



BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum

Bulletin No. 75

Spring 2013



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ISSN 1358-5029

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Annual Membership (N.B. Overseas = £20 total)
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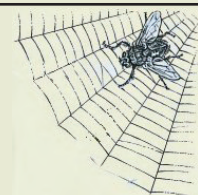
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Photographs: Front cover *Odontomyia hydroleon* from Selvedale Fen July 2012 **Ian Andrews**, (above) *Perissocerus sp.* (Mydidae) from Saudi Arabia **Adrian Plant**, (inside back cover). Other photographs as supplied by the authors or the editorial 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 #54** 
- Cranefly Newsletter #25** 
- Oestridae Study Group Newsletter #2** 
- Empid & Dolichopodid Newsletter #18** 
- Anthomyiidae Newsletter #9** 
- Fungus Gnat Newsletter #6** 
- Booking form for meetings 
- Membership form 
- Guidelines for Bulletin contributions 



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Unit 11A Station Road
Caversham, Oxford OX4 1JF
Tel: 01865 207000 E: info@printer.co.uk
www.printer.co.uk

Editorial

Entomological etymology

Collective nouns: a peculiarity of the English language, you may not be aware that we Dipterists are fairly well served by these terms (although nothing like as well as in birds or mammals). For insects generally we can use *flight*, *horde*, *plague*, *rabble* and *swarm*. Bees seem to have the most terms (*cast*, *cluster*, *drift*, *erst*, *game*, *grist*, *hive*, *rabble* and *stand*) with “*bike*” being reserved for wild bees, wasps and hornets whilst lepidopterists have the delightful “*Kaleidoscope* of butterflies”. The mollusc people are entitled to speak of “a *hive* of oysters” and for snails, alongside *rout* or *walk* they can use the elegant “*escargatoire* of snails”; arachnologists must be content with a *clutter*.

For us Dipterists “A *business* of flies” seems very appropriate, the original writer must have known about the Dipterists Forum committee meetings; we can also have *swarm*, *cloud*, *grist* and *hatch*. Additionally, gnats may also use *rabble* and mosquitoes *scourge*. All perfectly legitimate terms, I shall expect to see them crop up in scientific papers when the *worship* of writers get to work. If you have other suggestions for specific Diptera groups then do let me know.

Fly Ceramics



I was impressed by the work of Mary Johnson, some of whose pieces are currently exhibited at the Ferrers Centre. Her subject matter includes many invertebrates, the cranefly ones are particularly fine. <http://www.maryjohnsonceramics.co.uk/index.php>

Scottish notes

Latest BRISC newsletter can be downloaded at <http://brisc.org.uk/newsletters/Pending/BRISCRecorderNews88.pdf>

NFBR news

The National Federation for Biological Recording now has its newsletter freely available online at http://issuu.com/nfbr/docs/nfbr_news45 Some interesting stuff for us there with an item by Chris Raper about the Species Dictionary at NHM. Don't forget their conference either: **Biological Recording from the Local Perspective** in Poole, Dorset on 18th & 19th April - not only do you get talks from Roger Morris and Martin Harvey you'll get a field trip to Studland thrown in too. See www.nfbr.org.uk

Secretary's Retirement

At the last Committee meeting John Kramer announced his intention, at the next AGM, to retire from the post as Secretary after more than 12 years in office.

Applications for the post are invited from members.

Job: Curator - Diptera, Terrestrial Invertebrates at Natural History Museum

This is never going to be a good place to advertise jobs as the time between spotting the advert and the closing date for applications is always a lot shorter than the time it takes to compile the Bulletin. You may be interested in keeping an eye open for the successful candidate for this one, though: “*seeking to recruit a curator to care for and curate a major part of the Museum's collections of Diptera. You will undertake collections activities including data-basing, curation and conservation of historical and newly acquired materials, preparation of loans, digital photography as required and the supervision of visitors to the collections*”, and good luck to you if you applied, or will that be “congratulations to you” by the time this Bulletin is published?.

I was also notified of one in California:

California Academy of Sciences seeks a systematic entomologist to conduct integrative, collections-based research program focused on Diptera (flies). The candidate is expected to develop an internationally recognized research program utilizing modern methods, which may include molecular systematics, genomics and bioinformatics, in pursuing collections-based systematic research on Diptera, with relevance to phylogenetics, genetics, evolution, morphology, behavior, biogeography, biodiversity, ecology, conservation biology or related... See http://calacademy.snaphire.com/?safelink=JSJD&O_p=P6Y28&

Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England

DEFRA's Triennial Reviews team sent out an email on 13th December to a group of “stakeholders” informing them that the Secretary of State for Defra, Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP issued a discussion paper (responses invited by 4 February 2013) on this topic. The press notice is at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2012/12/12/review-of-environment-agency-and-natural-england/> and the review/consultation website is at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/review-ea-ne/> Tom Hunt of ALERC tells us that “*This process is designed to make sure the two bodies are value for money and doing what they are supposed to.*” but Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum's newsletter comments that “*There is particular concern regarding the rewording of Natural England's aims from a purpose “to ensure that the natural environment is conserved” to “support and contribute to the Government's aims and priorities as effectively as possible”*” You'll find what others think at The Telegraph (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/9740358/Wildlife-in-danger-from-plans-to-scrap-Natural-England.html>) entitled “**Wildlife in danger from plans to scrap Natural England**” where RSPB's Mike Clarke says “*the review threatened the independence of NE and therefore its ability to stand up to the Government on controversial planning decisions*”

(ALERC submitted a formal response & DF Committee received the above *precis* from us on 15th January)

Judy Webb & Darwyn Sumner

Notice board

Recording Schemes

There's a good degree of variability in the amount of new information that each of the Recording Schemes receives each year so for some, like the Hoverfly Recording Scheme there's so much to tell you about that it warrants a nice big newsletter on a frequent basis whilst for others a brief note is all that can be managed. We send a reminder out to them all when a Bulletin is about to be published.

Congratulations to all the schemes for keeping us informed over the years, doing all that hard work gathering the records together, researching their topics, helping with identifications, hunting down their species in the field, writing up notes and newsletters and cooperating with other scheme organisers. The Schemes are the backbone of Dipterists Forum and their influence extends beyond it.

For a full details of all the recording schemes you should check the back page of this Bulletin.

Made public?

To get a better idea of which scheme organisers have made the records publicly available through the NBN Gateway, you can obtain up to date information regarding all the Diptera datasets uploaded there by going to <http://data.nbn.org.uk/> selecting "Browse Datasets", "Browse by species groups" then working your way down a simple taxonomic tree to find Diptera. Several of the schemes datasets are listed here, some are historic (e.g. Sepsidae & Dixidae which were inherited by the current organisers) others are regularly maintained (Hoverflies) and some are currently being worked upon with a view to uploading them (Fungus Gnats). There are some gaps, if scheme organisers want assistance in uploading their records to the NBN Gateway then there is a wealth of expertise amongst the other schemes and assistance to be had from BRC (CEH) who have more or less helped with many of the datasets uploaded there or from organisers who have done it alone.

County recorders

You'll also see many County Diptera datasets uploaded from Local Records Centres, it was Natural England who set this task. Each one will have a County recorder behind it and many of these are Dipterists Forum members, the LRC will tell you who they are (see ALERC for a list of LRCs at www.alerc.org.uk)

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Progress with the scheme has been slower than I had hoped this year, and I don't yet have access to the data for the recording scheme, but there are a few updates to report:

1. The existing recording scheme data is in the process of being passed to Biological Records Centre. Many thanks to Steph Rorke at BRC for doing a lot of work to collate this data, after which it will become available for use.
2. With much help from Jim Bacon at BRC, I have set up the bones of a recording scheme website. Further work is in progress to populate this site with useful information, at which point the web address will be circulated.
3. Following a Larger Brachycera workshop for BENHS on 26 January at Dinton Pastures, I will be running a course for Field Studies Council at Flatford Mill, Suffolk, 14-16 June 2013 that will focus on Larger Brachycera and hoverflies. See: <http://bit.ly/FSCflies>
4. Martin Drake is working on a project with Buglife to update the national rarity statuses for the Larger Brachycera.

5. I am working with BRC to produce a set of "verification rules" to help when checking data.

Many thanks to those of you who have already sent records in this year. I won't be making a major push for records until I've got the existing scheme data organised, but if you're keen to send yours in please do so!

I look forward to the second edition of *British Soldierflies and their allies* (Stubbs and Drake, BENHS) being published later in 2013.

Martin Harvey

Dixidae and Thaumaleidae

Having read Dr Henry Disney's request for a new organiser for the Dixidae and Thaumaleidae Recording Scheme in the last issue of the Bulletin, with a little trepidation I have volunteered for this task. I am not yet an expert on meniscus and trickle midges, but I am glad to say that I have started recognising them amongst the catch from the Rothamsted light trap that I run near York, having found two species so far. I am a really keen collator of biological records, so I am enthusiastic to receive any records of these groups and hope to update the distribution maps in due course.

Please send you records in Excel, MapMate or long-hand formats either by email to julian.small@naturalengland.org.uk or by post to 28, Church Lane, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6AS.

Julian Small

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme

Such a wet year that any specimens proved difficult to find, hopefully they take advantage of the rare brief periods of adequate weather to emerge and do their stuff but simply don't persist as adults for any length of time under the onslaught, I guess that's an adaptation which accounts for their distribution in these latitudes.

A few snippets of information have come my way, Judy Webb reported once having reared a psilid (*Chyliza* sp.) from a corky gall on ash - so it seems some of these might be at risk from ash dieback too.

Peter Chandler sent me references to a couple of papers:

Buck, M. & Marshall, S. A. Revision of New World *Loxocera* (Diptera: Psilidae), with phylogenetic redefinition of Holarctic subgenera and species groups. *Eur. J. Entomol.* 103, 193-219 (2006).

Shatalkin, A. I., Merz, B., Museum, Z. & Nikitskaja, B. The Psilidae (Diptera, Acalyptrata) of Switzerland, with description of two new species from Central Europe. 117, 771-800 (2010).

He tells me that the outcome is some nomenclatural change in *Loxocera* and that *nigrosetosa* and *unilineata* are now good species. Only Collin thought they occurred in Britain but we'll now have to use the key in those papers to check that out. Contact me if you want to go through your *Loxocera* specimens yet again.

Peter also "rescued" *Chyliza vittata* recently when a detailed phylogenetic analysis based on DNA resulted in a "new genus nesting within the subfamily Deliniinae", but from the colour photos of the fly it was clearly *Chyliza vittata*. Peter has fixed the issue now with a counter-submission to Zootaxa.

Kato, M., Tsuji, K. & Kawakita, A. Pollinator and Stem- and Corm-Boring Insects Associated with Mycoheterotrophic Orchid *Gastrodia elata* Pollinator and Stem- and Corm-Boring Insects Associated with Mycoheterotrophic Orchid *Gastrodia elata*. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 99, 851-858 (2006).

I've set up a Micropezidae group using **Mendeley** which allows collaborators to share papers and citations securely online. Chris Raper has tried it out and other collaborators are welcome to join, only 50/hundreds added so far; a job for me during the year.

Darwyn Sumner

Tachinidae Recording Scheme

Chris and Matt do their own thing on their own website so it's rare they make it into the Bulletin. Checking out all their news at <http://tachinidae.org.uk> should be a regular thing for Dipterists. Here they are in action at BENHS:



My news is that Chris is now in charge of the Species Dictionaries at the Natural History Museum.

Darwyn Sumner

Sepsidae Recording Scheme

It is a little while since I last put finger to keyboard but during that period I have received some sepsid records from Duncan Sivell, Martin Drake, Howard Bentley and Andrew Cunningham so thanks to all of you.

On a couple of occasions over the last year or so, I have been asked about what keys to use to identify the Sepsidae, so I thought it might be worth mentioning what's available to use in the hope of encouraging some further recorders.

Adrian Pont's R.E.S. handbook (Pont, A.C. 1979. Sepsidae. Diptera, Cyclorrhapha, Acalyptrata. Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, 10, 5(c).) is still relevant today. It contains all but four of the currently known British species (It does mention one of the new species, *Sepsis nigripes*, as part of a footnote to *S. fulgens* but only to refer to it as a small form of *fulgens*). This volume isn't listed on the Freshwater Studies Council's website (<http://www.field-studies-council.org/publications/res-handbooks.aspx>) which suggests that it is out of print. At the time of writing, this volume hasn't been scanned by the R.E.S. (<http://www.royensoc.co.uk/content/out-print-handbooks>) but, if you download the handbook leaflet and order form from <http://www.royensoc.co.uk/publications/index.htm>, it would seem that some damaged copies are available for £1.00 each. The four missing species are:

***Sepsis nigripes* Meigen**: This is described as a small, rare species which is difficult to distinguish from *S. flavimana* and *S. biflexuosa* except by the male forelegs and genitalia.

***Themira biloba* Anderson**: This is a relatively large *Themira* with broad gena, very similar to *T. putris*.

***Meroplius fukaharai* (Iwasa)**: Can be distinguished from the only other British *Meroplius* species, *minutus*, by the absence of postocellar bristles and the structure of the forelegs.

***Sepsis luteipes* Melander & Spuler**: This is in a group of species related to *S. punctum* but can be distinguished by certain dusting patterns to the sides of the thorax and by the male genitalia.

A work which does include all the currently known species is Adrian Pont and Rudolf Meier's 2002 "The Sepsidae (Diptera) of Europe" (Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica Volume 37). Pemberley Books have this book selling for new at £85.00.

A further identification resource for sepsids is developing online at <http://sepsidnet-rmbr.nus.edu.sg/>, which describes itself as the "digital equivalent of a reference collection". The website has a superb photograph of the male of each species which allows the user to zoom in to view the fly in great detail. Initially clicking into the relevant photograph gains access to further illustrations are provided showing the key parts of the species from publications such as the Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica volume mentioned above, plus taxonomy and distribution notes. An additional feature allows the user to view two species side by side to help the user compare the two species directly. Currently, the site covers about half of the World's known species and much of the genetic diversity. At the time of writing all of our species are covered with the exception of *Nemopoda pectinulata*, *S. luteipes* and *S. nigripes*. This is already an excellent online resource for anyone trying to identify sepsids but it promises to be even more as more species are covered.

Good hunting during the 2013 and don't forget to send me your records!

Steve Crellin

And 6 more newsletters

Bundled into this Bulletin we have Oestridae, Empids & Dolichopodids, Fungus Gnats, Craneflies, Anthomyiidae and Hoverflies.

Andrew wanted my pictures of the *Gasterophilus* larvae that he collected from Dartmoor on the 2011 DF field week, here they are:



Conservation

News from the Conservation officer

Records needed for the Pipunculid *Nephrocerus*

Most Pipunculids are small. However, members of the genus *Nephrocerus* are huge by comparison, indeed when first encountered there can be disbelief that family designation is correct. We have two species, *N. flavicornis* and *N. scutellatus*.

On very rare occasions I have swept a large cranefly (*Tipula* and *Nephrotoma*) with a very swollen abdomen and been puzzled by a maggot crawling out of the abdomen there and then. My efforts to rear the larva always failed. It is now known that the parasite is *Nephrocerus* (other pipunculids are parasites of leaf-hoppers and allies).

After stagnation since spring 2006, there is now movement to progress towards publication of British Craneflies (I suspect at least 2 years before in print). That time scale gives an opportunity to collate data for the *Nephrocerus* species so that a meaningful statement can be made on their occurrence (and maps produced in the book or published in a separate account).

Alan Stubbs alan.stubbs@buglife.org.uk

Ceratopogonids on fly wings

I have recently been asked if biting ceratopogonids have been found feeding on cranefly wings. Apparently there are rare observations of this behaviour but I am unaware of any such record in Britain, indeed I have not seen this on any type of fly. Mind, sweeping may not be conducive since ceratopogonids would almost certainly fall off.

There has recently been some excitement in the rediscovery of ceratopogonids on the wings of dragonflies at Wicken Fen, historically the only place where this association has been observed in Britain. Many people have been looking at dragonflies here for many years yet it was only by deliberate search that the association was seen. Perhaps we need to be orientated to the possibility that ceratopogons do occur on fly wings.

Alan Stubbs

Review of specially-protected species

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is seeking recommendations for species that should be added to Schedule 5, and so given legal protection. To date, I have not received any such proposals for flies. The consultation runs until 30 March this year. If you have any suggestions, please do let me have them in good time so I can seek the views of committee and other members.

More on the New Forest

Following the concern raised at last year's spring meeting at the lack of structure in the ground flora of the New Forest woods we visited, a site meeting took place in December. Representatives of the Forestry Commission, Natural England and Hampshire Wildlife Trust attended, together with Steven Falk on behalf of Buglife and the Dipterists Forum. A couple of key points appear to have emerged from this meeting and subsequent discussion. Firstly the deadwood (saproxylic) fly fauna of Denny Wood and Mark Ash Wood, the two main woods we surveyed, is probably healthy – the spring meeting was just a couple of weeks too early to hit the peak emergence time. Nevertheless, the closely grazed sward makes for poor habitat for most other flies. Secondly, the New Forest is a big and complex place and entomologists tend to visit just a few known hotspots. In particular, there are many ungrazed private woodlands within the National Park where little or no survey work has been carried out.

Overall, we just do not know what changes have occurred in the fly fauna across the Forest as a whole over recent decades, although historical records show that there has certainly been a decline in some species, and at least two, the hoverfly *Eristalis cryptarum* and the bee-fly *Villa venusta*, have been lost altogether. Likewise, there is no clear consensus on whether grazing levels have increased across parts or all of the open forest, or indeed as to whether there is any need to work with the Verderers and commoners to reduce cattle, pony or deer numbers. The clear conclusion from all this is that we need more evidence before any decisions can be made. In particular, historical records need to be reviewed and a comprehensive biodiversity assessment made, covering as much of the National Park as possible. It is very much to be hoped that Natural England and the Forestry Commission will be able to find the resources to set this under way, and we shall be encouraging them to do so.

I am grateful to George Else for letting me know that there are still quite a number of goat moth trees in the New Forest, not just the one I was taken to in the spring. He knows of six such trees in Denny Wood alone, all oaks, and suspects the moth may be found in birch, crab apple and other trees. Local foresters are apparently well aware of the value of goat moth trees and the importance of retaining them. Worryingly, though, George reports that many oaks in Denny have recently succumbed to the disease known as Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*).

Thoughts on the impacts of grazing on flies

The New Forest meeting has sparked off a wider debate among Forum members about the impact of grazing by domestic stock on flies and other invertebrates. Several observers have noted with alarm that the introduction of grazing to some sites of high nature conservation value has resulted in a marked decline in important fly communities. All too often, it appears, little forethought has

been given to the likely impact on invertebrates. The diversity of herbaceous plant communities often increases following the introduction of grazing but for most animal species it is structural variation within habitats that is more important. The evidence for this is well presented in the 2010 Natural England report written by Jon Webb, Alan Drewitt and Gavin Measures (referenced below). For invertebrates, it is generally small scale structural diversity that is important, and this tends to be removed by heavy grazing. While there can be no doubt that grazing is a valid and cost effective management tool that has benefitted the wildlife of many sites, it does need to be introduced with clear objectives and carefully regulated to benefit as many as possible of the species for which a site is important, including the flies.

Webb, J.R., Drewitt, A.L., & Measures, G.H., 2010. *Managing for species: Integrating the needs of England's priority species into habitat management*. Part 1 Report. Natural England Research Reports, Number 024.

Section 41/42 species

Increasingly in the public sector, Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species in England are being called Section 41 species and those in Wales Section 42 species. This is because all UK BAP species which occur in England and Wales are listed under these sections of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, as Species of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity. This provision makes it a statutory duty on planning authorities and other decision makers to consider these species when carrying out their duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. As such it is to be welcomed. Led by Barbara, the DF did well to get so many species on the UK BAP list (28 of them occur in England and 9 in Wales), especially since they cover a broad range of habitats. Even so, they are not nearly as well represented as butterflies, moths, birds or mammals. This is just one reason why it is so important for us to encourage recording schemes such as the hoverfly one which allow us to say with some authority how populations are changing.

Scotland has an equivalent list established under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, called the Scottish Biodiversity List. This not only includes all 12 UK BAP Diptera species which occur in Scotland, but 58 other species which are rare or have a restricted distribution. Our Scottish colleagues have done very well here.

Ash dieback disease

To add to Dutch elm disease, Fireblight, Sudden Oak Death (a real misnomer since it affects many trees, notably Japanese Larch, and usually kills slowly) and Chronic Oak Decline among other tree diseases, we now have *Chalara fraxinea*, Ash Dieback disease. Since ash is the third most numerous tree in the UK and our commonest hedgerow tree, and mortality rates are very high, it looks set to have a disastrous impact on landscape and wildlife.

It is scarcely credible that action was not taken by Government several years ago to prohibit imports of ash saplings from the continent, given the virulent nature of the disease and its rapid spread through the continent following discovery in Poland in 1992. That said, it seems probable that the many diseased woods already found in East Anglia were infected by wind-borne spores from across the North Sea. (Although it is curious that there is a strip of infected woods along the A14 corridor between Felixstowe and Cambridge....)

As I write (21 December), according to the Forestry Commission website, the disease has been found in 17 nursery sites, 143 recently planted sites and as many as 163 established woods or similar. It has been found in all four UK countries and every region apart

from the Scottish Highlands. Within ten years, I am told, it will be everywhere, and nothing can be done to stop it spreading. It looks set to have an even greater impact than Dutch elm disease since ash is commoner and more widespread than elm ever was and will not survive through suckering.

The only action it seems that can be taken now that we have the disease is to try and find resistant individuals as quickly as possible, and breed from these. Although saplings are killed rapidly, it is perhaps fortunate that the older a tree is, the less quickly it appears to succumb. Veterans may, apparently, survive for a number of years and perhaps even pull through. Because of this, opinions vary as to whether any genetically resistant trees have been found on the continent – survivors may simply be older trees that have yet to die.

Alan Stubbs, writing in the December issue of British Wildlife, reports that four gall midges and a leaf mining fly *Paraphytomyza fraxinata* are dependent on living ash tissue, and that two lonchaeids appear to be confined to the dead wood of ash. He notes that ash has similar soft rot wood to that of beech, and that the loss of ash trees with rot holes is likely to have a significant impact on saproxylic flies, particularly where veteran beech are scarce.

We must hope that landowners are not tempted to fell healthy mature ash in the misguided hope that this will stop the spread of the disease, and that clear advice will be provided soon by the Forestry Commission on issues such as this.

(One of the earliest examples of a devastating loss of trees was the American Chestnut as recounted in a Bill Bryson book, take a look at www.acf.org if you are interested in parallels - Ed)

Adopt a species

I have now taken over the role of co-ordinator for the Adopt a Species scheme started by Barbara Ismay, and hope to be able to continue her good work. A list of those who have volunteered to adopt a species is given below. The role of an adopter is a very flexible one, varying from being a contact point through collating records to promoting or carrying out research and survey. Both BAP species and other threatened or rare species can be adopted. I should be very interested to hear from anyone who wishes to take on a species. Perhaps you have a special fly on a site near you which you would like to do some work on? Meanwhile, if you have any information on any of those species that have been adopted, I am sure those involved would like to hear from you.

Species	Adopter	Email address
<i>Blera fallax</i>	Malloch Society (Iain MacGowan)	Iain.MacGowan@snh.gov.uk
<i>Clusiodes geomyzinus</i>	Malloch Society (Iain MacGowan)	Iain.MacGowan@snh.gov.uk
<i>Dolichopus laticola</i>	Martin Drake	martindrake2@gmail.com
<i>Dolichopus nigripes</i>	Martin Drake	martindrake2@gmail.com
<i>Empis limata</i>	Adrian Plant	Adrian.Plant@museumwales.ac.uk
<i>Hammerschmidtia ferruginea</i>	Malloch Society (Iain MacGowan)	Iain.MacGowan@snh.gov.uk
<i>Idiocera sexguttata</i>	Mark Winder	mark.winder@swansea.gov.uk
<i>Lipara similis</i>	John and Barbara Ismay	schultmay@insectsrus.co.uk
<i>Lipsothrix errans</i>	Andy Godfrey	andy_godfrey_entomology@hotmail.com
<i>Lipsothrix nervosa</i>	Andy Godfrey	andy_godfrey_entomology@hotmail.com
<i>Lipsothrix nigristigma (nobilis)</i>	Andy Godfrey	andy_godfrey_entomology@hotmail.com
<i>Lonchaea ragnari</i>	Malloch Society (Iain MacGowan)	Iain.MacGowan@snh.gov.uk
<i>Milichia ludens</i>	Judy Webb	judy.webb@virgin.net
<i>Myolepta potens</i>	David Heaver	david.heaver@naturalengland.org.uk
<i>Odontomyia hydroleon</i>	Roy Crossley	roycrossley@btinternet.com
<i>Rhabdomastix japonica</i>	Andy Godfrey	andy_godfrey_entomology@hotmail.com
<i>Rhamphomyia hirtula</i>	Malloch Society (Iain MacGowan)	Iain.MacGowan@snh.gov.uk
<i>Salticella fasciata</i>	Darwyn Sumner	darwyn.sumner@ntlworld.com

In addition to those who have taken on adopter roles, my thanks to the following for agreeing to be contact points, as follows:

- *Asilus crabroniformis* – Mike Howe, m.howe@ccw.gov.uk
- *Bombylius minor* and *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* - Chris Spilling, chrissp@btinternet.com
- *Phaonia jaroschewskii* - Steven Falk, steven.falk@buglife.org.uk

I am most grateful to Roy Crossley, Judy Webb, Steven Falk and Martin Drake for the updates they have provided below. Thanks too to Ian Andrews for his splendid photo of *Odontomyia hydroleon*, and to Phil Cutt for his photo of a *Milichia lucens* wing.

Robert Wolton robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk

News from 'Adopt a Species'

Milichia ludens Milichidae

I have no new observations of this enigmatic fly. I have, however, identified a new nest of its host tree ant, *Lasius fuliginosus* (the Jet ant), here in Oxfordshire in the hollow base of an ash tree. I visited the nest several times during the flight period of *M. ludens* (late May to the end of June) but the weather was cold and rainy on every occasion and no flies of any sort were seen. I'm always on the look-out for the ant nest and encourage others to look out for nests and for this small black fly which will be found either sitting on the bark of the host tree or flying round it in warm weather. It is not known to visit flowers, even if they are next to the host tree. The very distinctive wing is shown in the photograph here, kindly taken by Phil Cutt.



I am grateful to Ken Merrifield and Erica McAlister for retrieving historic data from specimens held in the collections at the NHM and to Ivan Perry for giving me the details of his own captures of this species.

Seven specimens are held in the NHM, with details as follows:

- 1957 Barton Mills, Suffolk, Fonseca x2
- 1957 Cothill, Berks
- 1911 with *Lasius fuliginosus*, Oxshott, Donisthorpe collection
- 1-6-1922 indecipherable Wood, Donisthorpe collection
- 1907 bred from *L. fuliginosus*, Berkshire Wellington College
- 1922 Woking, Surrey

Records from Ivan Perry:

- Pembroke Sports Ground, Cambridge TL437572 12/6/1987 female on Lombardy poplar (not sure if ants present). Most of the old poplar trees that had *M. ludens* had been removed, so maybe lost.
- Rampart's Field, Suffolk TL790716, at nest of *L.fuliginosus* in larch tree. *M. ludens* on or flying close to trunk 20.iv.2011 one male, one female; on 10.05.2011 five males, one female.

Judy Webb

Odontomyia hydroleon in Yorkshire 2012

It is pleasing to report that in 2012 *O.hydroleon*, the Barred Green Colonel, had the best ever recorded season at its North Yorkshire site. None were found on 20 June, but on 9 July in one hour collecting by me 17 were counted (6 males and 11 females). Three days later Ian Andrews counted 39 individuals over the usual seepages, and for the first time he discovered two outside the site, resting on hogweed leaves by the side of the forest drive, several hundred yards away from the fen. It is presumed that these were wind-blown individuals, but it prompts the question as to whether there is another unknown breeding site nearby, which will hopefully be investigated next season.



Finally, on 15 July Ian found 8 individuals (five females and three males) at a second major seepage on the site which, although assiduously collected over in the past, has not previously produced any specimens of *O.hydroleon*. Also on that date Ian counted 16 hovering in the main seepage area.

The continuing survival of this apparently healthy colony is in no small measure due to the enthusiastic involvement of the Forestry Commission in the management of the site over many years. The responsible FC Biodiversity officer retired last year and it is most gratifying to note that his successor, with whom I have established personal contact, is keen to continue managing the site for the

benefit of this species and the other important Diptera that are recorded there.

Roy Crossley

Phaonia jaraschewskyi Muscidae

The recent New Forest valley mire study I carried out more or less doubled the number of known British sites for the Hairy Canary Fly. It was never seen in large numbers on the mires – maybe one or two swept during several hours surveying. But the biggest surprise was encountering a really strong population on coastal grazing marsh nearby (Pennington), on a very breezy day. They were resting in sheltered ditches. I couldn't find any habitat that resembled the mossy areas they are known to typically use. However, species such as *Ochthera mantis* and some bog-loving dolichopodids do turn up on the levels here – so maybe there is some over-spilling of mire-specialists onto peaty coastal grazing marsh ditches.

Steven Falk

Lipara similis Chloropidae

The New Forest mire study also revealed a population of the Least Cigar-Gall Fly at Cranemoor. Many *Phragmites* beds were swept and *L. lucens* was found at most, but the *L. similis* encounter was a big surprise. John and Barbara Ismay have been back to this site, and Martin Drake also recently recorded the fly from another part of the Forest near Bucklers Hard. I think these are the first records away from East Anglia.

Steven Falk

Thyridanthrax fenestratus Bombyliidae

The Mottled Bee-fly has scattered populations in the open Forest and seems secure here, though decent sandy habitat in the Forest is surprisingly scarce. I am trying to see if this can be addressed.

Steven Falk

Dorycera graminum Ulidiidae

On the Hampshire coast, the Phoenix Fly has turned up a few times. Given that I have found it at various sites nationally, even rough grassland next to Birmingham Airport, I'm not sure its BAP status is really deserved and its choice of sites (often species-poor rank grassland with lots of hogweed) suggests it may not be threatened.

Steven Falk

Eristalis cryptarum Syrphidae

On Dartmoor a small team of Buglife staff went searching for the Bog Hoverfly on August 22nd. We found small numbers at two known sites and, although no ovipositing was observed, it was possible to guess at the type of breeding habitat probably used. We suspect it will be M27 'soakaways', that is the Bog Pondweed and Marsh St. John's-wort dominated runnels you find in valley mire. We also suspect it likes sites where populations of other *Eristalis* species (notably *E. horticola*) and predatory larvae of *Graphomya* muscids are low. It is a really gorgeous little fly and mostly visits low flowers like ling and tormentil.

Steven Falk

Asilus crabroniformis Asilidae

The Hornet Robberfly has turned up at a couple of sites on the East Sussex South Downs. It might be quite widespread on the Downs (it is known from several sites near Brighton racecourse), but you need specifically to target grazed pasture, and this is often relatively uninteresting for other invertebrate groups and can be floristically dull.

Steven Falk

Members

Membership Matters

***Doros profuges* Syrphidae**

The Phantom Hoverfly has turned up at two sites in my recent East Sussex downland study. Just a single individual on each occasion, despite some exhaustive searches. It is far from common, even in this supposed hotspot.

Steven Falk

***Dolichopus laticola* and *D. nigripes* Dolichopodidae**

Funding for the project to investigate the ecology and distribution of these two BAP dolichopodids, the Broads Dolly-Fly and the Black-footed Dolly-Fly, has ended, so work has stopped as the beasts live 300 miles from me. My report for the first year's work (2010) can be downloaded from the Hymettus website but my second one on distribution in Norfolk fens hasn't appeared on their website yet. If you really want it, I can email a copy. I'm converting the reports to papers which I hope may become available within a year or so.

Martin Drake

Robert Wolton
Conservation Officer

robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk
01837 810416

At the end of 2012 we had 462 people registered with Dipterists Forum and 400 who also take the Dipterists Digest. 421 resubscribed or joined for the first time in 2012, leaving 41 people who did not renew their subscription. We also had 10 people who started a subscription in 2013.

As a matter of course we send out the Spring Bulletin to all people who had subscribed the previous year but thereafter will not send out further Bulletins or any Dipterists Digests until subscriptions are up to date. 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:

103, Desborough Road,

Rothwell,

KETTERING,

Northants,

NN14 6JQ

Tel.: 01536 710831

E-mail: showersjohn@gmail.com

Membership & Subscription Rates for 2013

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

UK (2013)

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

Dipterists Digest: £9 per annum.

Overseas (2013)

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".

Subscription changes from 1st January 2014

At the last AGM we announced that increasing costs have forced us into reviewing our subscription rates. These will come into effect from 1st January 2014. The new rates will be:

UK (2014)

Dipterists Forum: £8 per annum. This includes the Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum.

Dipterists Digest: £12 per annum.

Overseas (2014)

Dipterists Forum and Dipterist Digest: £25 pa.

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

Cheques should be made payable to "Dipterists Forum".

BANKERS ORDER PAYMENTS

Those people who pay by Bankers Order will need to change their instructions to the bank during 2013 to reflect the new rates. A form has been enclosed in the Bulletin to do this. Please complete the form and send it to John Showers at the address on the form. Please do not send it directly to your bank. I will add the Dipterists Forum bank details and forward the form to your bank for processing. This form explicitly states that it cancels previous payments to Dipterists Forum and that the new payments commence on the 1st January 2014.

John Showers

Secretary's Retirement

At the last Committee meeting John Kramer announced his intention to retire at the next AGM, from the post as Dipterists Forum Secretary after more than 12 years in office. John wishes to spend more time with his families Tipulidae, Pediciidae, Cylindrotomidae and Limoniidae ! Applications are invited from members. Please let the Chairman, Martin Drake, know if you are interested in election for this post.

John Kramer

Review

Please keep your eye open for things that might be of interest to the readers of the Bulletin. Look out for individual articles of general interest (like the one spotted by Ken Merrifield or the one written by Roger Morris, below). If you spot a book that interests you, let us know, we're not worried about full peer reviews we're just drawing attention to them. Look out for other topics like conservation and biodiversity that have a bearing on what we do. Equipment for photography, microscopy, collecting and breeding, messing around with maps, recording, taxonomy or managing citations and pictures on your computer are all legitimate topics. Do drop a note to the editors.

Online

ZooKeys publications

Ken Merrifield sent a link to an article on flight interception traps. Apart from the subject matter itself, the source of the article is also of considerable interest. The publisher is the online journal **ZooKeys** "launched to accelerate biodiversity research" (<http://www.pensoft.net/index.php>) where all the articles are distributed with unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction, a good example of Open Access Publishing.

The first thing I did when following Ken's link was to press my "Import to Mendeley" button (you get this when you install the free Mendeley programme), the complete reference was instantly added to my Mendeley collection, meaning that if I subsequently select that item in my Mendeley collection, copy then paste I get:

1. Lamarre, G. P. A., Molto, Q., Fine, P. V. A. & Baraloto, C. A comparison of two common flight interception traps to survey tropical arthropods. *ZooKeys* 216, 43–55 (2012).

(I have my default citation style set up to produce numbered items like that, you can set up the style to match that of any journal you wish)

On the ZooKeys website itself (<http://www.pensoft.net/journals/zookeys/article/3332/a-comparison-of-two-common-flight-interception-traps-to-survey-tropical-arthropods>) a simple click of the PDF tool and you're reading the full article (save it, link it in to your Mendeley and read it offline at your leisure if you wish)

The site allows browsing by taxon and contains many Diptera articles, here's one for Adrian Plant:

1. Wang, J., Zhang, L. & Yang, D. Two new species and one newly recorded species of *Elaphropeza* Macquart from Taiwan (Diptera, Empididae, Tachyromiinae). *ZooKeys* 203, 15–25 (2012).

Diptera pictures

Rob Wolton has drawn my attention to Steve Falk's **Flickr** site. Steve is currently building up a comprehensive collection of Diptera pictures. Take a look at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157629586945825/>

Adrian Plant has a collection of Empid photographs at <https://picasaweb.google.com/109302321292967633385/Diptera>

Fly obsession

"for those who live and breathe dipterology" try the website of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County at <http://flyobsession.net/tag/diptera/>

Heleomyzidae

A reminder to try http://www.diptera.info/downloads.php?cat_id=16 for the Acalyprates, there's a couple of recent Heleomyzidae articles by Woznica there, one with a cracking photograph of *Neoleria maritima* which will be useful to you at the 2013 Spring Workshop.

Darwyn Sumner

Publications

Volunteer engagement

JNCC Report #440

Walker, K., Dines, T., Hutchinson, N. & Freeman, S. Designing a new plant surveillance scheme for the UK. 90 (Peterborough, 2010). at <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/jncc440_web.pdf>

Based upon work by Plantlife and BSBI this has proved to be one of the key documents informing government policies. It's a free pdf which is a jolly good read for those keen on habitats and good treatments of statistics and also has some good observations about engaging "volunteers" to carry out surveillance work.

This report summarises the work undertaken to design an 'ideal' UK vascular plant surveillance scheme that complements other species and habitat surveillance in providing an understanding of the overall state of the UK environment. The need for such a scheme was identified in the UK Terrestrial Biodiversity Surveillance Strategy (UKTBSS) which seeks to ensure that surveillance is undertaken strategically; integrating needs for evidence and making best use of existing surveillance data (JNCC 2009). The research in this report combines to outline the parameters and deliverables of a new plant surveillance scheme.

Recommendations are made regarding the selection of target species, the classification of habitats, the geographic stratification of the squares, the collection of a key set of vegetation and habitat parameters, the optimal time to survey, and the statistical implications that need to be considered for the recommended methods. Additionally, the relative costs, opportunities and constraints of implementing surveillance scheme programmes were considered by the project team, as well as the implications of delivering such a scheme with a network of volunteers.

Another more recent article drawing upon Roger's experiences in ecological consultancy, field work and strong engagement with volunteers within Dipterists Forum and the Hoverfly Recording Scheme.

Morris, R. Promoting biological recording - a developing conundrum. British Wildlife 24, 107-110 (2012).

Habitats

Cracking stuff here about the state of the Welsh sand dunes, many of which we've visited with Mike on DF Field Weeks.

Howe, M., Litt, E. & Pye, K. Rejuvenating Welsh Dunes. British Wildlife 24, 85-94 (2012).

Pre-publication

An item is in preparation by Nathan Medd on the Asian fruit fly *Drosophila suzukii* which attacks soft fruits and was recently discovered in the UK.

Keep a lookout for a paper by Jonty Denton on the topic of Heathland Conservation Grazing, it's not been published yet, just drafts circulated for comment and proofing by some Dipterists Forum members. It appears to be intended for British Wildlife no sooner than June 2013.

Diptera Lists

Jonty is also currently compiling a Surrey Diptera list.

Andrew Grayson has recently emailed a spreadsheet "Yorkshire Diptera", a checklist prior to the publication of a full article.

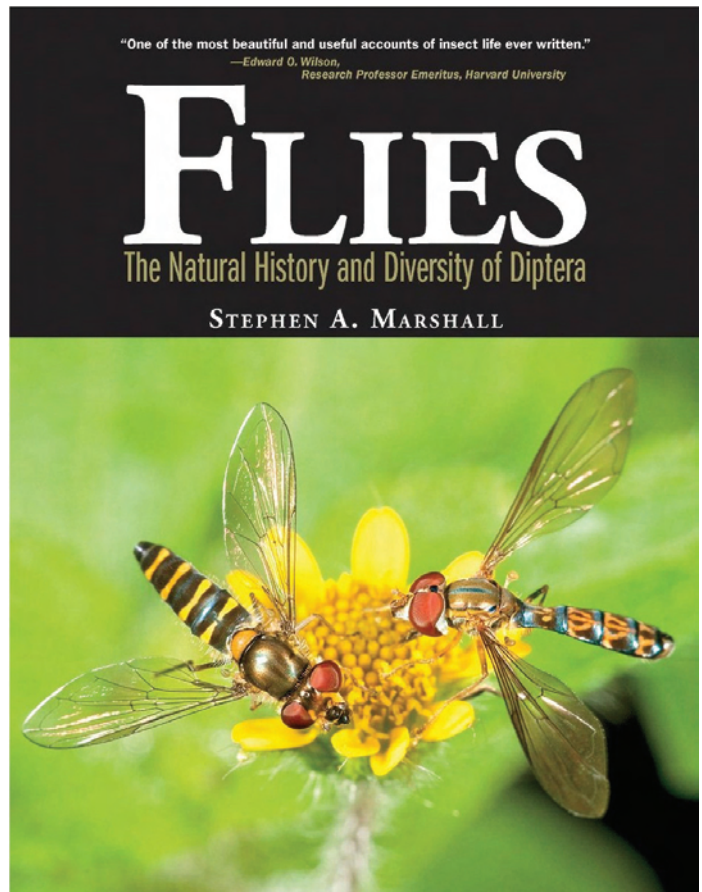
Darwyn Sumner

Books

Diptera

Marshall, Stephen A. Flies: The Natural History and Diversity of Diptera, 616 pp., hardback.

Peter Chandler has been asked to review Steve Marshall's book for the Ent Gazette so I've pinched Nigel Jones' comment from DF website at <http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/p9986-2012-10-27-13%3A37%3A05.html>



I now have a copy of this book and it is simply outstanding. A mouth-watering volume running to some 600 (large format) pages. The book provides a very extensive overview of the world fauna with over 2,000 marvellous colour photos - most, incredibly, taken by the author himself. It is written in a very entertaining informal style, making it a pleasure to read. It is certainly aimed at a lay audience, but is in no way diminished by this. I have already discovered much I did not know about many Dipteran families (in a single evening of reading). Every family gets a long series of photos with text describing life histories, habitat, world distribution and often interesting anecdotes.

Although the species illustrated are strongly biased to the south and north American continents, most are instantly recognisable as the familiar genera we find in Europe, so the book is really useful for checking out what various families and genera look like - always useful when one is trying to determine unfamiliar species - particularly those pesky small acalypterates!

Amazon are retailing this at around £50 (£74.99 there now - ed). I have to say it is great value and I cannot imagine any entomologist would be disappointed, let alone Dipterists

Buy it for Christmas. You will not regret it. The only thing I can say against it, is that it's impractical to read in bed - it's too heavy!

Nigel Jones (from DF website)

£74.99 at NHBS http://www.nhbs.com/flies_tefno_185988.html

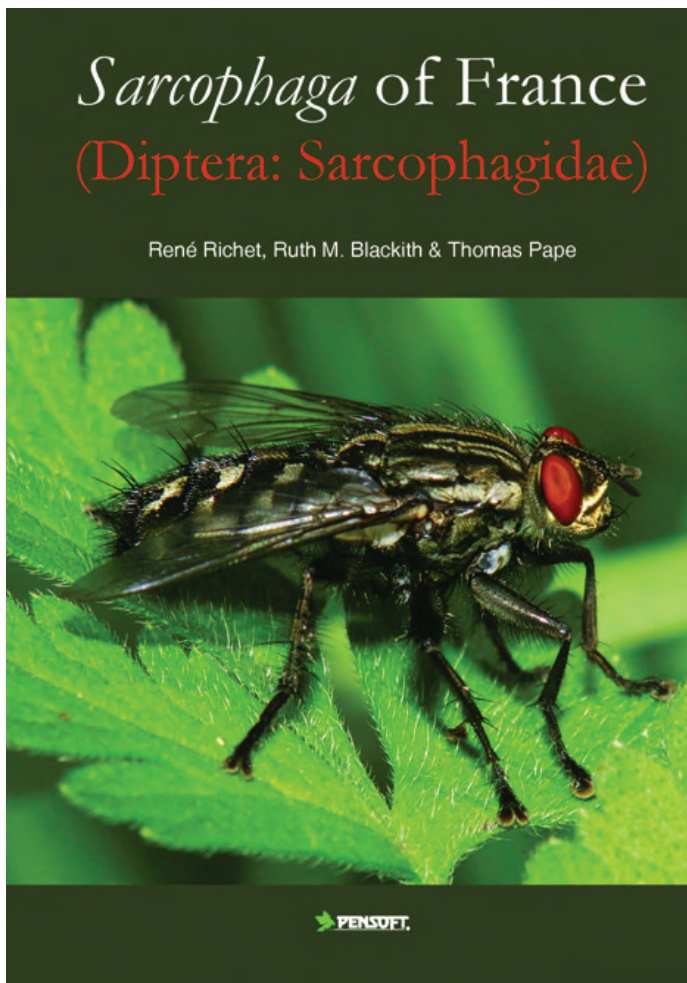
£60 from Pemberley books <http://www.pembooks.demon.co.uk/>

£60 from Guardian Bookshop <http://www.guardianbookshop.co.uk/BerteShopWeb/viewProduct.do?ISBN=9781770851009>

\$83.83 from Barnes & Noble <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/flies-stephen-a-marshall/1110948313>

Richet, R., Blackith, R. M. & Pape, T. *Sarcophaga of France (Diptera: Sarcophagidae)*. 327

(Pensoft Publishers: 2011). at <<http://www.pensoft.net/book/12489/sarcophaga-of-france-diptera-sarcophagidae->>



This work lists 93 species of Sarcophaga found in France and incorporates recent taxonomic and nomenclatural changes. Detailed photographs are provided of the diagnostic structures in the male terminalia of all the species, and two separate keys are given for their identification, one for French species only, the other for European species

Meetings

Reports

AES Annual Exhibition 2012
Kempton Park, London



ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th November 2012

Dipterists' Day 2012

Our host for the Annual Meeting this year was Bristol Museum and on Saturday our meeting took place in the MShed on Prince's Wharf. It proved to be an excellent venue with plenty of space to accommodate all of our needs. The doors opened at 9.30am, members began to assemble meet and chat and exhibits were set up. At 10:30 our Membership Secretary, Malcolm Smart, opened the meeting. Rhian Rowson of the Bristol Museum then welcomed us and told us something of the large entomological collections, which includes those of Griffiths, Charbonnier, Ron Payne, and Henri Audcent. This latter collector left about 12,000 specimens, in 166 boxes containing specimens from many well known British and European collectors of the 1920s and 30s.

What can midges tell us about climate change?

Steve Brooks

At 10:45am **Steve Brooks** from the Natural History Museum, London, gave us an excellent talk on the use of chironomids as 'thermometers' and as indicators of climate change.

The small adult flies are easily blown long distances but the aquatic eggs and larvae (such as the 'blood-worms' that turn up in numbers in your bird-bath) will survive only if the narrow range of habitat requirements of the species are met. They cannot survive in completely anoxic conditions. This means that chironomid larvae are good habitat indicators. When ecdysis takes place the shed cuticles of the larvae are deposited in sediments. The larvae are often abundant and the head capsules of the 3rd and 4th instar larvae are preserved which allows the larvae to be identified. 0.5g of sediment can yield about 100 head capsules. Their age can be dated using radiocarbon dating. Cores of sediments are taken from lakes and the head capsules from each 1cm extracted and identified. This gives a resolution of about 10-50 years in most lakes.

Steve then explained how the species profiles could be calibrated using contemporary samples and meteorological data. 157 lakes in Norway were sampled with a July mean temperature range from 3.5° - 16°C, and work has also been done on Siberian lakes. There is a very good fit between the predicted and the observed data when mean temperatures and head capsules from a range of habitats are sampled and compared, which supports confidence in the 'Midge Thermometer'. Beetle fragments in sediments can also be used for calibration.

Steve then went on to describe the results obtained by using this technique on lake sediments from Siberia, from High Arctic lakes, and from Whitrig Bog in Scotland. This latter site tells a story from 15KaBP when the ice of the last glaciation retreated. Data clearly indicates a period of rapid cooling during the Younger Dryas period 12.5Ka BP, when the Gulf Stream was temporarily 'switched off'. This was followed by climate warming about 11Ka BP, at the beginning of the Holocene. Ice core data using O¹⁶/O¹⁸ isotopes also supports this data, and a similar pattern has been found in the English Lake District. An interesting late glacial isotherm map has been prepared to show the distribution of temperatures over northern Europe at this time.

Chironomids can be used to tell us the story of the patterns of climate change in the past, and also to validate climate models to permit predictions to be made.

Off the beaten track: a season of swarm chasing

Jolyon Alderman

Our next speaker was **Dr Jolyon Alderman** from the University of Northampton, who gave a two-part talk entitled 'Off the beaten track: a season of swarm chasing'. This was based on Jolyon's work with species of the genus *Fannia* (Diptera, Fanniidae) in three of his local Northamptonshire woods – Delapre Woods, Everdon Stubbs, and Burcote Wood. Jolyon used a hand-held GPS to map Delapre Woods, and then to locate the sites of the swarms that he observed. There are some 60 British species of Fanniidae, seven of which were found swarming within the study woods. The results from samples over the paths yielded three species, *Fannia armata*, *F. sociella* and *F. umbrosa*. Seven species swarmed in sites off the paths; the 3 species above, together with *F. coracina*, *F. serena*, *F. lustrator* and *F. polychaeta*. The observation of swarming Fanniidae presents its difficulties. They are observable only in good sunlight, and as the flies move away from the observer, either along or upwards, sampling the swarm can be challenging.

Some general data from observations on the swarming behaviour was given. The observed species were found to swarm at different heights, from knee-height up to 6m above ground level. For *F. armata* in particular, swarming takes place between 0600 and 1900 GMT when the temperature is 13° - 26°C. The square pattern of flight exhibited by *Fannia* species around a hanging light fitting in a house does not seem to be exhibited outside, where the movement is to and fro, with a bearing greater than 90° to the direction of the sun. Further investigations into factors affecting the swarming behaviour of Fanniidae are planned for next year.

In the second half of the talk, Jolyon discussed the techniques that he used for his study. Net handles were first described, essential kit for hunting high-flying swarms. Jolyon had tried a number of materials from dowelling to tubular steel curtain rails and a 5m length of the latter was recommended.

The use of a GPS to map habitats was next described, and he recommended undertaking the process during the winter months, using a high sensitivity GPS with a colour mapping facility. The process he used to create a map of his main study area from habitat data collected in the field was outlined. Maps created using this process can be used both in a GIS, and transferred back to the GPS itself for use in the field.

In the discussion that followed the talk, sticky traps, and anglers' roach poles and keep-net handles were recommended for reaching those hard-to-get swarms.

Ant hills, tape measures and painted flies; the host specificity of *Microdon* hoverflies

Kirsten Miller

After a break the programme continued with **Kirsten Miller**, from Imperial College, London, who gave her talk on the reproductive behaviour of *Microdon myrmica* (Diptera, Syrphidae).

Members of the genus *Microdon* are obligate parasitoids on ants. In 2002 the British species *M. myrmicae* was split off from *M. mutabilis*. *M. myrmicae* larvae are predators of *Myrmica scabrinodis* ants, while the host for *M. mutabilis* is *Formica lemani*. Kirsten's research aimed to find out whether *M. myrmicae* exhibits the same extreme host specificity as *M. mutabilis*. Earlier work on *M. mutabilis* had shown that the mortality of eggs in host ant nests increased rapidly with increasing distance between the place where the mother was born (the natal nest) and the host nest where the eggs were deposited. When eggs of *M. mutabilis* were

placed in the same nest as the mother came from, survival was 95%, but when placed in a host nest 2km away, only 20% of eggs survived, the remainder being attacked by the ants. This hoverfly is, it appears, specific not just to a particular host species of ant, but to individual host colonies.

Kirsten located ant nests containing *M. myrmicae* larvae and puparia at three sites in Devon, and measured precisely the distance between the nests. Out of 157 ants' nests studied, present in grassy tussocks with moss, 56 contained larvae of *Microdon myrmica*. She also collected samples of the ant colonies. From these larvae, back in the laboratory she bred the adult flies through, and, after mating, encouraged females to lay eggs. These were then introduced into the 19 ant nests that had been carefully cultured, and the number of eggs that were attacked by ants was counted. In this way, she was able to see whether there was any relationship between survival and distance between the ant nest where the mother was born (the natal nest) and the host nest where the eggs were deposited.



Kirsten and Og marking *Microdon*

Another related strand of Kirsten's work was to look at how far *M. myrmicae* adults move. *M. mutabilis* females have been observed to often move less than a metre away from their natal ant nests. Kirsten captured adults of both sexes of *M. myrmicae* at one of her study sites in Devon, marked them with individual paint marks, and then over subsequent days tried to re-find them.

The results of both parts of the research were surprising in that they suggest that *M. myrmicae* behaves very differently. Kirsten found no relationship between egg survival and distance moved – indeed, unlike *M. mutabilis*, there was a non-significant suggestion that survival actually increases with further separation. She also observed substantial movements of adults within her study site, with males moving as much as 65m, in contrast to the reported behaviour of *M. mutabilis*.

Kirsten suggested that this may be an example of the parasite relationships becoming less host-specific, (better dispersed, although still with the same species) the converse of the normal progression. She surmises that reduced host specificity (wider dispersal) may have evolved in response to the fly causing a reduction in ant colony viability because the fly larvae are such voracious predators of the ant larvae.

Melanostoma – a species-rich hoverfly genus

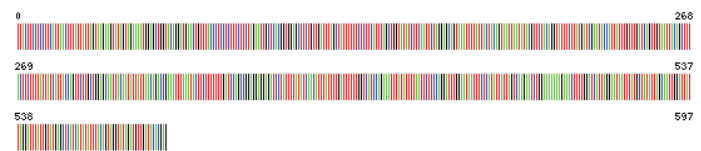
Gemma Brock

Kirsten was followed by **Gemma Brock**, from the NHM, who talked about her work to investigate the species of *Melanostoma*

(Diptera, Syrphidae). Gemma described the characteristics and distribution of the current British list of 3 species, *M. mellinum*, *M. scalare*, and *M. dubium*, and said the larvae of *Melanostoma* are suspected to be found in leaf litter.

Verrall first listed *M. dubium* Zetterstedt as a British species from females taken by Col. Yerbury in Scotland, but he well described the uncertainty he felt regarding its status as a species. Ian MacGowan, with Francis Gilbert and Graham Rotheray, have examined Scottish specimens from different altitudes and concluded that they are part of an altitudinal/climatic cline of *M. mellinum*. This, together with the *Melanostoma* 'form A' of Alan Stubbs reflect the doubt that this genus has generated. There is variation in shape and size of the face and 'lip' of the *M. scalare* adult flies and Gemma described some of these. Gemma explained that morphological variation such as this has led to suggestions of segregates within *M. scalare* and *M. mellinum*.

To try and resolve the question of the degree to which speciation had occurred, if at all, Gemma used 136 specimens including British and a few from continental Europe to compare the DNA barcodes, using the COI gene. She found that there was in fact relatively little variation throughout the genus, and only small differences even between the morphologically distinct *M. scalare* and *M. mellinum*. (Dipterists here breathed a sigh of relief !!) There may also be differences between grassland and moorland specimens of *M. mellinum* which would warrant further work. Among the specimens of *M. dubium* there were some differences between the Scottish and the continental European specimens, however further specimens would be needed to confirm this. Gemma said that many questions remain as to the level of genetic variation needed to define species boundaries, and how useful COI barcodes are, in practice, in the genetic and taxonomic studies of Diptera.



How sex shapes empids: testis size, sex ratio and female ornamentation

Rosalind Murray

The final talk of the morning session was given by **Rosalind Murray**, from the University of Stirling, on sexual selection in empids, an interesting and fertile area for research.

Darwin first described the theory of sexual selection as a cause of the evolution of the striking and sometimes bizarre structures and colouration found in, for example, many species of birds. In Empids there are striking differences between the sexes found in a number of species. Examples of male ornamentation are well known but the Empididae are especially interesting since, without the role of incubation, a number of species show female ornamentation. The females of *Empis borealis* have strikingly very large smoky wings. The females of other species have pennate scales on the legs, or large conspicuously coloured inflatable abdominal sacs.

Rosalind described the swarming strategy adopted by many empids. These swarms may consist of predominantly males, or of females. Males may offer a 'nuptial gift' to the females – a prey item wrapped in silk. The females may accept this as a prelude to mating, or they may simply accept the 'gift' as food. When the nutritive values of these 'food parcels' are examined they are often found to be low, and it is perhaps the behavioural aspect, as a trigger to copulation behaviour, that has evolved to become

more important than the nutritive value.

An imbalance in the gender ratio may cause students of insect behaviour to use categories such as 'male choice' and 'female choice'. Where there are, for example, permanently more females in a swarm, some of these may not mate and produce offspring. In this case greater ornamentation might be expected to evolve in females, to attract the scarcer males.

In order for natural selection to act positively, the degree of ornamentation must usually correlate with the degree of fitness ie the number of offspring which survive to reproduce. Components of this fitness might involve mating success, and the number of gametes produced. A hypothesis studied by Ros was that the degree of ornamentation is proportional to testis size. The assumption made is that the size of the testes is proportional to the fitness of the genotype inherited by the offspring.

It is difficult to measure mating success in females. The female flies in a swarm can be marked with luminescent powder and their disappearance from the swarm, often for up to a week can be observed. It was assumed that this absence could be correlated with mating success.

This fascinating and theory-laden territory could provide a stimulus for observations in the field but it is important to avoid anthropomorphism, since what is under scrutiny is the behaviour of flies, that is, the responses of dipteran nervous systems; neural receptors, thoracic ganglia etc. The outcome is the 'selection' of a range of gametic genotypes of relative but unmeasurable fitness, as measured by the number of surviving offspring produced in nature by the parents.

Flies as flower-visitors and pollinators

Jane Memmott

Our AGM was suspended at 3.00pm for our final talk given by **Prof. Jane Memmott** of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, on Flies as Flower-visitors and Pollinators.

Jane started by talking about her background in Entomology when she studied leishmaniasis and sand flies (Phlebotomidae) in Costa Rica, leaf miners and their parasitoids in the tropics, caterpillars in Hawaii and psyllids in New Zealand, before returning to the UK. Here she has worked on a number of projects, and began by describing her work on the pollination of strawberries. Mis-shapen fruit are the result of incomplete pollination and so it is helpful to know about the species that are doing the pollinating. Using a diagram similar to a food web, Jane and her team at Bristol University collected data and produced a visitation web for the strawberry plants at Ashton Court Fruit Farm. They demonstrated that, in this study, there were 81 species of insect visitors and that Diptera were the commonest pollinators. She then investigated further and her team examined the pollen on the insects and constructed a Pollen Transport Web. From this a Pollinator Importance Index could be constructed for each of the months when strawberry flowers are on the plants. *Bombus* species were dominant in early Summer, but in July flies of the genus *Eristalis* were the main pollinator.

Another study was the effect of the alien plant Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) on pollination. By comparing four 50m x 50m plots with and without flowers, Jane's team were able to study the effect of these flowers at the insect community level. Flower buds were removed regularly from half of the plots so that the insects on wild flowers in plots with and without *Impatiens* flowers could be compared. All other aspects of the vegetation were kept as constant as possible. They concluded that the effect of the the large abundance of *Impatiens* nectar was to increase the over-all number of pollinators. However, 96% of the pollen

found on insect pollinators was *Impatiens* pollen. Bees were highly 'contaminated', and flies less so.

The team has also worked on the restoration of the heathland in Poole basin. If the flowers have been restored successfully this will be reflected in the successful restoration of the community of insect pollinators. The return of the hymenopteran pollinators will be indicated by a rise in their conopid parasitoids. They found that the conopids have not yet been restored after 14 years of restorative work.

Jane's final example was of her on-going work, led by her team at Bristol School of Biological Sciences, with partners at Reading, Leeds and Edinburgh Universities. This is about urban pollinators, asking the question 'Where are the pollinators most frequent?' It is a very large-scale survey encompassing 12 cities, 12 farms, and 12 nature reserves, in triplicates in Dundee, Cardiff and Southhampton. So far, out of a sample of 10,600 insects, 4557 are Diptera, and of those 2231 are Syrphidae, together with 40 other dipteran families. The honey bees comprise about 10% of the sample but often still carry some two thirds of the pollen load. Since both honey bees and bumblebees are declining, further research is required to determine the relative importance of bees and flies in achieving seed set, and, in terms of ecosystem services such as pollination, it may that flies will become more important.

You can find out more about this on-going project by Googling Urban Pollinators or at www.urbanpollinators.org.

John Kramer

With thanks to the speakers, and to Rob Wolton and Adrian Plant for assistance with the text.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Dipterists' Forum held at the Bristol Museum at 2.00pm on Saturday 24th November 2012.

Chair: Martin Drake. About 42 members were present.

1. Apologies in advance of the meeting were received from Roy Crossley, Andy Godfrey, Martin Harvey and Judy Webb.

2. Minutes.

The minutes of the AGM held at the Manchester Museum at 2.00pm on Saturday 26th November 2011 and published in the Spring Bulletin No 73, 2012, were accepted unanimously by the meeting as a correct record.

3. Matters arising.

There being no matters arising, the Chairman introduced the Secretary's Report.

4. Secretary's Report to the AGM - John Kramer

Membership

The growth in membership continues and paid-up membership of the Forum is now about 412 (2011 - 391) with 396 subscribers to the Dipterists Digest (2011 - 340), so we are now well over our target of 400 members. (Next target 450 !)

Thanks to our Membership Secretary, John Showers, together with our Publicity Officer Judy Webb, and all members who have helped to represent the Forum at public events. Special thanks are due to our Publicity Officer Judy Webb, who retires as from this AGM (*she continues as co-Editor on this Bulletin - Ed*)

Committee Meetings

Most of my report relates to the Committee Meetings and the usual three meetings took place last year: 3 March, at Preston Montford,

25 July at the Summer Field Meeting, Kincaig, and 27 October at Long Crendon.

There has been some discussion about reducing this to 2 and doing more business on line. It would be 'greener' but less sociable and the social gatherings where the team can exchange ideas informally are also important. This can also take place at field meetings and it may be that in future, as we use the internet more, we will do that. For the present, we judge that 3 meetings for 2013 will be necessary.

We have had some discussions about Charitable status, which would enable gift aid of some £700 pa, but this is still under discussion and pending advice from BENHS.

Publications

There has been a straight reprint of 1,000 copies of the Second Edition British Hoverflies and these are now on sale. This is anticipated to satisfy demand for about three years after which a new edition is planned. Prior to this, 30-40-page supplement may also be produced, available as paper-copy for a price of £10, or as a pdf.

Dipterists Forum Website

Peter Chandler's Checklist of the British Diptera is now available on the website, and will be up-dated regularly. All of the First Series, and part of the Second Series of the Dipterists Digests are now scanned and available for uploading onto the website. It is intended that Dipterists Digests that are out of print shall be available for download from the web-site. To this end, a start has been made on scanning them and making them into PDFs.

Recording Schemes' Activities

The Recording Schemes continue to thrive led as usual by the Hoverfly Recording Scheme, which produced two Newsletters in the year. Two editions of Crane-fly News were produced, and it is hoped to move the 'British Crane-flies' book forward next year. The texts of the Draft Keys have been revised and will be trialled at Workshops during 2013. An OPAL grant of £3,000 has been successfully applied for, to assist in the completion of the necessary illustrations.

Both of these Recording Schemes are now 'on the road' and provide workshops in local venues for beginners and more experienced Dipterists through local societies and Wildlife Trusts. These are proving to be popular and are recruiting participants as new Forum members.

The Empidid and Dolichopod Recording Scheme also produced a Newsletter in 2012 with a very useful revised and updated key to the British species of *Platypalpus* (Hybotidae).

Conservation

Rob Wolton, our Conservation Officer, has kept us well informed regarding conservation issues. We are pleased to work together with Buglife to further the conservation of flies, and recognise it is often more appropriate for Buglife to lead on national policy matters and on site specific issues. At times, though, it will be appropriate for the DF to comment separately from Buglife, either in rare instances where we take a different view or more often where we can add weight to each other's case. Currently our focus is on species listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and Rob is keen to continue the Adopt-a-Species programme developed by Barbara Ismay which covers both these species and some other threatened flies. We also have a clear role in encouraging recording schemes, and efforts to determine the status of species such as whether they

are declining, nationally scarce or vulnerable.

Forum Activities

Indoor Meetings Malcolm Smart our Indoor Meetings' Secretary, will be retiring from his post as from today, and I would like to thank him personally for all of his hard work in the organisation of our AGMs and workshops. During 2012, in addition to this AGM, he organised the Spring Beginners' and Advanced Identification Workshops at Preston Montford – Fri 2nd Sun. 4th March 2012. The Beginners Workshops – Introduction to Diptera – was led by Roger Morris and Alan Stubbs and the Advanced Workshop on Dolichopodid Flies, was led by Martin Drake, with assistance from Roy Crossley and Alan Stubbs.

Field Meetings During 2012.

Four field meetings were held in 2012:

- New Forest (Spring) (approximately 30 members & friends attended),
- Bridlington (Spring) (8 members & friends)
- Cairngorms (Summer) (26 members),
- North Wales (Autumn) (6 members).
- In addition, a training event was run at Wells that involved two field trips.

Mindful of these hard times, the Committee are discussing ways of supporting people to do field work. Roger Morris has worked very hard to reduce the costs and find venues within financial reach. Our thanks are due to Roger for all of his work, not only in the organisation, but in the recording of the mass of data that we collect.

Future Meetings

Next Indoor Meeting:

The Spring Workshop will be at Preston Montford, 22-24 Feb 2013. The families to be studied are the Lauxaniid and Heleomyzid flies and Alan Stubbs and Mark Mitchell will be leading the workshop.

Next Field Meetings:

Five meetings are planned for 2013:

- Rockingham Forest (Spring)
- Eastbourne (Spring)
- Lancaster (Summer Field Meeting)
- Cairngorms (early Autumn)
- Surrey (Autumn)

The next AGM will be held at the NHM, London and the probable date, contingent on other meetings, is Sat Nov 23rd 2013

5. Treasurer's Report for 2011 - Howard Bentley

(Howard referred to the copies of the 2011 Accounts which were available to the meeting.)

The surplus of more than £5000 is something of an illusion. It is distorted by the inclusion of unspent OPAL grant money, payments for field meeting accommodation for which the bills had still to come, and over £2000 in Wildguide deposits which is not actually our money. When these things are taken out, leaving only our income from subs. and our expenditure on publications, publicity etc., our actual surplus for the year is £114. This is cutting it very fine, and I expect us to be in deficit on this measure for 2012.

6. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report - Peter Chandler

At the time of the 2011 AGM the second part of volume 18 was still awaited. That issue, which commemorated the centenary of the death of George Verrall, was published on 30 December so distribution was delayed till January 2012.

I reported last year that sufficient material had already been of-

ferred to fill the first part of volume 19, which then appeared earlier than usual in March. While a good number of papers and notes were submitted during 2012, only within the past 2 months had sufficient text been available to complete the second part of volume 19. This had been printed on 16 November and distribution began at the AGM.

Both parts of volume 19 include 102 pages of text, as did each issue of volume 18 and I would like to maintain this as the standard issue size. 2012 was the centenary of the death of The Rev. William Wingate, author of *Durham Diptera*, and John Kramer contributed a paper celebrating his life and work. I don't think there were enough dipterists a century ago to do this every year.

Contributions of papers and notes for volume 20 are sought, and it is hoped that enough will be submitted for the first part to appear during the summer of 2013. I am grateful to all authors for their support and hope that more new authors will be encouraged to contribute. Contributors are asked to follow the instructions to authors and consult the layout of recent issues to assist with this and save editorial time.

The checklist has again been updated to include all additions and changes reported in the latest issue of the Digest and the updated version placed on the website. I thank Stuart Ball for assistance with this.

Roy Crossley has for many years been responsible for distributing the Digest to subscribers and I am grateful to him for his assistance throughout my time as editor. Roy has decided to step down after completing the 2012 distribution. A volunteer was sought to take on distribution from the first 2013 issue, and Richard Underwood kindly offered to take on this role immediately following the AGM.

7. Proposed rise in Subscription for the Forum, and for the Dipterists Digest - Howard Bentley

The last rise was 9 years ago, during which time inflation has been around 27%. Postage costs have risen by 30% this year alone. We have reduced the effect of rising prices for printing by changing to a different firm of printers, but clearly this cannot be a continuing strategy. Costs of reimbursing expenses, for example for speakers at our Dipterists' Day, have risen greatly as transport and accommodation have become more expensive. Subsidised training courses for a new generation of Dipterists have been run this year, but the funding for these has come from OPAL grants (around £7000 over the last two years) and a generous private donor (another £1000). These sources of income cannot be taken into account when planning future income needs. All of these factors make a rise in subscription absolutely necessary if we are to avoid a working deficit. (See also the remarks on the 2011 accounts above). The rise will take place from 1st January 2014.

8. A.O.B.

There was none.

9. Chairman's Vote of Thanks to retiring Members

Martin offered our warmest thanks to our retiring Officers for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Dipterists Forum. Judy Webb, our retiring Publicity Officer, has organised the production of a regular stream of advertisements and other publicity material as well as, most importantly, being present and representing the Forum at both the AES and the BENHS Annual Meetings for the past six years.

Our retiring Indoor Meeting's Secretary, Malcolm Smart, has previously served the Forum as Chairman and as Outdoor Meeting's Secretary, before taking up his current post in 2008. He has carried

out this work with his customary meticulous attention to detail and we are grateful to both of them for taking us forward.

Since it was now 3.00pm, the Annual General Meeting was adjourned at this point to make way for our speaker, Prof. Jane Memmott, of the University of Bristol School of Biological Sciences. The talk continued until 3.45pm, after which the AGM re-commenced with the next agenda item:

10. The Election of Officers

The Chairman is elected biennially. The Secretary, Treasurer and other elected Officers with specific responsibilities (detailed below) require annual election. The constitution (7c) currently requires nominations at least 30 days in advance of the AGM. Ordinary Committee Members serve for two years.

Alan Stubbs proposed that the Officers, listed below, standing for election be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Richard Underwood and supported unanimously from the floor.

The Officers and General Committee elected or re-elected this year, 2012, are therefore as follows:

Office

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Field Meetings Secretary

Indoor Meetings Secretary

Bulletin Editor

Assistant Editor

Publicity Officer

Website Manager

Conservation Officer

Committee Members

Officer

Martin Drake

Stuart Ball

John Kramer

Howard Bentley

John Showers

Roger Morris

Duncan Sivell

Darwyn Sumner

Judy Webb

Erica McAlister

Stuart Ball

Robert Wolton

1. John Ismay

2. Malcolm Smart

3. Nathan Medd

4. Chris Spilling

5. Mick Parker

6. Vacancy

Members Elected 2011

The Chairman thanked our hosts Rhian Rowson, Ray Barnett and the staff at the Bristol Museum.

and the AGM closed at 4.15 pm.

Prize-Giving

The box of Insects exhibited by Mick Parker was highly commended for the excellent setting. The best (anonymously presented) exhibit turned out to belong our Chairman, Martin Drake, who was duly awarded the prize!

John Kramer, Secretary

Forthcoming**2013****Diptera Identification Workshops 2013****Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shropshire****Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th February 2013****Identification of Lauxaniid and Heleomyzid flies****Organiser: Malcolm Smart****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. It is proposed to arrange accommodation in Stamford and the one we used for the Spring 2005 meeting is an obvious option. It is the Dolphin Guest House <http://www.thedolphinguesthouse.co.uk/>. Another possibility is the Elm Guest House which is nearby <http://www.elmguesthouse.co.uk/index.htm>.

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. I have contacted the two guest houses we used in Autumn 2011 and they had vacant rooms in December 2012. These are the Sea View Guest House <http://www.seaviewguesthouse.com/Home.htm> and Cambridge House Guest House <http://www.cambridgehouseeastbourne.co.uk/> just around the corner. Two others that we have not tried lie nearby; these are Sea Breeze <http://www.seabreezeguesthouseeastbourne.co.uk/> and La Mer <http://www.lamer-guesthouse.co.uk/>. Members wishing to attend should contact the guest house of their choice and make their bookings. Early booking is recommended as vacancies can be difficult to find nearer the time.

Summer Field Meeting 2013**Lancaster 6-13 July 2013**

We have booked 25 rooms and a work room for the first full week of July at Lancaster University. The University campus is a little way outside the town. The arrangements are for self-catering, which is a departure from arrangements in recent years. This is unfortunate but is necessary because it has not been possible to

find catered accommodation at a rate that is affordable by the full spectrum of Forum members.

Lancaster is a good base for exploring north Lancashire and the southern Lake District. There are several classic sites such as Ainsdale and Gaitbarrow. There is also scope for adventure further afield – maybe as far south as Formby Dunes, the limestone pavements of The Pennines or perhaps Grizedale Forest.

The cost per person has been set at £200 and a £50 deposit is required. I have arranged to be able to rescind five rooms at the start of May if they are unfilled. This means that there is a need for bookings by the end of April to be sure of a place.

Deposits should be sent to Roger Morris, 7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QR

Autumn Field Meeting 2013**Speyside 7-14 September**

After our successful trip to Dumfriess & Galloway a couple of years ago, we have decided to go back to Scotland and are being very adventurous in aiming to Speyside. I have found a hotel that will do single rooms at £40 per person per night (Highlander Hotel, Newtonmore <http://www.bespokehotels.com/highlanderhotel>). Members wishing to participate should make their own room bookings but should let Roger Morris know before doing so.

Surrey 16-20 October

We propose to run a relatively short meeting based at a Travelodge in Reigate for those members who don't feel inclined to travel to Scotland. This should afford us the opportunity to visit a variety of woodlands in central Surrey; an area that we have hitherto overlooked during our meeting programme..

Events Calendar 2013-14**Dipterists Forum & selected meetings**

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

2013

- 26 January 2013, **BENHS Workshop: Identifying Larger Brachycera**. M Harvey. An opportunity to improve your identifications skills for these fascinating flies including bee flies, horseflies, robberflies, soldierflies and more. Dinton Pastures Country Park, Hurst, Reading. See www.benhs.org.uk.
- 9 February 2013, **BENHS Workshop: Tachinidae identification**. Tutors M. Smith & C. Raper. An introduction to sampling and identifying these bristly parasitic flies, with new draft keys for a revised RES Handbook available for testing and the chance to 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. 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 'Lauxaniid and Heleomyzid Flies'. Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury. See: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford/>
- 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
- 6 April 2013, **AES Insects for Beginners Workshop**. Chilcomb House, Chilcomb Lane, Winchester, UK. See www.amentsoc.org
- 13-14 April 2013, **Hoverfly Improvers Course**. Cardiff Museum. The class size will be limited to 12. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com)
- 18-19 April 2013 **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**,

Meetings

- 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. University of Bath. 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),
- 27 April 2013 AES Members' Day and AGM. Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Road, Bristol, BS8 1RL, UK. Talks, workshops, displays, member exhibits, tours and a children's insect craft table.
- 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). 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) 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)
- 23 May 2013, 'Introduction to the Dolichopodidae' at Preston Montford Field Centre (Shropshire). FSC Biodiversity Fellows project. Tutor N. Jones (free of charge). Register at www.field-studies-council.org/bio.fell by filling in the online form or contact the project officer, Pete Boardman at bio.fell@field-studies-council.org
- 28 May 2013 'Flies of Priority Habitats (Coarse Woody Debris)' at Loamhole Dingle, Ironbridge Gorge (Shropshire) FSC Biodiversity Fellows project. Tutors N. Jones and P. Boardman (free of charge). Register at www.field-studies-council.org/bio.fell by filling in the online form or contact the project officer, Pete Boardman at bio.fell@field-studies-council.org
- 7-9 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)
- 14-16 June 2013 Hoverflies, Soldierflies and Robberflies: an Introduction to Diptera. Tutor Martin Harvey. FSC, Flatford Mill. (£232)* some 50% bursaries available. See <http://www.field-studies-council.org>
- 7 July 2013 RES Insect Festival. Yorkshire Museum and Gardens. See <http://www.royensoc.co.uk/events/insectfestival.htm>
- 6-13 July 2013 DF Summer Field Meeting based at Lancaster University, £200, self-catering at the Halls of Residence. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com)
- 9-12 August 2013 'Identification of Hoverflies' at Preston Montford (Shropshire) with Roger Morris and Stuart Ball (£341)* some 50% bursaries available. See: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford/>
- 13 August 2013 'Identification of the Tephritidae and other Picture-winged flies' at Preston Montford (Shropshire). FSC Biodiversity Fellows Project. Tutor N. Jones (free of charge). Register at www.field-studies-council.org/bio.fell by filling in the online form or contact the project officer, Pete Boardman at bio.fell@field-studies-council.org
- 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.
- 4-6 September 2013, Ento '13, RES International Symposium and Annual National Science Meeting. 'Thirty years of Thornhill & Alcock: The Evolution of Insect Mating Systems'. University of St Andrews, Scotland. See : <http://www.royensoc.co.uk>
- 8 September 2013 'Crane-fly Identification workshops' at Marsland (Devon). Tutors J. Kramer and P. Boardman (free of charge) FSC Biodiversity Fellows Project. Places very limited on this. Register at www.field-studies-council.org/bio.fell by filling in the online form or contact the project officer, Pete Boardman at bio.fell@field-studies-council.org
- 11 September 2013 'Introduction to the Tipulidae' at Preston Montford (Shropshire). FSC Biodiversity Fellows project Tutor P. Boardman (free of charge). Register at www.field-studies-council.org/bio.fell by filling in the online form or contact the project officer, Pete Boardman at bio.fell@field-studies-council.org
- 7-14 September 2013, DF Autumn Field Meeting to Speyside, based at Newtonmore. . Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com)
- 28-29 September 2013 'Crane-fly Identification workshops' at the Angela Marmont Centre, Natural History Museum., London. Tutors J. Kramer and P. Boardman. FSC Biodiversity Fellows project (free of charge). Register at www.field-studies-council.org/bio.fell by filling in the online form or contact the project officer, Pete Boardman at bio.fell@field-studies-council.org
- 12 October 2013, AES Annual Exhibition and Trade Fair, Kempton Park, London Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5AQ, UK. DF will have a publicity stand and publications for sale. See www.amentsoc.org
- 14 October 2013 'Identification workshop - the Scathophagidae' at the Angela Marmont Centre, Natural History Museum . FSC Biodiversity Fellows project . Tutor Stuart Ball (free of charge). Register at www.field-studies-council.org/bio.fell by filling in the online form or contact the project officer, Pete Boardman at bio.fell@field-studies-council.org
- 16-20 October 2013, DF Autumn Field Meeting to Surrey, based in Reigate. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: 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/>
- 2 November 2013, BENHS Annual Exhibition. Imperial College, London See: www.benhs.org.uk
- 23-24 November 2013, Dipterists Day and AGM. The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD. Full details of the programme will be posted on the DF website (<http://www.dipteristsforum.org>) when available
- April-Sept/Oct 2013 The Northants and Peterborough Diptera Group hold meetings every weekend from end of April until sometime in September/October. Contact John Showers on: showersjohn@gmail.com

2014

- 23-29 June 2014, NATIONAL INSECT WEEK
3-8 August 2014, RES 10th European Congress of Entomology, York. See: <http://www.royensoc.co.uk/meetings>

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

Judy Webb



10-15 August 2014, Potsdam, Germany

<http://www.icd8.org/>



Booking Form - for rates see Bulletin

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

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

Payment details:

Cheques made payable to Dipterists Forum

Deposits

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

Please send your booking form and cheques to:

Roger Morris

7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE

Email: roger.morris@dslpipex.com

Guidelines

Booking your place at events

Dipterists Forum events

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

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

Roger Morris

Administration

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

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

How to book

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

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

Roger Morris
7 Vine Street, Stamford
Lincolnshire PE9 1QE

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) 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. The document must be A4.
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.



{Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS
and send it to the Dipterists Forum Membership Secretary (not your Bank)}

SEND TO : John Showers, 103, Desborough Road, Rothwell, Kettering, Northants, NN14 6JQ.

Banker's Order

To:- {please insert details of your Bank}

The Manager Bank / Building Society

Branch

Address

.....

County Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Account No.Reference {if applicable}

Please pay the sum of £8/ £12 / £20 {delete as applicable} from the above account to the account of Dipterists Forum, on the 1st of January 2014 and in each year until further notice from me in writing. This cancels any previous orders for membership or subscriptions to Dipterists Forum, including payments to other Dipterists Forum bank accounts, from 1st January 2014.

Name

Address

.....

County Postcode

Signature Date.....

{for Office use only}

Please pay to the Dipterists Forum

Sort code

Account

--

And now ... 'Events dear boy, events'

Harold MacMillan, a former British Prime minister, famously used the above expression in reply to a question about the difficulties he faced. Of course some events have a positive outcome, but he was referring to the ones whose outcomes were beyond his political control.



Dipterists Forum plans events (positive). However, for recording purposes an 'event' is the finding and recording something, a species or site management action for instance. Recording presence of a species is the usual outcome, absence less easy to confirm. In an earlier 'and now', I presented a scientifically well argued case that the absence of fly larvae, in situations where adult flies are plentiful, can only be explained by larvae being in a parallel universe. As with any major new scientific concept, it takes a while for everyone else to catch-up with reality.

My learned friend Adrian Plant has found evidence of an event horizon, a black hole region from which records do not escape. Moreover he suggests that immense gravitational pressure at this county boundary stretches the legs of flies, implying that flies within the county, or at least close to its borders should be mainly those with long legs. But if records do not escape the event horizon, for all practical purposes the county in question is a parallel universe where time has been abandoned. To test the validity of this theory, one would need to do some transect recording in adjacent counties to see if craneflies replaced empids as the blackhole was approached. We must hope that he goes out to gain the data needed to test his theory..

Alan Stubbs



Gymnochaeta viridis Maulden Woods, April 2012 by Alan Outen (det Chris Raper)

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
dave.clements1@ntlworld.com



Tachinid

Chris Raper
46 Skilton Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6SG
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Matthew Smith
24 Allnatt Avenue, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5AU
MatSmith1@compuserve.com



Chironomidae

Patrick Roper
South View, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0PE



Culicidae - Mosquitoes

Jolyon Medlock
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jolyon.medlock@hpa.org.uk



Tipuloidea & Ptychopteridae - Cranefly

Alan Stubbs
181 Broadway Peterborough PE1 4DS

John Kramer
31 Ash Tree Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TE
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Chloropidae

John Ismay
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01844-201433



Pipunculidae

David Gibbs
6, Stephen Street, Redfield, Bristol, BS5 9DY
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Anthomyiidae

Michael Ackland
5 Pond End, Pymore, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5SB
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Hoverflies

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



Larger Brachycera (Soldierflies, 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
14 St John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE



Stilt & Stalk Fly

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



Mycetophilidae and allies - Fungus gnats

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



Empid & Dolichopodid

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

Andrew Grayson
56, Piercy End, Kirkbymoorside, York, YO62 6DF
andrewgrayson1962@live.co.uk



Sepsidae

Steve Crellin
Shearwater, The Dhoor, Andreas Road, Lezayre, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM7 4EB
steve_crellin1@hotmail.co.uk



Dixidae & Thaumaleidae

Julian Small
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julian.small@naturalengland.org.uk



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:

