were the only flies attempting to evade the wood ants at this sap run. Later we descended to the meadows by the River Moriston, also part of the estate, which provided a different range of flies.

The tachinid *Tachina grossa*, large and black with a yellow head, was spotted flitting among bracken in the upper part of the birch wood. Craneflies included the local species *Diogma glabrata* and *Discobola annulata*. The latter is a fungus feeder, confined to the Scottish Highlands within Britain, but quite widespread and seen at several other sites during the field meeting. The fungus gnats included *Mycetophila abbreviata*, which has a similar British distribution to *Discobola*. A full list of our finds will be provided in due course to Alan, to whom I am grateful for giving us this opportunity to visit this interesting area and for the hospitality shown during our visit.





Group of netholders in meadow by River Moriston: Adrian Plant, Peter Chandler, Keith Alexander and Richard Underwood. (Photos by Alan Watson Featherstone).



Cossus inhabited birch, with Alan Watson Featherstone on left

**Peter Chandler**

# Meetings

## Forthcoming

### ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th November 2012

### Dipterists' Day 2012

Annual Meeting and Dipterists Day 2012

Bristol Museums Galleries Archives



Bristol  
Museums  
Galleries  
Archives


Saturday 24 November

Saturday's venue:





M Shed, Princes Wharf, Bristol BS1 4RN



#### DIPTERISTS DAYS PROGRAMME

9:30	The doors open for Dipterists	
10:00	Assemble and set out exhibits which may be viewed during the coffee and lunch breaks.	
10:30	Talks begin in the main lecture theatre	
10:30	Introduction and welcome to the Bristol Museum and its entomological collections	Rhian Rowson
10:45	What can midges tell us about climate change?	Steve Brooks
11:15	Off the beaten track: a season of swarm chasing	Jolyon Alderman
11:45	Tea & coffee break	
12:00	Ant hills, tape measures and painted flies; the host specificity of <i>Microdon</i> hoverflies	Kirsten Miller
12:20	<i>Melanostoma</i> – a species-rich hoverfly genus	Gemma Brock
12:40	How sex shapes empids: testis size, sex ratio and female ornamentation	Rosalind Murray

New members & visiting dipterists are especially welcome  
Come and meet everyone

1.00 - 2.00	Lunch break. There is a cafeteria in the museum which sells good lunch fare and several local pubs and restaurants, or you may eat your own sandwiches at the meeting room. This is your opportunity to view the exhibits.	
2:00	Exhibit judging	
2:15	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – See separate agenda	
3:00	Flies as flower-visitors and pollinators	Jane Memmott
3:30	Tea & coffee break	
3:45	Prize giving – Award for best exhibit	
4:00	Time to chat	
4:30 - 4:45	Close of Afternoon Session. Dismantle exhibits	
5:00	Doors close - the building must be vacated by 5.00pm. Evacuate to pub or wherever.	
6:30 - 8.00	Dipterists' Supper We will organise a meal on Saturday evening at a local restaurant for a reasonable fixed price if enough attendees are interested. Please contact Malcolm Smart in advance if you are interested in attending so that we can gauge the demand (details below). Details of arrangements will be posted on the Forum website.	

#### Accommodation in Bristol

Please book your own accommodation using the web (e.g. [visitbristol.co.uk](http://visitbristol.co.uk)) or try Bristol Tourist Information - 0906 711 2191 (50p/min). Saturday's and Sunday's venues are about 15 minute's walk apart in the city centre.

#### Parking in Bristol

There is no parking at the museums. The nearest public car parks at The Grove and Wapping Wharf for MShed, and West End and Trenchard Street for Bristol City Museum. Maps will be posted on the DF website.

#### Tea and Coffee breaks

Because it is likely to be difficult to obtain tea/coffee from the M Shed cafeteria during the programmed tea/coffee breaks, it is planned to have tea/coffee served adjacent to the conference room during those breaks at a cost of approx. £2.00 per cup. This will have to be pre-ordered and paid for on the day. Anyone planning to attend and requiring to take advantage of this service is requested to advise the Indoor Meetings Secretary ([malcolmjsmart@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmjsmart@gmail.com) or tel 01902 700228) by 10 November latest and to pay at the meeting. It will not be possible to provide tea/coffee to anyone who has not pre-ordered

Please bring an exhibit if you can  
A £25 prize is awarded to the best exhibit

Any material relevant to Diptera will be welcomed. This might include drawings, photographs of specimens and habitats, as well as live or set specimens. Larvae are a neglected area, and the apparatus used for keeping them, so bring that along. **Computer-based presentations are welcomed.** References to new publications, or websites would also add interest. Displays can be laid out in the display area where there is plenty of space. Recording scheme organisers should please contact the Indoor Meetings Secretary in advance to book a table for particular recording scheme exhibits.

Pemberley Books will be present on Saturday.

**Sunday 25 November**

**Sunday's venue:**

**Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery, Queen's Road BS8 1RL**



The museum is between the very tall H H Wills memorial building (University of Bristol) and Browns restaurant at the top of Park Street. Bring some elementary equipment for dissecting your flies.

This is your chance to see the Bristol museum Diptera collections including those of Audcent and Payne.

9:30 The doors open for Dipterists  
 9:40 Genitalia preparation workshop – demonstration and practical  
 10:30 Individual study of collections and personal specimens. Experts will be on hand to help identify your specimens or photos.

**Further details & Communications**

Additional information and updates will be posted on the DF website ( <http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/> ) as they become available. This applies particularly to the Dipterists Supper. In order to arrange this, we must know in advance how many people intend to participate so that we can negotiate the best price.

We also need to know in advance approximately how many people - members and visitors (who are welcome) will attend each of the Saturday and Sunday events. This is so that we can ensure sufficient coffee/tea is available on the Saturday and the demand for facilities (microscopes etc) on the Sunday is satisfied. Please keep us informed of your intentions via e-mail, the links on the website or (if you do not have internet access) by telephone at the number below. In the event that you cannot contact me, please contact Rhian Rowson at Bristol Museum directly (rhian.rowson@bristol.gov.uk\_0117 922 3598).

Malcolm Smart  
 Indoor Meetings Secretary  
 (malcolmjsmart@gmail.com tel: 01902 700228)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 24 November 2012**

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.15 pm

**Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising. (See Spring 2012 Bulletin 73, pp 19-21, for the Minutes of the 2011 AGM)
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report.
6. Proposed rise in Subscription for the Forum, and for the Dipterists Digest.
7. A.O.B.
8. Chairman's Vote of Thanks to retiring members.
9. Election of Officers: See details below

The Chairman is elected biennially. The 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, 2012 are as follows:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Officer</b>
Chair	Martin Drake (Elected 2010)
Vice Chair	Stuart Ball (Elected 2010)
Secretary	John Kramer
Treasurer	Howard Bentley
Membership Secretary	John Showers
Field Meetings Sec.	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Sec.	Duncan Sivell (Proposed)
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Assistant Editor	Judy Webb
Publicity Officer	Erica McAlister (Proposed)
Website Manager	Stuart Ball
Conservation Officer	Robert Wolton (Proposed)

- Committee Members
1. John Ismay (Proposed for re-election)
  2. Malcolm Smart (Proposed)
  3. Nathan Medd (Proposed)

- Members Elected 2011
4. Chris Spilling
  5. Mick Parker
  - 1 Vacancy

10. Chairman's Thanks to hosts and formal closing of the Annual General Meeting.

John Kramer  
 Secretary

## Autumn Field Meeting 2012

**Bangor, North Wales**

**7 to 14 October 2012 (note date change)**

This meeting will be based at one or possibly two venues in the area around Bangor. Please note that the date has been brought forward because of a clash with the Field Meeting Secretary's work commitments. Please let Roger Morris know if you wish to participate [roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com). The meeting provides an excellent opportunity to expand our knowledge of the fungus gnat and crane fly fauna of North Wales and also provides an opportunity to collect material for the forthcoming Heleomyzidae course.

Roger Morris

*(I've got the above event a little out of sequence, I'm sure you can see why - Ed)*

### 2013

## Diptera Identification Workshops 2013

**Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shropshire**

**Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th February 2013**



### Identification of Lauxaniid and Heleomyzid flies

Led by Mark Mitchell (Lauxaniidae) and Alan Stubbs (Heleomyzidae) with assistance from various members of the Dipterists Forum with expertise in these families.

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

Anyone who has swept shaded woodland vegetation is sure to have come across some fairly small mostly orange-coloured flies. The chances are that many of those will have been members of one of these two families! They are among the most docile of flies, preferring to sit quietly on foliage rather than rush or buzz about. Although not all species are orange, nearly all are large enough to be easily seen in the field. There is a sufficiency of common species to quickly become familiar with these flies, including local ones that characterise particular habitats, but others are more challenging, in part because the field craft to find them has yet to be clarified.

Adult Heleomyzidae (c.64 British species) are highly distinctive since the front edge of the wing has a series of projecting spines

that are obvious in most species. The genus *Suillia* has larvae which breed in fungi and, although found in all but the coldest months, they are most in evidence in the autumn when many other types of fly are not present. Larvae of other genera are associated with the burrows of mammals, bird's nests or caves.

The Lauxaniidae (c.54 British species) lack the bristles described above and show a wider range of colour from completely glossy black to pale yellow; some have spotted wings. They can be abundant in woodland but there are species specialising in various types of grassland. Where known, the larvae are associated with fungi, rotting vegetable matter or birds' nests and in the case of some non-British species they are leaf-miners.

Neither family has been covered in the existing series of RESL keys and there are no recently published comprehensive family monographs in English, a source of frustration to British dipterists wishing to take up the study of these fascinating little flies. As a result, species of both families are relatively poorly recorded in Britain and there has been little focus on understanding the ecology and distribution of species. Draft keys to both are in preparation by the workshop leaders who will present these for testing at the workshop prior to possible formal publication. These will include species not mentioned in the existing British literature.

Despite the limitations of the current literature, these families are regarded by many dipterists as easily 'doable'. The workshop is aimed at those who have some experience with smaller flies. It has been arranged by popular request and is expected to be quite heavily subscribed. Places will be limited by the size of the venue so if you are interested in attending, please book early to ensure that you get a place.

Reference specimens will be provided but please bring any that you have collected yourself. If you have your own microscope and lamp, then please bring them along. The centre does have some, so don't feel that you cannot attend if you don't have the equipment.

### Fees & Booking Procedure

Dipterists Forum members:

Single Room Resident: £153 full board accommodation

Shared Room Resident: £133 full board accommodation

Non-resident: £75 including packed lunches & evening meals

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

Single Room Resident: £248 full board accommodation

Shared Room Resident: £228 full board accommodation

Non-resident: £170 including 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 852040 Fax: 01743 851066**

**Email: [enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org)**

You will be requested to complete a booking form and to pay the full course fee in advance. **Please make sure that you note that you indicate you are a DF member on the booking form in order to secure your members discount.**

**Organiser: Malcolm Smart**  
[malcolmsmart@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmsmart@gmail.com)

## Spring Field Meetings

### Rockingham Forest

**18-19 May 2013**

This meeting will link up with the increasingly active Northamptonshire Diptera Group and will aim to visit a variety of the woodlands that make up Rockingham Forest, one of the less well-known ancient hunting forests. Several of the woods were visited during our 2004 field meeting but we will also be visiting others that have not been visited previously. We anticipate that the meeting will coincide with the dead wood fauna which can be extremely rich in these woods. Members wishing to arrange accommodation should let Roger Morris know as there is the possibility of a venue in Stamford.

### Eastbourne

**7-9 June 2013**

This meeting will hopefully be based at the guest houses we used for our 2011 Autumn field meeting. Both were excellent and very hospitable. They provide access to the Chalk downs of Sussex where we will investigate a series of excellent sites. The main meeting will be over the Saturday and Sunday but in common with past practice there will be scope for a group to convene on the previous Thursday. Those interested in participating should contact Roger Morris. I will organise accommodation for early bookers (by Christmas 2012) and will offer names of possible accommodation to those who book nearer the time.

## Summer Field Meeting 2013

### Venue & dates to be confirmed

I am hoping to secure accommodation at Charterhouse School in Surrey but am having a bit of difficulty because the school has yet to start taking bookings and has an ongoing programme of commitments that it needs to meet first. If this option fails I will seek alternatives, but so far have had no response from my second choice. It may mean going back to the drawing board and re-doing the research and arrangements that I made last year. I will circulate notice of the meeting to all previous attendees of field summer meetings. Also, please keep an eye on the DF website for announcements. Expressions of interest to Roger Morris.

## Autumn Field Meeting 2013

### Pembrokeshire 12-19 October

I am currently investigating a twin centre meeting based in Tenby and Fishguard to allow us to cover Pembrokeshire and neighbouring counties which have not been well covered at this time of year. Expressions of interest to Roger Morris.



Photo: *Rhingia campestris*, Paul Brock

## Events Calendar 2012-13

### Dipterists Forum & selected meetings

Check the Dipterists Forum website for changes and meetings added after publication of this Bulletin, [www.dipteristsforum.org.uk](http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk)

#### 2012

6 October 2012, 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. Do come and chat to us. See: [www.amentsoc.org](http://www.amentsoc.org)



Howard, Mick and Chris at last year's AES Exhibition

7-14 October 2012, (Note date changes) DF Autumn Field Meeting to Bangor, North Wales. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: [roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com))

3 November 2012, BENHS Annual Exhibition and Dinner. Imperial College, London. Please bring Diptera exhibits to show your entomological discoveries for 2012 and previous years. Excellent opportunity to make contact with other entomologists. See: [www.benhs.org.uk](http://www.benhs.org.uk)

6 November ALERC Conference BVSC Birmingham. Intended for LRC people but this one has a workshop run by the new Species Dictionary boss - our very own Chris Raper of the Tachinid scheme. If you want to go it will have to be as a guest of your Local Records Centre - who have limited spaces - £50. Find your LRC at [http://www.nfbr.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=Local\\_Records\\_Centres](http://www.nfbr.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=Local_Records_Centres)

24 November 2012 Dipterists Day and AGM, Bristol. M Shed Museum at Princes Wharf, Wapping Road, Bristol BS1 4RN (<http://mshed.org/about-us/>) with access to the entomological collections on Sunday 25 November. Full details in this issue and will be posted on the DF website (<http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/>) when available.

#### 2013

26 January 2013, BENHS Workshop: Identifying Larger Brachycera. M Harvey. An opportunity to improve your identification skills for these flies which include horseflies, robberflies, soldierflies and more. Dinton Pastures Country Park, Hurst, Reading. See [www.benhs.org.uk](http://www.benhs.org.uk).

9 February 2013, BENHS Workshop: Tachinidae Identification. M Smith & C Raper. An introduction to sampling and identifying these bristly parasitic flies. New draft keys for a revised RES Handbook will be available for testing and you can have your specimens checked and verified by the organisers of the National Recording Scheme. Dinton Pastures Country Park, Hurst, Reading. See [www.benhs.org.uk](http://www.benhs.org.uk). For more information on Tachinidae and the recording scheme see: <http://tachinidae.org.uk/site/index.php>

22-24 February 2013, DF Advanced Identification Workshop on 'Lauaxiini and Heleomyzid Flies'. Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury. Details in this issue and posted on the DF website and on FSC website: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/preston-montford/>

23 March 2013, 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](http://www.benhs.org.uk)

18-19 April 2012 NFBR Conference, Poole, Dorset. Focus on 'Local perspective in Biological Recording'. See <http://www.nfbr.org.uk>

20-21 April 2013 BENHS Special Meeting: Collecting and Recording Insects, Bath. A combined indoor and field meeting when members will be able to contribute to a campus invertebrate list pass on some of their expertise to potential field entomologists at the University and to other BENHS members who may wish to embark on the study of a group with which they are unfamiliar. A laboratory equipped with compound and dissecting microscopes, dissecting equipment and digital projection facilities available. Contact: Glenda Orledge, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, Building 4 South, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY (E-mail: [g.m.orledge@bath.ac.uk](mailto:g.m.orledge@bath.ac.uk)),

28 April 2012 AES Members' Day and AGM 2012, Talks include a lecture by Margaret Redfern on Insect Galls. The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK.

18 May 2013, One day BENHS Regional Meeting at Plymouth, Devon. A joint meeting with Buglife South West. The topic and details of the day will be announced later and circulated in advance to members, as well as being advertised via the BENHS web site ([www.benhs.org.uk](http://www.benhs.org.uk)). It is likely that a field meeting on Dartmoor will be organised on Sunday 19 May 2013 to follow on from the indoor event. Organiser: Claudia Watts ([regmtgsec@benhs.org.uk](mailto:regmtgsec@benhs.org.uk)) and Andrew Whitehouse.

18-19 May 2013, DF Spring Field Meeting to Rockingham Forest, Northants. This is an ancient hunting forest with rich deadwood fauna. Joint meeting with Northamptonshire Diptera Group. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: [roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com))

07-09 June 2013 DF Spring Field Meeting to Eastbourne, Sussex. Visiting sites on the chalk downs. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, Email: [roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com))

DF Summer Field Meeting 2013, Venue & dates to be confirmed. Check DF website or contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: [roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com))

31 Aug. - 1 Sept. 2013, BENHS Regional Meeting. Glasgowlife Museum, Glasgow. Organisers: Jeanne Robinson and Geoff Hancock. An indoor meeting held in conjunction with Glasgowlife Museum, to be followed by a field meeting on the Sunday visiting sites near Glasgow. The topic and details of the day will be circulated in advance to members and will be advertised here.

12-19 October 2013, DF Autumn Field Meeting to Pembrokeshire. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: [roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com))

24 October 2013 RES Scottish Regional Meeting "Great Scottish Insects". Scottish Agricultural College, King's Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh. See <http://www.royensoc.co.uk/>

BENHS Dinton Pastures Open Days in the Pelham-Clinton Building, Hurst, Reading. Open 10:30-16:00 on second and fourth Sunday in each month except April to September when only on the second Sunday of each month (except for August when there are no Open Days). 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. 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](http://www.benhs.org.uk)

April-Sept/Oct 2013 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@gmail.com](mailto:showersjohn@gmail.com)

Judy Webb

**Hoverfly  
Newsletter**  
Number 53  
Autumn 2012  
ISSN 1358-5029



If readers are wondering why this issue of the newsletter is somewhat shorter than usual, the opening sentence of the recording scheme update probably says it all! It has been a very poor year for hoverflies to date, though in recent days I went to a field meeting at a Cotswold site that was surprisingly productive - hopefully a sign of better things to come. Forum members normally see issues of the Hoverfly Newsletter for the first time as an attachment to the Dipterists Forum Bulletin, where any colour images will appear in monochrome. The newsletters subsequently appear in full colour on the websites of both the Forum and Hoverfly Recording Scheme (and may be obtained from me as a pdf.); I know that some readers expressed surprise that the photographs illustrating Alan Stubbs' *Xanthogramma* article in the last issue did not appear in colour even in the on-line version. Alan has agreed to supply me with the colour images and these will be substituted in due course into the archived version of Hoverfly Newsletter No.52

Articles and illustrations (including colour images) for the next newsletter are always welcome. Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 54** (which is expected to be issued with the Spring 2013 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 November 2012. The hoverfly illustrated at the top right of this page is a female *Xanthogramma citrofasciatum*.

## Hoverfly Recording Scheme Update July 2012

Stuart Ball  
255 Eastfield Road, Peterborough, PE1 4BH  
Roger Morris  
7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 1QE

What a miserable year! Rain, rain and more rain. Hoverflies have been very scarce and opportunities to record them even scarcer! The conditions have meant that our Big Hover Watch was badly washed out with several recorders commenting that they were unable to find a clear day that coincided with free time. We are still compiling the data but the overall impression is that the numbers were low. We hope for better luck next year but this does illustrate the difficulties of trying to establish some form of standardised surveillance initiative.

We have not been idle but it would be fair to say that we have not done as much as some years. Our own fieldwork has been constrained and we have concentrated on several other jobs (including work on the forthcoming Cranefly book). We think we have finally completed the

hoverfly status review and that this will be available this summer.

### Wildguide

Those members who have booked a copy will realise that it has yet to emerge. We delivered the text and our design last Autumn, since when Wildguides have been developing their preferred layout. This has meant a certain amount of further dialogue and some major revisions to the text. We have seen some draft designs and at the time of writing we are expecting to see the full design that should go to the printers. This means we are looking at late autumn for the publication date. With luck it will be available for the Christmas stocking!

### Training

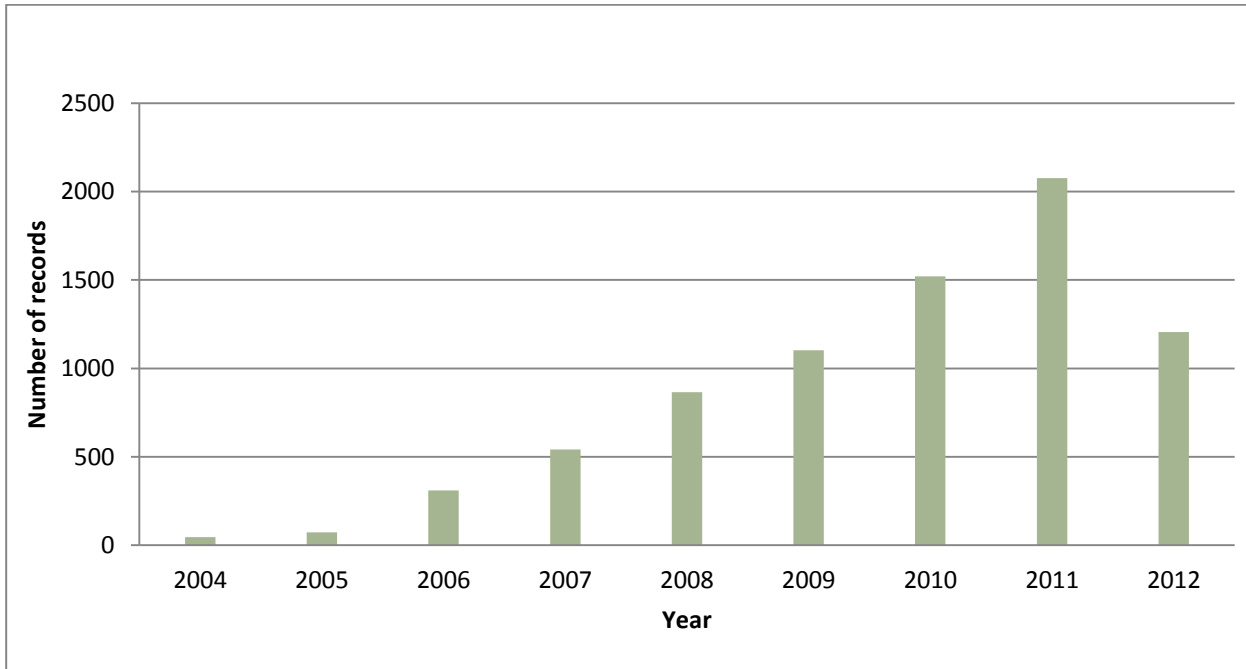
Last winter we ran courses in almost every corner of England plus excursions into Wales. We have a programme organised for this winter but will look at further bookings. We hope to run an 'improvers' course next April, hopefully at Cardiff Museum and want to hear from people who would like to attend. It is difficult to say what the costs will be, but apart from our costs please add in whatever accommodation you prefer. We won't be organising communal accommodation but will

do what we can to organise communal meals etc. Please let Roger know if you are interested. [roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com).

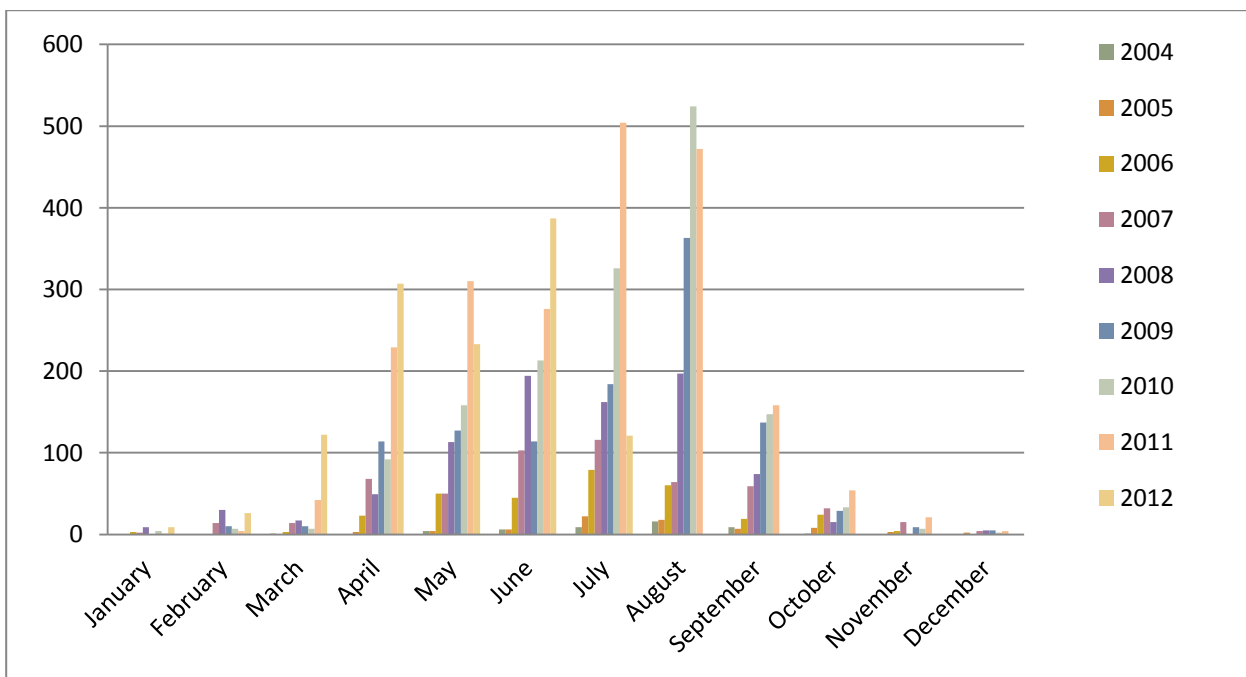
### Hoverflies on the Web

Roger continues to monitor Flickr, ISPO and other sources for hoverfly records. So far over 1200 records

have been accumulated for 2012, suggesting that this year's data will exceed previous years. However, it is very noticeable that the weather had greatly constrained recording. June was an exceptionally poor month but it still outperformed the previous year, showing how web-based data sources are growing. This is depicted in figures 1 and 2.



**Figure 1.** Total records harvested from the internet. The data suggest that this is still a growing source of records.



**Figure 2.** Monthly totals of hoverfly records from websites between 2004 to 2012. At the time of writing this suggests that July 2012 will not perform as well as 2011.



## Summer field meeting 2012 – some reflections on the hoverflies

Roger Morris

7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE  
roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

This year's summer field meeting was based at Lagganlia Centre in Glen Feshie from 21 to 28 July, giving us access to the entire Spey valley and associated pinewoods. Although the weather was mixed, it was well-suited to recording Diptera for much of the time. However, the year to date had been very wet and cold, and this was reflected in the numbers of hoverflies.

We had been expecting good numbers of *Platycheirus* in the *Carex* beds along the Spey, but were immensely surprised how few individuals and species there were. *Platycheirus fulviventris* was relatively abundant but *P. perpallidus* was virtually absent and there were relatively small numbers of *P. clypeatus* and *P. occultus*. A very few *P. podagratus* were noted but *P. angustatus* was much more widespread. The other common *Platycheirus* was *P. nielsenii* which occurred across a wide range of sites.

It was noteworthy that flowery glades rarely yielded great diversity of hoverflies. Eristalines were relatively abundant: mainly *E. pertinax* and *E. horticola* but *E. rupium* was found at various localities. One useful note was that *E. rupium* seems to be highly attracted to valerian *Valeriana officinalis*. Anyone visiting Scotland might bear this in mind and watch out for *E. rupium* which is darker with a more heavily defined wing shade than *E. horticola*.

Relatively few of the Scottish specialities were noted. One specimen of *Chamaesyrrhus scaevoides* was reported by Nigel Jones, and Barbara Ismay was shown larvae of *Callicera rufa* by Iain McGowan. Otherwise the most noteworthy Spey Valley speciality was *Didea intermedia* which occurred at several sites. *Megasyrphus erraticus* was noted once (RM) and two specimens of *Eupeodes nielsenii* were also taken (Roger Hawkins).

My overall impression was that hoverflies were relatively scarce and that the season had been washed out by poor

weather. When good nectar sources were found, they generally yielded common species such as *Eristalis pertinax*, *Chrysogaster solstitialis* and *Leucozona glauca*; each was locally numerous but there were frequent occasions when they were barely seen on roadside umbels. The only other species seen in numbers was *Chrysotoxum arcuatum* which showed on numerous occasions.

My own haul of hoverfly records barely exceeded 150 and I doubt anyone else did any better. Thankfully fungus gnats and craneflies were reasonably abundant and provided a suitable distraction. Hopefully numbers and diversity will be better next year.



*Eristalis rupium* (female) photo: David Iliff



*Didea intermedia* (female) photo: David Iliff

## Surprising numbers of *Epistrophe diaphana* in Gloucestershire

David Iliff

Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire, GL52 9HN ,davidiliff@talk21.com

2011 seemed at the time to have been a disappointing year for hoverfly recording in Gloucestershire – though with hindsight it now seems to have been positively rich when compared to this year! However in poor years there are sometimes species that buck the trend by being found more often than usual. Last year in the county that was the case with two species, *Chrysotoxum verralli* and *Epistrophe diaphana*. The higher than usual numbers of records for *C. verralli*, a relative newcomer to the county, was the subject of an article in the last newsletter.

The current status of *Epistrophe diaphana* is “notable”. Records in Gloucestershire during the 25 year period ending 2010 averaged only just above one per year, so it was always something of an event for a local recorder to find the species. Thus four records in 2011, which we considered a poor year for hoverflies in the county, was something of a surprise. This however was nothing compared to the incidence of the species in Gloucestershire in June of 2012 (an undisputed bad hoverfly year!). On 9 June Martin Matthews sent me an email message about a visit he made that day to the Mythe nature reserve near Tewkesbury telling me that he had seen there “lots (and I mean lots!) of *E diaphana*”. He later told me that it had been the most abundant hoverfly species at the site that day.

On 23 June Martin and I participated in a Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group field meeting at Campden House, Chipping Campden, a large estate which includes ancient woodland. Only three days previously I had done the second leg of my Big Hover Watch at another ancient woodland site and had found only four individual hoverflies (three species) in spite of perfect weather, so I had little confidence that we would have much success at Campden. However we had a successful day with a list of 24 hoverfly species, which included *E diaphana* in large numbers – outnumbered only at the site by *Eristalis pertinax*.

Martin revisited the Mythe on 8 July and again saw several *E. diaphana*, though not in as large numbers as on 9 June.



*Epistrophe diaphana* (male) photo: David Iliff

## *Criorhina ranunculi* and other uncommon hoverflies in a Yorkshire wood

Andrew Grayson

56, Piercy End, Kirkbymoorside, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 6DF  
andrewgrayson1962@live.co.uk

Beadale Wood (mainly in SE7786 and SE7787) is privately-owned, and is predominantly deciduous woodland with a recent history of management by coppicing. I first visited Beadale Wood on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009, and recorded a number of local species including the hoverflies *Criorhina berberina* and *Criorhina floccosa*. At the invitation of the owner, Mrs. Nicky Blyth, a more extensive study was carried out during 2011, when I made 19 visits between 16<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup>

October, focussing my recording effort on Syrphidae, which were conspicuously numerous, particularly during spring and early summer.

The 2011 study produced a list of 46 hoverfly species, including a good number of local and uncommon species. The tribe Xylotini was notably well-represented with ten species, including *Brachypalpoidea lentus* on 5<sup>th</sup> June, *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* on 5<sup>th</sup> June, *Criorhina asilica* on 29<sup>th</sup> April, *C. berberina* on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, *C. floccosa* on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April, *Criorhina ranunculi* on all seven visits made between 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April, and *Xylota florum* on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Only six *Cheilosia* species were found, but these included *C. pubera*, which was very abundant along the woodland track from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> May. Other local species included *Ferdinandea cuprea*, which was

unusually numerous and seen on the nine visits made between 17<sup>th</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> June; *Brachyopa scutellaris*, which was fairly numerous on 23<sup>rd</sup> April; and *Portevinia maculata*, which was present between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> June, and was particularly numerous on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The combination of topography and woodland causes most of Beadale Wood to be sheltered from even the most severe winds, regardless from which direction these winds blow. The canopy is sufficiently open during spring to cause a good number of warm sheltered sun-trap areas within the woodland. I found adult *Criorhina ranunculi* in Beadale Wood between 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011. They occurred throughout the woodland, and were locally common in the most sheltered sun-trap area towards the northern end (SE775874). The size of the population, probably at least between 25 and 50 individuals, was sufficiently numerous to allow behavioural notes to be made. Overall, the two colour forms, red-tailed and white-tailed, were equally frequent, but the white-tailed form distinctly predominated during earlier visits, and the red-tailed form was more dominant towards the end of the flight period. All my observations of *C. ranunculi* took place around trees which were moss-covered and rotting around their bases. These were principally *Acer pseudoplatanus* (sycamore), which were the dominant tree in the area with the best sun-trap, plus *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) and *Betula* (birch).

My first 2011 visit to Beadale Wood was on 16<sup>th</sup> April, when I saw a red-tailed form of *C. ranunculi* at rest by the base of a tree. On the following day, there were several *C. ranunculi* in the wood; all seen around the moss-covered bases of *Acer pseudoplatanus* and *Fraxinus excelsior*, particularly in SE775874. White-tailed forms predominated on 17<sup>th</sup> April, and they seemed to show a preference for resting on the shady side of trees, slightly more so than resting in full sunshine. The same observations were made on 18<sup>th</sup> April, plus a white-tailed form occurred around *Betula*, near the more exposed eastern periphery of Beadale Wood.

My initial observations of *C. ranunculi* on 20<sup>th</sup> April were of a white-tailed form around a tree, and a red-tailed

form around a different tree. If the same two individuals were involved, then I saw them around the same trees about 10 minutes after the first sighting, hovering about the base, resting for a short while on moss or bark; then moving elsewhere. Further observations made on 20<sup>th</sup> April confirmed they often rest on the shady side of a tree, and when at rest on bark or moss, they continuously dab their tails onto that surface. The height at which they were seen at rest on tree trunks ranged from almost ground level to approximately three metres, but was generally a height between 10cm and 50 cm from the base of a tree.

Only two *C. ranunculi* were seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, but at least six, mainly red-tailed forms, were encountered on 25<sup>th</sup> April. One red-tailed form was quite aggressive to a *Ferdinandea cuprea* by the base of a tree, head-butting the *F. cuprea* twice as it attempted to rest. The end of April roughly marked the end of the flight period for *C. ranunculi* in Beadale Wood during 2011, as only one was seen on 29<sup>th</sup> April, and none were seen on the next visit, made on 5<sup>th</sup> May, or subsequent visits.



The area of Beadale Wood most often frequented by *Criorhina ranunculi* during Spring 2011 Photo: Andrew Grayson

## 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Syrphidae, 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in Novosibirsk (Russia)

The following information has been circulated to participants in the previous six hoverfly symposia:

The Symposium will be held in the resort hotel "Sosnovka" which is located in a pine forest, 35 km. from the city of Novosibirsk.

The Symposium fee is expected to be 100€, which includes the program and abstract book, coffee breaks and a welcome reception. The cost of accommodation and meals is not included in the registration fee. Full board (three meals) and a single room is quoted as € 180 per day, with a double room at €155 per person a day. The

organizers hope to secure additional funds or arrangements in order to make the fee a bit lower.

A trip to Teletskoe Lake in the Altai Mountains is planned as a post-symposium trip. The lake is in a mountain valley at an altitude of 430 m. and is considered to be the 'pearl' of the Altai Mountains. The trip fee should be 90€, including cost of the bus, food and accommodation at the tourist camp.

John Smit has previously regaled us with tales of the Altai Mountains and the many interesting hoverflies that he encountered, so this meeting should appeal to those more adventurous spirits. Anybody who is interested in participating should contact the Siberian Zoological Museum [mu4@eco.nsc.ru](mailto:mu4@eco.nsc.ru).

## Dorset Hoverfly Report 2011

E.T and D.A Levy (Hoverfly Regional Recorders)  
9 Chilton Grove Yeovil Somerset BA214AN

Quite a good year for recording Hoverflies, despite the strange and extreme weather and climatic conditions. Certainly Autumn in this region has been dryer and warmer than we can recall and the mild temperatures encouraged second generation flowering by many hedgerow plants especially hogweed, which was found in bloom right through till the end of the year.

Dave has especially targeted Puddletown Forest, with surveys on 29 dates between April and September. We have also continued to record Hoverflies on DWT reserves and the interesting woods at Bishops Caudle. We are grateful to Ken Dolbear for his hoverfly lists based on photographs – mainly Portland, and to Angela Vivien for records received. The scarce and elusive *Triglyphus primus* was found at Throop woodlands by Mick Parker; this counts as new for Dorset, since the ancient record we found among museum specimens was not quite within Vice County 9, though still within the modern County boundaries. 109 species were recorded in total, and the following are the more interesting records:

*Chrysotoxum elegans* Portland June 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup> (4 dates).

*Didea fasciata* Puddletown Forest July 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Epistrophe nitidicollis* Portland May 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Lodmoor May 11<sup>th</sup>

*Eupeodes bucculatus* Puddletown Forest September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*Eupeodes lapponicus* Puddletown Forest July 30<sup>th</sup>  
*Megasyrphus erraticus* Puddletown Forest May 29<sup>th</sup>  
*Platycheirus ambiguus* Puddletown April 8<sup>th</sup>  
*Parasyrphus annulatus* Yellowham Wood April 21<sup>st</sup>  
*Platycheirus tarsalis* Yellowham Wood April 21<sup>st</sup>,  
Puddletown Forest April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Holt Hill Woods  
May 6<sup>th</sup>  
*Scaeva selenitica* Puddletown Forest July 9<sup>th</sup> to August  
6<sup>th</sup> (4 dates)  
*Sphaerophoria batava* Puddletown Forest July 8<sup>th</sup> to  
August 7<sup>th</sup> (6 dates)  
*Sphaerophoria philanthus* Puddletown Forest July 15<sup>th</sup> to  
August 7<sup>th</sup> (4 dates)  
*Sphaerophoria taeniata* Puddletown Forest July 15<sup>th</sup> to  
August 19<sup>th</sup> (4 dates)  
*Xanthandrus comtus* Puddletown Forest May 29<sup>th</sup>  
*Xanthogramma citrofasciatum* Portland, Bottomcombe  
Quarry May 5<sup>th</sup>, Portland, Culverwell May 9<sup>th</sup>  
*Arctophila superbiens* Powerstock Common August 16<sup>th</sup>•  
*Brachypalpoidea lentus* Puddletown Forest May 29<sup>th</sup>  
*Brachyopa scutellaris* Puddletown Forest April 21<sup>st</sup> and  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
*Chalcosyrphus nemorum* Puddletown Forest April 24<sup>th</sup>,  
29<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>  
*Cheilosia carbonaria* Ryewater Nursery May 13<sup>th</sup>  
*Cheilosia latifrons* Puddletown Forest April 29<sup>th</sup> and  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Cheilosia ranunculi* Forde Abbey April 30<sup>th</sup>  
*Cheilosia vulpina* Puddletown Forest April 29<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup>  
and 26<sup>th</sup>  
*Criorhina floccosa* Puddletown Forest June 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

*Eristalinus aeneus* Portland April 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
*Eumerus ornatus* Puddletown Forest May 13<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup> (4 dates)  
*Microdon analis* Puddletown Forest April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup> (5 dates).  
*Neoascia obliqua* Little Bredy May 13<sup>th</sup>  
*Parhelophilus frutetorum* Chickerell Wood May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Pelecocera tricineta* Puddletown Forest July 8<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> (10 dates)  
*Pipiza lugubris* Throop Woodlands September 10<sup>th</sup>

*Sphegina sibirica* Puddletown Forest April 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 19<sup>th</sup> (4 dates)  
*Tropidia scita* Weymouth May 21<sup>st</sup>  
*Triglyphus primus* Throop Woodlands September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Volucella inanis* Puddletown Forest August 6<sup>th</sup>  
*Volucella inflata* Puddletown Forest July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
*Volucella zonaria* Sherborne July 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, Radipole Lake August 14<sup>th</sup>, Puddletown Forest August 19<sup>th</sup>

## Somerset Hoverfly Report 2011

E.T and D.A Levy (Hoverfly Regional Recorders)  
 9 Chilton Grove, Yeovil, Somerset, BA214AN

This was quite a good year for Hoverfly recording, despite strange and extreme weather and climate conditions. Certainly autumn in this region was dryer and milder than most of us can recall, and such temperatures encouraged more second generation flowering by many plants especially in the hedgerows and verges!

This has been one of our busiest years for recording hoverflies and 17 sites were visited on 33 dates between April and the end of November! 98 species were recorded in total, though none were new to the Somerset list. We are grateful to R. Williams and Barrie Widden for their records and to Chris Iles for his lists backdated to 2005, several of them at new sites and including records of *Volucella inanis*, *V. zonaria* and *V. inflata*. Two exceptional records are mentioned briefly in the Bulletin of the Dipterist's Forum No. 73 (Spring 2012) for Somerset: *Pocota personata* was taken at Chew Valley Lake on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010 and *Eristalis similis* - new to our list - has been confirmed from a specimen taken in the 2000s, though there may well be specimens in other collections that were misidentified!

The following are the most interesting records for the year:

*Chrysotoxum festivum* Yeovil garden May 19<sup>th</sup>  
*Dasyrphus tricinatus* Long Sutton August 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Eupeodes bucculatus* Great Breach Wood July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
*Leucozona laternaria* Pink Wood June 24<sup>th</sup>, Great Breach Wood June 29<sup>th</sup>, Otterhead Lakes July 6<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>  
*Melangyna cincta* Bickham Wood April 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Parasyrphus punctulatus* Bickham Wood April 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Platycheirus splendidus* Bickham Wood April 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Platycheirus tarsalis* Great Breach Wood June 29<sup>th</sup>  
*Sphaerophoria interrupta* Aller Marshes August 5<sup>th</sup>, Ham Hill September 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Sphaerophoria rueppelli* Long Sutton August 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Anasimyia lineata* Little Norton May 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Chalcosyrphus nemorum* Otterhead Lakes August 10<sup>th</sup>  
*Cheilosia antiqua* Pink Wood April 16<sup>th</sup>  
*Cheilosia carbonaria* Great Breach Wood June 29<sup>th</sup>  
*Cheilosia latifrons* Bickham Wood April 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Cheilosia soror* Great Breach Wood July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pink Wood July 30<sup>th</sup>, Ham Hill September 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Chrysogaster virescens* Ringdown NR May 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Criorhina asilica* Marston Wood May 11<sup>th</sup>  
*Criorhina floccosa* Yeovil garden May 19<sup>th</sup>, Little Norton May 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Myolepta dubia* Long Sutton June 25<sup>th</sup>  
*Neoascia aenea* West Hay NNR April 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Neoascia obliqua* Little Norton July 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Heringia pubescens* Great Breach Wood April 29<sup>th</sup>  
*Sericomyia lappona* Bickham Wood April 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Sphegina verecunda* Pink Wood August 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Volucella inanis* Bath Golf Course July 28<sup>th</sup>

## Interesting Recent Records

*Cheilosia caerulescens*, on bramble blossom Priory Park, Southend-on-Sea in Essex (TQ8787) 17 July 2012. The park has a walled garden with *Sempervivum tectorum*, but no leaf mines observed to date (Roger Payne)

*Platycheirus scambus*, female, swept from grey dunes behind Oldshoremore Beach, Sutherland, NC2058, 3 July 2012 (Roger Payne)

*Lejogaster metallina*, female, as above (Roger Payne)

*Melanogaster hirtella*, female on *Ranunculus*, roadside between Oldshoremore and Kinlochbervie, Sutherland, NC2157, 4 July 2012 (Roger Payne)

*Platycheirus manicatus*, frequent in garden in Kinlochbervie, Sutherland, NC2256, 3 July 2012 (Roger Payne)

*Cheilosia chrysocoma*, male, 2 May 2012 at Sherborne, Gloucestershire SP175154. Fourth county record, but first for more than a century (Richard Spyvee)



*Cheilosia chrysocoma* male Photo: Richard Spyvee



# Cranefly News

Dipterists Forum Cranefly Recording Scheme

For Superfamily Tipuloidea & Families Ptychopteridae & Trichoceridae

Newsletter No 24

Summer 2012

Editor: John Kramer

Layout: John Dobson



Tanyptera nigra (J. Hancox)

## Field Work 2012

### A first Welsh record of *Dicranomyia aperta* from Anglesey in 2011.

Two specimens (a male and female) of *Dicranomyia aperta* Wahlgren, 1904 (Diptera, Limoniidae) were recorded from Waun Eurad SSSI (VC52: SH507804) on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011. Both were swept from very open calcareous seepages where wet, muddy substrate was interspersed with tussocks of black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*. Other plants associated with the seepages include grass-of-parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and brown mosses. An association of *D. aperta* with *P. palustris* has been reported from sites in north Yorkshire (Crossley, 2007).

The seepages at Waun Eurad also support a strong population of the soldierfly *Stratiomys chamaeleon* as well as *Oxycera pygmaea*, *Vanoyia tenuicornis* and the snail-killing flies *Tetanocera punctifrons* and *Psacadina verbekei*. A single female of *Orimarga juvenilis* was recorded here on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

*D. aperta* occurs only very locally in the UK, and is recorded from localities concentrated in northern Lancashire and southern Cumbria as well as at isolated sites in north Yorkshire and northern Scotland. A record from north Wales mapped on the National Biodiversity Network (Bethesda, VC49: SH611658, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1987, rec. Alan Stubbs) is a transcription error for *Euphyllidorea* (ex *Limnophila*) *aperta* (*D. aperta* was previously *Limonia aperta*). *E. aperta* is associated with acidic wetlands, carr and woodland and is widespread in Wales.

### References

Crossley, R. (2007). *Dicranomyia aperta* Wahlgren, 1904 (Diptera, Limoniidae) - an association with grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris* Linnaeus). *Dipterists Digest*, 14: 11-12.

**Dr. Mike Howe**

Countryside Council for Wales, Maes-y-ffynnon Bangor  
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early *Dicranota claripennis* on the last day of February.

Following the decision to publish the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Shropshire Cranefly Atlas in early 2013, I set about targeting a range of species and sites that had not been recorded or visited for some time to assess status. Fortunately my role of Invertebrate Challenge Project Officer with the Field Studies Council enabled me to spend a decent amount of time on field work for the atlas project. The first species targeted was *Tipula grisescens* which Alan Stubbs had recorded from the Catherton Common area of South Shropshire in 1981 and David Heaver in 1983. I searched the runnels that come off Titterstone Clee and found the fly on 28<sup>th</sup> March from a ditch full of *Juncus* sp. and at Cleeton St Mary on 4<sup>th</sup> April at a vegetated seepage above the stream there.

The next target was *Molophilus niger* which had been found in dingle woodland in 2011 just north of the WyreForest around the Borle Brook / River Severn catchment. It was found from late April to very early June at two further sites around the Borle Brook and in the Dudmaston Estate to the east of the River Severn; but also further towards Ludlow in dingle woodland called The Hope. This suggests it is probably widespread in Shropshire's wooded dingles during spring. Several dingle sites were searched and the uncommon *Lipsothrix* species, *L. errans*, *L. nervosa* and *L. nobilis* were found from new sites in South Shropshire away from the known Ironbridge "hub". Also two sites were added for *Scleroprocta pentagonalis* around the south Telford dingle woodland network after it had been re-found at Loamhole Dingle on a truly filthy late April day.

A mid-May trip to Whixall Moss NNR produced *Idioptera linnei* and all three *Prionocera* species. *P. turcica* and *P. pubescens* were taken from the sphagnum bog whilst *P. subserricornis* was swept from a drainage ditch with mineral influence at the edge of the site.

*continued*

### Shropshire Cranefly report: (January - June 2012)

In January the recording year started with a continuation of a project to identify the by-catch of the Preston Montford and Pennerley Rothampsted traps. This had delivered some useful winter gnat records during December at Preston Montford and brought records of *Trichocera major* into early January. The first cranefly proper of the year was from the Pennerley by-catch, and produced a very

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### Shropshire Cranefly report(continued)

A week later this species was found at Meverley Farm Shropshire Wildlife Trust reserve near Whitchurch, around a shallow pond on another rainy recording day. *P. turcica* was later found for the first time away from the Meres and Mosses area of North Shropshire. Keith Fowler took it from swamp in the Telford area and I took it at Cranmere Bog, a rather unexpected glacial remnant on the Triassic sands of South Shropshire.

Rosemary Winnall and John Bingham both sent me photos of *Tanyptera atrata* from the Wyre Forest in May and I came across *T. nigricornis* in Longville Coppice along the limestone ridge of Wenlock Edge. Given the availability of dead ash along the Edge it should probably be quite widespread. Another correspondent sent a photo of *Ctenophora pecticornis* from his garden in Bridgnorth, South Shropshire, and Ian Cheeseborough encountered it at Nesscliffe Hill in coniferous woodland. Also in May there was a welcome return for an enigmatic species. Dan Wrench, the county ecologist, photographed *Nephrotoma crocata* at Llyncllys Quarry, a limestone quarry in the Oswestry uplands, which seems to be the first Shropshire record since the 1970's. The previous records were from Whixall Moss and Prees Heath, a peatland site and a sandy heath.

A lull in the rain at the end of May saw some targeting of the Clun uplands, and the River Clun produced *Hoplolabis areolata* and *H. vicina* at the same site along sandy banks. At the same spot *Eloeophila verralli* was found and further along the same river *Eloeophila trimaculata* was swept in the shade of trees on the same day.

The continuing poor weather encouraged trips to woodlands with a decent canopy rather than more open, soggy sites, or swollen rivers, and *Tipula hortorum* was encountered more frequently than was expected in five woodland sites. On another awful June day *Molophilus lackschewitzianus* and *Dactylolabis transversa* were found on the claggy, calcareous clays of Harton Hollow and Harton Wood. Wet woodland also produced several sightings of *Dicranomyia lucida* from late May into mid June, but notably it also was swept twice from the edge of ponds at Severn Valley Country Park and Preston Montford.

More waterside searches in late June produced some nice craneflies. The rather random and unexpected *Rhipidia ctenophora* was found up on the underside of a road bridge just south of Shrewsbury at its first Shropshire location. Sweeps of waterside vegetation growing in fine sandy and small coarse pebbly vegetation revealed *Rhabdomastix edwardsi* at the same site on the same day.

Another trip to Whixall Moss in late June yielded *Idioptera linnei* once more as well as other interesting species. *Tricyphona schummeli* was swept from sheltered heather and cottongrass, whilst *Metalimnobia bifasciata* was found at the edge of the moss by a shelter belt of wet birch, alder and willow woodland. This species is classed

as "common but in low numbers" in Stubbs (in prep) and as Least Concern in John Kramer's recent status review. This is the first Shropshire record since 1928, where it was found at the same site by Cyril Pugh. It was not found during Liverpool Museum's entomology survey of the Mosses in the early 1990's, or their other Shropshire site surveys, and it was not amongst Mick Blythe's records for the Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest that were sent to me by the Worcester LRC; it was also the first time I had seen it in the field. I would therefore suggest that it might be rather more uncommon here than previously thought.

The Whixall trip was blighted by heavy showers though when the sun did come out in between them, there was a sudden swarming of *Erioptera nielseni*. Around 40-50 flies were seen swarming in groups over birch bushes and saplings around the edge of *Sphagnum* pools at 1.30 pm. The bog at this location is part recovering poor-fen due to the past influx of canal water on the Moss.

**Pete Boardman**

Cranefly recorder for Shropshire VC40

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### New Forest Meeting 11-13 May 2012

The weather was kind but after a lot of heavy rain the ground was very wet in parts. This was especially so at Matley Bog, where I spent a lot of time. Going was very slow in the (very) wet alder woodland, and judicious use of a bog-pole was necessary to avoid the soft spots.

I was rewarded with a male specimen of *Lipsothrix nobilis*. Andy Godfrey tells me that a pupa case of *L. nobilis* has been found in the New Forest, but previous records of adults were confined to Lancashire and Shropshire. Another notable record, and a first for the New Forest, was for *Prionocera pubescens*, recorded by Alan Stubbs on the bog to the east of the alder woodland. *Euphyllidea aperta* and *Phyllidorea abdominalis* were among the 30 or so other noteworthy species recorded.

We also visited Mark Ash where a valley bog yielded *Triogma trisulcata*, which is new to the New Forest.

**John Kramer**

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### Stop Press! Dipterists Forum Summer Field Meeting - Kincaig, 21-28 July 2012

The copy deadline left me with insufficient time to produce a full species list, and there are still a few hours of microscope work needed to name the smaller species. The weather was good however, and a large number of records were collected. Even the habitats close to the Lagganlia Centre where we stayed were excellent; these included the exposed riverine sand and shingle of the River Feshie, the Insh Marshes, and a number of woodland sites.

Among the Tipulidae the genus *Nephrotoma* was well represented with *N. dorsalis* and *N. submaculosa* being found in some numbers. Despite the good habitat *N. aculeata* did not alas



make an appearance. Nine species of *Tipula* were recorded. *Tipula fascipennis* was often common in marshes and on the river banks, along with *T. fulvipennis*. A number of *T. irrorata* were found, all of them female. Perhaps the best find was made by Richard Underwood on a visit to the Findhorn dune slacks where he took a specimen of *Tipula nodicornis*.

Short-palped species from marshes included *Diogma glabrata*, *Tricyphona schummeli*, *T. unicolor*, *Idioptera linnei*, and three specimens of *Pilaria meridiana*. Two specimens of *Limonia dilutior* were also recorded. From the river bank *Hexatoma fuscipennis*, *Eleophila apicata*, *E. mundata* and *Antocha vitripennis* were recorded. It was reassuring to see these species in good numbers along with plenty of *Ormosia staegeriana* and *Limonia stigma* in the wooded sandy back-channels.

Woodland species included the rarely recorded Scottish species *Discobola annulata*, which was recorded in twos-and-threes at a number of sites. Other fungivorous species included *Metalimnobia bifasciata* and *M. quadrinotata*.

As usual we enjoyed an excellent week in beautiful scenery and in very convivial company. Some sixty-five species of Craneflies were recorded, and more will be added as I work through the envelopes of specimens.

**John Kramer**

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### ***Molophilus ater* abundant in a lowland wet woodland**

I am currently working on a contract survey of an area of farmland in the Vale of Glamorgan (VC41). The site is on a fine clay substrate along the floodplain of the Ely River (Afon-Elá) near Peterston-Super-Ely (ST07), altitude 27m asl. The woodland comprises mostly alder and willow, with tall marshy vegetation.

One of the few surprises has been a large population of *Molophilus ater* recorded in an area of low-lying wet woodland on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012. A few examples of *M. ater* were also recorded in rush pastures on the farm, but in nothing like the abundance observed in the woodland.

My previous experience with this species has been almost entirely on upland peat mire and I had assumed that this was a peat mire specialist. My only previous lowland encounter with *M. ater* was on cliff-top *Molinia* mire in West Cornwall. Does anybody else have experience of this species in the lowlands? And in wet woodland?!

**Keith Alexander**

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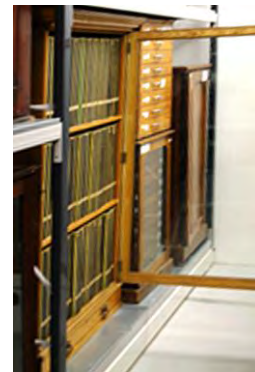
## **Museums Focus**

### **Wingate's Craneflies:**

The Hancock Collection, Discovery Museum Newcastle upon Tyne.

This year is the centenary of the death of the Reverend W. J. Wingate, the author of *Wingate's Durham Diptera* (1903), and to commemorate this I have written a short biographical piece in *Dipterists Digest* (Vol. 19, No.2). During the winter of 2011/12 I visited Wingate's collection, now housed in the basement of the Discovery Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne. I focussed on his collection of craneflies and the results of my visit are described below.

Wingate's collection of Diptera is housed in a glass-fronted cabinet, in 36 numbered glass-topped cardboard store boxes which are stacked on their sides in three rows like books on a shelf (*photo*). To evaluate the collection as a whole would take a number of specialists many hours of work. There are signs that the collection has been examined previously on many occasions, but the only publication that I am aware of is by Andrew Grayson who re-examined the seven species of Tabanidae (horseflies) (Grayson 2004). It is however a historic collection since the names of species and their arrangement are probably unchanged since it was assembled about 100 years ago.



[Cabinet housing Wingate's craneflies in the Hancock Collection](#)

There are 173 species of craneflies (Tipuloidea) on Verrall's list, 155 species in the Wingate's book, 'Durham Diptera', and perhaps 80 cranefly (Tipuloidea) species in the collection.

The collection of craneflies is located in five glass-topped store-boxes numbered 5 to 9. Each species is labelled below with the species name cut out from the List of British Diptera published by G. H. Verrall in 1901, and follows the published order. Labelled spaces are left in boxes in anticipation of future captures. After 100 years, many of the store boxes are cracked and the specimens are vulnerable, so it is doubtful whether they will last another 100 years.

Box 5 and 6 contain the 'Limnobiidae' (Limoniidae and Pediciidae) while Nos. 7-9 contain some 31 species and 150 specimens of the Tipulidae. Most of the specimens are carded and as a result are largely intact (although with a fine deposit of soot). Almost all of them have a data label on the pin beneath the specimen.

None of the specimens have a determination (det.) label and it was not possible to confirm identification of many of the smaller species in the short time that I had available, although this would be a worthwhile thing to do. Prior permission from the Trustees would be needed to do genitalia preparations. Species names are on labels pinned in the box below each species. This means that when specimens are replaced in error, their previous identification is lost. This had happened for example in the case of a specimen of *Tipula fasciipennis* in Box 9. In addition, the numerous specimens of *T. lateralis* spill over into the adjacent *T. vernalis* section.

**Box 5** includes the Ptychopteridae in Row 1 alongside 24 species of Limoniidae occupying the remainder of the box. There is an unidentified *Gonomyia* present which is not surprising considering that most of the British species of *Gonomyia* were named on the basis of microscopic characters in the 1920's.

**Box 6** contains 25 species of Limoniidae, Pediciidae and Trichoceridae. *Dactyolabis transversa* was also present (labelled as *Dactyolabis gracilipes* and collected at Harperley on June 4, 1900).

There were two battered *Lipsothrix* present here. At the time only *L. errans* was recognised in Verrall's 1901 British checklist. One of these specimens is legless and the other specimen (which is uncharacteristically dark and dusty and would require closer examination) is perhaps *L. remota*.

The *Ula* specimen in this box was identified by Wingate as *U. pilosa* (Schummel 1829) as on Verrall's list. It was not until 1969 that two British species (*U. mollissima* and *U. sylvatica*) were recognised, and the first British example of *U. mixta* was found in 2003. The specimen of *Tricyphona unicolor* in this box, from Harperley on June 28, 1902 is correctly identified.

**Box 7** contains 13 species of the family Tipulidae, including the genera *Nephrotoma* (as *Pachyrhina*) and *Tipula*. The specimens of *Nephrotoma* include two females of *N. crocata*, while a number of the remaining specimens would require further examination. Among the species of *Tipula* is a female labelled *T. truncorum* which has a thin median prescutal stripe present, supporting that identification.

**Box 8** contains 10 species of *Tipula*. Among these, above the Wingate label '*T. hortensis*', there are two female specimens labelled '*T. hortulana* Mg. (F.W. Edwards identification 29 (24?).3.1924)'. Both *T. hortensis* Mg. and *T. hortulana* Mg. are on Verrall's 1901 British checklist.

Under the name of *T. hortensis* there are 3 male specimens of *T. submarmorata* Schummel (det. JK). The names might have been muddled here, since *T. submarmorata* Schummel was often wrongly labelled *T. hortulana* Mg through misidentification at that time (See Chandler 1998).

Edwards (1924) writes:

*'The Durham specimens recorded by the late Rev. W. J. Wingate are T. hortulana; the mistake probably arose through the females having (as usual) more distinct wing markings than the males, and one or two specimens having the vein R2 complete on one or both wings.'*

At that time the name *T. hortulana* was used for both *T. pseudovariipennis* Czizeki, and *T. submarmorata* Schummel. Edwards must have meant the former in this case and close examination shows that these are both female *T. pseudovaripennis*, having only the tips of their front femora black.

When the 3 specimens of '*T. plumbea*' were examined they were found to consist of 2 species: 1 male *T. subnodicornis* and 2 male *T. pruinosa*.

*Tipula lunata* (3m, 1f), are also present in this box, labelled as *T. luna*. The common *Tipula luna* Westhoff. 1879 is not on Verrall's 1901 checklist and also not in Wingate's key, the relevant part of which (p88) runs as follows:

67 (70) Abdomen grey

68 (69) The joints of the flagellum not incised beneath.

823 *Tipula lunata* L.

69 (68) The joints of the flagellum deeply incised beneath.

827 *Tipula diana* Mg. (= *Prionocera turcica*)

Wingate, in common with many other dipterists of his time, misnamed the blue-grey *T. luna* Westhoff 1879, as the orange *T. lunata* Linnaeus. 1758. This error occurs in a number of historical collections and was due in part to a misidentification made by Meigen. In 'Systematische Beschreibung Vol 1, 1818, p188; Meigen describes *T. lunata* Linn. as 'Aschgrau' ('ashgrey'). Meigen also states that the description of this species by Fabricius is different from his. Meigen's writing translates as follows:

*'Tip. lunata (as described by Fabricius) is not the present species but is ochraceous'* (yellow-brown).

It seems then that Fabricius had correctly interpreted this Linnaean species.

Meigen also describes another species, *T. ochracea* Mg. 1804, which is present on Verrall's list, and a specimen of which is housed in Box 9 of Wingate's collection. It is a junior synonym of *T. lunata* Linn. Mannheims, in Lindner's *Die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region* (Vol III, 1980), has marked this synonym with a Vorsicht! (=Warning!) sign to indicate the confusion. It took some time for the orange species of *Tipula* to be sorted out. The orange *T. cava* was named by Riedel in 1913, after Wingate's death, but I found no *T. cava* in Wingate's collection.



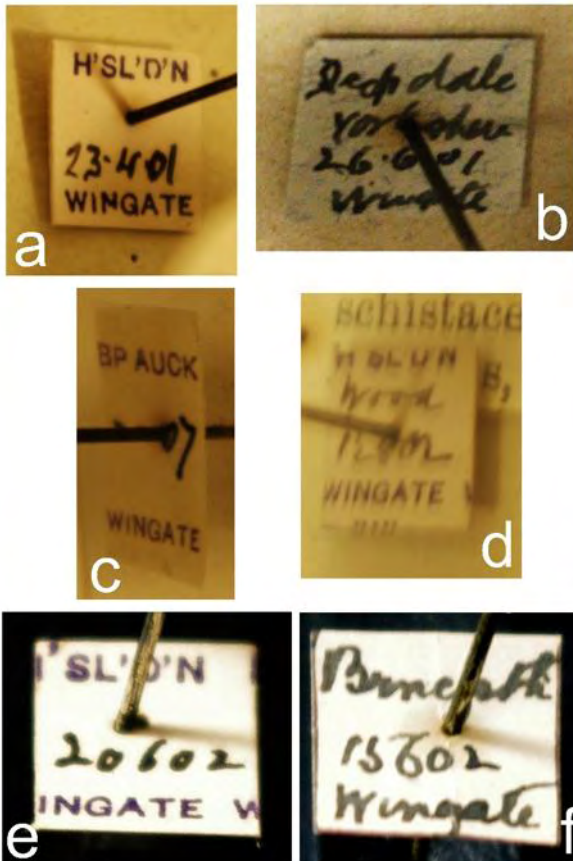
Grayson, A. (2004). A re-examination of Tabanidae (Diptera) in the Wingate Collection. *Dipterists Digest*. **11**(2):144-146.

Verrall, G.H. (1901). *List of British Diptera*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press.

Wingate, W. J. (1903). Durham Diptera. *In The Naturalist*. **28**, 269- 288.

Wingate, W. J. (1906). A Preliminary list of Durham Diptera, with Analytical Tables. *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne. (New Series) Vol II.*

**Box 9** contains 8 species of Tipulidae. Perhaps the most surprising specimen in this box, and in the collection as a whole, is a male *Ctenophora ornata* (photo) in Row 7 of box 9. The label (c, below) states: 'Bishop Auckland, - - 07, Wingate'. To the best of my knowledge, this species has never been recorded north of Sherwood Forest and its presence in the collection raises interesting questions. Was it added to the collection by Wingate? If so, had it arrived as a pupa in imported timber? Was it donated? It would be good to know something of the history of this specimen. All operators of light traps in the north of England should be alerted to look out for this species.



### Wingate's Labels

From specimen e) it can be seen how the labels for usual sites were cut into strips from printed sheets, and the strips were again cut. Sometimes additional information was added, as in d).

### References

Chandler, P. J. (editor) (1998; updated Nov. 2011). Checklist of Insects of the British Isles. Part 1: Diptera. Roy. Ent. Soc. London.

Edwards, F.W. (1924). Notes on some British species of *Tipula*. *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **60**: 81-85.

## **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to Dan Gordon, Keeper of Biology at Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums for access to the Wingate Collection.

**John Kramer**

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## **Rarity Indices for the British Craneflies**

Over the winter months I had a look at the approximately 110,000 records of British craneflies in the database at the Biological Records Centre. We have been sending in these records for the past 40 years and so it was hoped that it might be possible to detect some interesting patterns.

The first results of your efforts are the British distribution maps for each species and these can be viewed on the NBN Gateway at [www.searchnbn.net](http://www.searchnbn.net).

One question that was asked was 'Is it possible to detect any changes in population size when the 20-year periods 1960-1979 and 1990-2009 are compared?' Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the sampling effort within each species and sampling period was not sufficiently constant for this to be attempted easily. It is possible that preliminary conclusions might be arrived at following a more sophisticated analysis of the species data. Something for next winter, perhaps?

A question that is more easily answered is the relative rarity of each species. Species were divided into classes according to the number of hectads nationally, that they had been recorded from, and a score was given from 1 to 6, from the least recorded to the most recorded. The result is a list of Rarity Indices for the craneflies. The scoring system is arbitrary and some workers prefer to use an exponential scale; 1,2,4,8,16, and 32. This clearly weights the rarer species. There is of course the problem of under-recording, and clearly the least recorded species (occurring say in the middle of an inaccessible moor) might not be the rarest, and some compensation needs to be made.

Nevertheless, Rarity Indices have their uses for site evaluation. For example, if a planner grabs you by the lapels and demands to know which of a number of sites 'has the best, and the worst ecology'; then after some appropriate sampling, you might be able to give them some kind of semi-quantitative answer; and planners like that! It can also be used to compare sites for conservation purposes.

This list of Rarity Indices for the British craneflies is available from me, and I am hoping to make it available on the Dipterists Forum website.

**John Kramer**

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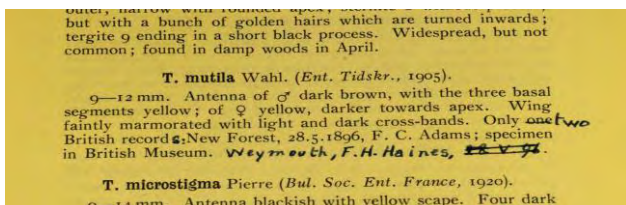
**The story of the British specimens of *Tipula (Pterelachis) mutila* Wahlgren**



There are only two known British specimens of *Tipula mutila*, both of which are in the Natural History Museum, London. A note of the occurrence of *T. mutila* Wahlgren in Britain was first published by F. W. Edwards (1924) (as *T. mutila* Wahlberg (sic) where he states that:

*'A male of this very well defined species was taken at Lyndhurst, 28.v.1896 by the late Mr. F. C. Adams and was given by him with his collection to the British Museum'*.

At the time when Audcent (1932) published his paper on the British Tipulinae this was the only known British specimen of *T. mutila*.



**Text from the Dorset County Museum copy of Audcent (1932)**

The second specimen housed at the Natural History Museum is a female from the collection of Dr. F. H. Haines. This specimen is labelled:

*'Dorset, Chickerell, F. H. Haines, 1932'*.

Referring to the latter specimen, Edwards (1933) writes:

*'Recently when looking through Dr. F. H. Haines' collection of Diptera I came across a female T. mutila Wahlberg which had been taken at Chickerell near Weymouth, and provisionally determined as T. hortensis Mg. Dr. Haines has very kindly presented this specimen to the National Collection; he suggests that other examples from the same place may be found in the Dorchester Museum.'*

For me, some mystery still remains as to the origin of this specimen. Was 1932 the last time that *T. mutila* was seen in Britain? Was Chickerell the last place it was seen?

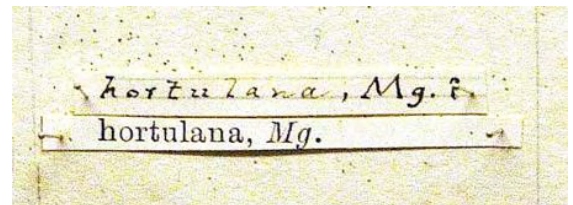
When I went to the Dorset County Museum in Dorchester and look in their copy of Audcent (1932) (photo) I found that someone had written-in an additional record. It is curious that F. H. Haines is given as the recorder, and that the date of the original 'Adams' New Forest record has been used and then crossed-out. Was there another 'Adams' specimen of *T. mutila* which remained in Dorset when the first one was donated to the NHM?

With reference to the Edwards (1933) paper, *T. hortensis* does not appear in Haines (1926). That article does however include a listing for '*T. hortulana* Mg? Chickerell'. In addition, the author states that:

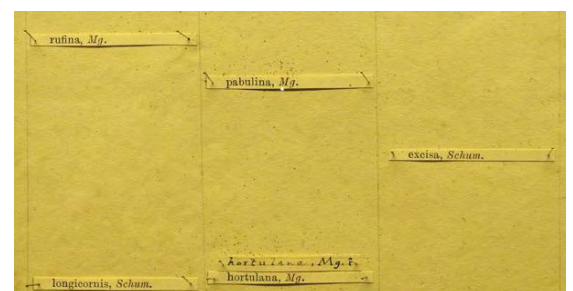
*'Chickerell, Portland and adjacent coast records are generally from specimens in a collection made by the late N. M. Richardson, and now in the Dorset County Museum.'*

So was the Chickerell specimen originally in the Richardson collection, collected in 1896, and provisionally labelled *T. hortulana* Mg? Most of the specimens in the Richardson collection date from around 1895, about the same time as the Adams specimen. So perhaps the specimen dates from 1896, and *T. mutila* has not been seen since then?

The Haines Collection of Flies is currently stored at the Dorset County Museum; so is there any evidence there of specimens of *T. hortensis* or *T. mutila*?



**Label from the Richardson Collection**



**Part of 'Box 48 and 49'**

The Tipulidae are housed in two cabinet drawers labelled:

- 1) Box 45, 46, and 47
- 2) Box 48 and 49.

The specimens of Tipulidae commence in the last row of the first drawer, and these comprise *Tipula pagana*, *T. obsoleta*, *T. truncorum* and *T. hortensis*. *Tipula* is then continued in the second drawer where row 1 comprises specimens labelled as

*T. pabulina*, *T. variipennis*, *T. scripta*, *T. excisa*, and *T. subnodicornis*. The following rows house specimens of the sub-genera *Dendrotipula*, *Lunatipula*, *Acutipula* and so on.

Some specimens in the collection are misidentified; however neither a labelled space for *T. mutila*, nor a misidentified specimen of *T. hortensis* are in evidence. The drawers are lined with plastazote indicating that the collection has been rehoused at some point since 1950 when they were donated to the Museum. It is therefore possible that some 'gap-closing' or rearrangement might have occurred.

A separate 'mock-Tudor' oak cabinet houses the Richardson Collection of Diptera, and here the drawer labels show no signs of re-curation or rearrangement. Drawer 3 contains the Culicidae and Limnobiidae, drawer 4 contains more Limnobiidae, while drawer 5 houses the Tipulidae. As with the Haines collection there are labelled spaces: row 1 is labelled for *T. pagana*, *T. nigra*, and *T. obsoleta*, and row 2 for *T. confusa*, *T. marmorata*, *T. rufina*, *T. longicornis*, *T. truncorum* and *T. winnertzii* etc. In row 3 there are printed labels, but in the empty space for *T. hortulana* there is an additional handwritten label which reads '*T. hortulana* Mg.?'. This clearly indicates a provisionally identified specimen, and perhaps the Chickerell specimen of *T. mutila* originally occupied that space, labelled as '*T. hortulana* Mg.?', described in Haines' 1926 paper.

As regards the larval habitat of *T. mutila*, it is a very rare species in Europe with only three records in the past decade. The only record of the larval habitat is the emergence of an adult from a dead trunk of aspen (*Populus tremula*) in Finland in 2006 (Salmela, pers.com.). If the larvae feed inside the wood, dead aspen in the right state of decay is not common, and in Finland, where there are about 15 records of *T. mutila*, the habitat where the adults fly is given as moist heath woodland. (Salmela, 2009). Rotting alder or other species of *Populus* may be alternative larval food sources here in England. However, many larvae of the sub-genus *Pterelachisus* are associated with mosses, and perhaps the larva had pupated under mosses, or had been feeding on the mosses and had burrowed into the soft aspen wood in order to pupate? (I. McGowan, pers. comm.). There is 'moist heath woodland' in the New Forest and it seems to me that this is the most likely origin of the 'Chickerell' specimen. Perhaps it was a gift from Adams to Richardson?

## References

- Audcent, H. (1932). British Tipulinae (Diptera, Tipulidae). Trans. Ent. Soc. S. England: **8**: 1-34.
- Edwards, F. W. (1924). Notes on some British species of *Tipula*. Ent. Mon. Mag. **60**: 81-85.
- Edwards, F. W. (1933). *Tipula mutila* Wahlgren (Dipt., Tipulidae) in Dorset. J. Ent. Soc. S. Engl. **1**: 57.
- Haines, F. H. (1926). Dorset and New Forest records of Tipulidae (Diptera) and allied families. The Entomologist. **59**: 268-272.
- Salmela, J. (2009). The sub-genus *Tipula* (*Pterelachisus*) in Finland - species and biogeographic analysis. Zoosymposia **3**: 245-261.

John Kramer

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**NB: The next copy deadline for Crane-fly News will be 15th December 2012. Why not send in a report?**

All correspondence please to:  
[john.kramer@btinternet.com](mailto:john.kramer@btinternet.com)

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## Booking Form - for rates see Bulletin

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

**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](mailto: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

## 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), via E-mail which should have the phrase "DF Bulletin" in the Subject line or placed in the appropriate Dropbox, details of which are emailed out by the editors to committee members (others please enquire). Email text alone will not be accepted.
2. Please submit in native format ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native\\_and\\_foreign\\_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. **Do not include hyperlinks in your document. Since they serve no purpose in a printed document and the editor has to spend hours taking them out again (as the text is unformattable if it has a hyperlink attached), documents containing hyperlinks will be sent back to you with a request for you to remove them.**
6. Scientific names should be italicised throughout and emboldened only at the start of a paragraph.
7. Place names should have a grid reference.

### Illustrations

8. Colour photographs are now used extensively in the Bulletin, they appear coloured only in the pdf or on the covers.
9. 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. .
10. 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 Keepers Pond NN045678 12 Oct 2008.jpg). All group pictures should identify all the individuals portrayed.
11. Powerpoint files may be submitted, they are a useful means of showing your layout and pictures are easily extracted.
12. Pictures contained within Word files are of too low quality and cannot be extracted for use in the Bulletin.
13. Line artworks are also encouraged - especially cartoons
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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

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

### When to send (deadlines)

#### Spring bulletin

19. 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

20. 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

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

A large proportion of the above guidelines are ignored by most of the contributors to each edition of the Bulletin. You should be aware that this creates delays in producing the Bulletin and costs to Dipterists Forum. Please take the time to study them, there are plenty of guides available on the internet or prepared by the Editors and the skills gained will be of value to you for other purposes.

## And now ...

### Bottoms up

My attention was drawn to a learned scientific journal, otherwise known as the *Metro*, a free newspaper for the London commuter. Though I see it whenever I visit London, it never seems to be on the same day as essential reading for the discerning Dipterist.

What's more, my attention to other literature emerges as grossly inadequate. Perhaps I need to follow *Celeb* magazines just on the off-chance that something relevant emerges. Who knows, a drummer in some obscure pop-group may have been amassing a huge collection of flies, most probably by thumping them dead with a drum-stick but 'anything' for a media story.

However, the *Metro*. What does the name *Scaptia beyonceae* mean to you, a horsefly species new to science. Well you have probably never heard of the genus and anyway the fly was caught in Australia. I was first told about this by phone, and I astounded myself for saying I had heard of Beyoncé and even correctly assumed she was a singer, but I did not know what she looked like and what she was famous for. An E-mail of the article said it all – a very short skirt, offering a rather tempting target for a horsefly.

Whether Beyoncé was flattered in having a horsefly named after her is not stated in the above journal. However, it is revealing that there is such an option as a means to achieve fame in the form of a pinned fly a stuck forever in a museum cabinet. Should give her public image a great boost!

Alan Stubbs



#### Photography at Latterbarrow 2012

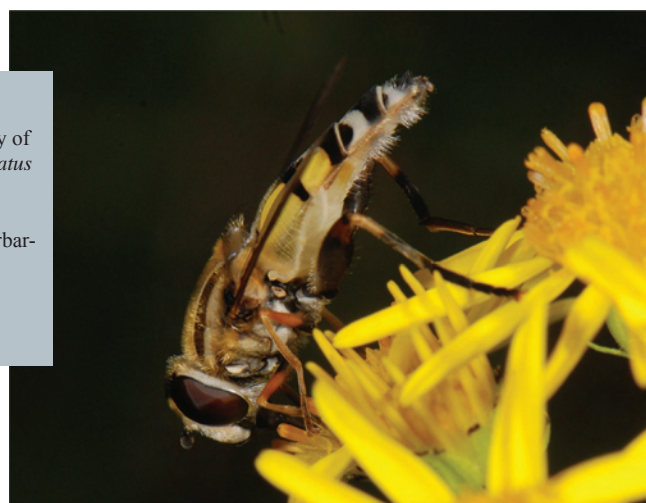
I never miss a chance to pop into Latterbarrow when I'm in the area, although I've never been so late in the year before (4th August). Plenty of big *Heilophilus* around and I was pretty certain that they were *H. trivittatus* as it's well known from the area.

A few days later, Paul Brock also paid a visit:

"Good to see a *Heilophilus trivittatus* as all those *Heilophilus* at Latterbarrow were confusing".

It could be the same actual specimen, I don't think either of us collect much.

Photos: (top) **Darwyn Sumner**, (bottom) **Paul Brock**



*Chrysotoxum arcuatum* at Arnside 7 August 2012, **Paul Brock**

# Recording Schemes & Study Groups

## Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

**Ian McLean**  
109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 4TZ  
ianmclean@waitrose.com

**Darwyn Sumner**  
darwyn.sumner@ntlworld.com



## Conopidae, Lonchoceridae, Ulidiidae, Pallopteridae & Platystomatidae

**David Clements**  
7 Vista Rise, Radyr Cheyne, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2SD  
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## Tachinid

**Chris Raper**  
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chris.raper@hartslock.org.uk

**Matthew Smith**  
24 Allnatt Avenue, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5AU  
MatSmith1@compuserve.com



## Chironomidae

**Patrick Roper**  
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## Culicidae - Mosquitoes

**Jolyon Medlock**  
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## Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Cranefly

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**John Kramer**  
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## Chloropidae

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## Pipunculidae

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## Anthomyiidae

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



## Larger Brachycera (Solderflies, Horseflies, Robberflies, Snipeflies, Bee-flies and allies)

**Martin Harvey**  
kitenetter@googlemail.com  
Evermore, Bridge Street, Great Kimble  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,  
HP17 9TN



## Tephritid Flies

**Laurence Clemons**  
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## Stilt & Stalk Fly

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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:

