BULLETIN OF THE

Dipterists Forum

Bulletin No. 76 Autumn 2013

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

Bulletin No. 76

Autumn 2013

ISSN 1358-5029

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Photographs: Front cover *Phytomyza orobanchia* on Ivy Broomrape from Freshwater East, Pembroke June 2013 **Darwyn Sumner**, (above) *Haematopota sp.* also from Pembroke **Darwyn Sumner**. 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 think about the orientation, it must be upright (portrait)

BULLETIN OF THE
Dipterists
Forum

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Dipterists Forum Events

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 #55
Cranefly Newsletter #26
Soldierflies & Allies Newsletter #1
Tephritidae Newsletter
Booking form for meetings
Membership form
Notice for 8th International Congress of Dipterology

Desktop publishing: Darwyn Sumner

Editorial

Silent Spring revisited

The apocalyptic vision of a lifeless poisoned countryside envisioned by Rachel Carson in her seminal book "Silent Spring" looks set to be repeated in the UK. DDT is no longer the culprit, this time it's **neonicotinoids**, a systemic invertebrate toxin which is persistent in the environment (half life of 200 to 500 days in the soil) and currently being liberally flung over the landscape as seed dressing. A ban on neonicotinoids by the EU and a substantial suspension of its use by countries such as France, Germany, Italy & Slovenia follows a report which indicates the disappearance of two-thirds of our pollinators (bumblebees, hoverflies, carrion flies, beetles, midges and moths), clearly the EU are allowing science to dictate policy. **Conversely the UK Government is opposed to such a ban** but has recently caved in a little.

It might be what's affecting or causing bee decline, for an Independent article see http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/mps-call-for-ban-on-nerve-agent-neonicotinoid-pesticides-to-protect-dwindling-bee-population-8560788.html and a recent BBC Horizon programme aired on 26th July (if you can put up with an hour of a beekeeper telling you that bees do all the pollinating)

Truth stranger than fiction

According to Hal Hodson writing in New Scientist "*Smithsonian **etymologist** Terry Irwin counted by hand the number of insect species in one hectare of forest canopy in Panama*" ("The unblinking biologist" 12th Jan 2013, p 18). Could Mr Irwin have been on the hunt for "B"s in Panama or was some other kind of wordsmith at work?

Ever since New Scientist published a story about an archaeologist in Greece who discovered that a fossil long thought to be that of a tortoise turned out to be of a giant rabbit, I've been on the lookout for Aesop fable stories particularly when accompanied, as this one is, by a picture of a tortoise.

The rest of Hal Hodson's story therefore begs further scrutiny, and it does indeed sound like one of the yarns we've amused ourselves with over the years - some gadget that you could point at an animal and it would record place, date and identification. In this case it's a mobile phone offshoot that Harvard researchers were developing (to "make quicker, more accurate judgements about the health of delicate ecosystems"). The animals that the Harvard researchers were recording were admittedly somewhat larger than flies (zebras, ground squirrels, desert tortoises) but just to add to my confusion I have seen one that works for smaller animals, it was equipment carried by an intelligent animated fly called Mooch (like a Dutch crop-spraying drone) in the Disney film G-Force, a sidekick as it happens, of an animated guinea pig called Darwin.

It seems that this technology really is on its way now, it forms part of the expectations for the future to many; mention Google Glass and hands-free instant species recognition and they won't bat an eyelid. Wear them continuously and everything you see will get streamed to the Google cloud and species identified later by some entity, perhaps an **entitymologist**.

Triennial Review: NE & EA

It's been decided to keep Natural England and the Environment Agency as separate bodies. The reports can be obtained at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/triennial-review-of-the-environment-agency-ea-and-natural-england-ne

Wales of course has lost "CCW" which is now incorporated into NRW, try their website (http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/?lang=en)

William Blake's "The Fly"

Little fly,
Thy summer's play
My thoughtless hand
Has brushed away.

Am not I
A fly like thee?
Or art not thou
A man like me?

For I dance
And drink and sing,
Till some blind hand
Shall brush my wing.

If thought is life
And strength and breath,
And the want
Of thought is death,

Then am I
A happy fly,
If I live,
Or if I die.

Do they sleep the flies?

In an amazing Spanish blog spot (link too long to reproduce here) there is "everything you ever wanted to know about flies but were too afraid to ask". Here's an explanation about how flies deposit their droppings on the roof (sic) without falling down:

"*The explanation is linked back legs. When there is an urgent need, fly the folds, arches his abdomen to his rectum touch the ceiling. Expels then your stool making it stick to the roof by simple contact, in the form of small rounded brown droppings*". Blog by Esteban Zuniga (using perfect Spanish), funny translation by Google.

More writers

Do you have a passion for or knowledge of any of the themes we regularly cover in the Bulletin?

The Bulletin needs more "journalists" to manage some topic or group of topics (e.g. see "Organising our stuff" item). A volunteer to help with recording issues would be handy too. Please contact me if you can handle any of them for the next Bulletin.

Darwyn Sumner

Notice board

Recording Schemes

Here's a phrase I was delighted to see in an email from Phil Brighton: "*I will include this record (if confirmed) with others I had from the field trip on the spreadsheets from which I make an annual return to the recording schemes.*" That's exactly how the Recording Schemes should work, organisers are best placed to confirm identifications, then once a year they receive a batch of records from the recorder.

The only legitimate additions (**not** exceptions) to this system would be:

1, paid survey work (client gets records first),

2, conservation needs (if there's an element of significance of your record to site management then the record needs to find its way **rapidly** into systems that are referred to by Local Planning and Statutory Site managers - LRCs are all well placed to manage such information in an appropriate time-frame),

3, support for DF's continuing good relations with landowners/managers who provide permissions on our field trips, so that means getting a basic list to the DF field trip organiser as soon as you can so that DF gets permits again next time.

Additions 1 & 2 are rarely encountered whilst 3 affects several recorders each year, it's an additional task but it's not meant to be a substitute for reporting to the appropriate Recording Scheme (only a few Scheme organisers actually attend these field trips and most of those don't gather other's records there). Happily a few recorders are as organised as Phil but there seem to be problems that some scheme organisers are having with receiving records, for example both Steve Crellin and myself have had little or nothing from DF field weeks going back at least a couple of years so something is going wrong.

Check the back page of this Bulletin for details of all the schemes and pop a note in your calendar to remind you to catch up when you have a bit of time (a great job for the off season to remind you of sunnier days.)

Promoting biological recording

In a response to Roger Morris's article in British Wildlife, Gordon Corbet, commenting with surprise that Roger had omitted mention of the role of Local Records Centres, tells of his difficulties in knowing where to submit records (Letters Vol. 24, #3, February 2013). He says he finds it "*cumbersome to submit records to all the numerous national schemes (17 for Diptera alone), often wanting different formats*". So he sends all his records to the Local Records Centre only.

As Company Secretary of ALERC with experience in managing data in a Local Records Centre I can say that his method is not optimal. **All Diptera Recording Schemes will accept records in spreadsheet format and they'll all accept the same file comprising mixed groups**. It's a pity we don't have a DF recording group "tsar" who could take receipt of all such records and sort them out and pass them on to the appropriate recording scheme but it's not going to cost a recorder much more effort to add all the recording scheme email addresses to the file he sends to the LRC.

He also points out that National recorders have often said that LRC records are not sufficiently reliable. Despite every effort made by LRCs to ensure that the identifications are correct, they should be availing theirselves of appropriate expertise, be that **through DF Recording Schemes directly** or via a County Recorder who liaises with the DF Recording Scheme organiser. Either way LRC data uploaded to the NBN Gateway should already be known by the organiser.

I know that this system is ineffective because County Recorders are not liaising with DF Recording Scheme organisers, I see records uploaded to NBN Gateway from my small scheme that haven't passed through me first - and the people who worked with the LRC are known to me and are DF members! As Roger Morris has said "*we need to see much better engagement from local recorders and submission of records to schemes*".

There are consequences to these failures in communication. Since CEH only works through Recording Scheme organisers when compiling national atlases, LRC data which bypasses Schemes don't end up in an atlas. Equally disturbing is that Recording Scheme organisers don't trust records uploaded onto NBN Gateway that they have not vetted (see below) and therefore refuse to upload the rest of their data.

Gorden Corbett makes a plea to get this sorted out, he suggests "*training courses .. to include more guidance on navigating the intricate maze of communications between the interested parties*". We don't have a DF recording tsar but a small start might be to compile a list of all County Recorders.

A version of the above was posted onto the ALERC Forum with a request for details of all the Diptera County Recorders; within hours I'd received them from the LRC people in Wiltshire, Beds & Luton, Sussex, "Hunts and Cambs", Cumbria, Norfolk, Gloucestershire and Lincolnshire, if you know of others, let me know.

I seem to have volunteered scheme organisers to two things above (emboldened items), apologies if this causes you additional work but we are coming in for criticism in British Wildlife and it needs to be addressed.

NBN Gateway - new version in October

This becomes a good deal more useful, especially to Recording Scheme Organisers, in October (about a year behind schedule). If you've ever tried to download all the records for a single species you'll be aware what a nightmare that task is (don't try it now - it'll drive you mad, although the European equivalent, GBIF is worth a go). Teresa Frost (LRC manager in Cumbria) has been testing it. Whilst it still falls into the category of a "*site written to suit the software used to write it and the comfort of a website techie writer" (Ed)* and thus not as focussed on the convenience of the user as it might be, it does have some valuable new features that should go a long way towards meeting your expectations. Teresa tells me "*It is designed very differently. You'll be able to request full access to all records of a single species at once i.e. not provider by provider. And the data provider will be able to give access to just that species - in the current Gateway you can't do that, and as LRCs put data for so many groups on they are understandably reluctant to give you access to all the badger setts or whatever just so you can see the attributes of a fly record. And the new version makes download much much easier*" If you've had issues in the past with junk records there, then a new feature does this: "*national organisers can view the records on the Gateway and comment on them using the Gateway's commenting facility. Then the LRC can delete/amend for the next refresh. In the meantime, users of the Gateway can see the comment.*" That addresses complaints that Recording Scheme Organisers have made about the Gateway to me. I do hope that the Diptera Schemes will show willing here and start the process of checking material (when the new site goes up in October) that others have placed on the site, remember that the people who have done this have a keen enough interest in our groups to take the trouble to pass their records on - we might discover some new recruits this way.

Darwyn Sumner

iRecord

Martin Harvey said of **iSpot** (Bulletin #73) that it "is intended to help people learn how to identify wildlife rather than as a recording system ...". **iRecord** is that recording system.

iRecord is effectively a new Recording Scheme set up by BRC and promoted by BRC and the NBN Trust. BRC is the data custodian of the dataset and hence responsible for data management. Validation and verification is largely done by computer algorithms. Data can also be verified by one verifier for a discrete area, nominated by an NSS (although suggestions of local experts from LRCs are encouraged). This verification can only be done online and BRC staff are not expecting to make changes to the data themselves. At present the verification is restricted to "verified, dubious, rejected" and there is no functionality for adding multiple determinations to a record. [Pattern recognition + iRecord = entitymologist]

Data will then be uploaded to the Gateway in taxonomic datasets with either an NSS or BRC as the named data provider.

Just give it a try, go to http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/, sort out your login/account and select the taxonomic group you want to see (best you can do is "Diptera" - can't narrow it down beyond that I'm afraid) and play around with it. The home page starts with a list of recent sightings by other people, recently added photos (that's optional of course) and a map. Scrolling through the photos is a pain, the "next" button moves from under your pointer each time it's clicked as the size of the picture changes, the same happens with column displays as the columns resize, it's like playing "Whack a mole". The mouse focus on a page with a map on it is frequently the map, so using your mouse wheel to scroll down the page just zooms the map to a blank. There's no taxonomic filter yet for levels between Order and Genus but it's a feature that's promised (they've got that kind of filtering in iSpot). Martin also tells me "*Probably best to tell people to untick the "My Locality Only" box at the top of the page when trying these things out, otherwise they may not see much if any data, depending on which county they're in.*"

The ownership & governance of NERC centres

NERC is "calling for evidence" regarding the ownership and governance of its research centres and debating the merits of establishing them as independent bodies (http://www.nerc.ac.uk/about/consult/centre-governance.asp).

BRC is one of these bodies and they have custodianship of many of our records (including all those from Recording Schemes who have used them for assistance with records + all of the iRecord data). So if and when they become an independent body ...

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

BRC Biological Records Centre

I'm sure Martin Harvey will be happy for you to test it out with Soldierflies and it looks to be the ideal way to pop in the handful of records from "stray" groups you've seen or photographed - like that early Painted Lady.

This is BRC's own recording scheme and it is a trial, our feedback will help them improve it. Beware, though,

Darwyn Sumner

Soldierflies and Allies Recording Scheme

The recording scheme formerly known as "Larger Brachycera" has been re-named as the Soldierflies and Allies Recording Scheme. This is to bring it in line with the BENHS book on the group, to reflect the fact that the term "larger Brachycera" has fallen out of favour in the taxonomic context, and to make the recording scheme more understandable to people encountering it for the first time. A newsletter for the scheme is included with this Bulletin.

Martin Harvey

Stilt & Stalk Fly Recording Scheme

Seems that some people have had a good year, Jindřich Roháček had a stroke of luck in 2012 when he came across huge numbers of *Pseudopomyza atrimana* in Muránska planina National Park (Slovakia), not only that but he was armed with some decent macrophotography gear and his article in Čas. Slez. Muz. Opava is filled with stunning pictures - this is a must-have article if you want to know what these beasts look like (both the following are freely downloadable online).

Roháček, J. A new record of mass occurrence of *Pseudopomyza atrimana* (Meigen), with notes on probable breeding habitat of the species (Diptera : Pseudopomyzidae). Casopis slezského zemského muzea (A) 61, 3–10 (2012).

Roháček, J. The fauna of Pseudopomyzidae , Micropezidae , Megamerinidae and Psilidae (Diptera) in the Gemer area (Central Slovakia) Synopsis of species. Casopis slezského zemského muzea (A) 61, 131–142 (2012).

Similarly Dave Slade (Records Officer at SE Wales LRC, a lepidopterist) found several *Rainieria calceata* skipping on a *Salix* trunk at Bryn Garn, Glamorgan (SS964833 on 13/6/13) a region I passed through only a couple of days later - if only I'd known!

For those of you who like to browse the internet for their favourite Diptera can I suggest you try a different search engine, **DuckDuckGo** is being developed in order to get you very precisely to the thing you want. It's proving very effective at finding Stilt & Stalk fly resources, (e.g. http://www.elisanet.fi/jere.kahanpaa/diptera/micropezidae/ for a North European Micropezid key by Jere Kahanpää.) Theoretically there should be less junk when using this search engine and it will improve over time.

Rune Bygebjerg and his colleagues from Lund University advise us that a Nearctic species of psilid, *Chyliza leguminicola*, has recently been discovered in Jutland (Denmark) and seems to be establishing itself in Europe via the Garden Lupin (native of North America). It may be here too, so keep an eye open for a very dark *Chyliza* (with the typical bent wings due to the wing crease), dark wing edges and a small eye.

Bygebjerg, R., Munk, T. & Elnif, J. *Chyliza leguminicola* Melander, 1920 (Diptera: Psilidae) new to the Palaearctic fauna. Entomologiske Meddelelser 79, 73–84 (2011).

We've also had interesting catches this year of *Chamaepsila buccata* by Rob Wolton at Roudsea and *Chyliza extenuata* photographed by myself at Freshwater East in Pembroke, look out for articles in Dipterists Digest.

Darwyn Sumner

Dixidae & Thaumaleidae Recording Scheme

Firstly, it has come to our attention that in March 2013, Henry Disney, the former co-ordinator of this recording scheme, was made an Honary Member of the Freshwater Biological Association – for making a significant scientific contribution to our knowledge and understanding of aquatic diptera. Congratulations from the Dipterist's Forum to Henry. The Freshwater Biological Association, in addition to publishing Henry's Dixidae and Thaumaleidae keys, has made an important contribution to the identification of aquatic diptera by publishing keys to Chironomidae, Culicidae and Simuliidae.

Secondly, I would still like to encourage people to send me their records of Meniscus and Trickle Midges – I know there must be more records out there! The intention is to publish an updated set of distribution maps.

Julian Small

Tephritidae Recording Scheme

Newsletter included in this Bulletin

Laurence Clemons

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Newsletter included in this Bulletin

John Kramer

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Newsletter included in this Bulletin

David Iliff

Recorder 6 - A Hitchhikers Guide

Interested in setting up Recorder 6 on your PC?

There's a basic introduction to Recorder at http://forums.nbn.org.uk/mw2/index.php?title=Recorder

The installation guide can be a bit hard to track down but just go to http://www.recorder6.info/page13.html scroll to the bottom of the page and press the last green button beside "Standalone Installation Guide". It downloads a .zip file with a well written pdf file inside it that will tell you what's involved and how to set about it. In my task of tracking this document down I was struck by the similarity to that of Arthur Dent (Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy) in locating his bypass document "on public display", it was eventually found in a locked cupboard in the basement.

Be bold and have a go, you can get registered via the resellers Mike Weideli (http://www.lfield.co.uk/) or Sally Rankin (s.rankin@btinternet.com)

Darwyn Sumner

Late items

Expect more on these items in future Bulletins

Gardens: how to attract pollinators to your plot

Judy Webb wishes to draw your attention to this excellent article in the Guardian by Alys Fowler.

http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/aug/09/how-to-attract-pollinators-gardening

First meeting of the Devon Fly group

17/8/2013

Establishing local Diptera groups

At the DF March 2013 Committee meeting Darwyn Sumner, John Showers, Roger Morris and Rob Wolton offered to pull together ideas on how the DF could facilitate the establishment of further local Diptera groups. This note presents our progress to date, drawing heavily on John's article in the autumn 2012 Bulletin *Starting a Local Diptera Group.*

- The formation of a local Diptera group is, we believe, likely to depend on two key factors:
- The presence of a number of enthusiasts willing to form a network. These may only be a handful in number, but the more the better. Members may be beginners or experts, although one or two people with expertise in at least one Diptera family will certainly help.

Someone willing to take on the role of leader/co-ordinator. This person need not be an expert in Diptera.

In addition, it may help to have a clear focus for the group, such as recording on wildlife reserves, studying a particular species or species group, or preparing a distribution atlas. However, a defined focus is not essential, beyond the general collection of records.

Local networks are most likely to be kick-started by local training courses, with others being drawn in through contact with Local (Biodiversity) Records Centres(LRCs), general DF membership and local natural history societies.

The role of co-ordinator or leader is probably the key to the formation of a successful group. Finding or encouraging someone to take on this job is perhaps the most difficult part. The role will entail at the minimum arranging field meetings, and perhaps preparing a newsletter and organising training events. Acting as county Diptera recorder is not necessary (although advantageous).

LRCs have the potential to take a lead role in providing a clear focus for a local group's activities. However, most LRCs are currently under-resourced and naturally focus their attention on popular or high profile species, such as those afforded European protection. Unfortunately these include few if any Diptera. LRCs do though receive grant from statutory bodies (e.g. Natural England and the Environment Agency) and there is a suggestion that they may be encouraged by these partners to facilitate the formation of local recording groups for particular taxonomic groups. Clearly, this represents an opportunity for us.

The DF and others (eg the Field Studies Council) have a good record of holding training courses and, in England at least, in different geographic areas: there are already people with sufficient interest in Diptera to form local networks in a few parts of the country.

It follows that encouraging co-ordinators/leaders to come forward is the main challenge. One idea is for DF to facilitate the provision of mentors to assist the establishment of new local groups. We can also arrange field meetings and training courses close to fledgling groups.

Martin Drake and I are going to have a go at establishing a local group in Devon, and are planning the first meeting on 17 August. As I write 11 people (including us) have expressed an interest in being part of just a group, so hopefully it will take off.

Any ideas or thoughts on all this from readers would be most welcome.

Rob Wolton

All mixed up

As active naturalists we have up to 4 kinds of collections that we need to organise: Specimens, Biological records, Printed and published materials & Digital images.

> "*Organising is what you do before you do something so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up*" A.A. Milne.

Ideally there should be modern-day solutions for the PC that allows us to organise all these effectively but in fact the majority of it is inadequate and uncoordinated.

1. Digital images

Best solution of the bunch is for digital images, we've had iMatch 3 for several years and the new version 5 (in beta) is excellent, providing a means of organising digital material that approaches that of a biological recording application.

We have barely touched the surface of systems (iSpot, Flickr, EOL) that will allow several users to pool their resources for everyone's benefit (although DF are making progress - see later in this Bulletin). There's a new kind of naturalist emerging who collects nothing but pictures, we need to do more to cater for them.

2. Biological records

Applications such as Recorder and MapMate still have a long way to go, particularly in respect of failure to incorporate/link to modern mapping systems (=GIS) such as the excellent free Quantum GIS, in ease of use (including installation) and in communication with other collections (including online ones) and one another.

As collectors of such records we're also pretty poor at sharing, mechanisms for collaborative working are either not used or not available in an easy form and so remain inaccessible. **Precious little is sent from the annual DF field week or from County recorders to the recording schemes** and we've put very little of that material onto the NBN Gateway (see Bulletin #69, 2010, p6 & #73, 2012, p5). Selected Recording Schemes get third party help (from CEH/BRC) uploading data to NBN Gateway (and administering requests for better access to data - a task which is going to increase with the new Gateway controls), whilst others have been doing it themselves; there remains a huge backlog of Diptera records from all sources. It's the same with GBIF and European data and much information contained in online photographs has barely begun to be recorded.

Pictures as biological records

We need to have a better grasp of online schemes, the BRC-supported iRecord (http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/) is now a significant feature of our work through Martin Harvey's "**Soldierflies & allies**" scheme, many scheme organisers and county recorders are already (even unwittingly) supplying identifications to pictures on this and other sites and will increasingly be dealing with records from these sources.

Online records

Local Records Centres are obliged to collect "**partner records submitted online by recorders on systems meeting NBN standards**" This means that LRCs will encourage County organisers to take up Online Recording systems (like Indicia, iRecord, RODIS, Living Record) even if these County organisers subsequently bung everything onto a spreadsheet to send to LRCs and Recording Scheme organisers. I receive an annual Living Record list for Leicestershire, there aren't many records of my Recording Scheme in it but Hoverflies and Soldierflies could make an impact on an LRC's target number of around 3000 p.a. across all taxa.

Yesterday's tools

"You can't expect to meet the challenges of today with yesterday's tools and expect to be in business tomorrow"

So how about a free light-weight world biological recording package developed from GIS and digital image applications that could integrate with current biological recording applications, could be installed easily onto a netbook or tablet, grab selected worldwide species lists (with pictures and identification guides) from accredited websites (e.g. NHM, Systema Dipterorum) works with free GIS (Quantum GIS, MapWindow, Google Earth) can read maps (and data) from a GPS unit as in Garmin's Basecamp, uses geospatial data from OpenStreetMap, Ordnance Survey and other providers, can retrieve location data from GPS tracks to geotag digital images downloaded from your camera, permits unidentified material to be recorded and assigns unique identifiers to records (images being treated exactly the same as specimens) until you're ready to work on them and will make a label for specimens by plugging in to a small device like a Brother labeller that produces them from a roll.

3. Printed and published materials

Third we have a utility to organise **printed and published materials** (Mendeley) which is strong on sharing (publishers don't want you to share, they want individuals to pay exorbitant prices, hence my support of Open Access Publishing) but weak on metadata (making it hard to sort and filter) and tags (which make it hard to link to taxa), it really needs to look to proper EDMS (Electronic Document Management Systems) principles and standards to improve. *Studia Dipterologica* have a good implementation using Mendeley, maybe it's time Dipterists Forum followed suit (note that there are some pretty good search facilities for Dipterists Digest on our website)

4. Specimens

For **specimens** we have nothing. Hands up anyone who is able to produce printed specimen labels with unique identifiers on them that link back to a detailed record. Museums have adopted some rather cumbersome and expensive systems for their "objects" that aren't really suitable for large insect collections (Derek Lott once estimated that it would take 10 years to put the Leicestershire beetle collection onto the standard museum system). There was a curatorial add-on that Charles Copp was developing for Recorder, he achieved working systems that were adopted by some European museums but nothing became available for the amateur. One or two individuals have tried to develop their own systems through spreadsheets and MS Access but their efforts are lost with each reincarnation of PC, Windows Office and operating system or self.

Dipterists Forum has educational and conservation remits (*making a real impact on dipterology in Britain*; *Species conservation is one of the key drivers behind the Dipterists Forum*, Drake in Fly Times), both of which are excellently implemented through training courses and work with agencies but each of them are enhanced through effective sharing of information regarding the above collections.

These themes keep recurring in the pages of the Bulletin because it's what we do (*A strength of Dipterists Forum to the British dipterological community is the continuity it provides for just about every activity it has been involved with*, Drake), if you have a passion about any of these topics or maybe have the skill to write reviews then do get in touch with me, readers might appreciate an additional perspective from time to time.

Darwyn Sumner (Editor)

Photography

Digital photography has evolved into a significant aspect of Diptera recording, Alan Stubbs in his section "How to set about fieldwork" in "A Dipterist's Handbook" gives us a brief introduction to the subject and photography is a route via which new enthusiasts are beginning to enter into the study of Diptera. Numerous photographers are setting up personal galleries on the internet (try Geir's Macro Gallery at http://insectmacros.com/) and obtaining expert opinion on their identification from DF members and others. Good macrophotography of set specimens, frequently enhanced by the use of "stacking" techniques, is increasingly being found in modern papers and guides too.

Several interesting items on photography have come my way recently hence this section.

Rob Wolton made a comment to me about staking out likely spots as we returned relatively unvictorious from a site during the spring ramble, "How did you get that?" - "I just sat down at a likely spot and waited". So here's a technique to augment the "Collecting techniques" chapter a little to encourage the photographers who wish to pursue Diptera by brandishing a completely different set of kit from the net-wielders: **Staking out**, a method which can be used in combination with "Stalking" and which is currently in use in some form by many photographers (mostly in their gardens - they should get out more.)

Staking out

Many flies are present in low numbers and widely dispersed in an area. At some point in time they will narrow down that area when they come to their feeding sites, host plants (for phytophagous species), lekking area, oviposition or roost sites. The trick with this technique is to identify these spots in an area using any means you can, from local knowledge, off-season reconnoitres, host distribution (use Gateway or publications) or other geographic and field skills.

The equipment needed is minimal, just a knowledge of the kind of thing you want to find, be it specific (e.g. from a publication on Diptera plant associations) or more general, a pair of **close focus binoculars** (able to focus on the fingertips of your outstretched arm), your **camera equipment** and a **stool**. (a stable platform for photography and a device to permit observation at a level closer to the subjects). Avoid collecting equipment (and others with same), a fly in the bush is worth two in the pooter - if you are wishing to observe it. The choice of stool is important, you need to be at a convenient height for photography, and should achieve a horizontal lap and be able to pivot forwards with ease (55cm works for me, I have long legs) and it needs to be portable with comfort. The fisherman's are too low and shooting sticks too high (although the height adjustable ones might be worth considering), the tripod style works fine but those of sufficient height are uncomfortable to carry, versions with telescopic legs (e.g. www.walkstool.com) prove effective.

The technique is simply to sit and watch, you'll need bags of patience so a secondary activity such as a personal stereo, book or pipe (or other fly-attractant) is valuable. Some relocating will be necessary (see "stalking"), an area of orchids may look homogenous to you but the flies might see them differently.

Identification without the specimen is problematic and won't work at all with some groups. For others good picture-based books (e.g. Wildguide - Britain's Hoverflies by Ball & Morris), some keys (DF workshop and others) with illustrations and good quality websites (diptera.info, DF website, iSpot, EOL) should be used before you seek expert advice. Use a good picture management programme that allows you to tag your digital images with identifications (e.g. iMatch 5) - that's your collection, which takes up a lot less space than cabinets and store boxes. The best way is to become expert yourself, you may wish to use collecting techniques first to build up your own skills.

(since that's my only written contribution to A Dipterist's Handbook I'd like to dedicate it to Jerome K. Jerome who devised and edited the periodical "The Idler" and dedicated his best book "Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow" to his pipe - appropriate on so many levels)

Darwyn Sumner

"Them compacts baint be much good for that macro job missus. We're getting high definition and astounding depth of field from our DSLRs and macro lenses with movement stabilisation and close-up flash"

The latest **NBN eNews** also features an item "Taking macro photographs on a budget" by Jane Adams (see *Reviews*). Very gratifyingly she also advocates sitting down and looking around to see what's going on (see *Staking out*)

Macrophotography of Diptera

There's an excellent article (Dome Light Update) by Eric M. Fisher in Fly Times that will be of interest to Dipterists Forum members who have been working on studio lighting systems for macrophotography of pinned specimens (and anyone else who wants to see some cracking examples). Eric uses the "144 LED Microscope Camera Ring Light - YK-B144T" that's become popular amongst our microscope users (see previous Bulletin), he turns it upside down and and slips a dome on top of it. By painting the outside of the dome black and cutting a circular aperture in the top he's got himself a light source that provides soft, whitish light reflected from the inside of the dome and can use this setup in combination with camera gear affixed to a stand to produce amazing macro photographs, he's using ZereneStacker to stack multiple images (we've previously mentioned Helicon Focus and Stuart Ball's home made software to do this and there's a free one called CombineZ and one in the more recent versions of Adobe Photoshop). Eric also recommends browsing the Photomacrography website at http://www.photomacrography.net/ - some good stuff there.

Vertical or horizontal?

I'm a dedicted user of small wireless flash guns for my macrophotography so the setup shown is by way of an experiment for me. I've used a tabletop tripod plus a Manfrotto 454 Micropositioning plate in place of a dedicated stand. To achieve depth of field I took a series of photographs (1/125s at f4.5) gradually focussing down using the plate's fine adjuster a quarter turn for each shot then stacked the images using Helicon Focus. A solid work bench and a remote shutter device is essential. The results with a continuous light are better than a single shallow photograph but I'm unconvinced that they are much of an improvement on high power flash systems in which I can achieve a depth of field up to f64 without stacking. Stuart Ball will be demonstrating his horizontal system at the AGM - he does much better, as do Eric and Mike.

A basic macro stand: tripod by Velbon, focussing plate by Manfrotto, ring lighting by Neewer, clip-on 4.8 diopter close-up lens by Raynox, background by Wickes.

Loxocera sp. photographed using the above set-up (minus the close-up lens). Several photographs stacked together using Helicon Focus. Specimen from Andrew Grayson, Jenny Brown's Point (Dipterists Forum Lancaster field trip 2013)

Same specimen photographed using 4.8 diopter close-up lens. Both photographs uncropped and lens set at 1:1 reproduction ratio (i.e. life size on the image sensor)

Lighting

It was cool to see so many people at Lancaster using the YK-B144T LED units on their microscopes - literally cool as we've become so accustomed to the sauna effect of the numerous old-style units pumping heat into the lab at Preston Montford and other DF sessions. I tried fixing my YK-B144T to my camera lens but it's not very satisfactory as the hole in the middle isn't very large and it isn't designed to attach to a camera lens.

Advances in white LED technology by the likes of Philipps (see Bulletin #71, p12) and Samsung should mean that nowadays you can obtain high output camera LED ring flash units that also offer continuous lighting for macrophotography.

Neewer, Meike FC-100, Viltrox JY-675, Interfit, JJC LED-48B are all available but it's hard to determine the quality of their LED light outputs. The Neewer 48 LED (continuous only) unit is not as bright as I would have liked (less light output with 48 LEDs than my single LED Refrakta torches) but adequate (the set-up shown allowed me 1/125s at f4.5 at 500ASA), probably as bright as 48/144ths of our YK-B144T and with no UK plug adaptor but at £27 it will suffice for long exposure times on a stable copying stand. These units run from batteries in a control unit that sits on the camera hotshoe (light output varies with battery charge) or from a 3V DC supply. The low power consumption of these LEDs mean that batteries should last a long time if you intend to try these units out in the field. I suspect if a manufacturer specifies "flash" then the light output may be greater (Philipps manufacture LEDs intended for "flash"), they all seem to support continuous use too.

For the hobbyist who is happy wielding a soldering iron, the

LEDs can be readily obtained and there's an example of a home-made ring light at http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/leshobbies/leshobbies/Ring%20light/Ring%20Light.htm this kind of system might be the way to develop your own light box.

Some slight problems with the kit illustrated, the clutch mechanism on the Manfrotto slips (Acme threads eh? - don't get me started) and whilst the clip mechanism of the Raynor is fine when used alone or with the Neewer, there's no way it would support the weight of guns for flash photography in the field.

Fly Times at www.nadsdiptera.org/News/FlyTimes/issue48.pdf

Darwyn Sumner

Insect Specimen Photography

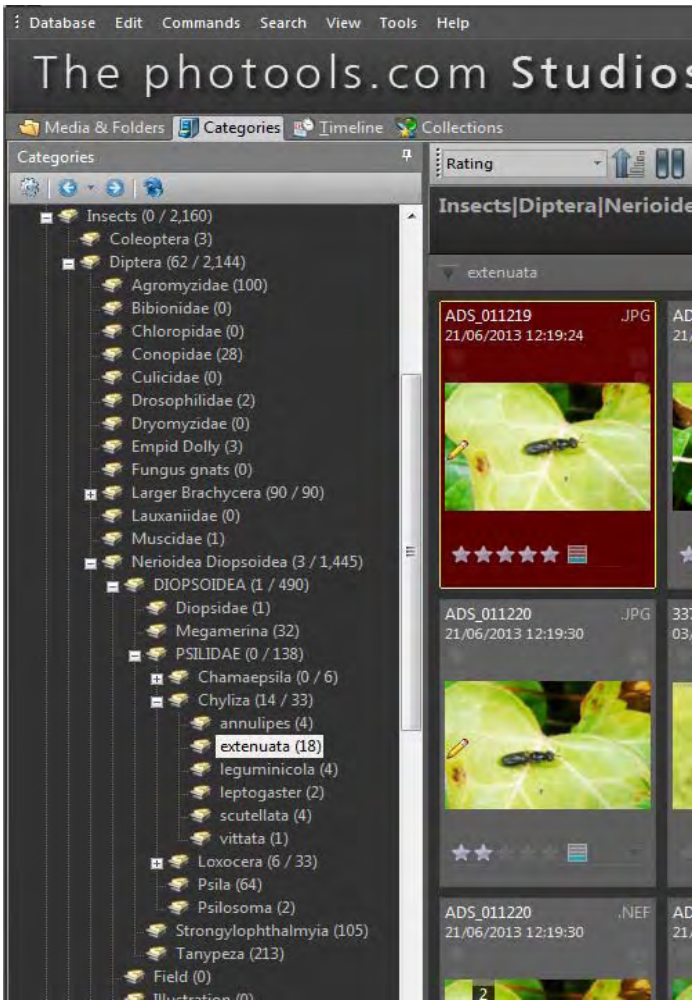
The Spring 2013 Issue of the Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum, alluded to the requirement for and use of digital images of insect specimens. References included digital photography to be undertaken by a new Curator in the Natural History Museum and the digital reference collection of Sepsids cited by Steve Crellin. Readers may be interested in downloading my paper,' **Insect Digital Photography Work Station**', now available on the BENHS website as a pdf file (http://www.benhs.org.uk/site/?q=node/63). This paper describes in detail the construction and use of equipment which I have developed over the last twelve years or so in association with World Museum Liverpool. The file also includes as an example of this application, a virtual collection of about one hundred digital lepidoptera images from the Greek islands of Chios and Lesvos.

Mike Taylor

Digital Asset Management

You need something to manage all your photographs. For naturalists the simple default managers such as Windows Explorer or the one you get with your camera simply aren't flexible enough to meet your needs for tagging all your pictures with essential things like identification, location and so on. **iMatch** from photools.com has been in use by naturalists for some time, it uses its own additional database for extra features and has now been upgraded to version 5.

A major unique feature of this application is that it has a system of assigning pictures to categories. You are able to devise these categories yourself in the form of an hierarchical tree (a taxonomic one for us of course). Assign your picture to that category then when you've worked your way through your collection you can select a single category to display thumbnail pictures of everything you have for that species. You can gradually develop your hierarchical tree right down to the species level if you so wish and continue to add to that list. Multiple categories can be assigned (and searched) of course, so habitats and Reserve noticeboards are a useful set of categories to have. Categories can also be used to aid in the development of keys by assigning images to couplets.



The software is very simple to use, simply drag and drop folders from your Windows Explorer and iMatch processes all the files in there to add information to its own database, things like generating thumbnail pictures and reading metadata (warning: tidy your folders first, adding an entire drive will take ages.) You can select exactly what pictures you want to display in the main thumbnail area either by the **Media & folders** tab that you use to drag and drop to, **Categories**, a **Timeline** (year, month, date - very handy) or **Collections** (based on your tags). Larger previews of the selected image file can be seen either by a "Quick view" panel in the main interface or, especially useful if you have a second monitor, on a full screen window. Added to all this are incredibly detailed displays of all the metadata that was stored with your picture in your camera plus others you can add later - like your name and geographical coordinates plus a huge range of options for tagging your images with ratings, labels, attributes and keywords.

This is an incredibly powerful application, everything you could possible dream up has been incorported into the new version 5, from systems for managing related images (such as stacking lists, cropped images etc.) to an hierarchical keyword thesaurus but it looks and is extremely simple and logical to use. This work by Mario Westphal from Usingen, Germany is outstanding and has no equivalents in any other fields like GIS, taxonomy, biological recording, citation or document management systems.

Free trial versions at photools.com and the full programme is only $64.

Darwyn Sumner

Copyright theft supported by UK legislation

New regulations have been passed by the House of Commons and have got professional photographers (e.g. Royal Photographic Society) fuming, calling it "legalised theft of digital artworks"

The Bill permits the use of "**orphan** works" by anyone who wants to for commercial purposes. That **orphan** is your photograph grabbed from the internet and is defined as an orphan because you didn't identify it using metadata or a watermark.

You can track the progress of this Bill at http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/enterpriseandregulatoryreform.html and add your name to the petition objecting to it at http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49422

Suggestions to protect yourself against this theft are: add your name to the metadata of your picture (you can use iMatch), add a watermark (many applications can do this, including Helicon Focus), only upload low-resolution images, offer them for licensing to an agency (they'd have to be really good for that)

If you're going to download internet pictures for your own use then do the original authors the courtesy of adding their name and the url to the picture's metadata (use iMatch), it will come in handy if you want to ask them for permission to use the image at a later date. You can also use Mendeley (one click) if you anticipate referring to an online image in a published paper.

Darwyn Sumner

Online collections of Diptera images

The internet contains a large and increasing resource of images of flies. Where the species illustrated are reliably named, this resource can prove immensely helpful in aiding dipterists to determine specimens to family, genus or even species. For the most part though, the names applied to images on the internet are rather uncertain, and even where they have been reliably named, there may be no indication that this is the case. The Dipterists Forum committee recently discussed the potential to create a reliable, well organised resource of diptera images. Following on from that discussion, Darwyn Sumner, Stuart Ball and I had a quick chat about how we might develop a really good resource for UK species. Ideally, this would not only provide reliably named images, but could also provide ecological, distribution and life history information. There is a major caveat though. Dipterists are busy people, so whatever system we might end up adopting, cannot be too time consuming to first create, then manage and populate with images and data.

A good place to start is to review the resources that already exist on the internet. Resources that we are aware of are summarised below. They include mixed personal collections, identification forums and well organised galleries - arranged by family.

Presently, probably the most useful, and thoroughly reliable resource for UK dipterists is Steven Falk's excellent series of photographs of species, together with life history, identification notes and distribution information. Currently, there are extensive collections of images for Asilidae, Bibionidae, Bombylidae, Rhagionidae, Rhinophoridae, Stratiomyidae, Syrphidae and Tabanidae. I have found the sets of images with accompanying notes to be extremely helpful for confirming my tentative determinations of Rhinophoridae.

Steven's work is located on the Flickr photo sharing website. Use the search term "flickr falk diptera collection" to find his diptera "home page" (http://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157629586945825/)

Another excellent and pretty comprehensive selection, is on the UK Tachinids website, where Chris Raper has compiled an impressive catalogue of images of species in this family, together with a very useful range of information about each species. Just search for tachinidae uk to find this website.

Selected images from the above two sources are featured on the inside back cover of this Bulletin.

Other sites to search include Diptera.org (Diptera Gallery and Forum), Dipterists Forum and Encyclopedia of Life, the recording sites iSpot and iRecord and other Flickr sites (type "Flickr + [Family]" into DuckDuckGo)

There's also a need to provide good advice to Diptera photographers on where best to showcase their efforts.

Stuart Ball, Nigel Jones and Darwyn Sumner will be investigating these sites and issues. Stuart as you know has been working hard on Syrphidae images (see WildGuide) and as our web master has a very good idea about the feasibility or otherwise of any home-grown solutions, Nigel has been working with Steve Falk who asked DF for promotion, and Darwyn is constantly on the lookout for images for Diptera research and for use in this Bulletin. We're all keen photographers too.

We've made just a little progress, for example we're all impressed by Encyclopedia of Life (http://eol.org/) which seems may fulfil some needs. This is a well-funded initiative backed by a large number of institutions worldwide and hopefully by acceptable taxonomic structures. I surmise something along the lines of the late BioSystematic Database of World Diptera or its successor Systema Dipterorum at http://www.diptera.org/ is currently in use but we need to be reassured that our own (Peter Chandler's list & Chris Raper's work with Species Dictionaries at NHM) is adequately implemented.

Our informal group will be investigating the above issues over the coming months (registering with EOL, testing the system etc.) so if you have an interest please take a look at these sites and references below and if you have any comments or contributions to make, email Darwyn, Stuart and Nigel simultaneously.

The following are intended only to stimulate debate:

Pape, T. & Thompson, C., 2009. Status of the BioSystematic Database of World Diptera (BDWD). Fly Times, (43), p.15.

Thompson, C., 2010. BioSystematic Database of World Diptera (1994-2008). Fly Times, (44), p.6.

Anon, Home | Scratchpads. Available at: http://scratchpads.eu/ [Accessed August 1, 2013].

Pape, T. & Thompson, C., 2010. Systema Dipterorum - a Scientific Resource used Globally. Fly Times, (45).

Anon, >Tachinid Recording Scheme. Available at: http://tachinidae.org.uk/blog/ [Accessed August 1, 2013].

Nigel Jones & Darwyn Sumner

Photographs for the Bulletin

We simply don't have the resources to buy suitable pictures from agencies in the way that magazine publishers do. The Bulletin is totally reliant on the generosity of its readership to help illustrate articles, depict people at events and adorn the inevitable blank tail ends of columns.

So when you come to assign categories using your new version of **iMatch**, remember to add a category "DF Bulletin" and send them to the editor. They don't have to be competition-winners and I may not use them all (or may pass them to Newsletter editors) but the Bulletin needs to have a bit of a library to draw from to make these pages more interesting to you.

Conservation

News from the Conservation officer

State of Nature

This hard hitting report, recently produced by a partnership of 25 non-governmental conservation organisations, is well worth a look, even if its content does not make easy reading: the report confirms that the majority of the UK's wildlife is in trouble. I shall not repeat the figures here (the report can easily be found online), but we must hope they will be a wake-up call for government: if policies are not improved and more resources found, then the natural world will continue to slide towards meltdown as we pursue short-term policies for economic growth.

The report is, as the authors recognise, heavily biased towards vertebrates, because population or distribution trends are poor or non-existent for most other groups: not just for invertebrates and fungi, but surprisingly for plants too. Despite this, I am heartened by the number of references to flies – I counted at least 15. These range from linking the rareness of *Cheilosia semifasciata* to the decline in coppiced woods, a single hedge supporting as many as 750 species of fly, the risk avermectins pose to the Hornet Robberfly *Asilus crabroniformis*, the rarity of the Mottled Bee Fly *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* being associated with the loss of lowland heath, *Microdon mutabilis* being used as an example of a rare insect of limestone pavements, flies making up a high proportion of species diversity in the uplands and woodlands, and a long case study on the importance of aspen stands for the Aspen Hoverfly *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*. Jennifer Owen's remarkable 30 year study of the numbers of hoverflies in her Leicester garden is highlighted to demonstrate the decline of insects in urban situations.

I could see no reference, however, to the Hoverfly Recording Scheme or Scottish Hoverfly Mapping Scheme, and in particular to the Atlas of the Hoverflies of Great Britain produced by Stuart Ball, Roger Morris, Graham Rotheray and Kenneth Watt in 2011. This provides population trends for 239 species: 33% show a significant decline over the least 25-35 years compared to just 9% showing a significant increase, a similar situation to that for other most other invertebrate groups with population trend information. Hoverflies associated with conifers are faring least well, followed by wetland ones.

More on grazing

There are frequent references within *State of Nature* to unsatisfactory grazing levels – both to over and under grazing, and there has been a thought provoking piece on grazing lowland heathland by Jonty Denton in the recent edition of British Wildlife. While grazing is a valuable and necessary management tool on many wildlife sites, it is clear that it is often introduced without clear objectives and without any monitoring, especially where invertebrates are concerned, with damaging consequences.

While the debate about the impact of current grazing levels, by deer as well as cattle and ponies, in the New Forest continues, I am pleased to report that Natural England do recognise the need to establish good baseline information, so the direction of changes in invertebrate diversity and abundance can be properly assessed. Indeed, an analysis of existing invertebrate survey data for the Crown Lands is planned for 2013/2014.

In May, I was very fortunate to be shown four high quality invertebrate sites in the New Forest by Steven Falk of Buglife, accompanied by Jon Stokes from the Tree Council who also knows the Forest well. At only one of these sites did we identify any short-term need for a change in management, and that was a small section of disused railway cutting where invasive pine and birch threaten to shade out some mini sand cliff exposures which support a number of rare species, including *Thyridanthrax fenestratus* (and sand lizards). I have asked Natural England and the Forestry Commission to see if they can arrange a working party to clear the young trees, and they are looking into this.

Summer Lancaster field meeting

The majority of the many sites visited by those attending the Lancaster meeting in July seemed to be remarkably well managed, spanning a wide range of habitats from river valley, broadleaved woodlands of various types, mosses (raised mires) through to limestone pavement. Certainly, it was a pleasure to visit them. Even the upland moors of the Forest of Bowland appeared to be being grazed at a level which maintained a good vegetation structure. The only concern I heard expressed was that many of the coastal salt marshes are being heavily grazed by sheep, much reducing their invertebrate interest. I was particularly pleased to see the efforts being made by Natural England and by the Cumbria Wildlife Trust to re-wet some of their mosses, previously badly affected by ditching works on surrounding land as well as on the sites themselves. If anyone attending the meeting has concerns about the management of any sites visited there, I should be interested to hear from you.

Robert Wolton robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk

Adopt a species

My thanks to Ian Andrews, Adrian Plant, David Heaver, Martin Drake and Mark Winder for letting me have an update for their adopted species.

Particular thanks are due to Roy Crossley who has decided to step down as adopter for *Odontomyia hydroleon* after 15 years of monitoring this rare fly in Yorkshire and building a sound working relationship with the Forestry Commission, owners of the site. As Ian Andrews says, the record high numbers this year are a testament to Roy's dedication and success. I am delighted that Ian, who has been helping Roy for a few years, is now taking on the adopter role.

Since the last newsletter there have been no new offers of adoption – do please let me know if you are willing to be at least a contact point for a species. I have decided to adopt the hoverfly *Sphaerophoria potentillae* (see below).

Adopt a species news

***Odontomyia hydroleon* in Yorkshire 2013**

As recorded in the last edition of the Bulletin, 2012 was a record year for the Barred Green Colonel at Seivedale Fen, with 39 counted on 12th July. That record did not last long!

The 2013 season started slowly, with none seen by me on 29th June. Roy Crossley visited on 12th July, a year to the day since last season's high count, and recorded 10 males and 4 females by sweeping over the seepages. That is a healthy count and very similar to the previous counts made over the years that Roy has been monitoring the fly. Three days later, I visited again on a very hot still day, at 10am. At first, there was no sign of the fly at all, but as the slopes warmed up, flies quickly appeared, hovering at around one to two feet over the rushes. Over the next two hours, I visited each of the three main seepages and counted what I could see. At the southern seepages, where the species was seen for the first time in 2012, I netted 8 males and 2 females. Before releas-

ing them, I counted 41 more hovering over the immediate area. In the middle seepages, I took 49 males and 4 females in about 20 minutes, just by standing in one place and netting them as they flew beside me. Again, I counted before releasing those, and reached 102 hovering over the slope. Finally, I counted over the northern seepages, where 116 were visible. The total count was 322. I would add that that is only a proportion of the *hydroleon* which were flying on that morning…there must have been well over 500. Subsequent visits by me on 20th July and by Andrew Grayson on 22nd July produced nothing.

It was a fantastic experience to stand in the middle of the site on that one day and be surrounded by so many of such a rare fly. It illustrates the difficulty of monitoring a species like this, with a short emergence period, though; the peak emergence this year just happened to coincide with a period of very hot weather, which certainly was not true over the previous two years I have visited the site. Will such a count be made again? Maybe, but you just have to be lucky to hit the right day…five days later, there were none to be seen.

It is appropriate that such a high count was made just as Roy Crossley handed his file on *Odontomyia hydroleon* over to me. Roy first started monitoring the species in 1997 and he has not only kept records of numbers seen, but importantly has forged a strong relationship with various Forestry Commission ecologists, working together with them to guide site management for the fly and so secure a safe future for the species…this year's count is testament to the success of all Roy's effort at Seivedale. If only all BAP species had a Roy to look after them! I shall now strive to keep things going…*and I suspect that Roy will still wade the stream and jump the fence a few times more!*

Ian Andrews syrphus@hotmail.co.uk

Empis limata

At the time of writing I have completed 9 of a planned 10 days searching for The Borders Dance-Fly, supported by Buglife. Although previously known from Clytha Park on the River Usk and at Clodock on the River Monnow it was not found at either of these places during this survey. A new small colony was however found at Goitre Park on the Usk. Over the years there have been occasional reports from Moccas Park in Herefordshire and this site seems to be the stronghold of the species with more than 30 individuals found during the survey. Here there is a small but strong colony within a fenced ungrazed area used for pheasant rearing although it does occur in lesser numbers elsewhere at Moccas.

Both Moccas and Goitre colonies are centred about small glades on sandy soils with poor drainage and rank herbage. Nectar sources (especially umbels) appear to be important to males at least. While males can be seen at flowers or hunting/flighting at the interface of light and shade in glades, females are far more elusive and were generally found in deep shade under the vegetation. The species may be a wood pasture or woodland glade relict but as yet it is far from clear why it is so rare as many apparently suitable sites exist in which it is not found.

The species was originally described from specimens taken at Stoke Wood (Hereford) in 1908 and Painswick (Gloucester) in 1889. The Stoke Wood locality has been searched without success and the Painswick site will be investigated shortly. The only other locality for the species is two sites in the Wyre Forest (Worcestershire).

Adrian Plant

Idiocera sexguttata

Mark Winder has let me know that over the next two years he's going to be doing a survey for the Six-spotted Cranefly, for Buglife and funded by Natural England. This will involve re-establishing presence and a habitat assessment.

Gnophomyia elsneri

David Heaver tells me that Natural England has also contracted Buglife to explore the habitat resource at Windsor for Royal Splinter Cranefly.

Dorylomorpha clavifemora

David also reports that Buglife has been contracted to do some work to try and understand the habitat and leafhopper communities around this species, the Clubbed Big-headed Fly.

Myolepta potens

I took myself off to Welshbury wood in Gloucestershire to explore the 2nd known "locality" following the discovery Western Wood-vase Hoverfly there. This was on Tuesday 19th June. As it turned out, very little was in flight in the wood, and everything seemed really early, despite the fine, warm weather. However, the plan was not to find the fly but to explore where the larval habitat might be.

This was based on the sampling experience with Andy Godfrey at Moccas Park NNR. Much of Welshbury Wood has been impacted by conifer planting, and even the hill fort has deciduous trees on it. Whilst much of the conifer wood was not thoroughly explored, the sections I did look at showed quite small deciduous trees. There were a small number of large boundary trees, but as this wood is set in a well wooded landscape, one could equally argue the woodland boundaries themselves are a little irrelevant.

Only 3 decent candidate trees were found, though a number of smaller ones were looked at. An example was a small lime tree (dbh of 30cms with a basal water filled cavity), though exploring this showed it owed more to *Myathropa* habitat than that for *Myolepta*. A number of similar root run cavities were also explored to no avail (damp, mossy, peaty, but no wet wood mould). The three trees holding promise were all beech, two being by the ridge path over the hillfort, and the best at the end of the ridge below the main ramparts:

"Graffiti tree - large beech by the path in an area of small coppice hazel, with about 5 potential hollows, but all high.

"I love Linda" tree - from the prominent bark graffiti, a large beech on hill-fort top by the path, with c15 branch decay hollows, but all high and out of reach.

Broken tree - another beech, much broken, with 2 deep basal root pools, and 1 snapped branch end, with higher "damp" bark areas (stained). The basal pools extended at least 45cms down into the tree and probably merge into an area of wet wood mould, but were slightly sheltered by aspect and bracket fungal plates. This is the best option so far.

Tasks for a 2 or 3 man team: using a collapsible ladder, explore the high (c15ft) hollows and holes for wood mould. Spring time collection of material from the third tree's basal pools, reaching in deep to explore any wood mould areas for removal and subsequent rearing of material. This did, in part, resemble some of the Moccas micro-sites.

It is, of course, possible, that *Myolepta* breeds in other sites (already noted at Blaisdon wood a short distance away), and that the 3 beech trees are not the larval site at Welshbury. The boundary or near field trees are large and may support the resource, or it may be more mobile in some landscapes than the data suggests is the case at Moccas.

David Heaver

Dolichopus laticola

The Broads Dolly-Fly was recorded last summer (2012) at Thompson Common, Norfolk, which is a remarkable record some 45km west of its stronghold in the Broadland fens. Thompson Common is known for its pingo pools and is not really a fenland site; it has also been well worked by dipterists for several decades. So, together with Peter Vincent's recent records from coastal Walberswick, the species is now looking in a marginally more healthy state as it is not confined to Broadland.

Martin Drake and James McGill

Sphaerophoria potentillae

I have decided to adopt this hoverfly because it's very rare (proposed RDB vulnerable) and its three known sites in the British Isles are not far from where I live in Devon. Two of these sites are on the Culm Measures of northern Devon, namely Common Moor (East Putford) and Beaford Moor, wet heathland SSSIs. At both these sites the fly was found in 1989, the first records for the British Isles, being seen again the following year. Subsequently, the only record is one from Ivan Perry in 2001 at a third site, Retire Common in the Mid-Cornwall Moors.

On 29 June this year I called in briefly at Common Moor. It was a damp coolish day and heavily overcast, and I really was not expecting to find anything, especially since the site is in very poor condition. Although it has not been grazed for decades at least it used to be periodically burnt, but for many years now it has been entirely neglected. Willow scrub has spread and the *Molinia*-dominated sward has become tussocky and species-poor, with frequent bramble. However, I did catch two *Sphaerophoria* males, one of which was *S. philanthus* and the other, to my delight, *S. potentillae*. Spurred on by this success, I visited Beaford Moor on 1 July. In contrast to Common Moor, this is a site which was formerly neglected but has now been brought back into good condition by careful grazing and burning. After searching the site I eventually found a small area of wet heath with a small number of *Sphaerophoria*. I watched them for some time, observed their behaviour, described the vegetation and even took some passable photos. But, alas, when I got specimens under the microscope they were all *S. philanthus*. I had previously visited Beaford Moor on 14 June and recently returned on 18 July, but on each occasion found only *S. philanthus* and a few *S. interrupta*.

It would be ironic if *S. potentillae* survives on the unmanaged, neglected, site, having been lost from the restored one! Next year I shall endeavour to visit Retire Common, as well as visiting a small number of Culm sites with similar wet heathy vegetation to that at Common Moor and Beaford Moor.

Rob Wolton

Members

Membership Matters

By end of June 2013 we had 457 people registered with Dipterists Forum and 391 who also take the Dipterists Digest. 392 have resubscribed or joined for the first time so far in in 2013, leaving 65 people who have not yet renewed their subscription.

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:

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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. We are also changing our bank so please do not just adjust the payment amount.

You can make the changes either using the form enclosed in the Bulletin or by amending the payment through online banking.

By online banking change the payment details to:

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Sort code 60-60-08
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By form, 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

Stratiomys potamida from Chris Spilling

Obituary

John Bowden (1924-2012)

John Bowden at Rothamsted on 28 March 1983

John Bowden was known to dipterists mainly for his expertise in the world fauna of bee-flies (Bombyliidae), and from his regular attendance of our annual meetings in the 1970s and 80s. He also had a varied professional career: much of it was spent in Africa where his interest in bee-flies evidently developed, followed by a spell at Rothamsted in Hertfordshire, from where he retired aged 60 in 1984.

From recent correspondence with his wife Kay, I learned that he died aged 87 on 15 January 2012, after a short illness. He had apparently lost touch with former colleagues in latter years, so his death was not reported in the entomological literature and no obituary has previously appeared (Kay Bowden pers. comm.). This initial contact resulted from my editing of a paper on the Bristol dipterist Henri Audcent (1875-1951), soon to appear in *Dipterists Digest*. John Bowden (1984a) described from Morocco the bee-fly *Bombylius audcenti*, very like the British species *B. canescens* Mikan but distinguished by its yellow femora, commenting: "The species is named in memory of H.L.F. Audcent, my tutor in the study of Diptera." I was hoping for John Bowden's reminiscences of Audcent, as I was not aware of any other living dipterist who knew him.

John Bowden was collecting Diptera in the Bristol district at least from 1945, according to records in Audcent's papers on the Bristol insect fauna. He was a member of the Bristol Naturalists' Society at that time, which recorded his address as being in Mangotsfield. He had attended Church of England Schools at Bitton and Mangotsfield, followed by Kingswood Grammar School, and graduated with a BSc degree from Bristol University in 1945. Audcent (1945. Additions to the Bristol Insect Fauna (Diptera) since 1944. *Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society* **27**(2)**,** 107-108) reported that John had collected a muscid *Lispe superciliosa* Loew, at Long Ashton in 1945, which was new to Britain. However, this was evidently a misidentification by Audcent of *L. litorea* Fallén and he had corrected it before producing his definitive regional Diptera list in 1949-1950. In 1947 Audcent sent a specimen to J.E. Collin for checking, and wrote that he wasn't sure how he had led Bowden astray, but would await John's return to England in April 1948 to resolve the matter, noting that John had compared it with specimens of *L. litorea* in the collection at Cambridge.

Following graduation from Bristol, he went to Cambridge University for a year until 1946 on a Colonial Scholarship, which was a prelude to his career in Africa. His first post there from 1946 until 1957 was as entomologist at the Department of Agriculture of the Gold Coast (now Ghana). John and Kay were married in 1948. His first ten publications related to his agricultural work in Ghana and included two taxonomic papers (1953a, 1956a), the first with W.H.T. Tams, on the lepidopterous pests of crop plants. These included the proposal of 6 new genera and description of 16 new species or subspecies of Noctuidae (as Agrotidae). He was awarded an MSc by the University of Bristol in 1953.

While in Ghana, John had a lucky escape when the Commissioner of Police, Patrick (Paddy) Duke, restrained him from stepping on a puff adder (Hugh Loxdale pers. comm.). He then became Senior Entomologist for the Government of Uganda from 1957 until 1963. Further papers on his agricultural studies there appeared during this period, but he also began to publish (1959b, 1959c) on African bee-flies, which were his first papers on Diptera. Many others on this family were to follow. John's PhD was awarded by the University of Bristol in 1964, while he was based at Long Ashton Research Station, as a visiting worker from 1963 to 1965.

The staff of the entomology department at Rothamsted in May 1971:
(left to right) front row: Mike P. Bentley, Ian H. Haines, Carol J. Marshall, Susan E. Staines, Marjorie Bellingham, C.G. Johnson (Head of Department), May Milnes, Margaret G. Jones, Sheila D. West, Roy A. French, Alan J. Cockbain, Ewen .D.M. Macaulay; second row: Chris J. Stafford, D.W. Lloyd, Barbara A. Jones, Brian G. Withers, Rita K. Edgell, Simon Cobley, L. Roy Taylor, Arthur E. Whiting, Jennifer B. Sherrard, Joan Nicklen, Godfrey J.W. Dean, D.J. Cross, Ian F. Henderson; third row: Hugh D. Loxdale, Keith E, Fletcher, J. Reece Lofty, Clive A. Edwards, Richard Bardner, David G. Gibbs, Hugh H. Franklin, Ian P. Woiwod, Gordon C. Dibley, J.W. Stephenson, John Bowden, E. Judenko.

This also related to studies of Lepidoptera in Africa. His thesis (1964a) is entitled: "The Sphingidae (Lepidoptera) of Kwadaso, Ghana, with special reference to their phenology, the influence of moonlight on activity and the effect of weather conditions on abundance and activity".

John then took up a post as a professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Biology at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria from 1965 to 1968. After that he left Africa to join the Entomology Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, where he was based from 1968 till his retirement in 1984. He visited Kenya in 1970, when he collected two species of Platypezidae that he described as new (1973g). In 1978 he went on a three month assignment to Bangalore, India. His 1988 paper on light-trap catches of Cicadellidae in West Bengal presumably resulted from his contacts there.

While at Rothamsted John studied light trap catches. His publications included an analysis of factors affecting catches of insects at light-traps (1982), one on monitoring wheat bulb fly, *Delia coarctata* using light traps (1979b), and also a three part paper (1973h, 1973i, 1975d) on the influence of moonlight on light trap catches in Africa. He referred craneflies, caught in light traps at Rothamsted, to Alan Stubbs and in 1975 he sent me a list of 11 species of Platypezidae, surprisingly caught in this way. As Theresa Minall has mentioned (see below) he also studied various aspects of the populations of cutworms *Agrotis segetum* (Noctuidae) (1983b, 1985e), the group on which his early studies in Africa were based.

Throughout this time he continued to publish on bee-flies and other Diptera, mostly from the tropics. He contributed the sections on this family to the Oriental (1975a) and Afrotropical (1980c) catalogues, also covering Mydidae (= Mydaidae) and Nemestrinidae in the latter catalogue. He also wrote the chapter on Diptera for a book on the *Biogeography and ecology of Southern Africa* (1978a).

According to correspondence I had with John in 1974-5 about African Platypezidae, I evidently first met him in 1973 at the inaugural meeting of the Cranefly Recording Scheme, the precursor to the annual dipterists' meetings, which he regularly attended. I don't think he came to any field meetings. At the annual meeting in 1979 he gave a talk on hoverflies caught in suction traps and light traps. When Tony Irwin launched the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme in 1976, John became involved and was not only adviser on bee-flies, but also took an interest in Therevidae. He intended to prepare a new key to the genus *Thereva* and gathered material from museums and collectors. In the Recording Scheme newsletter No 2 (August 1984), he thanked those who had sent him *Thereva*, and requested more material in order to produce a reliable key. Unfortunately illness intervened and he had to drop this project.

Following retirement he moved to Colchester and began recording general Diptera, in particular in his garden. His health evidently having recovered, from 1996 to 2000 he published a series of

miscellaneous notes on Diptera, mostly from that part of Essex. In 1997-8, while I was preparing the Diptera checklist, I had a lengthy correspondence with him on the identity and nomenclature of the British species of *Villa*, a difficult genus in Europe. On 29 June 1997 he wrote that his intention to do more on entomology after retirement had been interfered with by illness, but added that "the freedom that comes with retirement has meant that, unless one is fanatical about something, there are always other things to do." Further correspondence in 1999 related mainly to African Platypezidae, which he had intended to do more work on, and he then forwarded to me all material he had of that family.

John donated his world bee-fly collection of about 5000 specimens to the Natural History Museum in 2003, when Neal Evenhuis, David Greathead and David Notton arranged the return of loaned material. His collection includes about 70 undescribed species with manuscript names and there were several papers in preparation on bee-flies from various parts of the world (Neal Evenhuis pers. comm.), resulting in other manuscript names in the returned loans. In particular one on Madagascan bee-flies was evidently nearing completion, as John wrote to me on 1 February 1999 that it had been finished 20 years before and was only awaiting resolution of a dispute about type depositories. Unfortunately, however, no manuscripts came to the museum with his collection and none of the unpublished work has yet been traced.

After his death, John's British Diptera collection was donated to the collections of Colchester Natural History Museum and Sophie Stevens of that museum has informed me that it is housed in store boxes, labelled with the relevant families. These were sealed, awaiting possible acquisition of a cabinet to house their contents, but can be made available for study by researchers by appointment. It can't yet be confirmed if this collection includes specimens collected in his early years in the Bristol region.

Taxa of Diptera described by John Bowden

Altogether his published works include 131 new species and ten new genera of Diptera. The great majority are Bombyliidae, with 118 species group names (including 1 subspecies and 1 variety) and 8 genera, while there are 1 genus and 2 species (1 Afrotropical, 1 Oriental) of the allied family Mythicomyiidae. Most Bombyliidae he described are Afrotropical, but they also include 8 Australian, 5 Oriental, 1 Neotropical and 7 Palaearctic (mostly Mediterranean) species. Four species of Bombyliidae were co-authored by D. Lachaise. He described 1 genus and 4 species of Mydidae, including Afrotropical, Oriental and Palaearctic species. The remaining 7 species he described comprise 2 species of Tabanidae and 4 of Platypezidae, all Afrotropical, and one species of Nemestrinidae from Turkey.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to John's wife Kay for information on his life and career, and for the 1983 photograph. Chris Shortall supplied chronological details of his education and professional posts, and also put me in touch with some of his former colleagues at Rothamsted, including his assistant there, Theresa Minall. Her account of that time is reproduced below. Hugh Loxdale kindly supplied the 1971 staff photograph; he and Joe Perry gave their reminiscences of John. Sophie Stevens of the Colchester Museum informed me of the details of that part of John's collections received there and Erica McAlister provided an account of the collections held by the Natural History Museum.

I am particularly indebted to Neal Evenhuis for his interest in gathering information on John Bowden, in recognition of his contribution to the study of world bee-flies. Neal provided the bibliography of John's publications, which should be comprehensive at least for those relating to Diptera, and also an Excel file of all dipteran taxa described by John.

Peter Chandler

An appreciation of John Bowden
by Theresa Minall (from e-mail 15/6/2013)

I worked under John from 1976 to 1984 in the Entomology Department, identifying Neuroptera (lacewing flies), syrphids (hoverflies), and then onto a new project involving the movement of cutworms. Phil Sherlock then joined us on the section (has now emigrated to France). Cutworms are larvae of noctuid moths and can cause substantial damage to root crops, i.e. carrots, swedes, etc. We studied a noctuid moth named *Noctua pronuba* (Large Yellow Underwing). These were bred in the constant temperature rooms at Rothamsted.

We had many laughs at John's antics at Cambridge University. Apparently there was a curfew on the time students were to return to their halls after a night out and he was invariably late so he used to climb the walls to sneak back in.

John visited Egypt (Cairo) several times and thoroughly enjoyed his visits over there, but, this was before I commenced working for him and I think this may have been arranged by Rothamsted. He identified Diptera for an institute in Cairo and I know there was a visit from an Egyptian over here to study and identify Diptera - I gather this was an exchange visit, but unfortunately I have no further details.

As a person - John loved his pipe and he existed in a permanent haze of smoke. Colleagues would have to peer through the window of his room in order to establish as to whether he was in his room or not! He was a strict but fair individual and demanded accuracy. He was a 'bit of a loner' and had a very small and select group of friends. People were a little nervous of him, when in his presence, because he had an extremely authoritative way about him. He disliked fieldwork immensely - which always amused Phil and I. He was always LAST to start the journey when our fieldwork took us to Worksop and Swaffham, he was always the FIRST to enter the local pub to sample the beer and Norfolk sausages. We always returned from Norfolk with bags of local produce from the farmers, who had allowed us to set up experimental sites on their land.

John was a true Entomologist and there were very few insects that he could not identify.

I hope this gives you a little more insight into the 'world of John as I knew him'. I thoroughly enjoyed working for John and thought of him as a bit of a father figure. He was always fair to me and we had an extremely good relationship. I missed him when I left to have my children.

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[compiled by Neal Evenhuis]

[complete co-authorship is listed in square brackets after the citation; otherwise single authored]

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Review

Open Access Publishing

Letter sent to New Scientist Letters (published 31 Aug):

Whilst Feedback's concerns regarding Open Access Publishing (... "*someone has to pay ... that someone is the researcher, whose livelihood depends on being published somewhere*". New Scientist 27 July 2013) may well apply to the commercial and academic science sectors the converse applies to the substantial sector serviced by museums and "volunteers" in the "poor" areas of biodiversity, taxonomy and conservation. Our peer-reviewed journals predate others by centuries and our writers are either unpaid or employees of poorly funded institutions. Open Access Publication to us means not having to pay in order to read background material for unpaid work. Our work is accessed freely by commerce and academe, it's time they responded in kind.

Darwyn Sumner

("*They publish articles in National Geographic and Royal Horticultural journals, They take themselves very seriously*" - Agatha Christie)

Biodiversity Heritage Library

This one might be worth a little browsing around, according to the site at http://archive.org/details/biodiversity "The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries that cooperate to digitize and make accessible the legacy literature of biodiversity held in their collections. This literature is made available for open access and responsible use as a part of a global "biodiversity commons.""

Mendeley

It's gratifying to discover that the Mendeley aether I was beginning to think I was almost the sole occupant of, is now filling up with fellow Dipterists. Adrian Plant first drew our attention to it and now we have Martin Harvey, Malcolm Storey, Chris Raper and Nigel Jones all busying themselves with it, so this little column is gathering a bit of a readership.

In the latest release, they have added a literature search feature that runs from Mendeley Desktop. Very useful indeed.

I'll recruit a few more with this piece of news: ***Studia Dipterologica*** have 535 papers listed, all nicely tagged by Roderic Page so that you can search for key words. All you have to do is go to http://www.mendeley.com/ , select the "Groups" tab and enter the search term "Diptera". I've already got the free software installed so I was able to join this group with one button click, I guess if you're new to Mendeley you'll get a different option which lets you install it.

A list of the papers can also be obtained from http://www.studia-dipt.de/offlinee.htm.

There are a couple of other groups in there which might interest you, there's my "Diptera: Micropezids and Tanypezids" and some rather closely focussed ones such as Palaearctic *Tephritis*.

Groups

In addition to making collections for your own use as a way of organising personal stuff via your own hierarchical tree structure and the nice integrated pdf reader, you can share certain topics via the "Groups" system. This warrants a bit of an explanation, the Groups can be of 3 kinds:

Private: you link your pdfs to citations and these files finish up in your personal (free) storage space (of limited capacity so choose the scope of your group carefully somewhere in the aether. You can then invite up to 4 other co-workers to this group who then have the facility to download your pdfs and upload theirs. You want any more than 5 people or more space then you have to pay.

Public with collaborators, anyone can see the citations and up to 4 collaborators can add their citations too (but not actual pdf files)

Public: anyone can view the citations

So for my Micropezids and Tanypezids I have 2 groups, one private so that I can collaborate with selected people who are likely to have material that they can share with me and a public+collaborators one for anyone to look at and maybe add any new citations. I just drag citations from my main collection (unshared, so unlimited space available) across to the groups as I build it up.

It works with Word documents too, so there's your solution to all the Dipterists Forum committee meeting agendas and Minutes, I doubt many would want to share those, though.

Newsletters online

Fly Times

You should be checking the Fly Times site (http://www.nadsdiptera.org/News/FlyTimes/Flyhome.htm) regularly for their terrific biannual newsletters are packed with fascinating stuff. This newsletter (founded in 1988) gave rise to the North American Dipterists Society and has a worldwide remit.

Issue 48 has an article about using Microsoft PowerPoint to create interactive digital keys, the downloadable template is well worth playing around with. It would be great to see simple keys done this way for small groups like Oestridae or Conopidae - based on photographs.

Darwyn Sumner

The Bulletin of the Kent Field Club is now available on-line free, giving access to some excellent county reviews for some fly families including Bibionidae, Chloropidae, Sarcophagidae and Tephritidae by Laurence Clemons

http://www.kentfieldclub.org.uk/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=18&Itemid=16

Ken Merrifield & Alan Stubbs

NFBR Newsletter 46 is filled with interesting items, including a detailed account of the presentations at their Conference, "Biological recording from the local perspective", an interview with Charles Roper "Social media, communications and biological recording" and an item from an ecological consultant (Louise Moray) about the use of biological records by that sector. Dipterists Forum features strongly with items by Martin Harvey and Roger Morris.

http://issuu.com/nfbr/docs/nfbr_newsletter_46_-_july_2013

Darwyn Sumner

I've signed up to receive **NBN eNews** by email, you should do the same at http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/eNews.aspx where you'll get a summary of current issues, such as reports on iSpot progress, background to iRecord, NBN Gateway plans and (coincidentally) an item "Taking photographs on a budget" by Jane Adams which very neatly ties in to this Bulletin's photography feature.

Darwyn Sumner

I usually get a newsletter from **BRISC** (Biological Recording in Scotland) just before going to press with a Bulletin but I've missed that happy coincidence this time. Try their website at http://www.brisc.org.uk/index.php and sign up to receive your newsletter by email.

Darwyn Sumner

Books

Nematocera (larvae)

Keys to the Palaearctic families and genera of nematocerous larvae (Diptera, Nematocera) Moscow: KMK Scientific press. 2012. 244 p. + 28 plates. Approximate cost 45$.

This book is the result of a revision of the extensive collection of Diptera immatures (larvae). A review of 35 families and 170 genera of Nematocera is given. Separate keys to families are given for terrestrial larvae and for aquatic larvae, which has enabled shorter keys to be composed which are also more convenient to use. Keys are given to the genera within each family, except for the Chironomidae, Cecidomyiidae and Simuliidae, where keys only to subfamilies are given. The book contains about 80 colour illustrations (photographs) and 400 figures. Data on the general morphology and biology of nematocerous larvae are discussed. The book is recommended for specialists in ecology, soil zoology, and University teachers and students. **In Russian**, with keys and figure legends also in English.

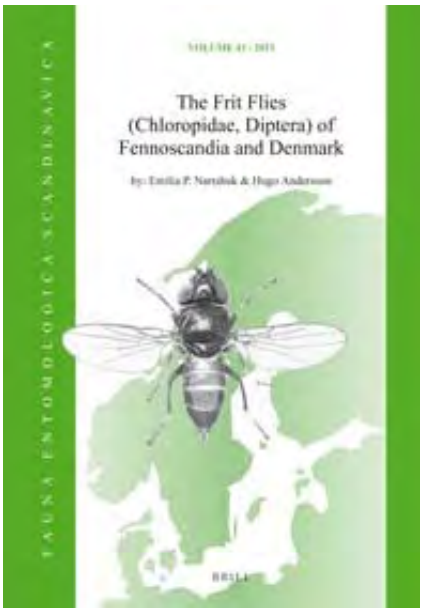
You can order this book at the email address of KMK Scientific press (please mark this order as "Krivosheina book"):

mikhailov2000@gmail.com

Marina Krivosheina via Phil Withers

Chloropidae

Emilia P. Nartshuk and Hugo Andersson
The Frit Flies (Chloropidae, Diptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark
ISBN: 978-90-04-16710-0
Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica, Volume 43
List price EUR: 181 / List price US$: 248



This is significant new publication in the Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica series from Brill publishers, kindly notified to me by Ms Mieke van Egmond. It adds considerably to the keys that are available to help identify this Family.

Initial impressions are strong, a plate of colour photographs and many crisp line drawings of an extremely high quality together with detailed diagrams that seek to depict *spicular zones* in the larvae, a notoriously difficult task well executed here. Just one or two groups of diagrams are a little less than perfect, monochrome images never seem to reproduce as well as one expects (*Incertella kartashensis* on p112) and some of the less crisp diagrams might have benefitted from being redrawn.

Any modern publication dealing with European biogeographical distribution should be utilising free vector maps provided by the Taxonomic Database Working Group (Brummitt, 1992) using GIS tools (Quantum GIS is free) and perhaps with the support of GBIF (http://www.gbif.org/). No maps at all in the chapter "Distribution and zoogeography" and whilst the practise of presenting "distribution" as text is commonplace, maps would be preferable. Only two maps in the book, a blurred low quality screen capture of *Thaumatomyia notata* distribution and a raster conic projection depicting *Gaurax leucarista* distribution.

It had been remarked to me that in some places the translation into English was less than optimal. I looked hard for these, finding the overall presentation in the introductory chapters to be fine with just the occasional tripping up "*Habitually, here are two main types.*" p9 and now and then an unfamiliar sentence structure but overall there's no real problem in reading everything.

A personal favourite was the section "**Role in land ecosystems and species of economic importance**" which is quite simply a fascinating read, and the tables of host plants and parasitoids will appeal to specialists in those areas.

The larvae are well covered in this book, I'm a novice in this area so decided to have a closer look at some of it and whilst I stumbled hard on a language problem, managed to surmount it. Thinking that I could probably get to grips with the larval terminology within the couplets I was happy enough to analyse one that starts with "*Ventral creeping welts of abdominal segments with ...*" (*Oscinella*, p126) but the sense was lost in an adjacent couplet "*On creeping welts of abdominal segments two rows from smaller apicules presents*" (my surmised meaning is "*On the creeping welts of the abdominal segments, two rows of smaller spicules are present*"). A glossary might have been useful for the larval morphology, the term "creeping welts" is described somewhere (page 26 "*The eight abdominal segments all have ventral creeping welts that are usually covered with spicules*") and I surmise that these features are the ones depicted in the unlabelled illustration in fig. 92; it could have been made a lot easier for novices by the inclusion of a diagram illustrating terms used in the key (the many spicular zone diagrams make a lot more sense once you've found the figure and the text).

The individual species descriptions are up to the usual high standard of the Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica series and I found no problems at all in keying out the few adults I possess but do take note that not all the UK species are in the book.

Brummitt, R.K., 1992. World geographical scheme for recording plant distributions, Published for International Working Group on Taxonomic Databases for Plant Sciences by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh). Vector maps available at http://www.kew.org/science-research-data/kew-in-depth/gis/resources-and-publications/data/tdwg/index.htm

Obtainable at http://www.brill.com/product_id27185

Many thanks to John Ismay for discussions.

Darwyn Sumner.

Meetings

Chairman's Round-up

Each year the Bulletin publishes the Secretary's report given at the AGM, but a lot happens behind the scenes in between times. Here is a quick resumé of less obvious issues that we have discussed. There's no need to mention our core work here (field meetings, training workshops, the Bulletin, Dipterists Digest) as these are usually covered well already.

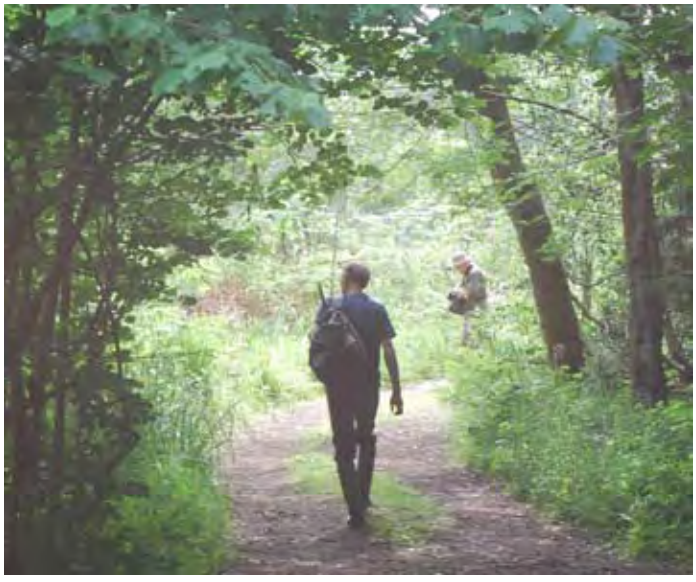
We felt that DF needs to do more to raise its profile at exhibitions. So far, we have a regular slot only at the AES Exhibition in London but there are other venues where we could evangelise. To grab people's attention at such meetings, we have a new banner, designed by David Hall in exchange for a bottle of wine. Many thanks to Erica McAlister (Publicity Officer) for this.

I spent some time seeing whether our affiliation to BENHS (a charity) would allow us to collect gift-aid on your subscriptions. BENHS didn't know the answer so I wrote to the Charity Commission whose response was not definitive but certainly not encouraging. They suggested taking it up with the HM Revenue and Customs, but this seemed almost certain to end in disappointment. Long ago DF decided that it didn't want to be a charity, and the current hoop-jumping would make it far too onerous to go down that route. I have no doubt that we would qualify as our educational element is up among the top of the British purely amateur invertebrate societies, and we actively encourage and subsidise students.

We have re-established our participation with Invertebrate Link, thanks to Duncan Sivell's attendance at their meetings. As Link includes a very large number of invertebrate societies, our input is small but it does give us a platform should we want to influence others. Apart from commenting on the quinquennial review of the list of protected species on the Wildlife & Countryside Act (reported by John Kramer at the last AGM), we have not been asked to do more than endorse a few of Link's publications.

Our Treasurer, Howard Bentley, has eventually surmounted the many obstacles to changing DF's bank account which is now with Nat West. Howard could regale you for hours on how this simple job became Herculean. Our membership Secretary, John Showers, has all this pain ahead of him as we agreed at the last AGM to raise the subscription. Do please act before he has to remind everyone to change their standing orders.

Martin Drake



Reports 2013

Diptera Workshops 2013

Preston Montford Field Studies Centre
Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th February 2013
Identification of Lauxaniid and Heleomyzid flies

This course was tutored by Mark Mitchell (Lauxaniidae) and Alan Stubbs (Heleomyzidae) with 25 people attending. Keys were provided by tutors for both families and Richard Underwood once again brought material from the Liverpool Museum for reference. Stuart Ball brought the DF microscope and camera kit for projecting images of specimens, but this was not actually used during the workshop.

In a departure from previous years the workshop was scheduled for the mid-term weekend which meant we were not sharing the field centre with any school groups. Malcolm Smart negotiated a £95 discount for DF members with this change in arrangements. The slightly earlier timing of the workshop seems to benefit both parties. Unusually, the Field Centre shop was not stocked with some of the latest FSC guides that some people had been hoping to buy. This point was raised with FSC staff.

Staff present in the centre had not dealt with a DF workshop before and there were not enough tables set out in the classroom when we arrived. This was soon rectified, but it is something to check prior to the next workshop. Two rooms were set aside for the workshop; the Common Room was available for use if we could not fit everyone in the main classroom. However, everyone did manage to fit into the main room which was probably better, although it looked a bit cramped on some tables.

The workshop appeared to go well, both tutors made amendments to their keys based on feedback from the group.

Duncan Sivell

Other meetings

NFBR Conference 18th & 19th April 2013

Download the presentations by Dipterists Forum speakers:

Roger Morris: What motivates biological recorders?

Martin Harvey: Missing links? - the challenge of joining local and national recording

http://www.nfbr.org.uk/wiki/index.php5?title=Conference_2013

Spring Field Meetings

Rockingham Forest
17-19 May 2013

The Dipterists Forum Spring weekend meeting took place in the Rockingham Forest area of Northamptonshire. It lies between the towns of Kettering, Corby and Stamford and consists mainly of a mixture of arable farmland and ancient woodland. In the past, parts of the area were extensively mined for iron ore and limestone, and the River Nene valley has many old flooded gravel pits, providing many valuable brownfield sites. Northamptonshire as a whole is not a well-recorded county, Diptera-wise, so it was hoped that the field meeting would add to our knowledge of the wildlife in the area.

On the Friday morning we assembled at our first site, Fermyn Woods. The weather was decidedly cool and overcast with the threat of some rain. However, we set off and explored the rides and woodland of this site, which is mainly noted for its butterflies. The cool conditions meant that the majority of records were of Nemotocera.

At lunchtime we repaired to the pretty village of Sudborough for a pint and warm up. From there, we walked across the road into Titchmarsh Wood, another part of the large woodland complex we had visited in the morning. Here there was an extensive area of Ramsons *Allium ursinum* in flower but, despite extensive searching we were unable to locate *Portevinia maculata.* This was probably due to the late season rather than it not being present here. From here we moved on to Titchmarsh Nature Reserve in the Nene Valley. This restored gravel pit complex is part of the Nene Valley Special Area of Conservation and Nature Improvement Area. The weather had warmed a little and we did find a few more species in sheltered areas.

On Saturday we met up at the Eleanor Cross in Geddington village square and set off in convoy into Geddington Chase, a private woodland on the Boughton Estate. Again the weather was cool and breezy. We were rather disappointed with our findings here, partly because of the weather but also because the woodland and rides were rather too even-aged and neat for our purposes. However, Alan Stubbs did find the cranefly *Molophilus curvatus,* a species more often recorded in the North.

In the afternoon we turned to a second wood on the estate, Grafton Park Wood, which proved to be much better, with more shrubby and floriferous rides and a nice wet flush. The final site of the day was the old ironstone and limestone quarry of Twywell Hills and Dales. Some of the party visited the damp ironstone gullet to examine the flushes whilst others visited the old limestone grassland. It was not expected that the grassland would yield a great deal at this early time of the year but we were pleased to find several *Dicranomyia sericata,* a local cranefly associated with limestone grassland and with a fairly short flight season. In the evening many of us met up in Stamford where we enjoyed a fine curry and banter at one of Roger's local restaurants.

On Sunday, the weather changed and we were promised a bright, warm day. Our first stop was Glapthorn Cow Pastures, a beautiful ancient woodland managed by the local Wildlife Trust. For much of our morning searching we were serenaded by nightingales. The wood produced several *Brachyopa scutellaris* around the old ash stools and *Rhingia rostrata* was noted by several members.

Glapthorn Cow Pastures - John Showers, Helen Ikin & Steve Woodward [D. Sumner]

In the afternoon we took a short drive to two other Trust reserves, Short Wood and Southwick Wood. The two woods are being connected by allowing a former arable field to revert to woodland, giving us a chance to look at some rough open land as well as the two woods. Both woods proved very good and members remarked on how attractive they were. *Brachyopa bicolor* was taken at Southwick Wood.

Several *Platycheirus tarsalis* and *P. europaeus* were found in these heavy-clay woods.

Brachyopa scutellaris at Glapthorn Cow Pastures [D. Sumner]

Over 20 members took part and it was really good to see some new faces at the field meeting. Despite the poor weather of the first two days everyone enjoyed themselves and, when all the records come in, I am sure we will have added several county firsts.

I am grateful to the Forestry Commission, Boughton Estates Ltd, The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants and Natural England for permission to visit and collect on these sites. All these parties are keen to receive records and comments on our findings and I am happy to co-ordinate the reports.

John Showers

Summer Field Meeting 2013

Lancaster 6-13 July 2013

Our base was Lancaster University where we trialled the use of self-catering student accommodation in order to bring down the costs of field meetings. Despite advance arrangements to clump us in a hall of residence, we were more randomly distributed but we soon adjusted. It turned out that there were very economic take-ways and eat-in, plus a small supermarket, on campus, and a simple do-it-yourself breakfast was not a hardship. We hired a large work room which was very conveniently placed. Apart from the annoyance of car parking charges on campus, overall this was a successful venue and was significantly less costly than half board would have been.

The core party size was over 20 and a total of 26 people attended at least in part. We hit the beginning of a heat wave, at times rather too hot, but one must not complain about dry weather. In fact we had one cooler day for comparison; it made little difference to the quantity of flies to be found, except hoverflies were a bit easier to come by on flowers. The main limitation was that there had already been several months of drought so limestone soils were very dry and 'wet' habitat was often dry and streams low or in some cases dry. The knock on effect from some previous extreme weather years was also in play. Thus while some species were in good, even large numbers, species diversity was far from optimal, an experience in common with most parts of Britain this season.

The venue was strategically close to the limestone woods and wetlands around Arnside and Silverdale, on the eastern top corner of Morecambe Bay, a known hot-spot for insect species diversity. Fast roads gave access to the north side of the Bay where the limestone woods and raised bogs are a highlight. It was also practical to get to the western edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (though that option was not pursued). Perhaps more important was the opportunity to record in two districts where knowledge of most groups of flies was especially poor, the River Lune valley and the Forest of Bowland AONB.

River Brock at Brock Bottom [D. Sumner]

It was the latter district that proved the most productive. The name 'Forest' is misleading since the area is dominated by rather bleak rounded uplands covered in blanket bog, but on maps the fringing wooded valleys looked very promising, as indeed they were. The Bowland Shale, now in the news as a prime candidate for gas-fracking, proved to be quite calcareous in many places judging from the local abundance of ransoms in the woodland ground flora. Here we found the very little known snipe-fly *Chrysopilus erythrophthalmus* at 4 sites (in 3 river catchments). The streams also produced the empid *Hilara albiventris* (males with partly white abdomen) and the scarce craneflies *Dicranota guerini*, *Eloeophila apicata* and *Molophilus corniger* were found on one site each; a record of *Atypophthalmus inusta* is unusually far north. The yellow-bodied tephritid *Acidia cognata* was found at sites with its host plant, Butterbur (of calcareous soils), and in places the hoverfly *Neoascia obliqua* was found on or hovering around the leaves. The best hoverflies were *Eristalis rupium* (1 site) and *Melangyna guttata*, at 2 sites. The micropezid stilt-fly *Cnodacophora sellata* proved rather frequent by some of the rivers.

Cnodacophora sellata at Abbeystead, fellow Dipterists were able to visit another 2 sites in their entirety in the time it took for me to hunt this remaining chap down. [D. Sumner]

Abbeystead hunting ground [D. Sumner]

Chrysopilus sp. at Hawes Water [D. Sumner]

At one calcareous site the leaf-mines of the scathophagid *Parallelomma paridis* were found in Herb Paris. There were far too many interesting species to list here and the total should be quite impressive when identifications are complete. The blanket bog was inevitably disappointing in a mid-summer drought. However, *Melanostoma mellinum* was plentiful and we even managed to pick up a *few Idioptera pulchella*, a small cranefly with banded wings (male; female almost wingless), and by a moorland stream *Platycheirus ramsarensis*. On the moorland edge a search in marsh thistle stems soon located larvae of the hoverflies *Cheilosia albipila* and *C. grossa*.

The Silverdale area was remarkably unproductive, apparently due to drought conditions since normally the fly fauna is very rich. Various species of *Herina* (Ulidiids with marked wings) were found on the limestone pavement and about Hawes Water. Leighton Moss (RSPB) can be very productive for interesting flies but on this occasion only the cranefly *Erioptera squalida* has been reported as a good find so far, though a possible sighting of *Tabanus autumnalis* which would have been a brilliant record so far north had it been confirmable.

Gait Barrows limestone pavement - a Lancashire hot spot [D. Sumner]

Saltmarsh, of quite sandy nature, occurs around much of Morecambe Bay. Unfortunately most of it is heavily sheep-grazed so we had initially assumed that the prospects of finding interesting flies were close to zero. Remarkably some goodies were discovered, especially on the west side of Humphrey Head. The most surprising was the discovery of *Machimus cowini* at 2 sites on upper saltmarsh, a reasonable population being detected to the west of Humphrey Head.

Humphrey Head [B.Ismay]

"Detecting" at Humphrey Head

Machimus cowini, Phil Brighton's specimen from Jenny Brown's Point/ Heald Brow [D. Sumner]

This species was found on the Isle Man in 1941 and occurs on some sand dunes in Ireland. No authentic Great Britain record existed until one was found on a raised bog by Morecambe Bay in 2005, an improbable habitat, moreover, no sand dunes occur in the Bay. Though the records do not confirm breeding on the saltmarsh, the sandy nature of the ground may be favourable, especially since this rare European species has been recorded on sandy river banks along the Danube. Among dolis, *Syntormon filiger*, *Chrysotus monochaetus* and both species of *Thinopilus* were found (*T. ruficornis* at a new northernmost location for the west coast), and at several places good numbers of *Nigrotipula nigra* on uppermost saltmarsh. Two horseflies were found unusually far north, *Chrysops viduatus* and *Haematopta bigoti* were good finds. More significant was finding *Tabanus autumnalis* on the north bank of the Ribble Estuary, a female observed ovipositing at a freshwater outlet flowing across saltmarsh; this species has been extending its range northwards and this is the northernmost confirmed record so far.

Rob Wolton in a rot hole at Meathop Moss [Phil Brighton]

Roudsea Wood NNR comprises a habitat complex with raised bog, limestone woodland and fen, non-calcareous woodland and wet hollows, and saltmarsh. Most people paid a day long visit so there ought to be a goodly list of species to report. Two highlights were leaf-mines of the scathophagid *Parallelomma paridis* in Herb Paris in the limestone woodland and the robberfly *Dioctria cothurnata* in a non-calcareous wet hollow within woodland just outside the NNR.

One of the many gatherings of Dipterists at Roudsea that week [D. Sumner]

A few miles north of Roudsea Wood, northwards into the Lake District, lies Rusland Moss. We visited a part lying outside the NNR where there was easy access to the margins of poor-fen floating sallow carr containing the sciomyzid *Tetanocera freyi* and the cranefly *Phylidorea longicornis*.

The River Lune had low flow and the lower reaches had barren broad expanses of shingle. There were some more promising locations. Among these was at Kirkby Lonsdale, on a hot day the river beach and waters being treated as sea-side by semi-naked tourists who remained totally unfazed by the sight of fully clothed dipterists stomping about in boots and waving white nets within a few yards of them; well, the best sunbathing spots were the same as the best spots to look for therevids! This was the only place that we found *Cliorismia rustica*, and it was only on sands along the River Lune that the cranefly *Nephrotoma guestfalica* was found (a very local species in the north). The stretch of River just up-stream of the new road bridge has an impressive flora and a bank-side spring and were it not for the drought the list of fly records should have far better.

Roy Crossley at Roudsea [D. Sumner]

Top marks go to the two dipterists who set off early in the morning to tackle the very steep climb to the top of Whitbarrow before the heat of the day and were rewarded by the intended prize of finding plenty of hill-topping flies, among them the spider-killing fly *Ogcodes gibbosus*.

If anything, the results are remarkable for what was not recorded, such as no aquatic freshwater aquatic stratiomyids (which certainly breed around the limestones). Whilst spring was late, it would seem that the first phase of summer fauna had already passed. Intriguingly, a few *Tipula paludosa* were found this early even in the lowlands (normally a late summer species in England).

Certainly we went to some very interesting places and this rates as a successful field meeting, especially considering that this has proved a difficult season. And the Forest of Bowland now has higher profile as a district deserving greater attention. Our thanks go to Roger Morris who devoted so much time and effort into arranging the event, only to find at the last moment that duty called him elsewhere. Martin Drake ably stepped in for Roger in cover for his absence.

Alan Stubbs

Forthcoming

AES Annual Exhibition 2013

Kempton Park, London 12th October

Mick Parker has booked us in again. Well worth a visit to come and chat with us all and hunt around for books and equipment, entice people to join DF and see what other entomological groups are getting up to. This time we have our newly designed Dipterists Forum banner so I'm expecting to fill a page in the next Bulletin with jolly photographs - do take a camera. If you want to show something off or take a turn at our stand then have a word with Mick and the team when you get there.

Chris Spilling and Mick Parker at our stand in 2012

For details see http://www.amentsoc.org/events/exhibitions.html

Autumn Field Meeting 2013

Surrey 16-20 October

Several of us have booked into the Travelodge in Dorking for this part-week. This should allow us scope to visit a wide range of excellent sites in central Surrey. This is a geologically varied area and there will be plenty of opportunities to explore both acid and calcareous habitats. The woodlands are exceptionally rich at other times of year and we should expect to see an interesting range of flies. Anybody interested in joining us should let Roger Morris know (roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com). Participants will be expected to book their own accommodation.

ANNUAL MEETING

Natural History Museum, London

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th November 2013

Dipterists' Day 2013

Cromwell Road London, SW7 5BD

Neil Chalmers Seminar Room

(http://www.nhm.ac.uk/business-centre/venue-hire/venues/conference/index.html)

Accommodation in London

For those planning to stay over in London on Saturday night our advice is to book early. There are many options for accommodation in London but not surprisingly these can be expensive. We recommend searching at http://doctorhouse.co.uk or through more generic websites such as http://www.booking.com. For the budget traveller there are a number of hostels in the area offering cheap, shared accommodation. These can be found at through general web searches.

Travelling to the Natural History Museum

Engineering works affect parts of the Underground network at weekends so remember to check the Transport for London website before planning your journey http://www.tfl.gov.uk. The Museum is close to South Kensington tube station which is served by the District, Circle and Piccadilly Lines. A number of frequent bus services also pass by the Museum. Route information can be found on the TFL website and on bus shelters. A day travel card will give you access to the underground and bus network combined. Anyone planning a number of short journeys around London at the weekend might want to consider a Visitor Oyster card, and for the more adventurous there is a Boris Bike docking station next to the Museum on Exhibition Road. Again check the TFL website for more information. If you are staying in London on Sunday 24 November be aware that Oxford Street and Regent Street will be closed to traffic, which may create congestion around that area.

More information on directions can be found on the NHM website:

http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/getting-here/index.html

Pemberley Books will be present on Saturday

Access to the Museum

Please enter the Museum via the staff entrance where there will be someone to direct you to the Neil Chalmers suite or the Angela Marmont Centre. The staff entrance is to the left of the public entrance on Exhibition Road.

Parking

Finding a parking space in South Kensington can be difficult and expensive, typically costing between £30 and £50 per day. If you are travelling to the Museum by car it may be easier to park further out of London and complete your journey by train. Alternatively you might be able to find a local parking spot for a cheaper rate at https://www.parkatmyhouse.com/.

Saturday 23 November

10:00 Museum opens, Assemble in the Neil Chalmers suite and set out exhibits

10:30 Introduction and welcome to the NHM
Duncan Sivell

10:45 The witness was a fly: the importance of Diptera in forensic entomology casework
Amoret Whitaker

11:15 The enigmatic biology of the Pallopteridae
Graham Rotheray

11:45 Tea & coffee

12:00 Collecting and studying Sarcophagid flies
Daniel Whitmore

12:20 Tachinid Recording Scheme
Chris Raper & Matt Smith

12:40 The lake of flies and feathers: subsidies from saline lakes to their catchments
Phil Sanders

13:00 Lunch

There are a number of cafes in the Museum where food can be bought and areas where a packed lunch can be eaten. A wider range of cafés is also available in South Kensington.

14:00 Judging of exhibits

14:15 Annual General Meeting

15:00 Presentation of award for best exhibit

15:15 Large herbivores and vegetation composition and structure: a more natural way to conserve Diptera
Keith Alexander

15:45 Tea & coffee

16:00 Further discussion and mingling

16:30 Close of session - take exhibits down

16:45 Vacate Neil Chalmers suite, move to a local café or pub

note that Museum galleries will remain open until 17:50

18:30 Dipterists' Supper

An evening meal will be booked at a local restaurant, please contact Duncan Sivell (d.sivell@nhm.ac.uk) in advance of the meeting if you wish to attend the Dipterists' Supper.

Sunday 24 November

10:00 Museum opens
Assemble in Angela Marmont Centre
Tea & coffee readily available

10:30 Access to Diptera collections

11:00 Workshop on photographing Diptera
Stuart Ball

13:00 Lunch

16:00 Wind down and vacate Angela Marmont Centre

17:50 Museum closes to the public

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23 November 2013

The Chairman will open the AGM at 2.15pm.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising (See Spring 2013 Bulletin 75, pp 18-20, for the Minutes of the 2012 AGM)
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Dipterists Digest Editor's Report
6. AOB
7. Chairman's Vote of Thanks to retiring members
8. Election of Officers: see details below

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

The Officers and General Committee proposed for election or re-election this year, 2013, are as follows:

Office	Officer
Chair	Martin Drake (elected 2012)
Vice Chair	Stuart Ball (elected 2012)
Secretary	Nathan Medd (proposed)
Treasurer	Howard Bentley
Membership Secretary	John Showers
Field Meetings Sec.	Roger Morris
Indoor Meetings Sec.	Duncan Sivell
Bulletin Editor	Darwyn Sumner
Assistant Editor	Judy Webb
Publicity Officer	Erica McAlister
Website Manager	Stuart Ball
Conservation Officer	Robert Wolton
Committee Members	
	1. Chris Spilling
	2. Mick Parker
	3. Chris Raper (proposed)
	4. Mark Pajak (proposed)
Members Elected in 2012	
	5. Malcolm Smart
	1 vacancy

9. Chairman's thanks to hosts and formal closing of the Annual General Meeting.

John Kramer, Secretary

2014

Diptera Workshops 2014

Bibionidae, Sepsidae & Scathophagidae

Preston Montford Field Studies Centre

21 - 22 February 2014

Led by Stuart Ball (Scathophagidae), Steve Crellin (Sepsidae) and Richard Lane and Alan Stubbs (Bibionidae), with assistance from other attending members of the Dipterists Forum who are familiar with these groups.

The next Dipterists Forum spring workshop will cover three different families; the Bibionids, Sepsids and the Scathophagids. We are spreading ourselves across the Diptera spectrum by choosing groups from the Nematocera, the Acalypterates and from the Calypterates. The Bibionidae, Sepsidae and Scathophagidae are all relatively small families with 18, 29 and 54 species respectively; adding up to a total of 103 species. These flies are easily recognisable to family level in the field, with maybe the odd Scathophagid requiring a second glance.

The Bibionidae are characterised by the large St Mark's fly *Bibio marci*, a species indicative of spring and a sign that the field season has begun. The large, black and hairy males of *Bibio marci* have a tendency to swarm, flying with their hind legs dangling beneath them; a familiar springtime spectacle. The female *Bibio marci* have a different appearance with a much smaller head (reduced eyes) and often smoky wings. Dimorphism between the sexes is characteristic of Bibionids and runs through the rest of the family. Most of our Bibionids are active in the spring although *Bibio lepidus* is appears in the autumn and a few species, such as the common *Dilophus febrillus*, have more than one generation which extends their flight period across much of the field season. Keys to the British species can be found in the Royal Entomological Society handbook by Freeman & Lane (1985).

Sepsids are small but distinctive flies with a thin waist and shiny black body. The genus *Sepsis* has a bold dark spot towards the end of each wing. Sepsids are often seen wing-waving on herbaceous vegetation, which can make them quite noticeable in the field. These flies can be found in parks and gardens as well as meadows, open woodland and boundary habitats in the wider countryside. The larvae feed on dung or decaying organic matter, which is rarely in short supply. One oddity in this family is *Orygma luctuosum*, a coastal species that does not resemble a typical Sepsid but looks more like a Coelopid!

The British Sepsids are covered by an RES handbook (Pont, 1979) and there is an atlas (Pont, 1986) that's free to download through the NERC Open Archive (http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/7634/). Although the atlas is more than 25 years old it is still a useful guide to spe-

cies' ranges in Britain, with notes their on ecology and international distribution. A weightier tome with keys to all 44 European species is also currently available (Pont & Meier, 2002).

As well as being the largest family covered by the workshop, the Scathophagidae is also the most diverse. The yellow dung fly *Scathophaga stercoraria* is a prominent member of our fauna and will be recognisable to most people. Several bright yellow males sitting on a cow pat is a familiar image for this fly. However, this is a remarkably variable species with some males tending to look drab grey, more like the females. Not all species are large and drab or hairy; some such as *Cordilura* are sleek and glossy. Referred to as "dung flies" in both the Greek and the vernacular, the family name is a bit of a misnomer when you consider their ecology. Many species are leaf-miners and have no association with dung at all. Stuart Ball's key to Scathophagids can be downloaded by Dipterists Forum members from the DF website (note you have to be logged in to do this), and copies will be made available at the workshop.

Reference specimens will be available at the workshop, on loan from the Liverpool Museum collection. Attendees often bring their own microscope and light source if they have them, however, the centre can provide microscopes and lamps for people unable to bring their own. Please contact Preston Montford staff before the workshop if you need to borrow any equipment.

References

Ball, S.G. 2007. A key to the British Scathophagidae (Diptera). Version 3.1 (available to members via Dipterists Forum website)

Freeman, P. & Lane R.P. 1985. Bibionid and Scatopsid Flies. Diptera: Bibionidae and Scatopsidae. Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Vol. 9, Part 7. Royal Entomological Society, London.

Pont, A.C. 1979. Sepsidae. Diptera: Cyclorrhapha, Acalyptrata. Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Vol. 10, Part 5(c). Royal Entomological Society, London.

Pont, A.C. 1986. Provisional Atlas of the Sepsidae (Diptera) of the British Isles. Biological Records Centre, Huntingdon.

Pont, A.C. & Meier, R. 2002. The Sepsidae (Diptera) of Europe. Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica Vol. 37. Brill, Leiden.

Fees and Booking Procedure

Dipterists Forum members

Single room resident:	£153 full board accommodation
Shared room resident:	£133 full board accommodation
Non-resident:	£75 includes packed lunch and evening meal

Non Dipterists Forum members

(fee includes a year's membership of Dipterists Forum)

Single room resident:	£253 full board accommodation
Shared room resident:	£233 full board accommodation
Non-resident:	£175 includes packed lunch and evening meal

Bookings for this workshop will begin in October, as in previous years, via the FSC website.

Full details will be published on the Dipterists Forum website, please check there in October.

Organiser: Duncan Sivell

Spring Field Meeting

Swanage, 16-18 May

This meeting has been organised to provide an opportunity to visit Studland Heath and the many other excellent habitats in the vicinity. We will be staying in guest houses. Anybody interested in joining us should let Roger Morris know (roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com). I will assemble a list of possible guest houses but participants will be expected to book their own accommodation.

Summer Field Meeting 2014

Bangor, North Wales 5-12 July

I have booked 24 rooms in Halls of Residence on the Friffoedd site in Upper Bangor. Two options are possible: catered (half Board) or self-catering. I have booked 16 catered rooms and 8 self-catered rooms but can adjust this as required. Once rooms have been finally confirmed as self-catering it will not be possible to change (but there may be flexibility up to two weeks before the meeting). We have a work room within this part of the campus.

Costs:

Half Board	£365.00
Self catering	£210.00

Provided I get bookings in good time it should be possible to increase the numbers of rooms booked. So, early booking would be helpful. A deposit of £50.00 is sought – payable to Dipterists Forum. Please send to Roger Morris, 7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1QE.

Autumn Field Meeting 2014

Surrey, 11-18 October

At this stage, various ideas are under consideration. Details of this meeting will be posted in the Spring 2014 Bulletin.

Events Calendar 2013-14

Dipterists Forum & selected meetings

28-29 September 2013 '**Cranefly 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 Dorking. 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/

15 November 2013 NBN Conference "Future challenges for the NBN" The Royal Society, London www.nbn.org.uk/Events/Events-and-Training/Seminars-and-conferences/NBN-Conference-2013.aspx

16 November 2013 (note date change), BENHS Annual Exhibition and dinner. Kempton Park Racecourse (note change of venue) 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 (www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/) when available.

2014

18 January 2014 10:30-16:00. Identifying and recording Soldierflies and their allies. Tutor Martin Harvey. NHM, London. See: www.benhs.org.uk

8 February 2014 10:30-16:00. Tachinidae identification workshop. Tutors Matt Smith and Chris Raper. Pelham-Clinton Building, Dinton Pastures, Hurst, Reading. See: www.benhs.org.uk

21-22 February 2014, **DF Identification Workshop 'Bibioniidae, Sepsidae and Scathophagidae**'. Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury. Details in this issue and will be posted on the DF website and on FSC website: http://www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford/

16-18 May 2014 DF Spring Field Meeting to Swanage. Chance to visit Studland Heath and other good areas.

23-29 June 2014, NATIONAL INSECT WEEK See: http://www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/

5-12 July 2014, DF Summer Field Meeting to Bangor, N Wales. Accommodation in University halls of residence. Contact Roger Morris (7 Vine Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, email: roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com

3-8 August 2014, RES 10th European Congress of Entomology, York. See: http://www.royensoc.co.uk/meetings

10-15 August, 2014. 8th International Congress of Dipterology in Potsdam, Germany. See congress website at www.icd8.org

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

April-Sept/Oct 2013 & 2014 **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

International

8th International Congress of Dipterology

Potsdam, Germany, 10-15 August 2014

See the full page notice in this Bulletin. Barbara Ismay telephoned Marion Kotrba in Germany who kindly prepared the notice especially for Dipterists Forum's Bulletin.

Where did you get that hat?

I met this man at a Folk Festival in Moira, Leicestershire this August, it's no-one we know, but he kindly gave me permission to pop his picture into the Bulletin. What a terrific hat - it's from Australia. Judy and I are looking at buying a few via http://www.wombatlodge.net.au/?p=2408 - you might see them at the AES exhibition.

POTSDAM 10-15.8.2014

8th International Congress of Dipterology

25th International Senckenberg Conference

Invitation update: Preliminary information on scientific program, social program, and post-congress tours.

Dear Fellow Dipterists

On behalf of the Council for the International Congresses of Dipterology, the ICD8 Organizing Committee and the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, I cordially reaffirm our invitation to attend the 8th International Congress of Dipterology in Potsdam, Germany, from 10th to 15th August, 2014.

In earlier circulars we informed you about the congress venue in Potsdam, Germany. This and further information, as well as relevant dates, are posted on our congress website at www.icd8.org. Nearly 170 dipterists have already registered their interest.

Preparations proceed as planned and the scientific program, the accompanying persons program and post-congress tours are gradually taking shape. The following **plenary talks** are planned: Maureen Coetzee (RSA) - Mosquitoes and the prospects for malaria elimination; Steve Marshall (Canada) - Dipteran diversity through a different lens: digital photography and the democratization of dipterology; Rudolf Meier (Singapore) - Using genomics, morphology, and behavior to reveal the creative power of sexual selection in Sepsidae; Thomas Pape (Denmark) - Europe as a frontier in fly diversity research.

Our list of **symposia** currently contains: Advances in Neotropical Dipterology; Applied Dipterology; Behavioral ecology; Bibionomorpha; Biodiversity surveys; Biting midges; Calyptrata; Diptera anatomy and morphology; Diptera biogeography - patterns and processes; Empidoidea; Evolution and ecology of parasitoid Diptera; Forensic Dipterology; Fossil Diptera; Global Dipterology; Higher phylogeny; Lower Brachycera Phylogeny; Psychodidae; Sciomyzidae; Stalk-eyed flies; Syrphoidea; Tephritoidea; Traps, attractants and collection techniques for dipterans. If you want to contribute to a specific symposium, please contact the relevant symposium organizer as posted on our website, or Netta Dorchin (ndorchin@post.tau.ac.il). You can submit talks on topics that are not represented in the list or suggest additional symposia. Contributed talks will be allocated to appropriate symposia by the scientific committee.

The following **post congress tours** are currently planned (Saturday morning - Monday evening):
(1) Gdańsk (Poland) - the city of Baltic amber (amber museum, amber factory, sightseeing).
(2) Thuringia (Germany) - collecting trip to Hainich National Park at "Thiemsburg" and Thuringian Forest at "Großer Inselsberg", guided tour to Wartburg castle.
(3) Saxony (Germany) - collecting trip to Saxony Switzerland National Park (Elbe Sandstone Mountains), guided tour in Meißen. Respective collecting permits will be organized.
For **accompanying persons** the following tours are currently planned for different days of the congress: Berlin City Sightseeing; Potsdam City Sightseeing; Berlin Wall Theme Tour; Potsdam Castles Sightseeing; Berlin Museum Island with visit of Pergamon Museum; Spreewald Boat Trip; Trabi Safari through Berlin with Sightseeing.

As usual, the accompanying persons program, post-congress tours and congress dinner will be booked separately. We hope to open early registration and abstract submission on September 1st 2013.

Please visit our webpage at www.icd8.org for further information. We are looking forward to meeting you all in Potsdam.

With kind regards,

Marion Kotrba
(ICD8 chair)

And now ...

The tail (or tale) of the Dead Donkey

On 22 May, to great fanfare, 25 wildlife charities launched a report titled State of Nature, referred to as a Doomsday report on the health of UK's nature. Of course, it will soon get buried under a growing tip-heap of additional doom mongering papers, perhaps with a legacy of a few extra quotes to add to the endlessly recycled ones. In an era to come the rocks will display a thin seam of plastic and an apparently abrupt hiatus in the fossil record. Who knows, in the replacement evolutionary era, intelligent anorak flies will have the hobby of collecting fossil computer discs.

As a geologist, indeed a lapsed palaeontologist, the appearance and disappearance of species in the geological record is a very familiar means of denoting the passage and categorisation of segments of time. It does niggle when, for some extinction events, the number of species lost is cited to the nearest 1%, or even 0.1% (of know species), when in truth the fossil record is terribly incomplete, especially for the smaller terrestrial fauna and flora. We have that same problem now: no one has the foggiest clue how many species live on planet Earth, but there is no doubt that the number of fingers and toes needed for that count-up is rapidly declining. And when can you be sure that a fly that has not been seen for many years is actually extinct – well loss of habitat is a pretty sure guide.

Take the donkey for example, or to refine a point, a dead donkey? When did you last see one? Did you shout 'whoopee', excitedly got your net out and eagerly examined the carcass for *Centrophloebomyia furcata*? Ah, so you've never heard of it. That's because A) dead donkeys are extinct, B) the fly is extinct and C) with a scientific name that complicated it deserves to be extinct. This large grey carrion fly is spectacular in the male since the scutellum has an apical pair of very long bristles (presumably used to fend off dipterists, just speculative until confirmed by observation). The fly was last seen on a dead donkey over a 100 years ago, in Cornwall. Though we have had field meetings that encompassed parts of that county, we found no dead donkeys. Regrettably EU legislation prohibits leaving dead donkeys lying around the place (though crucially, it does not actually specify donkeys as far as I am aware). If Turkey joins the EU that will be disastrous. Indeed Britain's 'Greenest Government Ever' (to quote the Prime Minister on entering office) should demand an EU relegation to allow, indeed encourage, the plentiful distribution of dead donkeys in the British countryside. That is an essential precursor to a re-introduction plan for *Centrophloebomyia*. My vote at the promised EU referendum could be bought-off by such terms of EU membership.

First, the Dipterists Forum needs to get the public behind the idea. '**Dead Donkey Day**' should catch the media attention required (DF Publicity Officer to note) and the DF Conservation Officer needs to be ready with a re-establishment plan for his neighbouring county. Me? I've done my bit by coming up with the idea.

Alan Stubbs

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 (the text is unformattable in DTP if it has a hyperlink attached), documents containing hyperlinks will be sent back to you with a request for you to remove them. There's a guide on how to remove Word's default hyperlink formatting at https://www.uwec.edu/help/Word07/hyperlinkfor.htm
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. Add your personal details to the metadata of the picture, guidelines to this in Bulletin #76.

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

Cranefly News

Dipterists Forum Cranefly Recording Scheme

For Superfamily Tipuloidea & Families Ptychopteridae & Trichoceridae

Newsletter No 26 **Autumn 2013**

Editor: John Kramer Layout: John Dobson

Ctenophora ornata (Keith Godfrey)

Field Work 2013

The 12 months from March 2012 to March 2013 was one of the wettest years on record and March 2013 was the coldest for 50 years. What effect did these extremes of weather have on our cranefly fauna? From my own observations some insect species seem to have benefitted. For example, I have seen unusually high numbers of meadow brown and small white butterflies.

Alan Stubbs was summoned by Radio Cambridge to comment on air, on the abundance of the 'tiger cranefly', *Nephrotoma flavescens.* This species was also common in my own garden, where I have never seen as many. I watched a female laying eggs in a patch of the lawn moss (*Brachythecium rutabulum*), which certainly flourished in the cold wet conditions of this winter. See also below the reports on *Ctenophora ornata* and *Nephrotoma dorsalis*.

Rockingham Forest, Northamptonshire

The first Dipterists Forum field meeting of the year was held in VC 32 from 17th-19th May 2013. The weather was good and there were plenty of Spring craneflies about. *Tipula varipennis*, and *T. oleracea* were present in some numbers and specimens of *T. flavolineata, T. submarmorata* and *T. lateralis* were also recorded. Other species taken included *Erioptera griseipennis*, *Molophilus variispinus*, *M. curvatus*, *Ormosia lineata*, *Euphylidorea dispar* and *E. lineola*. The Limoniinae included *Limnophila schranki*, *Limonia flavipes* and *L. nigropunctata*. This latter was present in good numbers, especially at Glapthorn Cow Pasture.

Dipterists Forum Summer Field Meeting – Lancaster; 6th-13th July 2013

This coincided with one of the hot summer weeks and a number of the exposed habitats were dry and barren. A number of classic sites were within striking distance and good list of species was obtained from shaded river margins and wet woodland sites. These included *Nephrotoma analis*, *N. dorsalis*, *Tipula couckei*, and *T. montium. Diogma glabrata* was present at a number of sites and sometimes in good numbers, for example on the foliage of *Ranunculus repens* on the floodplains by the River Wyre.

Species of Limoniidae included *Molophilus crassipygus*, *Ormosia pseudosimilis*, *Idioptera pulchella*, *Atypophthalmus inusta*, *Dicranomyia didyma, D. distendens* and *Limonia trivittata.*

The total list for the week was over 90 species. The field meeting report in the Bulletin gives details of species, including craneflies.

Alan Stubbs writes: Much of Lancashire has been largely neglected since the 1970s. Alan Brindle carried out considerable recording in the 1950s and 60s whilst at Manchester Museum. He lived at Nelson, in the SE of the county, and was part of the entomological survey team that compiled a faunal list for Ainsdale/Freshfield coastal sand dunes in the SW of the county.

Thus when the Cranefly Recording Scheme started in 1973, Lancashire and the Manchester fringe were regarded as well recorded so effort was focused on the huge swathes of Britain which lacked data. As a result, Lancs. has become one of the least recorded areas during the last 40 years.

Lancashire contains 5 main units. The coastal plain, much of which is rather dreary apart from the dunes mentioned later. The saltmarshes are most grazed too hard. In the southern part there are the remnants of raised bogs, extensively cut for peat so that the remnants are left high and dry.

In the SE the edge of the Pennines provide rather rounded uplands dissected by valleys. Woodlands of any worth are mainly sparse and the valleys are widely developed so roads can be slow, so not a 'must visit' place, nor top of a holiday itinerary.

In the NW lies the Arnside/Silverdale outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone (and at one time the county included some rather similar outcrops on the north side of Morecambe Bay). This district is a renowned hot-spot for biodiversity. The hoverfly fauna is fairly well studied but knowledge of other fly families is not as good. There has been a fair bit of recording of craneflies since 1970, including the discovery at Gaitbarrows of a cranefly new to science, subsequently named *Dicranomyia pauli*. That species was from very dry woodland but there is a rich cranefly fauna in the associated wetlands in the district.

Otherwise the northernmost part of Lancashire is a mix of little visited low and high land.

Contents

That leaves us with the fifth unit, in the middle, the Forest of Bowland. It is the middle of nowhere, between the lures of the Yorkshire Pennines to the east and the Arnside/Silverdale areas. The field meeting gave an opportunity to record in this modern cranefly record gap. And it proved worth it. The wooded valley's had plenty of springs and groundwater seepage habitat, often calcareous, ideal for craneflies. The moorland blanket bogs were easily accessible, though here, as with the fauna of flowing water, the timing of our forays was between emergence peaks.

The Lancaster field meeting reached beyond Lancashire to some very interesting places for craneflies, such as Rusland Moss in the southern Lake District which had *Phylidorea longicornis* as one of the most plentiful species (and not seen in Lancashire where the right type of fen would appear to be absent). The Forest of Bowland was largely off the dipterist's radar but deserves much stronger attention. For craneflies, we now need to fill in knowledge of the spring and autumn faunas.

News of *Ctenophora ornata*

A significant dispersal of *Ctenphora ornata* has been recorded from areas around Windsor Great Park. The larvae of this very striking species feed in rotting beech wood.

There was a report from David Rowe of a specimen in his house (on 9/7) close to Swinley Park, a relic of Windsor Great Park. Ken Merrifield reported a male from the light trap in his Eastcote garden (Middlesex, 14/7). Specimens were also reported from Rob Andrews (Tring, Herts, 16/7) Lauren Barr (Cowley, 23/7), Adam Bassett (24/7), and Sam Jones (Silwood Park, 18/7). Sam lives on the Imperial College post-grad campus there, and reported 5 records of *Ct. ornata* that had come into the windows of flats on the campus, attracted by the lights at night between 16-24 July.

Ct. ornata from Swinley Park.
Photo: D. Rowe

This dispersal of *Ct. ornata* was noted during the hot summers of 1974 and 1975.

Martin Albertini (Moth Recorder for Bucks) who regularly operates a light trap, also commented on the seeming effect of hot weather on the dispersal of *Ct. ornata* males when 3 of them turned up in the garden mv light of Roger Hayward in Langley (30/6/2006), just over 2km from a known habitat in Langley Park, Bucks. In addition to Langley Park, Burnham Beeches and the Ashridge Estate are other known Buckinghamshire habitats.

Ken Merrifield has informed me that the nearest known site to his Ruislip garden is Langley Park, some 12 km away, so just how far can the species fly? There may be undetected *Ct. ornata* populations in a number of other woodland sites near Ken's garden. For example, the Ruislip Woods NNR was a major source of firewood for London in the past, and it may be that a deadwood species has survived there. A number of other ancient-woodland invertebrates, associated with beech, have been recorded there. Most beech trees are located in Bayhurst Wood, 4-5km away from the Eastcote garden, and there are also a few over-mature beech trees in Park Wood, about 2km away, so either of these sites could provide the larval habitat for *Ct. ornata*. [Thanks to Ken Merrifield for additional details on his local woodland habitats. See refs 1 & 2.]

This surge in numbers seems at present to be confined to the Windsor area, and Keith Godfrey (See Cranefly News 17, Autumn 2008) reports that, although he runs his mv trap nightly at Ashurst, on the edge of the New Forest, he has had no recent records of *Ct. ornata*. Apart from the mysterious specimen in the Wingate Collection (Cranefly News 24, Autumn 2012), the most northern record of *Ct. ornata* at present was sent in by Trevor and Dilys Pendleton and found on 02/07/09 in Sherwood Forest, Notts. Following this influx of records from the Windsor Great Park area I made contact with Trevor who mailed back as follows:

"*With your email in mind, we did trap moths for over an hour last night, in an area not far from our 2009 record and were delighted (slightly understated to say the least) when one appeared at the light. It was a male and our first since the 2009 one, despite trapping in the same area many times since hoping for another. We never thought we would see one again.*"

Ct. ornata (Sherwood Forest).
Photo: T.& D. Pendleton

This increase in frequency of observations raises the question about the cause. Did the wet winter encourage fungal growth in the rotting beech? Did fewer larvae die and was adult development accelerated, or was it simply an effect of the higher temperatures on migratory behaviour?

Reference

Message posted on Yahoo BMERC Discussion Group
"*Ctenophora ornata* - RDB1 Cranefly"
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/BMERC/message/2872.
C. Bowlt: Pers. Comm to Ken Merrifield.

John Kramer

***Ctenophora pectinicornis* and *Dictenidia bimaculata* reared from larvae found in old apple trees in traditional orchards in Herefordshire**

While surveying traditional orchards in Herefordshire for the People's Trust for Endangered Species during March 2012 I came across a number of cranefly larvae in the decaying wood of old apple trees. These were retained for rearing in order to identify the species concerned. *Ctenophora pectinicornis* emerged from larvae found in wood mould in the decaying heartwood of living apple trees at two sites:

> Holme Farm, Lyonshall (SO346546); larva collected from a 1.16m gbh apple tree and a female was subsequently reared.
>
> Sunny Bank Farm, Almeley (SO350531); larvae found amongst white-rotten, relatively dry wood mould of old 1.40m gbh apple tree, and 2 males and a female subsequently reared.

In contrast, a larva retained from white-rotten wood in a fallen dead apple trunk at Lower Farm, Preston-on-Wye (SO387418) emerged as a *Dictenidia bimaculata.*

These records demonstrate that traditional orchards can provide suitable breeding habitat for both species, at least in Herefordshire – traditional orchards are effectively a type of wood pasture habitat.

Keith Alexander

In the Footsteps of Henri Audcent

In the last edition of Cranefly News (No. 25, Spring 2013) I wrote about Henri Audcent's collection of Craneflies, curated at the Bristol Museum, and his series of papers which constitutes a valuable source of records, collected by him in the Bristol District between 1927-49.

In early and late June this year, I made a visit, with the Bristol Naturalists to Leigh Woods NNR, one of Audcent's collecting sites. This is an area of wet woodland situated on Carboniferous limestone on the west bank of the River Avon (VC 6, North Somerset). Located in four grid squares (ST 5474, ST 5574, ST 5573 & ST 5473) it lies at a maximum elevation of about 100m and slopes quite steeply down to the River Avon to the east.

I have listed here all of the 81 species found there since 1918 and below I have made some comments on selected records. This is a shorter summary of a piece written by me for the Bristol Naturalists and published in their journal, 'Nature in Avon'.

Where a species was very common, Audcent records them as 'G and S' (Gloucester and Somerset), 'common' or 'fairly common'. Where it seems likely that a species recorded thus by Audcent was also found at Leigh Woods, although not explicitly stated, I have included these on Audcent's list, as 'common'.

Tipulidae

Audcent probably recorded about 18 species in the family Tipulidae in Leigh Woods. *Ctenophora pectinicornis* was added to the list by d'Assis-Fonseca in 1943. Six species were the black and yellow 'Tiger' Craneflies (genus *Nephrotoma*) These are: *N. analis, appendiculata* ('common'), *cornicina, flavipalpis* and *guestfallica* and *quadrifaria* ('common').

14 species of *Tipula* were recorded from Leigh Woods, including *Tipula lateralis*, *T. oleracea*, and *T. paludosa*, (all 'common'). The rare *Tipula* (*Vestiplex*) *nubeculosa* listed in the 1929 paper was omitted later, and so certainly wrongly identified. However, its commoner close relative *Tipula* (*Vestplex*) *scripta* does occur in Leigh Woods, and was recorded there by Audcent.

During my visits I have added 5 species of Tipulidae to Audcent's list from Leigh Woods. These are: *Nephrotoma quadrifaria*, *Dolichopeza albipes* (the 'White-footed Ghost'), *Tipula maxima, T. variicornis*, and *T. lateralis.*

Cylindrotomidae - 1 species

Diogma glabrata was recorded in Leigh Woods by A. E. Hudd. Although no date is given, Hudd seems to have been collecting around 1913. Although a rare species, this is not an impossible record, but David Gibbs (2002) writes that a specimen caught in Monks Wood, north of Bath in July 1999 was the first record for the area since 1929, so it seems that it has not been recorded in Leigh Woods since Audcent's time.

I must confess that, while in Leigh Woods, when I first saw the yellow thorax and black thoracic stripes of *Lipsothrix nervosa* in the net (see later), together with the three medial veins, I thought at first that I had *Diogma glabrata*. *L. nervosa* was not added to the British list until 1938, and if A. E. Hudd took it in Leigh Woods before then he would certainly have wondered what it was. He may perhaps, like me, have identified it wrongly as *Diogma*.

Pediciidae - 5 species

Rather surprisingly none of the aquatic species of this group of 'hairy-eyed craneflies' were recorded by Audcent from Leigh Woods. The larvae of these species live in streams and are predatory on smaller invertebrates. Presumably all of the streams now present in Leigh Woods were flowing in Audcent's day

The waterfall, probably an ornamental feature in the old arboretum, is an excellent habitat, and the large, orange *Pedicia littoralis* was common there at the beginning of June 2013. The smaller dark *Dicranota bimaculata* and *D. pavida* are not rare and these two species were found at the margin of

the stream flowing northwards from the Paradise Bottom Ponds.

The larvae of the species of *Ula* feed in fungi, and they were all grouped together as *Ula pilosa* in Audcent's day, and then later as *U. sylvatica.* It was only in 1962 that two British species were separated. *Ula pilosa* is recorded by him as 'bred' in 1923, and it emerged from a fungus, *Tricholoma album* (Schaef) in February (Audcent, 1949). I collected a specimen of *Ula sylvatica* in early June. *Tricyphona immaculata* is a common wetland species.

Limoniidae - 53 species
(*For the full list see next page*)

Chioneinae

Many of these species are small and require a good microscope to identify them accurately. We are more aware today that differences in the structures of genitalia may be minute, or concealed by bristles making accurate identification in the field impossible. A difference between the 1949 and the 2013 lists lies in the number of these small species in the latter.

Gonomyia recta, and *G. simplex* are two local species associated with limestone, as is the rarely recorded *Molophilus lachschewitzianus*. This was added to the British list in 1973 by Alan Stubbs. *M. corniger* and *M. variispinus*, both Notable, were also found here this year. The latter was not added to the British list by Alan Stubbs until 1977. The genus *Rhypholophus* emerges in the Autumn and so should be searched for then.

Limnophilinae

There is not much to be said about these common species. The two species of *Euphylidorea* recorded by Audcent emerge in May and I may have been too late to find them during my June visits.

Limoniinae

Although records from wet woodland occur, *Dicranomyia didyma* is a species which occurs near waterfalls and their larvae feed in the surrounding damp mosses. *Dicranomyia sericata*, recorded by A. E. Hudd, is associated with limestone quarries, so those in Leigh Woods would be worth investigating from May to early June. David Gibbs reports (pers. com.) that he has taken this species in the limestone quarry on the opposite bank of the River Avon, so Hudd's record is very plausible, although the quarries may now be too scrubbed over to support this species. I have not yet found either of these species in Leigh Woods.

Species of the genus *Lipsothrix* are associated with wet rotting wood in which their larvae feed and which is in plentiful supply around the Leigh Woods streams. *Lipsothrix remota* is a common species, but *L. nervosa* is more local and associated with calcareous habitats. (See map on page 8). It was discovered as new to science in 1938 by F. W. Edwards (Edwards 1938).

Summary & Conclusions

There are now a total of 82 species on the check list for Leigh Woods and 38 have been confirmed by the recent visits. The most notable are those restricted to wet limestone woodlands, of which this is an excellent example. There is still a lot of useful work remaining and at least 6 visits need to be carried out from April to October to thoroughly monitor the cranefly species present.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mark Pajak for organising the site visits, and to members of the Bristol Naturalists' Society for their company.

John Kramer

A Checklist of Cranefly Species from Leigh Woods (1918 to date)

Tipulidae
Ctenophora pectinicornis
Dolichopeza albipes
Nephrotoma analis
N. appendiculata
N. cornicina
N. flavipalpis
N. guestfallica
N. quadrifaria
Tipula flavolineata
T. lateralis
T. luteipennis
T. maxima
T. obsoleta
T. oleracea
T. pagana
T. paludosa
T. scripta
T. signata
T. submarmorata
T. variicornis
T. varipennis

Cylindrotomidae
Cylindrotoma distinctissima
Diogma glabrata

Pediciidae
Dicranota bimaculata
D. pavida
Pedicia litoralis
Tricyphona immaculata
Ula sylvatica

Limoniidae
Chioneinae
Cheilotrichia cinerascens
Ellipteroides lateralis
Erioptera flavata
E. lutea
Gonomyia recta
G. simplex
Ilysia maculata
I. occoecata
Molophilus appendiculatus
M. bifidus
M. cinereifrons
M. corniger
M. griseus
M. lackschewitzianus
M. medius
M. ochraceous
M. pusillus
M. serpentiger
M. variispinus
Ormosia albitibia
O. nodulosa
Rhypholophus bifurcatus
R. haemorrhoidalis
Tasiocera murina

Limnophilinae
Austrolimnophila ochracea
Dicranophragma adjunctum
D. nemorale
Eloeophila submarmorata
Epiphragma ocellare
Euphylidorea dispar
E. lineola
Limnophila schranki
Neolimnomyia filata
Paradelphomyia senilis
Pseudolimnophila sepium
Limoniinae
Achyrolimonia decemmaculata
Dicranomyia chorea
D. didyma
D. fusca
Dicranomyia mitis var. *affinis*
D. mitis var. *lutea*
D. modesta
D. sericata
Limonia flavipes
L. macrostigma
L. nubeculosa
L. phragmitidis
L. stigma
L. trivittata
Lipsothrix nervosa
L. remota
Metalimnobia bifasciata
M. quadrinotata
Neolimonia dumetorum
Rhipidia maculata

Cranefly recording in the Mersey Basin

Following John Kramer's kind mention of last year's results in the Spring 2013 bulletin, our recording activities around Warrington are expanding this year to cover a wider range of sites.

There has been a big investment of effort from the Wildlife Trusts for Cheshire and Lancashire in acquiring and restoring lowland peat bogs (known locally as mosses) in the area between Warrington and Manchester, collectively designated under EU law as a Special Area for Conservation. This was the hazardous region that Stephenson's original Liverpool to Manchester railway had to cross, but since then much has been turned over to agriculture or subject to industrial peat extraction. Only last year, there was nationwide publicity when a final planning appeal to continue peat mining on Chat Moss was rejected by Eric Pickles' department following a prolonged campaign.

As well as degraded bog habitat, the region also contains many post-industrial sites reverting to nature, such as former pit heaps, wartime army camps, and the dredging lagoons for the Manchester Ship Canal known as the Woolston Eyes – these last are already designated as an SSSI as one of the few breeding sites in the UK for the black-necked grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*).

Monitoring the present distribution and future changes in the diptera fauna of such sites as they revert to nature will hopefully be an interesting ecological study. As a kind of control, or baseline, there will be visits to other mere and moss sites in the more rural areas of Cheshire on behalf of the Wildlife Trust. We also maintain a more continuous watch in our wildlife garden.

It is still very early days, but a good range of less common species has already turned up. John highlighted *Nephrotoma scurra*. Not only has this re-appeared in our garden, but also *N. flavipalpis* and *N. dorsalis*. *Metalimnobia quadrinotata* is at Bold Moss pit heap – turned back to nature less than 20 years ago – and in our local nature reserve of damp secondary woodland which has grown up on an abandoned wartime RAF camp.

On a visit to Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Astley Moss, a striking yellow and black insect on the hogweed of a former carrot field proved to be *N. crocata*.

Both *Tanyptera* species have been found: *T. nigricornis* at Holcroft Moss, the only uncut lowland bog in the area; and *T. atrata* at Bagmere, a fenny site which is the last refuge in Cheshire of the small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*). Plenty of felled birch is to be found at both locations. My photos of *T. atrata* in action have duly impressed the Trust's conservation officer.

Phil Brighton

Tanyptera atrata (*photo*: *Phil Brighton*)

[Regarding unusually high numbers of *N. dorsalis*, Phil writes**: "***There seems to be a mass outbreak of* N. dorsalis *in this area - I am up to 7 records, 4 male and 3 female from 4 different locations*." **Ed.**]

Museums Focus

Following on from my item on the Audcent Collection in the last edition, another collection held by the Bristol Museum is the Payne Collection.

The Payne Collection of Craneflies – Bristol Museum

(*Biographical details and photo from Chandler*, *2011*)

Ron Payne (1922-2010) came from a family of Naturalists and had a wide interest in Botany and Entomology. He grew up in London and, after his marriage in 1948, moved to Loughton, Essex, on the edge of Epping Forest. He first explored entomology as a coleopterist from the age of 17, but later collected many different families of flies from all over Britain.

His first cranefly records date from 1959 when he was 37. Ron was an early mentor to Alan Stubbs and he first visited Ron at Loughton with a box of craneflies in 1965. In 1966 Ron moved to South Wales for his work as a civil servant, and there he was host to Alan, Peter Chandler and Raymond Uffen for a few days of field work. This field meeting, which took place in May 1968, encouraged Alan to organise field meetings for his fellow dipterists. These began in 1973 in the Forest of Dean with members of the Cranefly Recording Scheme, and continue to this day.

Promotion caused Ron to move to a number of places in the south of England and, with the exception of a few records in 1977, most of his

cranefly records date from between 1960 and about 1970, when he turned his attention to hoverflies. Further promotion then took Ron to East Harptree in 1978 where he joined the Bristol Naturalists' Society. He became President of the Society, of the Entomology and Botany sections.

Ron became more and more interested in the grasses, and as a result, in 1989, he deposited his Diptera collection of some 50 store boxes of Diptera at Bristol Museum. He also donated a collection of craneflies to the BENHS with some specimens going to other museums. **All of these collections contain data yet to be transcribed**.

Ron's publications on Diptera are listed in the reference cited below, and his records of craneflies from Essex from 1959 to 1977, collected by Del Smith, are kept by the Essex Field Club. **These latter would provide an interesting database for Essex dipterists to monitor**.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Del Smith of the Essex Field Club for sending me Ron Payne's cranefly records.

Reference

Chandler, P. J. (2011). Obituary, Ronald Malcolm Payne (1922-2010). *Dipterists Forum Bulletin* **72**, Autumn 2011.

John Kramer

The authors' deadline for the Spring 2014 issue (27) of Cranefly News is 15th December 2013.

Please send copy to: john.kramer@btinternet.com

Distribution Maps for Species discussed in Cranefly News 26, Autumn 2013

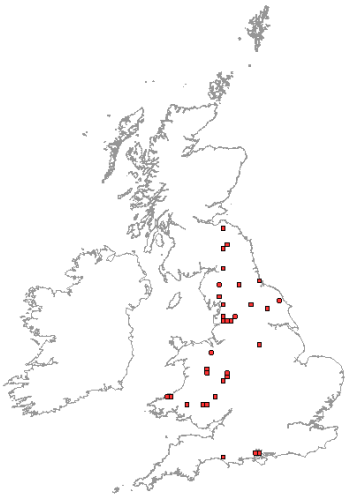
Ctenophora ornata

Lipsothrix nervosa

Nephrotoma analis

Molophilus lackschewitzianus

Diogma glabrata



Molophilus variispinus

Hoverfly Newsletter
Number 55
Autumn 2013
ISSN 1358-5029

No doubt many readers are frustrated by the shortage of hoverflies this year, as described in the recording scheme update below; my own experience agrees with the first paragraph except that I did not even find good numbers of hoverflies in May and June. In spite of this lean period, interest in hoverflies continues to grow, with new enthusiasts regularly appearing on the scene, some no doubt spurred on by the new **WILD***Guide*, and in recent days a hoverfly Facebook group has been set up (see Stephen Plummer's article below).

While this newsletter was being compiled the 7th International Symposium on the Syrphidae was taking place in Russia. It has been the custom with all the previous symposia to include a report on the event in this newsletter. As I have received no feedback to date, I hope to include some news of it in the next issue - at the very least an indication of the titles and authors of papers that were presented.

Copies of Hoverfly Newsletters issues 1 to 40 can be found on the Hoverfly Recording Scheme website. If anyone would like to receive copies of issues 41 onwards as pdf. documents, please email me and I can send them.

Articles and illustrations (including colour images) for the next newsletter are always welcome. Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 56** (which is expected to be issued with the Spring 2014 Dipterists Forum Bulletin) should be sent to me: David Iliff, **Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HN, (telephone 01242 674398), email:davidiliff@talk21.com**, to reach me by 20 November 2013. The hoverfly illustrated at the top right of this page is a female *Myathropa florea*.

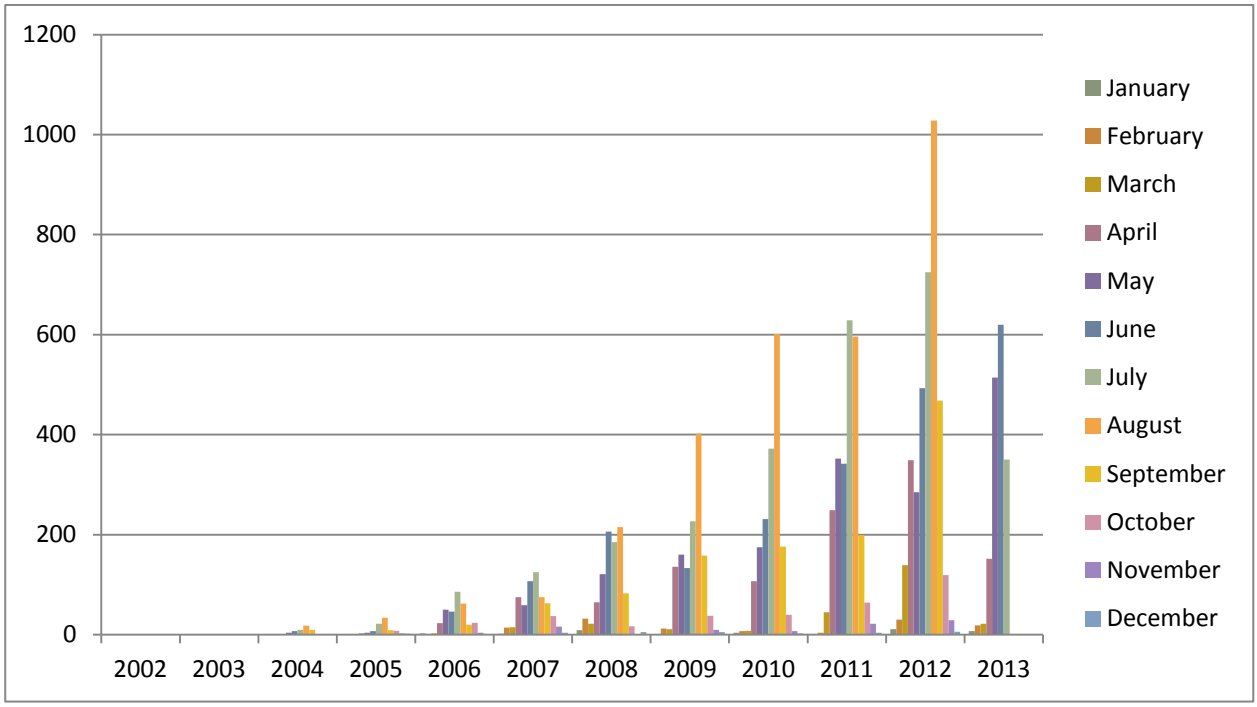
Hoverfly Recording Scheme update: July 2013

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

What a strange year it has been! A cold winter followed by a non-event in April and then good numbers of hoverflies in May and June suggested that this would be an excellent year. And then came the heat-wave of July. Hoverflies seemed to disappear overnight and this was clearly shown in the posts of photos on the web as illustrated in the graph below.

At the time of writing there were a few days to go before the end of July but the numbers of photos posted were less than half the total for July 2012 and barely more than half the number posted in June 2013. If nothing else, this clearly shows how exceptionally hot weather can affect the numbers of hoverflies on the wing, but it potentially tells a much more significant story as it is indicative of wider impacts on invertebrates. One must wonder what has happened to species associated with wetlands that seemed to be recovering after the deluge of 2012. *Eristalis* species are far less common, and there appears to be no evidence of a repeat of the huge numbers of *Helophilus trivittatus* that we saw last year. Is this a real or perceived phenomenon? Your observations would help to fill in the picture, but we will really only know as the year unfolds and data for 2013 arrive in the autumn and winter.

Figure 1. Monthly totals of photographs gleaned from internet sources. The data show how there has been a continuous increase in the numbers of records from such sources. Data for July 2013 are extremely weak compared to 2012 and to May and June 2013.



The big news of 2013 is the publication of our **WILD***Guide*: Britain's Hoverflies. After a lengthy wait and wondering whether we might ever see it on the bookshelves, the book arrived in March, just in time for the spring. It has apparently flown off the shelves and we understand it is the fastest-selling of the series. Quite how many have actually been sold is unclear, but one month after arriving around 1200 had been sold in the UK. We have now sold around 200 copies including the copies pre-booked by members. We retain stock and can supply copies at £18.00 inclusive of P&P. This is rather less than we had hoped to sell at but unfortunately Amazon and some of its associated booksellers have pitched their prices so low that we have to cut our price to match theirs. The royalties and income from book sales are going to Dipterists Forum, so we hope that this will contribute to funds to take on new projects.

The book looks fantastic and it is very much to the credit of Rob Still and Andy Swash that it is appealing to people who had hitherto held little interest in hoverflies. It may help to make hoverflies the new dragonflies! We have seen a few reviews and those that we have seen are generally very positive. If you don't already have a copy, do please buy it! There are a few glitches and we do want readers to point out problems. We have quite a long list of minor problems and two bigger ones that should be noted. Firstly, on page 69 the upper of the two *Melanostoma* abdomens is *M. mellinum* and not *M. scalare*. Secondly, Table on page 210 has the antennal colours of *Helophilus* and *Parhelophilus* transposed. Quite how these happened is a mystery! They will be rectified in the second edition, which will also need to be slightly updated to take account of the arrival of *Eumerus sogdianus* (added by Adam Wright in the last edition of Dipterists Digest), and any other additions that happen before we attend to the text.

One such project is the development of a revised key to *Platycheirus*, making use of detailed macro shots of key features and revision of the keys to make them a little bit more user-friendly. The key will be accompanied by new text too and will be presented as a small book that we hope to publish this winter. It is likely to be produced under the auspices of Dipterists Forum rather than the BENHS and we think it may be the first of a series that will ultimately form the basis for a complete revision of Stubbs & Falk. We will post details on the HRS website as and when we have definitive dates for publication and the price.

We also hope to use some of the funds to hold a one-day conference for HRS contributors this winter. It is likely to be held in London, but we have not progressed very far as yet. Timing and location will be announced on the website, but

in the meantime we would like to hear from people who would be interested in attending. We will provide advanced warning if you send Roger an e-mail (roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com).

Finally, we ran an intermediate training workshop at Cardiff Museum in April that was very well attended. It gave us the opportunity to develop new training material and we now think we can provide this sort of assistance to other groups. Again, we hope to run another meeting this winter and will make the details available on the website. The likely venue is London. Please let Roger know if you are interested. We will focus on *Cheilosia* and *Platycheirus*, but if there is time it should be possible to include some *Pipiza* and *Sphaerophoria*.

UK Hoverflies Facebook Group

Stephen Plummer
stephen.r.plummer@gmail.com

Following email correspondence with Roger Morris, I have set up a "UK Hoverflies" Facebook Group. The Group description reads: "UK Hoverflies is an open group for anyone interested in UK hoverflies and matters relating to them. It is for anyone, whether novice or expert, to encourage one another by posting photos, helping with identification, reporting sightings, sharing interesting observations and disseminating relevant news and information. It is designed to complement the work of the Hoverfly Recording Scheme.

The Facebook address for the group is https://www.facebook.com/groups/609272232450940/

Hoverflies on Flickr

Steven Falk
stevenfalk@sfalk.wanadoo.co.uk

Some of you will be aware of my growing collection of natural history images on Flickr, including a growing number of fly families. I've just finished the biggest collection to date, British hoverflies. Sets for over 250 British species can now be found at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157629600153789/ (or just type 'steven falk flickr' into a search engine and drill down the taxonomically-arranged collections).

These sets provide photographs of living and pinned specimens, critical features photographed down the microscope (e.g. *Sphaerophoria* genitalia), photographs of habitat(s) for the scarcer or more habitat-specific species, and accompanying text that provides an up-to-date summary of each species. Text accounts are also provided for all genera, and for the family as a whole. Live hyperlinks have been added for any related web-based information e.g. *Callicera spinolae*. The hope is that this new resource will be used in conjunction with literature and collections. It covers many rare and difficult species, especially within genera like *Platycheirus*, *Eupeodes* and *Cheilosia*.

Saying it is finished is a little misleading. I've simply assembled everything I currently have to hand. I will continue to add photos, species and information as these become available. That's the joy of websites, especially when applied to a subject area that is constantly changing as new information comes to light.

I am grateful to those who have allowed me to use their photos to fill gaps or improve species sets – credits can be found accompanying photos. If you have photos that you think will fill gaps (for any of the Diptera families I'm covering), feel free to get in touch. Your copyright will not be affected. Given the very high percentage of inaccurate hoverfly images on the web and the growing popularity of this family, it is important to have a single source of reliable photos with accompanying text – an on-line field guide that can be used by novices and experienced workers alike.

Some Interesting Welsh Records for 2012

Malcolm Hughes
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Although it is generally agreed that 2012 was a poor season for recording, a few interesting observations were made. 22 May was quite a fine day in this area and I found a promising new mixed woodland site in the vicinity of Ysbyty Abergele (Abergele Hospital), Abergele, Conwy. On subsequent visits to this site I recorded:

Criorhina berberina: 2 typical females and one female form *oxyacanthae* on 14 June and 20 June.

Criorhina floccosa: 1 female on 25 June.

Brachypalpoides lentus: 1 seen briefly.

7 and 8 September: I noticed some bright looking *Rhingia* so I thought they were worth checking out. I took several specimens home for critical microscopic examination and was delighted to discover that along with the common *Rhingia campestris* there were several *Rhingia rostrata* of both sexes. This confirms that this species is indeed extending its range into Wales. There seemed to be at least as many, if not more, *rostrata* as *campestris*.

The attractive Asilid *Dioctria oelandica* (male and female) were very frequent at the site in June, so I assume they are breeding there.

Britain's Hoverflies (2013) is a splendid publication; congratulations to Stuart Ball and Roger Morris for all their hard work (and hassle!) in bringing this to print. They are credit to entomology.

Chrysotoxum arcuatum in the Forest of Dean

David Iliff
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Gloucestershire, GL52 9HN ,davidilff@talk21.com

The dot maps in the Atlas of Hoverflies of Great Britain (Ball, Morris, Rotheray and Watt, 2011) illustrate graphically the apparent mutually exclusive distibution in much of the UK of *Chrysotoxum arcuatum* and *Chrysotoxum cautum*, with *C. arcuatum* occurring northwest of a line between the Severn and the Humber and *C. cautum* southeast of that line. *C. cautum* has been recorded regularly in Gloucestershire since the late 19th Century, but the county had no records for *C. arcuatum* until 15 August 1993 when I found a female and a male of the species at opposite ends of the Poor's Allotment nature reserve in the southwest of the Forest of Dean, well south of the species' known range at that date. Since then *C. arcuatum* has been found regularly though infrequently within the Forest of Dean, which would now appear to represent the southeastern boundary of its range. It has not been found elsewhere in Gloucestershire, though *C. cautum* occurs throughout the county, including the Forest.

Forest of Dean records of *Chrysotoxum arcuatum* to date are as follows:

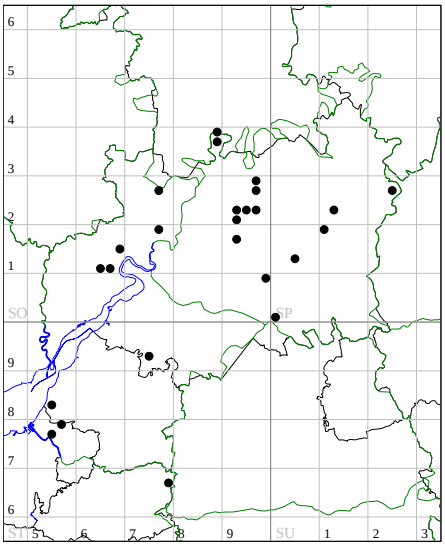
15 August 1993 1 female Poor's Allotment ST5598 (David Iliff)
15 August 1993 1 male Poor's Allotment ST5699 (David Iliff)
20 May 2007 1 female Ruardean Plantation SO6316 (John Phillips)
12 July 2008 Great Palescot SO6411 (John Phillips)
6 August 2009 Edgehills Bog SO661155 (John Phillips)
15 July 2012 1 male Awre's Glow SO643116 (John Harper)
24 June 2013 1 female Blakeney Straits SO655080 (Maris Midgley)
29 June 2013 1 female Staunton Meend SO5412 (Martin Matthews)

A third member of the predominantly yellow *Chrysotoxum* species (the group called the "difficult five" in Britain's Hoverflies (Ball and Morris, 2013)) is *Chrysotoxum verralli*. The provisional version of the Atlas (issued in 2000) showed that this species was then largely confined to the south east of England. However Martin Matthews discovered two females at The Mythe near Tewkesbury in 2006, since when it has been recorded at least nine times in Gloucestershire, the sightings coming from all the main geographic divisions of the county (the Cotswolds, the Severn Valley and the Forest of Dean). This westward spread has also of course affected other several other counties; see John Harper's article below on an even further spread of this species.

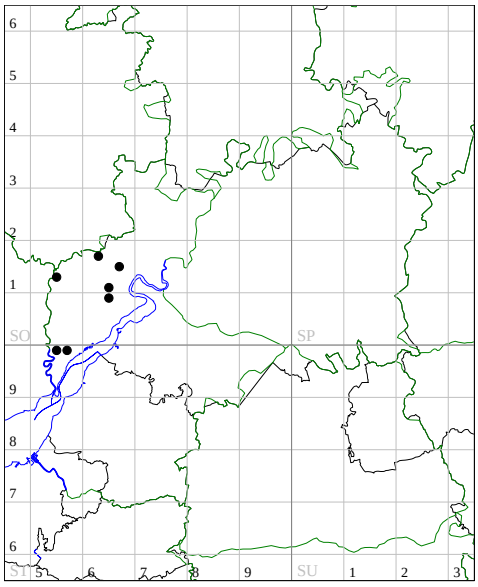
Since the arrival of of *C. verralli* in Gloucestershire, county records of *C. cautum* have decreased disturbingly. Until this year the last record had been in 2009. It is therefore pleasing to report that John Phillips saw a female *C. cautum* at Pope's Hill SO6814 (in the Forest of Dean) on 21 June 2013.

Chrysotoxum arcuatum female (photo: Maris Midgley)

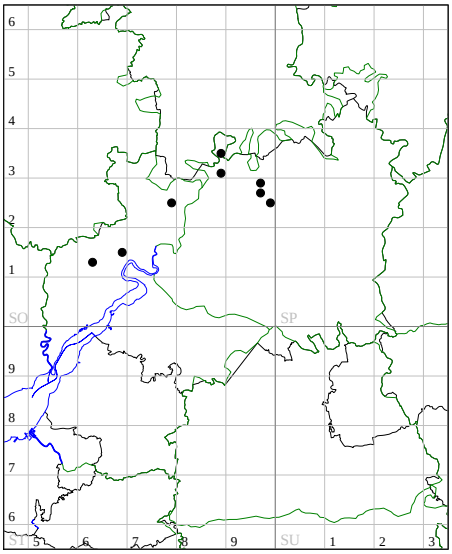
Gloucestershire distribution maps for the three species are shown below:



Chrysotoxum cautum



Chrysotoxum arcuatum



Chrysotoxum verralli

Chrysotoxum verralli - new to Wales

John Harper
4 Fairhome, Gilwern, Abergavenny, NP7 0BA
jfh22@tiscali.co.uk

On 1st July 2013 I collected a male of *Chrysotoxum verralli* from the Flood Alleviation Area in Monmouth town, vc35, SO503127. This seems to be the first record for Wales, although the border with West Gloucestershire vc34 is only 3km away in the Forest of Dean. The increasing occurrence of the species in Gloucestershire was summarised by David Iliff in Hoverfly Newsletter No. 52, Spring 2012, p.9, and it seems logical that it would spread further in suitable habitat. My thanks to David Iliff, Stuart Ball and Roger Morris for confirming the ID and the species' current distribution.

The flood alleviation scheme is designed to reduce the chances of the entomologically famous River Monnow from flooding the lower parts of Monmouth town. It consists of a large pool and surrounding ditches which are well vegetated with a variety of shrubs and trees, as well as ruderals which have to be vigorously controlled. Although as far as 22km from the Severn Estuary the altitude of the pool area is only 20m asl.

While much of inland southern Wales is upland, there are several fingers of lowland that wind their way far into the Principality, particularly relevant are the

Rivers Wye, Monnow and Usk, whose valleys connect in the Monmouth/Usk area; these seem to act as corridors for "English" species to infiltrate Wales.

Interesting Recent Records

Pipiza bimaculata: male, The Mythe, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire SO887341, 2 May 2013 (Martin Matthews). Second record of the species for VC33, and the 92nd hoverfly species within the Gloucestershire Wildlife trust reserve and the neighbouring flood meadows (90 of these were first recorded there by Martin himself).

Myolepta potens: female, Pope's Hill SO6814, 23 August 2013 (John Phillips); in Hoverfly Newsletter No. 47 John described his discovery of a male of this species at nearby Welshbury Wood in 2009.

Myolepta potens female (photo; John Phillips)

Recent Images

Below are two photos by Paul Brock of mating pairs of hoverflies in the New Forest.

Microdon analis pair (photo: Paul Brock)

Caliprobola speciosa pair (photo: Paul Brock)

TEPHRITID FLIES RECORDING SCHEME JULY 2013

Since the last report the database has progressed in fits and starts such that, at the time of writing on 25 July 2013, it contains 24606 records for 79 species. The collector/recorder details with number of records, species, grid references and year of last record enclosed in brackets are shown below. Note that a small number of records has been ascertained from websites and if the collector/recorder only provided a pseudonym these have been assigned to Unknown.

D. M. Ackland (1, 1, 1, 1990); F. C. Adams (6, 5, 2, 1905); M. Albertini (1, 1, 1, 2008); K. N. A. Alexander (218, 38, 147, 2008); A. A. Allen (38, 38, 6, 1998); G. W. Allen (4, 4, 4, 1998); P. Allen (3, 3, 1, 2002); C. H. Andrewes (6, 3, 6, 1970); H. W. Andrews (342, 53, 57, 1954); G. &. M. Arnold (12, 3, 6, 1986); C. Atkins (1, 1, 1, 2010); E. A. Atmore (1, 1, 1, 1902); H. Audcent (12, 11, 8, 1945); W. Avery (1, 1, 1, 2010); J. S. Badmin (7, 2, 6, 2007); S. G. Ball (1, 1, 1, 1988); P. Bance (1, 1, 1, 2007); A. Banthorpe (1, 1, 1, 2012); T. Bantock (1, 1, 1, 2007); A. C. Barlow (64, 19, 17, 1991); R. J. Barnett (8, 3, 8, 1996); E. B. Basden (1, 1, 1, 1960); A. Beaumont (15, 7, 9, 1949); J. Beaumont (1, 1, 1, 1898); I. Beavis (56, 19, 29, 2012); B. P. Beirne (25, 11, 6, 1949); J. E. &. R. B. Benson (1, 1, 1, 1958); R. B. Benson (1, 1, 1, 1944); H. Bentley (99, 27, 56, 2012); P. Bergdahl (25, 7, 1, 2004); D. T. Biggs (239, 17, 180, 2007); M. F. Biggs (4, 4, 4, 2003); N. Biggs (3, 1, 3, 2000); T. R. Billups (2, 1, 2, 1893); A.E. Binding (1, 1, 1, 2004); N. L. Birkett (1, 1, 1, 1977); K. G. Blair (107, 37, 30, 1951); K. P. Bland (92, 19, 71, 2005); B. N. Blood (3, 3, 1, 1929); E. N. Bloomfield (1, 1, 1, 1893); M. G. Bloxham (176, 32, 71, 2003); J. Bowden (4, 2, 2, 1996); J. P. Bowdrey (188, 18, 143, 2004); J. Bowman (7, 5, 4, 2010); G. Boyd (49, 17, 30, 2010); J. H. Boyd (6, 4, 1, 2004); A. Brackenbury (110, 25, 81, 2001); R. C. Bradley (14, 12, 5, 1900); J. Bratton (181, 28, 134, 2005); A. F. Brazenor (23, 7, 5, 1948); A. T. Brett (1, 1, 1, 1883); C. Brett (1, 1, 1, 1905); A. Brindle (4, 4, 4, 1952); H. Britten Jnr (15, 9, 4, 1958); H. Britten (112, 38, 37, 1956); J. H. Britten (1, 1, 1, 1946); E. Brown (9, 9, 1, 1863); J. M. Brown (3, 1, 3, 1920); E. Brunetti (1, 1, 1, 1889); H. J. Burkill (4, 3, 3, 1947); G. Burleigh (1, 1, 1, 2012); E. N. Burmett (1, 1, 1, 1902); M. Burnhill (2, 2, 2, 2002); V. Burton (1, 1, 1, 2010); E. Burtt (17, 7, 6, 1976); H. Bury (1, 1, 1, 1914); L. C. Bushby (1, 1, 1, 1926); P. Butler (10, 6, 3, 1998); G. D. H. Carpenter (1, 1, 1, 1905); J. W. Carr (1, 1, 1, 1919); H. H. Carter (23, 3, 16, 1981); J. M. Chalmers-Hunt (3, 1, 3, 1991); C. G. Champion (1, 1, 1, Unknown); P. J. Chandler (580, 56, 254, 1999); R. A. Chapman (2, 2, 2, 1999); H. J. Charbonier (4, 4, 3, 1918); C. A. Cheetham (15, 11, 9, 1940); J. M. Cheverton (3, 2, 3, 2004); W. E. China (3, 2, 2, 1928); T. M. Clegg (1, 1, 1, 1965); A. Clements (1, 1, 1, 1994); D. Clements (81, 30, 48, 1996); L. Clemons (2485, 53, 740, 2013); J. Clough (16, 8, 6, 2008); W. G. Cluton (1, 1, 1, 1933); P. R. Cobb (2, 2, 2, 1996); R. L. Coe (8, 6, 6, 1939); E. Coetzee (1, 1, 1, 1971); M. Coffin (1, 1, 1, 2012); B. H. Cogan (1, 1, 1, 1971); K. Coker (3, 3, 2, 2010); J. D. Coldwell (231, 37, 55, 2012); J. H. Cole (767, 59, 292, 2010); J. E. Collin (10, 7, 8, 1946); C.W. Collins (1, 1, 1, 2007); D. Collins (2, 2, 2, 1963); G. A. Collins (2, 2, 2, 2003); J. J. Collins (134, 29, 15, 1939); C. N. Colyer (22, 11, 14, 1954); A. Consterdine (14, 1, 14, 1997); P. Cooke (1, 1, 1, 1995); M. Cooper (1, 1, 1, 2012); G. Corbet (14, 7, 2, 2003); E. Coronold (1, 1, 1, 1900); M. Cotterill (2, 1, 2, 2011); J. Cowley (3, 3, 3, 1950); S. M. Crellin (13, 11, 11, 2003); R. Crossley (107, 32, 54, 2009); N. Cuming (1, 1, 1, 2004); P. W. E. Currie (1, 1, 1, 1951); E. C. M. d' Assis-Fonseca (26, 13, 7, 1963); C. W. Dale (1, 1, 1, Unknown); H. W. Daltry (9, 6, 4, 1940); D. Dana (4, 2, 4, 2003); C. David (119, 16, 85, 2002); G. Davis (2, 2, 2, 2011); O. Davis (2, 1, 1, 2006); P. Davis (1, 1, 1, 2004); C. D. Day (13, 10, 10, 1951); M. de Courcy Williams (9, 6, 7, 1979); J. P. &. S. Dear (6, 5, 6, 1977); B. Deed (1, 1, 1, 2012); J. C. Deeming (2, 2, 2, 1991); J. S. Denton (99, 31, 49, 2010); R. Dickson (324, 34, 66, 2012); A. F. G. Dixon (1, 1, 1, 1955); J. Dobson (162, 33, 48, 1996); S. Dodd (2, 1, 1, 1986); H. St. J. Donisthorpe (1, 1, 1, 1902); D. N. Dowling (12, 7, 10, 1979); C. M. Drake (535, 55, 297, 2011); C. Duke (1, 1, 1, 2011); R. D. Dumbrell (40, 24, 26, 1976); I. Dungey (1, 1, 1, 2006); K. Durrant (126, 26, 51, 1994); C. E. Dyte (2, 2, 2, 1970); V. F. Eastop (4, 3, 1, 1974); R. Edmunds (3, 3, 3, 2005); F. W. Edwards (10, 8, 6, 1934); J. Edwards (13, 9, 7, 1956); M.E. Edwards (25, 12, 11, 2010); G. R. Else (5, 5, 5, 2012); W. A. Ely (175, 36, 108, 2006); D. W. Emley (10, 6, 9, 1990); J. Enock (1, 1, 1, Unknown); P. F. Entwistle (9, 4, 8, 2006); G. Evans (1, 1, 1, 1983); I. Evans (1, 1, 1, 2010); J. Evans (1, 1, 1, 2011); B. Fairs (1, 1, 1, 2010); W. Falconer (4, 1, 4, 1927); S. J. Falk (867, 47, 175, 2008); R. C. Faris (3, 3, 3, 1938); J. C. Felton (3, 3, 2, 1965); I. D. Ferguson (2, 1, 2, 1987); G.L. Finch (1, 1, 1, 2010); J. Flanagan (49, 18, 31, 2004); C.H. Fletcher (2, 2, 2, 2005); T. B. Fletcher (30, 15, 3, 1948); P. Follett (17, 7, 1, 1988); L. T. Ford (1, 1, 1, 1936); W. J. Fordham (1, 1, 1, 1921); B. Formstone (43, 18, 16, 1998); P. Forrest (4, 1, 2, 2003); A. P. Foster (1, 1, 1, 1994); K. Fowler (2, 2, 2, 2011); A. P. Fowles (36, 16, 28, 1996); E. E. Frampton (3, 3, 2, 1937); M. Fray (1, 1, 1, 2013); P. Furze (3, 3, 3, 2011); J. M. Gant (16, 10, 5, 2001); S. P. Garland (4, 2, 3, 1988); D.J. Gibbs (447, 50, 150, 2007); R. Gilbert (1, 1, 1, 2012); G. Glombeck (2, 1, 1, 1975); P. A. Goddard (2, 2, 1, 1967); A. Godfrey (198, 37, 65, 2009); J. Gordon (1, 1, 1, 2012); T. Goudley (2, 1, 2, 1998); P. Grainger (22, 12, 10, 1998); W. R. O. Grant (6, 3, 4, 1907); A. Grayson (22, 11, 12, 1993); L. W. Grensted (1, 1, 1, 1948); H. I. Griffiths (7, 5, 5, 1997); J. Grimes (1, 1, 1, 1918); P. H. Grimshaw (3, 2, 3, 1911); S. Grove (506, 45, 155, 1995); K. M. Guichard (1, 1, 1, 1972); D. Hackett (21, 13, 10, 2001); F. H. Haines (23, 12, 7, 1942); J. N. Halbert (13, 7, 10, 1974); A. H. Haliday (15, 10, 7, 1833); D. Hallett (11, 8, 9, 2005); H. M. Hallett (1, 1, 1, 1934); A. J. 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Higginbottom (1, 1, 1, 2006); K. Hill (3, 2, 1, 1990); W. D. Hincks (13, 8, 13, 1960); S. Hind (38, 8, 29, 1998); M. Hitshing (1, 1, 1, 1937); P. J. Hodge (603, 50, 235, 2008); G. N. Holland (1, 1, 1, Unknown); J. D. Holloway (1, 1, 1, 1998); J. M. C. Holmes (1, 1, 1, 1988); P. Holmes (1, 1, 1, 1988); R. Homan (3, 2, 3, 2012); P. Hope Jones (1, 1, 1, 1993); D. Horsfield (1, 1, 1, 2000); M. &. E. Howe (373, 43, 170, 1998); M. A. Howe (7, 5, 4, 1997); R. Howell (4, 2, 1, 2006); A. C. Hubbard (23, 9, 14, 1991); D. Hubble (1, 1, 1, 2012); A. E. Hudd (6, 4, 3, Unknown); I. R. Hudson (75, 23, 38, 1989); J. Hunnisett (85, 20, 64, 2005); A. M. Hutson (2, 2, 2, 1972); P. Hyman (1, 1, 1, 1985); H. Ikin (4, 4, 3, 2011); A. D. Imms (1, 1, 1, 1908); P. Inchbald (1, 1, 1, 1860); A. G. Irwin (6, 5, 6, 2011); J. W. Ismay (76, 22, 29, 2000); J.W. & B. Ismay (3, 2, 2, 2008); H. G. Jeffrey (1, 1, 1, 1937); F. Jenkinson (1, 1, 1, 1907); M. T. Jennings (917, 31, 171, 2012); T. 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Levey (2, 2, 2, 1970); J. S. Lewis (2, 2, 2, 1946); G. B. Longstaff (1, 1, 1, 1909); A. M. Low (1, 1, 1, 1931); W. A. Luff (6, 6, 1, 1897); M. Macdonald (66, 11, 56, 2011); J. R. Malloch (1, 1, 1, 1904); D. J. Mann (95, 30, 50, 1996); P. R. Marler (1, 1, 1, 1947); T. A. Marshall (1, 1, 1, Unknown); A. Marston (3, 2, 2, 2006); *Martineau (1, 1, 1, Unknown); L. Mason (1, 1, 1, 2010); * Mathews (1, 1, 1, Unknown); T. H. Mawdsley (2, 2, 2, 1995); J. McKellar (10, 6, 9, 2011); I. McLean (10, 7, 6, 1992); S. J. McWilliam (20, 12, 6, 1997); D. Mears (1, 1, 1, 1997); A. V. Measday (2, 1, 2, 1990); R. K. Merrifield (12, 7, 9, 2003); R.K. & R.M. Merrifield (264, 34, 122, 2012); R.M. Merrifield (5, 1, 4, 2007); D. Miller (1, 1, 1, 2001); D. Mills (40, 18, 24, 2012); A. A. Mitchell (1, 1, 1, 2001); B. Mitchell (1, 1, 1, 2000); M. Mitchell (127, 30, 63, 2012); A. Moon (2, 1, 2, 1985); S. Moran (2, 2, 2, 1999); H. G. Morgan (1, 1, 1, 1948); M. J. Morgan (31, 16, 25, 1994); G. D. 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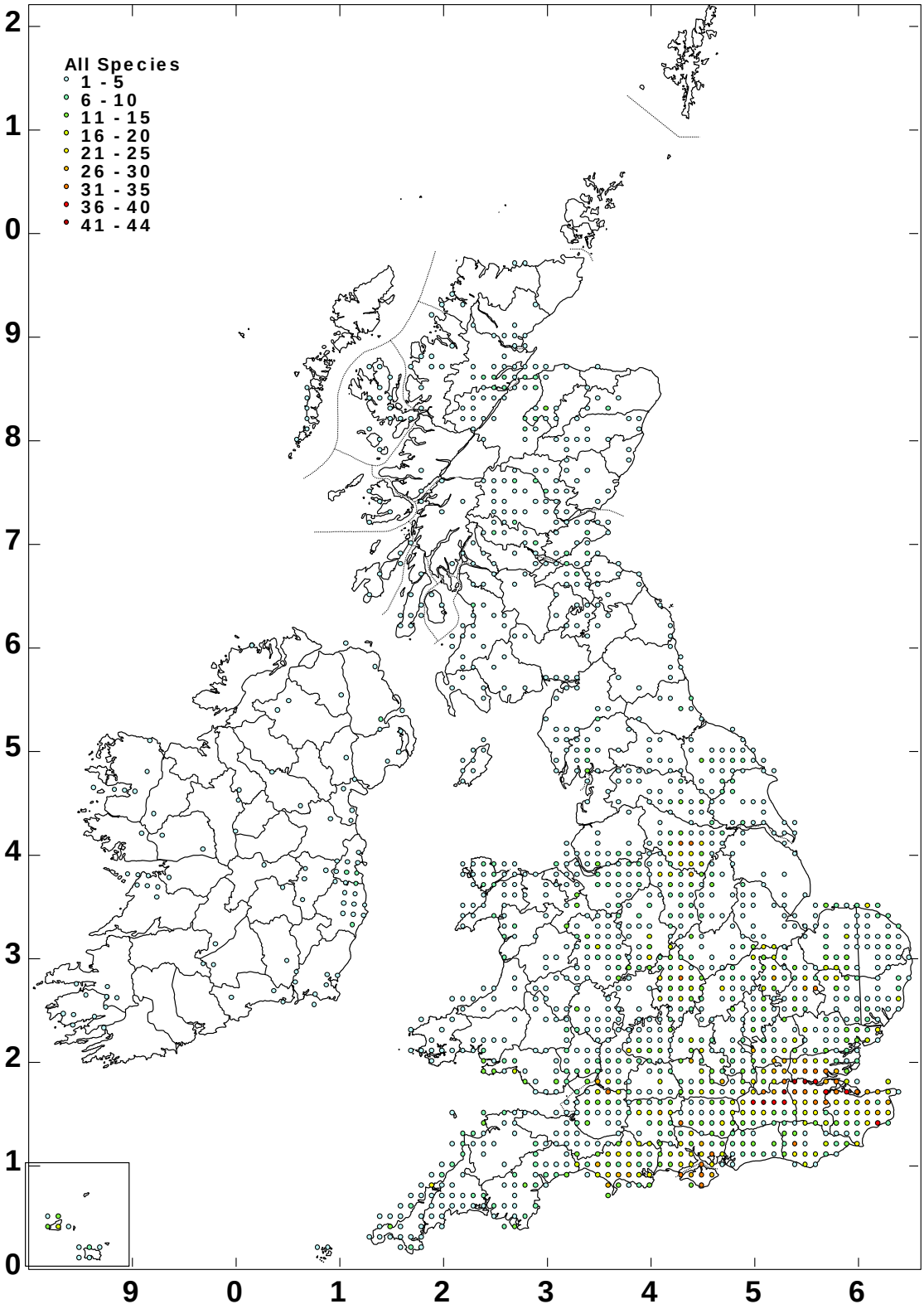
A.J. White (36, 21, 21, 2010); I. M. White (70, 34, 13, 1989); J. White (1, 1, 1, 2008); F. I. Whitehouse (1, 1, 1, 1976); D. Whiteley (508, 38, 216, 2008); A. E. Whittington (1, 1, 1, 2000); I. Wildbur (1, 1, 1, 2008); S. Wilkinson (1, 1, 1, 2010); R. Williams (4, 4, 1, 2012); J. J. Willis (1, 1, 1, 1883); P. Winter (1, 1, 1, 2003); A. J. Wise (3, 3, 2, 1984); H. R. L. Wood (1, 1, 1, 1914); J. H. Wood (51, 12, 11, 1945); S.F. Woodward (8, 4, 8, 2012); L. H. Woollatt (1, 1, 1, 1958); A. E. Wright (9, 4, 1, 1945); A. S. Wright (668, 50, 177, 2009); J. W. Yerbury (122, 23, 58, 1914).

The species data are tabulated below according to the number of hectads in six date classes. Thus, while there are still six years to go in the current date class, it can be seen that *Acanthiophilus helianthi* (Rossi, 1794) has recently been found in more new hectads than in the previous century or so. As far as I know the only confirmed records for *Tephritis separata* Rondani, 1871 are from J.E. Collin's four specimens housed in the Hope Department, Oxford re-determined by John Smit and the others are queried. It has been suggested that *Tephritis divisa* and *T. separata* are simply forms of the same species, but which one?

Species	Number of hectads	Pre 1920/unknown	1920-1939	1940-1959	1960-1979	1980-1999	2000-present
Acanthiophilus helianthi (Rossi, 1794)	79	7	3	5	1	23	40
Acidia cognata (Wiedemann, 1817)	185	25	15	15	22	84	24
Acinia corniculata (Zetterstedt, 1819)	36	8		3		5	20
Anomoia purmunda (Harris, 1780)	305	22	8	4	26	147	98
Bactrocera cucurbitae (Coquillett, 1899)	1					1	
Campiglossa absinthii (Fabricius, 1805)	108	5	6	7	3	69	18
Campiglossa argyrocephala (Loew, 1844)	21		1		1	16	3
Campiglossa grandinata (Rondani, 1870)	4	2		1		1	
Campiglossa loewiana (Hendel, 1927)	31	4	2	4	4	13	4
Campiglossa malaris (Séguy, 1934)	46				1	5	40
Campiglossa misella (Loew, 1869)	121	10	1	1	12	75	22
Campiglossa plantaginis (Haliday, 1833)	145	12	7	4	16	88	18
Campiglossa producta (Loew, 1844)	32	8	3		1	8	12
Campiglossa solidaginis (White, 1986)	18	2	2	3	1	9	1
Ceratitis capitata (Wiedemann, 1824)	15	1	2	2		4	6
Chaetorellia jaceae (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830)	135	2	2	4	7	78	42
Chaetorellia loricata (Rondani, 1870)	14	2	1	1		7	3
Chaetostomella cylindrica (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830)	454	47	25	21	36	228	97
Chetostoma curvinerve Rondani, 1856	42	1			4	13	24
Cornutrypeta spinifrons (Schroeder, 1913)	8	3		2	1	1	1
Cryptaciura rotundiventris (Fallén, 1814)	15	1	1	1	2	8	2
Dioxyna bidentis (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830)	134	9	4	5	8	55	53
Dithryca guttularis (Meigen, 1826)	147	13	8	2	10	81	33
Ensina sonchi (Linnaeus, 1767)	80	28	6	3	10	17	16
Euleia heraclei (Linnaeus, 1758)	322	30	15	19	24	166	68
Euphranta toxoneura (Loew, 1846)	42	6	1	1	4	23	7
Goniglossum wiedemanni (Meigen, 1826)	45	5	2	3	3	25	7
Merzomyia westermanni (Meigen, 1826)	130	7	6	4	12	66	35
Myopites eximius Séguy, 1932	37	1	3		1	19	13
Myopites inulaedyssentericae Blot, 1827	103	4	4	2	2	52	39
Noeeta pupillata (Fallén, 1814)	85	15	8	4	6	35	17
Orellia falcata (Scopoli, 1763)	85	9	5	6	4	31	30
Oxyna flavipennis (Loew, 1844)	38	8	2	3	2	13	10
Oxyna nebulosa (Wiedemann, 1817)	26	4	3	1	1	13	4
Oxyna parietina (Linnaeus, 1758)	97	13		2	4	54	24
Philophylla caesio (Harris, 1780)	220	15	5	10	26	113	51
Platyparea discoidea (Fabricius, 1787)	21	1	4	2	3	11	
Plioreocepta poeciloptera (Schrank, 1776)	1	1					
Rhagoletis alternata (Fallén, 1814)	103	10	7	7	11	41	27
Rhagoletis cerasi (Linnaeus, 1758)	1	1					
Rhagoletis meigenii (Loew, 1844)	8	2					6

Sphenella marginata (Fallén, 1814)	262	33	13	6	11	88	111
Stemonocera cornuta (Scopoli, 1772)	9	2	1		2	4	
Tephritis bardanae (Schrank, 1803)	322	32	17	18	28	165	62
Tephritis cometa (Loew, 1840)	141	8	2		10	72	49
Tephritis conura (Loew, 1844)	119	8	7	2	19	52	31
Tephritis divisa Rondani, 1871	47						47
Tephritis formosa (Loew, 1844)	330	6	5	1	8	164	146
Tephritis hyoscyami (Linnaeus, 1758)	184	13	7	3	14	115	32
Tephritis leontodontis (De Geer. 1776)	91	13	6	3	3	37	29
Tephritis matricariae (Loew, 1844)	69						69
Tephritis neesii (Meigen, 1830)	286	21	23	10	13	125	94
Tephritis praecox (Loew, 1844)	8	1					7
Tephritis ruralis (Loew, 1844)	47	6	1	3	2	23	12
Tephritis separata Rondani, 1871	3		1	?1			?1
Tephritis vespertina (Loew, 1844)	473	61	26	26	43	210	107
Terellia ceratocera (Hendel, 1913)	39	15	3	9	6	4	2
Terellia colon (Meigen, 1826)	116	16	8	7	5	53	27
Terellia fuscicornis (Loew, 1844)	1						1
Terellia longicauda (Meigen, 1838)	53	3	8	2	2	27	11
Terellia plagiata (Dahlbom, 1850)	10	5	1		1	2	1
Terellia ruficauda (Fabricius, 1794)	396	47	17	18	15	226	73
Terellia serratulae (Linnaeus, 1758)	268	18	14	14	19	144	59
Terellia tussilaginis (Fabricius, 1775)	344	32	26	21	28	143	94
Terellia vectensis (Collin, 1937)	24		5	2	3	7	7
Terellia winthemi (Meigen, 1826)	30	7	2	1	1	11	8
Trupanea amoena (von Frauenfeld, 1857)	8	2		1			5
Trupanea stellata (Fuessly, 1775)	125	18	7	7	8	62	23
Trypeta artemisiae (Fabricius, 1794)	60	3	2	2	4	35	14
Trypeta immaculata (Macquart, 1835)	33		1		6	17	9
Trypeta zoe Meigen, 1826	160	35	10	10	13	59	33
Urophora cardui (Linnaeus, 1758)	318	21	7	7	17	191	75
Urophora cuspidata (Meigen, 1826)	32		2	2	2	18	8
Urophora jaceana (Hering, 1935)	495	26	14	9	38	297	111
Urophora quadrifasciata (Meigen, 1826)	224	12	9	5	3	102	93
Urophora solstitialis (Linnaeus, 1758)	72	6	2	3	4	39	18
Urophora spoliata (Haliday, 1838)	13	1	1		2	7	2
Urophora stylata (Fabricius, 1775)	425	27	20	14	40	241	83
Xyphosia miliaria (Schrank, 1781)	614	38	24	23	56	343	130

The current coverage map is thus:



I hope to prepare an updated atlas for distribution with the next Bulletin and would be grateful to receive any new records in whatever format suits the contributor but Excel spreadsheets are easier to import into the database. The preferred order of columns is Species, date, site name, grid reference (no tetrads please!), vice-county number, collector name, determiner name, source (e.g. museum collection), site description, comments, full literature reference (if applicable).

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Tephritidae images by Judy Webb

Meromyza westermanni

Meromyza westermanni

Acinia corniculata

Soldierflies and Allies Recording Scheme

Newsletter 1, autumn 2013

Edited by Martin C. Harvey
ISSN 2053-471X (print)
ISSN 2053-4728 (online)

Villa cingulatus, *Buckinghamshire*
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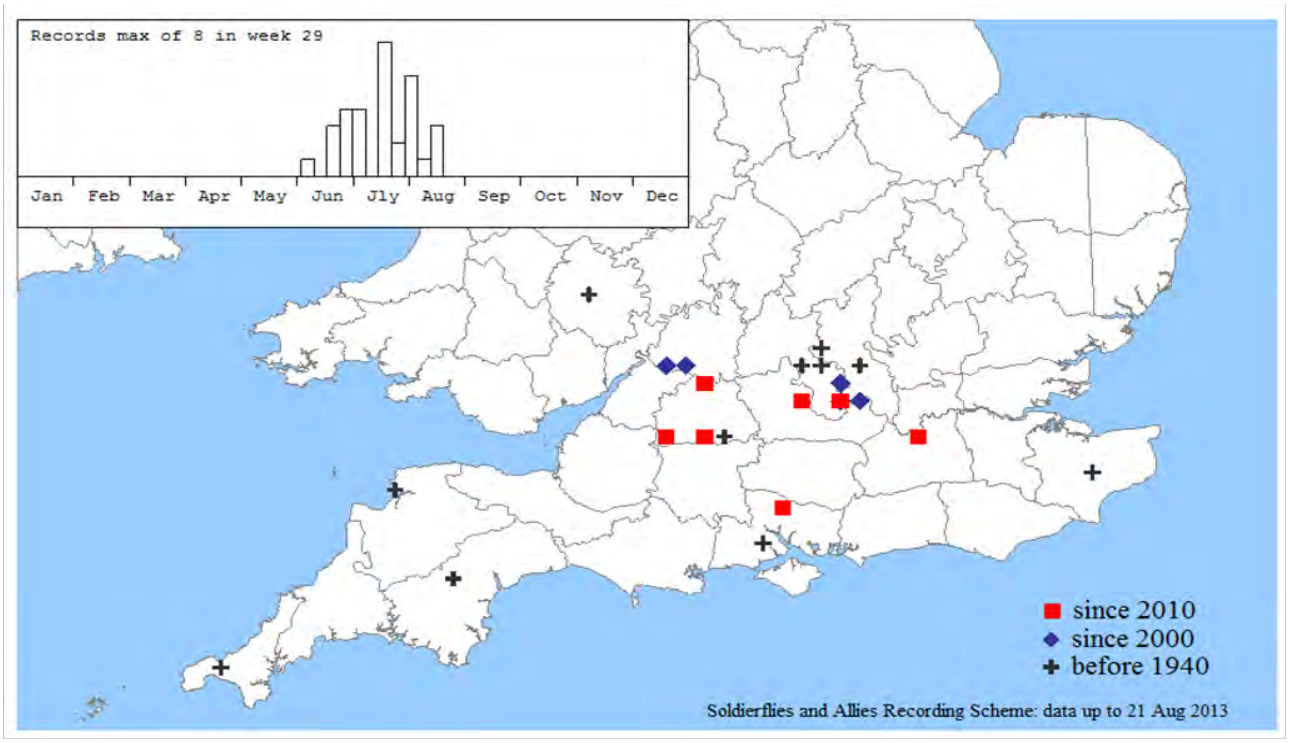
Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for the Soldierflies and Allies Recording Scheme! This follows on from the 28th newsletter of the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme, which came out in spring 2010. Thanks to all who have contributed articles, photos and records.

Why the name change? Well, it's partly to bring the recording scheme in line with the title of the main book on this group of flies (i.e. the BENHS guide by Alan Stubbs and Martin Drake), partly due to the term "Larger Brachycera" having fallen out of favour with taxonomists, but mostly in order to make the recording scheme a bit more approachable and understandable for a wiser audience.

Downland Villa on the move?

After the gap in records during the second half of the 20th century, the Downland Villa *Villa cingulata* is being recorded with increasing frequency and at new sites. The map below shows the data currently on the recording scheme database (not yet complete - I'm aware of some published records that haven't yet been databased). After being rediscovered in East Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire in



Distribution map for Downland Villa, Villa cingulata*, in southern England.*

the first decade of the 21st century, records since 2010 have extended the known range to include Wiltshire (recorded by Andy Foster, Nick Upton and Paddy Saunders), Berkshire (Jason Gosling), and in 2013 to South Hampshire (Ivan Perry) and Middlesex (Martin Harvey). Many of these records are from calcareous grassland, but the Middlesex record is from flower-rich neutral grassland on the edge of Bushy Park in west London. So it looks like the Downland Villa could become a familiar species across a wide area of southern England, at least, and certainly one to watch out for in 2014.

Statuses and rules

Earlier this year Martin Drake undertook a review for Natural England of the conservation statuses of the species in the soldierflies and allies group, categorising them using the latest IUCN criteria. His report has been drafted but as yet we don't know what the route for publication will be. At the draft stage, of the 161 species reviewed:

- Four species are categorised as Regionally Extinct
- Six are Critically Endangered
- Six are Endangered
- Seven are Vulnerable
- Twenty are Lower Risk (Near Threatened)
- Twenty-two are Lower Risk (Nationally Scarce)
- Three are Data Deficient

Another project in early 2013 was led by the Biological Records Centre for the National Biodiversity Network and DEFRA, working with a range of recording schemes (including soldierflies and allies, compiled by Martin Harvey) to generate 'verification rules'. These rules are intended to assist in record verification, by flagging up records of species that are hard to identify, out of their known distribution, at the wrong time of year, or simply very rare. The rules for soldierflies and allies (plus many other recording schemes) are being used within the NBN 'Record Cleaner' software, and in the BRC's iRecord system for online recording. A report on the process is available from the NBN website at: bit.ly/verify-rules, and a copy of the identification difficulty categories for each species is available from Martin Harvey.

Recent records

***Irish Robberfly* Machimus cowini**

This species was first found in Britain on the Isle of Man, and is also known from Ireland, but until this year there had only been one record on the British mainland. However, it was seen in numbers on the coast near Morecambe Bay during the Dipterists Forum field meeting based at Lancaster, July 2013. (Photo of Phil Bright's specimen, via Darwyn Sumner.)

Golden Horsefly* Atylotus fulvus *in Scotland

This was rediscovered in Scotland in 2005, at Glenmoriston, after having not been seen for over 70 years. A second potential population has now been discovered, as described by Murdo Macdonald: "On a trip to check out [the ant] *Formica exsecta* sites yesterday we stopped for lunch in a layby just outside Kinloch Rannoch. Hayley Wiswell pointed out a tabanid sitting on an Oxeye Daisy, and it was immediately obvious that it was *Atylotus fulvus*, last recorded there in 1923. We admired it (a female) in the hand before releasing it unharmed. It was my first 'wild' one, having only seen a bottled specimen caught by Jane Bowman before. This suggests that there is another surviving population in Perthshire." More information at: http://www.hbrg.org.uk/FoHW/Tabanidae/Tabanidae.html

***Twin-spot Stiletto* Thereva bipunctata**
This species is most frequently found on coastal dunes, but there a few inland records. Nigel Jones reports: "I found a number of *Thereva bipunctata* at an inland site this year. Prees Heath, Shropshire. They were particularly to be found in an area that has been restored from arable to heath in the last few years. This area has much bare sand and sweeping across this produced plenty of individuals." It's always worth checking inland *Thereva,* they aren't always *nobilitata*!

***Limestone Snipefly* Symphoromyia immaculata**
Raymond Uffen writes: "Some year ago I swept a substantial number of *Symphoromyia immaculata* from long grass on the southern slope of Nomansland Common, which was cultivated during world war 2. In the last two or three years the variety and number of insects swept from this area have been much reduced and *Symphoromyia* was not taken. Perusal of the Larger Brachycera book gave a good indication of the peak flight period, so I paid a visit on the afternoon 24 June 2013 and found both sexes of *Symphoromyia* to be one of the commonest species in my sweep net in the long grass areas around TL172122.

"A large area of sand and gravel pits SW of the old Hatfield aerodrome has been totally levelled and sown predominantly to tall grasses. I swept numerous *Symphoromyia immaculata* in the area TL1908 on the warm evening of 25 July 2013 from 8 pm. I am not aware of any information on oviposition sites of this species, nor larval description or rearing attempts. I cannot think of many similar grassland sites remaining in Hertfordshire."

Wood Snipefly *Rhagio annulatus* on Orkney

by Ian Andrews

On 11th July 2013, on a field trip mainly looking at birds and archaeology, together with an eclectic bunch of biologists and artists from Pocklington School, I was enjoying unusually fine weather on top of Wideford Hill on Mainland, Orkney, at HY412116. The minibus was parked in the open at the top of the hill (225m asl) and the rest of the group headed down the slope to find a chambered cairn.

In the meantime, I swept the rather dry moorland on the eastern side of this treeless hill, just below the mast on top. There was not too much there … a few dolichopodids, swarms of *Dilophus* and the inevitable hordes of *Haematopota*. Returning to the minibus, my colleague Martin Butcher picked out a rather large fly resting on the passenger window, among the mass of smaller flies attracted to a white vehicle in the sun atop the hill.

I potted it up, as it was clearly a *Rhagio* and, with clear wings, not *scolopaceus*. I was surprised to find a *Rhagio* in such a spot, as the habitat was exposed, dry heather moorland going down to farmland, with not a bush in sight, let alone a tree. I later pinned it up and upon returning home was able to key it out from Stubbs and Drake to a female Wood Snipefly *Rhagio annulatus*. The lack of a dark stigma on clear wings, dark front coxae, dark humeri and palps, as well as mainly pale hairs on the abdomen, set it apart from *tringarius*.

Stubbs and Drake refer to the habitat preference of *annulatus* being 'woodland edge, occurring within dappled shade'. There is very little habitat

like that on Orkney at all. The name Wood Snipefly would seem to exclude it from the fauna of the islands straight away, in fact. Intriguingly, though, they also refer to a record of a pair taken on the neighbouring island of Hoy in June 1938, where trees are also largely absent. To whatever extent the fly is actually present on Orkney, it clearly occupies a different ecological niche there; it would be interesting to look into this further, if anyone is ever up that way …

Brachycera of Counties Sligo and Leitrim, north-west Ireland

by Don C.F. Cotton, Rahaberna, Co. Sligo, Ireland; cotton.don@itsligo.ie

Living in north-west Ireland is full of opportunity in the field of natural history but it is also very lonely! Until recently there were no residents in Sligo or Leitrim with an interest in insects apart from myself. The adjoining counties of Cavan, Roscommon, Mayo and Donegal were also terra incognita for entomology. In the last 3 or 4 years six people have started running moth traps and this year two have branched out into the Odonata! Currently I only know of 8 records of 7 species of soldierflies and allies from this region (Chandler 1975; Speight 1987; Drake 1991). Perhaps there are many more records out there and if so I would appreciate being told about them.

These two counties contain a wealth of interesting habitat including ranges of hills composed of both acid rocks and limestone covered in blanket bog but with acid and calcareous flushes; over 600 lakes and ponds greater than one hectare some of which are larger than 1000 hectares; and 5 estuaries with saltmarsh habitats. What we don't have much of is broadleaved woodland.

Over my 32 years residence in this region I have tried to record a bit of everything. Since the publication of Stubbs & Drake (2001) I have identified and collected voucher material for Tabanidae, Asilidae, Stratiomyidae and Rhagionidae. Whilst there is nothing particularly rare, the records will make a modest contribution to our knowledge of their distribution. Here is a summary of the species so far recorded:

Philonicus albiceps	Dune robber fly	Sligo		Locally common
Chrysopilus cristatus	Black snipefly	Sligo	Leitrim	Common
Rhagio lineola	Small fleck-winged snipefly	Sligo	Leitrim	Common
Rhagio scolopaceus	Downlooker snipefly	Sligo	Leitrim	Abundant
Rhagio tringarius	Marsh snipefly	Sligo		Frequent
Chloromyia formosa	Broad centurion	Sligo	Leitrim	Common
Microchrysa cyaneiventris	Black gem	Sligo		One specimen
Microchrysa flavicornis	Green gem	Sligo		Common
Microchrysa polita	Black-horned gem	Sligo		Occasional
Oplodontha viridula	Common green colonel	Sligo		One specimen
Oxycera morrisii	White-barred soldier	Sligo		Uncommon
Sargus bipunctatus	Twin-spot centurion	Sligo		Uncommon
Sargus flavipes	Yellow-legged centurion	Sligo		Frequent
Nemotelus notatus	Flecked snout	Sligo		Locally frequent
Nemotelus pantherinus	Fen snout	Sligo		One old record
Nemotelus uliginosus	Barred snout	Sligo		Locally common
Nemotelus nigrinus	All-black snout	Sligo		One specimen
Stratiomys singularior	Flecked general	Sligo		Locally uncommon
Beris fuscipes	Short-horned Black Legionnaire	Sligo		Common
Beris fuscipes / geniculata	Short- / long-horned Black Legionnaire	Sligo		
Beris vallata	Common orange legionnaire	Sligo		Common
Beris chalybata	Murky-legged black legionnaire		Leitrim	One old record
Chrysops relictus	Twin-lobed deerfly	Sligo	Leitrim	Abundant
Haematopota crassicornis	Black-horned cleg	Sligo	Leitrim	Common
Haematopota pluvialis	Notch-horned (Common) cleg	Sligo	Leitrim	Too abundant !
Hybomitra montana	Slender-horned horsefly	Sligo	Leitrim	Locally common

The message that comes with this note is that there is a great deal to record and possibly discover in Ireland and a dearth of expertise. However, if collecting and recording is done in an area it is essential that the few local people with an interest in natural history are contacted, preferably when planning a visit, and that any records are forwarded to them so at least they know what species have been found in their home area.

- Chandler, P.J. (1975) An account of the Irish species of two-winged flies (Diptera) belonging to the families of larger Brachycera (Tabanoidea and Asiloidea). *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 75B:81-110.
- Drake, C.M. (1991) *Provisional atlas of the Larger Brachycera (Diptera) of Britain and Ireland*. Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Abbots Ripton.
- Speight, M.C.D. (1987) The Irish asilid fauna. *Bulletin of the Irish biogeographical Society* 10:56-71.
- Stubbs, A.E. & M. Drake (2001) *British Soldierflies and their allies*. British Entomological and Natural History Society, Reading.

Yellow-legged Water-Snipefly, *Atherix ibis*, attracts interest

Great balls of fire, yes, but great balls of flies? Yet, this was the scene that confronted Devon Wildlife Trust's Louise Davis on a recent walk alongside the picturesque River Torridge in north Devon.

Louise, who works as the Water Resources Advisory Officer on Devon Wildlife Trust's Northern Devon Nature Improvement Area project, was busy conducting a survey of a stretch of the river near Torrington when she spotted something hanging over the water from a tree. Louise takes up the story: "It was about the size of my fist, dangling from a branch. Then I saw several other similar shaped balls all hanging from the same tree. At first I thought they were just debris that had got stuck, but on taking a closer look I discovered that each was a tightly-packed dome consisting of hundreds of flies. I'd never seen anything like it before."

The pictures were circulated and came to me via Rob Wolton. It was the first time I'd seen this behaviour, but fortunately it is well-described in Stubbs and Drake, whose description matches exactly what Louise saw: "*Atherix ibis* is famed for behaviour which is widely referred to in the literature although one which is not often seen. When preparing to lay their eggs, females form dense clusters on branches overhanging a river, often amounting to hundreds of flies. Usually they assemble where some flood refuse has been caught in a branch, giving a good base on which to cling. The females lay their eggs in a glutinous matrix and then die, leaving a suspended mass of dead flies and eggs."

Devon Wildlife Trust's news item is at:
bit.ly/DevonWTflies

Recording scheme database summary

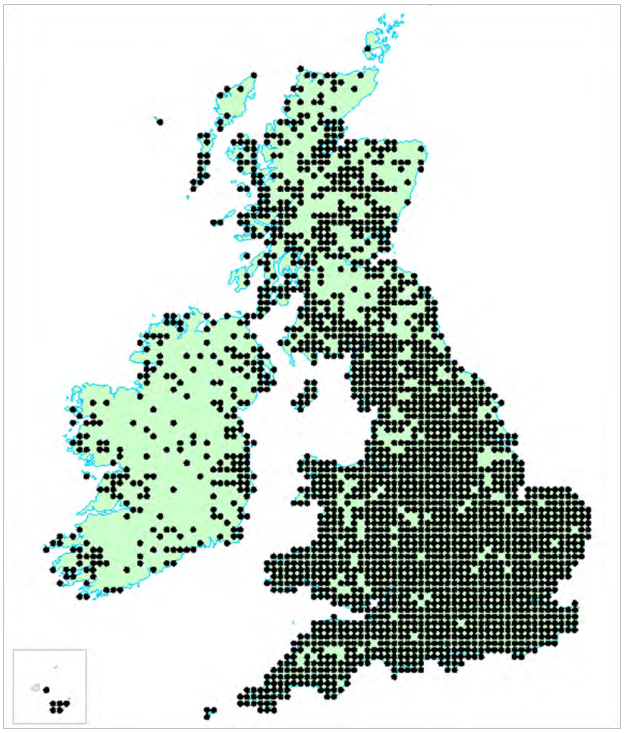
Last winter my predecessor, Simon Hayhow, drew together all the records he had collated and passed them on to the Biological Records Centre. Steph Rorke at BRC did a fantastic job in compiling the varied datasets into a single database - many thanks Steph! That database has now been passed to me, and I'm consulting with BRC over how we can best maintain it into the future.

There is a backlog of data still to be incorporated, and I hope there is also lots of data out there waiting to be sent in (see page 8)! So there is a way to go before we are bang up-to-date, but in the meantime I thought it would be worth summarising what the database holds.

There are 80,851 records in the database altogether, covering 155 species. In recent decades the scheme has been receiving around 2,000 records per year, although this drops off a bit during the last few years when the scheme has been in transition.

The top most recorded species is: Broad Centurion *Chloromyia formosa*, followed by Black Snipefly *Chrysopilus cristatus*, Common Orange Legionnaire *Beris vallata*, Notch-horned Cleg *Haematopota pluvialis*, and Dark-edged Bee-fly *Bombylius major*.

Around 1,500 people have contributed at least one record, and the most prolific (over 1,000 records each) are: Martin Drake, Mick Parker, Keith Alexander, Mike Edwards, Alan Stubbs, Roger Morris, Steven Falk, Laurence Clemons, Ivan Perry, Richard Dickson and Andrew Grayson. Ivan Perry has seen most species, followed by Alan Stubbs, Martin Drake and Peter Chandler.



Total coverage of all the records in the scheme database at August 2013

And finally the 10-km square that contains the greatest number of species is: SU30, covering the New Forest. Next most species-rich are three areas in Surrey (TQ05, SU94 and TQ15), and then SK38 covering Sheffield (well-recorded by Austin Brackenbury and others).

Watch out for the Black Soldierfly, *Hermetia illucens*

Malcolm Storey and Chris Raper reminded me that we should be looking out for the Black Soldierfly, *Hermettia illucens*. Its larvae develop in rotting material and wet parts of compost heaps, and it's apparently used in various parts of the world for organic waste disposal. The larvae are advertised online as lizard food, so the chances seem high of it emerging from neglected lizard food, or from someone experimenting with their compost heap.

Peter Chandler exhibited specimens from Sri Lanka at the 2012 BENHS Exhibition, with a report of the larvae having possibly been found in Ireland, but as far as I'm aware that report has not been confirmed, and although there are rumours of sightings being circulated on the internet as far as I'm aware none have been fully confirmed (at least one was mistaken identity of a sawfly). Wikipedia has a good account and photos: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermetia_illucens. If anyone thinks they've found it in Britain or Ireland please get a specimen or good photo and let us know!

Soldierflies and allies training workshops

Saturday 18 January 2014
Identifying and recording Soldierflies and their allies
One-day workshop at Natural History Museum, London
Soldierflies and their allies form an attractive group of flies, with fascinating life histories. Many of the species are large and distinctive, but as with most insect groups there are others that are more challenging to identify. This workshop will introduce the group and take you through the steps required to gain experience of identifying the species, based on the keys in "British Soldierflies and their allies" (Alan Stubbs and Martin Drake). Much remains to be learnt about soldierflies and their allies, and the workshop will also cover how you can get involved with the recording scheme for the group. Led by Martin Harvey. For details and bookings see: http://www.benhs.org.uk/site/?q=node/17

Friday–Sunday 30 May–1 June 2014
Hoverflies, Soldierflies and Robberflies: An Introduction to Diptera
Weekend residential course at Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, Suffolk
Hoverflies, soldierflies, robberflies and related families include some of our largest and most colourful insects. Some are easy to find whereas others require dedicated searching, but these groups are all within reach of anyone with an interest in insects. They provide an ideal starting point for the study of Diptera, with good identification keys available in well-illustrated books. We will explore the natural history and ecology of these groups and visit a range of habitats, finding and photographing flies and observing their behaviour. Back in the lab identification will be taken to species level, using a mix of photography, microscopes and voucher collections. Led by Martin Harvey. *NB dates are provisional, please check with Field Studies Council when the 2014 programme is published.*

British soldierflies and their allies, by Alan Stubbs and Martin Drake

The long-awaited second edition of this book is in the late stages of preparation for publication, but a firm date has yet to be announced. Watch the BENHS website for news!

Broad Centurion Chloromyia formosa, *the most-recorded species in the recording scheme © Martin Harvey*

Sending in records

The recording scheme is ready and waiting to receive your records! These can be sent in various ways:

via iRecord
This is my preferred route for receiving records, via the iRecord online recording system, developed by the Biological Records Centre: http://www.brc.ac.uk/iRecord/

I'd suggest using the form to "Enter a list of records" or the form for "Enter a casual record". The advantages of iRecord include the fact that it is easy for me to see and process the incoming records, it makes use of the "verification rules" for the soldierfly group (see item on page 2), data on iRecord becomes available both to the scheme and to the relevant local environmental records centres, and it's free to use and doesn't require the installation of any software (but it does require connection to the internet). But not everyone will want to use iRecord, and there are plenty of other options.

via MapMate
If you use the MapMate database I can accept sync files or spreadsheet exports. If you want to send a sync file, set your filters to:

- Records - My Records (or All Records if you have received relevant data from other MapMate users)
- Sites - All
- Taxa - Insecta: Diptera: Larger Brachycera

and generate a sync file for Centre Unique Key "bnt". Contact me for further details.

via other databases
There are other good biological recording databases available, such as Recorder and Gilbert 21, both of which can produce spreadsheet exports that are fine for the recording scheme.

via spreadsheets
Records on a spreadsheet (such as Microsoft Excel, or the free Open Office Calc) are fine. I prefer one record per spreadsheet row. I may be able to supply a spreadsheet template if required.

via email
For one-off records or occasional sightings then just sending an email is fine (although if you do start recording on a regular basis one of the above methods is preferable).

on paper
Paper records are not forbidden! I have to say that they're not my favourite thing, simply because they take more time to process, but where no other option is available paper records are of course welcome.

I can be contacted at kitenetter@googlemail.com, or on 07816 963576. I look forward to receiving your records! If you want to check whether your records are already in the scheme database please ask.

Hawk Honey sent in his record of Banded General Stratiomys potamida*, and it turned out to be the first in his 10-km square for over 100 years*

Field Meetings Dipterists Forum

Booking Form - for rates see Bulletin

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

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

Payment details:
Cheques made payable to Dipterists Forum

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

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

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{Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS
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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.

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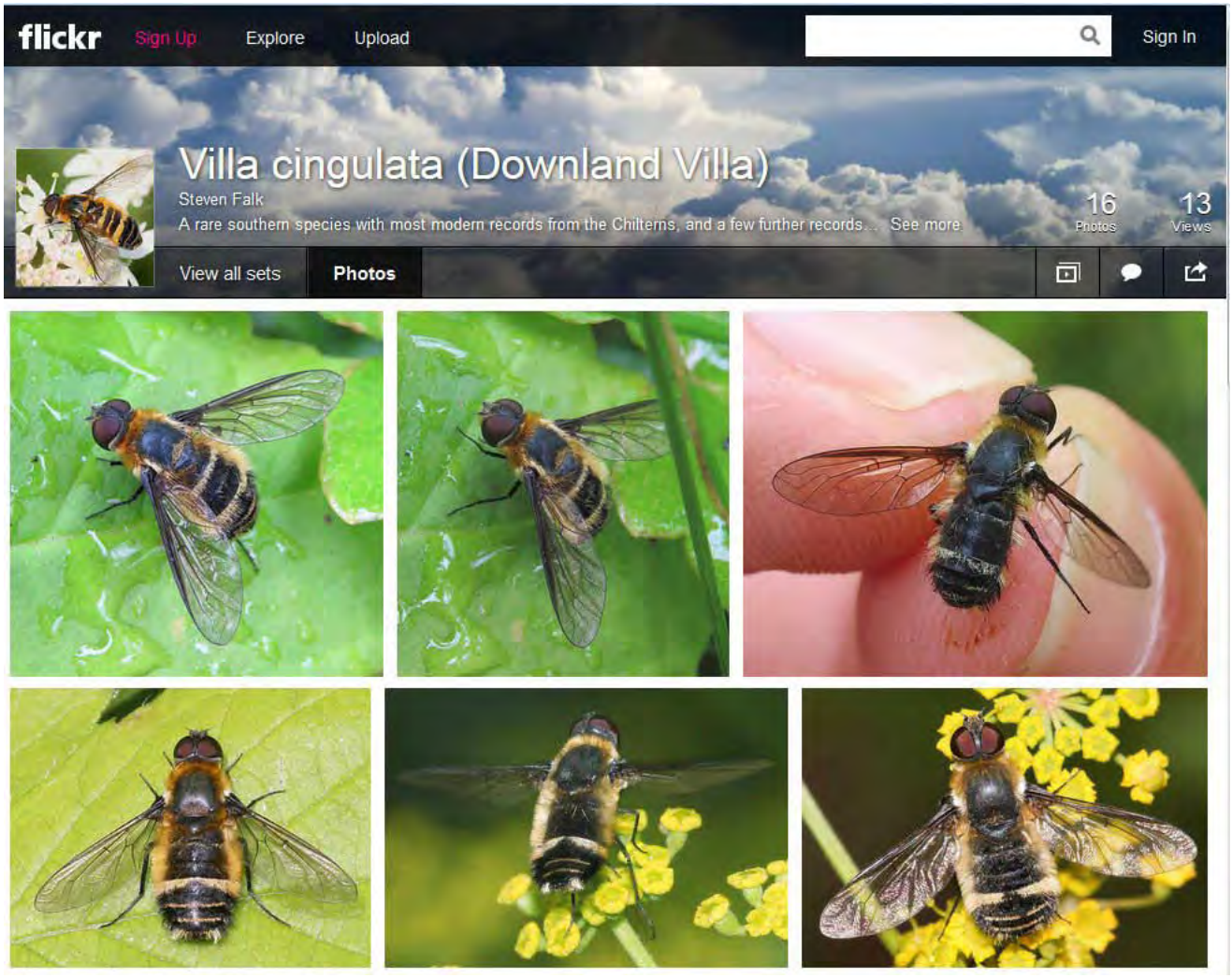
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Steven Falk
A rare southern species with most modern records from the Chilterns, and a few further records... See more
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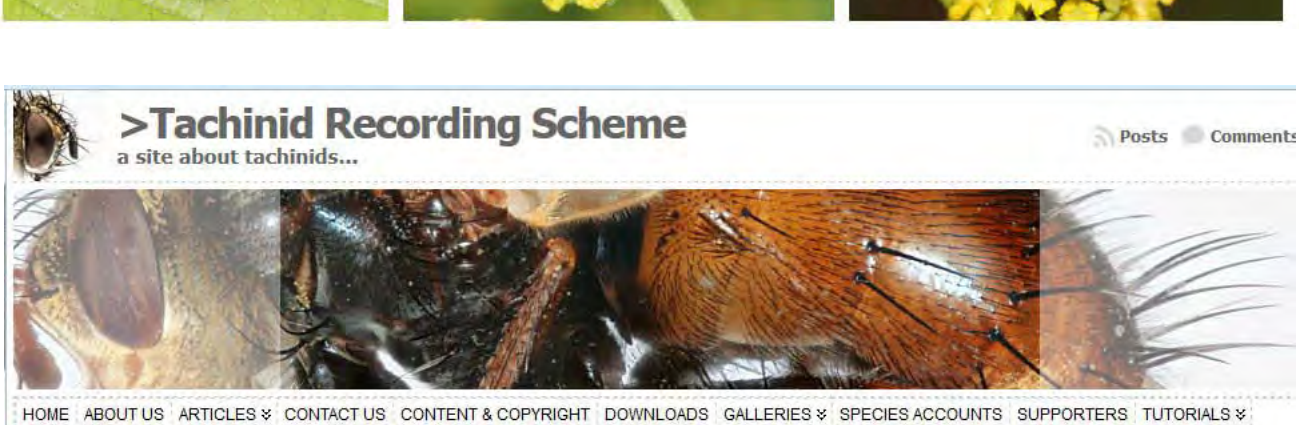
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17.06.: How to find the prosternum
16.06.: Distinguishing species of Thelaira
02.06.: Eurithia - female sternite 6
28.05.: Big Nature Day
Latest photos
Here are some of the most recently uploaded photos:
Xylotachina diluta, © Paul Brock
Xylotachina diluta, © Paul Brock
Exorista tubulosa, © Chris Raper
Exorista rustica, © Chris Raper
Exorista rustica, © Chris Raper
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North American Diptera Society
Systema Dipterorum

Recording Schemes & Study Groups

Sciomyzidae - Snail-killing Flies

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Darwyn Sumner
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Conopidae, Lonchopteridae, Ulidiidae, Pallopteridae & Platystomatidae

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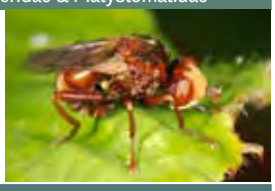

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Dixidae & Thaumaleidae

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julian.small@naturalengland.org.uk

Whilst all schemes will readily accept records in written form the symbols are used to indicate some of the known (or surmised) methods by which Scheme Organisers may currently receive records electronically. All schemes will accept records in an Excel spreadsheet, add your initials to the filename. If you are sending a list of mixed Families to several schemes simultaneously please add a column with Family names.

Recorder Mapmate Excel Access and other data-bases & tools NBN Gateway, faded symbol = historic dataset

iRecord