

May 1976

Diptera Recording Schemes Bulletin No.1

When the Crane-fly Recording Scheme was launched in April 1972 it was far from clear whether anyone would show the slightest interest outside the small band of people specialising in crane-flies.

There are currently about 80 people registered with the scheme, despite the fact that there has never been a publicity drive. Meetings held in London have drawn 30 and more people, some coming a considerable distance, and field instruction/recording meetings have individually drawn up to 25% of the membership. However, many people belong to the Crane-fly Recording Scheme not through any real interest in crane-flies but more because it is one of the few foci available for keeping in touch with dipterists. Since the first meeting in London there has been an undercurrent of demand that the more attractive groups, such as hoverflies, should be the subject of recording schemes. It is a fact of life that such groups are more popular with dipterists as a whole (and other entomologists) and that potentially far more records and interest could be generated. Crane-flies were originally chosen because they were a common field of interest among the original band of recorders, coupled with the fact that at the time there was no Roy. Ent. Soc. Handbook to the larger Brachycera whilst that for Syrphidae causes many people severe problems in consistently reaching reliable identification.

At the CRS meeting at London in November 1975 a discussion session was held on a proposal to set up a recording scheme on Syrphidae whilst at the Dipterists Dinner that evening the concept of a larger Brachycera scheme was explored. These schemes will start this season.

Thus there will soon be several diptera recording schemes operating, including that by Dr Disney on the Dixidae previously announced.

Accordingly it is proposed that the individual scheme organisers form a Central Panel to co-ordinate effort, the Bulletin being a common vehicle of information to recorders. Certain indoor and field meetings will come under this umbrella, though individual schemes will still arrange specialist events, newsletters or other facilities as appropriate.

It is quite probable that the recording scheme organisation will undergo a further series of adjustments as it evolves. Possibly more schemes will appear where specialists are interested in the less popular families, but the foreseeable evolution will be around consolidating the schemes for the two big popular groups, the Syrphids and the larger Brachycera. This is where the greatest service to the advancement of the study of Diptera can be made - through assisting the less confident among us and through helping other entomologists to realise that progress with this order is not only possible but interesting. Having developed peoples confidence in these groups they may well spread their interests into other Dipterous families and the very existence of the Central Panel activities should make it easier to obtain assistance. However the immediate future must allow the new schemes to work out their organisation and a district representation would seem an early aim if one is both to spread the burden and encourage people at a local level.

It will probably be one or two years before momentum gets underway but it is hoped that the proposals are to your liking and by all means feed in ideas and comments.

CENTRAL PANEL (OF DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES ORGANISERS)

This is not a committee but a panel in the sense that its members are there to help with questions and identifications as well as assemble records. It includes the administrative organisers of the separate schemes plus some additional regional representatives and advisers.

The Central Panel would also hope to encourage an interest in the various families where no scheme was operating, as indeed has been the policy on field meetings. Thus whilst the schemes provide the central objective, in fact the recording of diptera in general and the underlying taxonomic needs are very much at heart. It is also hoped that knowledge will be furthered on life histories, habitat requirements and other fields in the study of Diptera.

The Central Panel will adopt the annual meeting of recorders in their name, giving a broad base to the event. This meeting will coincide with the date of the Dipterists Dinner so long as either event remains viable.

The field meeting/field instruction courses will normally be based upon an all schemes basis, encompassing all diptera, though individual organisers may wish to arrange specialist events as well. The regional representatives will foster local effort and arrange local events where there is sufficient support, acting as ambassadors for all schemes:

It is hoped that the results of field meetings, local studies etc can be drawn up in a series of reports.

In this Bulletin the current position in each scheme is mentioned, giving the names of organisers.

The co-ordinator for the Central Panel will be A.E. Stubbs and P.J. Chandler will be a free floating taxonomic adviser. The district representative structure will need further development but the initial position is as follows.

East Anglia	A Irwin (Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IPI 3QH)
Southern England	P J Chandler (Weston Research Laboratories, 644 Bath Road Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks) for an interim period until M Jefferies is able to take over.
Northern England	P Skidmore (Doncaster Museum, Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AE)
Scotland	A E Stubbs (interim capacity)
Wales	Mrs M J Morgan (Department of Applied Biology, University College of North Wales, Memorial Buildings, Bangor, Gwynedd)
Northern Ireland	R Nash (Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB)
Eire	Dr M Speight (Department of Lands (Forest and Wildlife Service) 89 Merrion Square, Dublin 2)

RECORDING SCHEMES

It is not suggested that recording schemes should be launched to cover the entire British fauna of approx 6000 species. Schemes have been registered with BRC for several years covering Craneflies, Dixidae and Sciomyzidae. The additional schemes are those where it is felt that many dipterists are likely to be identifying material, including the most popular showy groups. The list below gives the names of the organisers and other people directly assisting them. Only in the case of Craneflies, Tabanoidea and Asiloidea and Hoverflies is it currently proposed to issue news and information sheets on a fairly regular basis but with organisers in both the latter schemes moving address please do not anticipate great activity immediately.

Cranefly Recording Scheme

A E Stubbs, with some support from A M Hutson and R I Vane-Wright

Dixidae Recording Scheme

Dr H Disney (Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, Yorkshire BD24 9PU)

Tabanoidea and Asiloidea Recording Scheme

A Irwin and M Jefferies with J Bowden as their advisor on taxonomic problems in Bombyliidae.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

J Ismay for the initial phase which will be orientated towards those with experience on Syrphidae, (Castle Museum, Norwich, NOR 6BS until 31 July then Hope Department, University Museum, Oxford). Dr M Speight and A E Stubbs are looking into taxonomic problems.

The organisation of the scheme will be strengthened later when a new reference work becomes available (under preparation by A E Stubbs) enabling a larger number of people to actively participate. Meanwhile please build up collections.

Conopidae Recording Scheme

K G V Smith (British Museum). He is prepared to give some assistance with critical identifications.

Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme

Dr J Stephenson (Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts) who will be assisted in the identification of material by J Bowden (also Rothamsted).

Sepsidae Recording Schemes

A C Pont (British Museum). He is preparing a key to the British species, and can offer some help with identifications.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BULLETIN

It will be issued to all recorders registered with the various schemes and will therefore keep everyone in contact with what is going on within the schemes as a whole. In particular this will be the place to watch for announcements of meetings and courses.

COMING EVENTS

Advance notice is given that the annual meeting of recorders will be on Saturday 13 November at the British Museum (Natural History) and that the Dipterists Dinner, an entirely separate venture, will take place in the evening.

The field meeting arranged by the Central Panel in Snowdonia, July 11-17, has so far received 22 bookings and it is confirmed that the meeting will take place. Any offers please to fill the 3 spare spaces (cost - £25.20).

Dr Disney is holding a Field Studies Council instruction course for dipterists at Malham Tarn Field Centre, 15-22 September and still has some spare places (price £39).

It is hoped to arrange a long weekend field meeting in the autumn, probably centred around 1-2 or 9-10 October. We are trying to locate a modest cost base in a suitable area and expect to make a further announcement later.

A days field meeting will be held on Sunday 23 May at Chobham Common, Surrey (wet and dry heathland). Assemble Sunningdale Station 11 am. Preferably inform either P J Chandler or A E Stubbs in advance.

NEWS OF OTHER STUDIES

A few examples are put forward here, to set the ball rolling. It is up to people to write in about studies they would like to see listed in the future. Reference is to Britain unless stated otherwise. Most addresses have been given above.

- Chironomidae A key is to be published by the Freshwater Biological Association
- Mycetophilidae P J Chandler is glad to name British (and foreign) material
- Dolichopodidae A Roy. Ent. Soc. key has been completed by E C M Fonseca but the publication schedule is uncertain at present.
- Phoridae Dr H Disney will welcome material, in spirit please, for a revision
- Platypezidae P J Chandler is revising the European fauna. Records and specimens welcomed.
- Ephydriidae A Irwin is preparing British keys
- Chloropidae J Ismay has carried out a revision
- Sphaeroceridae R Nash is currently working on this family
- Muscidae A C Pont will be glad to check identifications of rarities and specimens which do not run down in the Roy. ent. Soc. key
- Pupipara A M Hutson is preparing a key and is glad to see material (British Museum)

DIPTERA CHECK LIST

At long last the new British check list is in print - Royal Entomological Society Handbook XI, part 5, £5.55 to non fellows. Anything which appears to need amendment should be reported to K G V Smith, British Museum (Natural History), who will consult the specialists concerned. Corrections will be published in due course. Where schemes organisers are producing newsletters they will report changes affecting keys in their groups.

QUESTIONNAIRE

With all these changes going on, many people will wish to redefine their interests.

The Central Panel concept anticipates that some of you will assist in gathering material even for those schemes where you have no direct interest in identification. Thus you might decide to register your name with the Hoverfly scheme but have no interest in the Cranefly scheme handouts. You may, however, still submit samples of craneflies to the scheme organiser even if, for your own efficiency, those craneflies are enclosed with a box of Syrphidae directed to the Hoverfly scheme organiser. The latter will simply keep the craneflies on one side until he has the chance to pass them on.

A few people were sent a short circular last autumn and they may decide that their answer covers these latest needs. Equally, with postage costs in mind some of those coming to Snowdonia may feel that they have already given sufficient information about their interests. We would, however, urge the remaining Cranefly Recording Scheme participants to clarify their interest.

Undoubtedly there will be new people joining now that the more popular groups are to be included in the schemes. You are invited to suggest people who should be contacted if they are not on the address lists in the Cranefly Recording Scheme Newsletters. Your address is sought since we are often lacking in postal codes and there have been changes in county structure.

The Central Panel
of Diptera Recording Scheme Organisers

Co-ordinator
A.E. Stubbs
Nature Conservancy Council
19/20 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PY

Central Panel of Diptera Recording Scheme Organisers

Questionnaire on Interests

Name

Address

I wish to register in the following schemes and receive any information sheets prepared by the organisers:- Tick as appropriate.

- Cranefly Recording Scheme
- Dixidae Recording Scheme
- Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme
- Hoverfly Recording Scheme
- Conopidae Recording Scheme
- Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme
- Sepsidae Recording Scheme

My interests lie elsewhere in Diptera but I would still like to receive the Bulletin.

I believe that the following people may be interested in these schemes

Name

Address

Interest

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Return to Alan E Stubbs, Nature Conservancy Council, 19 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY

SPECIMENS WANTED -- HELP OFFERED.

At the annual meeting in London, David Henshaw produced a list of dipterists who wanted material of certain families. This list has been developed further so that some sort of identification service is now available for most families of Diptera. Most of the dipterists offering help do so because they want something in return. They may want distribution records, they may want to see larval or pupal material, they may be writing keys or doing a taxonomic revision. They may even want to keep some of your specimens!

Some of the specialists listed below are world authorities. Other are not specialists but dipterists who want to start work on a particular family and would like to see any material which might otherwise be thrown away - they will not promise to provide names for everything! If you are unsure whether or not someone might be able to help, then write to him first. In any case YOU SHOULD WRITE TO THE SPECIALIST BEFORE SENDING ANY SPECIMENS, except where stated otherwise. This is not just a matter of courtesy. It may be that the specialist is too busy or that his interests have changed. It may be that your material is unsuitably preserved, not reared, or in a difficult genus so that there is no point in sending it. Remember to label the outside of any package with your name and a description of the contents. Also if you use a preservative other than 70% alcohol you should make this clear. Those specialists who work from home may appreciate help with the postage costs, especially for returning parcels. The addresses of the specialists can be found in the recently circulated list except for a few which are given below.

Finally, this is not an exhaustive list. Anyone who wants to work on particular groups should write to me or to someone already working on those groups. No-one should feel "left out".

Producing this list has not been easy, and I want to thank everyone who has helped for their comments, suggestions, honesty and words of warning! I alone am responsible for errors of omission or inclusion.

Tony Irwin. January 1982

- TRICHO CERIDAE - DJ Henshaw (any number, wet preserved)
- TRICHO CERIDAE, TIPULIDAE, PTYCHOPTERIDAE, ANISOPODIDAE - AE Stubbs (records; any number, preferably enveloped, no notice required)
- PSYCHODIDAE - P Withers (any number, wet preserved)
- DIXIDAE - RHL Disney (records; limited numbers, wet preserved)
- THAUMALEIDAE - RHL Disney (records; any number, wet preserved, especially reared)
- CHAOBORIDAE, CHIRONOMIDAE - PS Cranston (problems only, wet preserved, preferably reared)
- CULICIDAE - British Mosquitoes Recording Scheme (records; any number, preferably enveloped, no notice required)
- CERATOPOGONIDAE - RP Lane, J Boorman (problems only, wet preserved)
- BIONIDAE - RP Lane (limited numbers, any material)
- SIMULIIDAE - RW Crosskey (limited numbers, only if reared and with dried exuvia)
- MYCETOPHILIDAE - PJ Chandler (records; limited numbers, preferably enveloped)
- SCIARIDAE - P Freeman (limited numbers, only if well-preserved in alcohol or pinned)
- CECIDOMYIIDAE - KM Harris (problems only, wet preserved, preferably reared)
- SCARIDAE - NO COVER
- STRATIOMYIIDAE to ACROCERIDAE (excl. THEREVIDAE) - AG Irwin (any number, any material)
- STRATIOMYIIDAE to BOMBYLIIDAE - J Bowden (any number, preferably pinned), AG Irwin (records)
- EMPIDIDAE - KGV Smith (problems only, pinned or wet preserved), H Carter (limited numbers, dry preserved)
- DOLICHOPODIDAE - JH Cole (any number, dry preserved)
- LONCHOPTERIDAE - CM Drake (records; any number, any material)
- PHORIDAE - RHL Disney (records; any number, wet preserved)
- PLATYPEZIDAE - PJ Chandler (records; any number, preferably pinned)
- PIPUNCULIDAE - MA Jervis (Chalarus only, any number, dry preserved)
- SYRPHIDAE - PF Entwistle (records; limited numbers, any material), MCD Speight (identifications checked, dried material)
- CONOPIDAE - KGV Smith (records; any number, any material)
- TEPHRITIDAE - DM Unwin (any number, any material)
- PLATYSTOMATIDAE, OTITIDAE - I Perry (any number, dry preserved), DM Unwin (any number, any material)
- MICROPEZIDAE, MEGAMERINIDAE, TANYPEZIDAE - I Perry (any number, dry preserved)
- PSILIDAE - PJ Chandler (identifications checked, dry preserved)

HELCOMYZIDAE, COELOPIDAE - RM Payne (records; any number, dry preserved)
CHAMAEMYIIDAE, SCIOMYZIDAE - IFG McLean (records; any number, any material)
LAUXANIIDAE - DA Smith (records; any numbers, any material), P Skidmore (any number, any material, especially with puparia)
HELEOMYZIDAE, DRYOMYZIDAE - P Withers (records; limited numbers, pinned material), P Skidmore (any number, any material, especially with puparia)
CHYROMYIIDAE - BH Cogan (problems only, pinned material)
SEPSIDAE - AC Pont (records; problems only, any material)
SPHAEROCERIDAE - BR Pitkin (limited numbers, any material)
PALLOPTERIDAE - DM Unwin (any number, any material)
LONCHAEIDAE - H Carter (limited numbers, dry preserved)
NEOTTIOPHILIDAE, PIOPHILIDAE - AG Irwin (records; any number, any material)
OPOMYZIDAE - DM Unwin (any number, any material), CM Drake (records; any number, any material), J Bowden (any number, pinned material)
CLUSIIDAE - DM Unwin (any number, any material)
ODINIIDAE - BH Cogan (records; any number, pinned material)
CARNIDAE - AG Irwin (limited numbers, any material)
ACARTOPHTHALMIDAE, PERISCELIDAE, AULACIGASTRIDAE - AG Irwin (records; any numbers, any material)
ANTHOMYZIDAE - no cover.
ASTEIIDAE - PJ Chandler (identifications checked, dry preserved).
CAMILIIDAE, EPHYDRIDAE, DIASTATIDAE - AG Irwin (records; any number any material)
DROSOPHILIDAE - DA Smith (records; any number, any material), BH Cogan (any number, any material, especially with larvae)
MILICHIIDAE - BH Cogan (records; any number, dry preserved)
TETHINIDAE, CANACEIDAE - AG Irwin (limited numbers, any material)
AGROMYZIDAE - DJ Henshaw (records; any number, any material)
CHLOROPIDAE - no cover.
OESTRIDAE to SCATHOPHAGIDAE - J Dear (records; problems only, any material)
TACHINIDAE to CALLIPHORIDAE - H Carter (limited numbers, dry preserved)
SCATHOPHAGIDAE - M Nelson (limited numbers, wet preserved and pinned material).
ANTHOMYIIDAE - J Cole (limited numbers, only pinned ♂ with exserted genitalia)
FANIIDAE, MUSCIDAE - AC Pont (problems only, pinned material)
MUSCIDAE - P Skidmore (any number, any material, especially with puparia)
HIPPOBOSCIDAE, NYCTERIBIIDAE - AM Hutson (records; any number, wet preserved)

ACALYPTRATA (unknown families) - PJ Chandler, DM Unwin (problems only)
LARVAE (unknown families) - KGV Smith (problems only)

Special requests:

LONCHOPTERIDAE to NYCTERIBIIDAE - P Skidmore, (puparia of all families)
Seaweed flies - as well as Coelopidae, RM Payne wants Fucellia, Orygma and maritime Scathophagidae.

Also most specialists would appreciate larval and pupal material, particularly that of identified species.

Addresses:

BH Cogan, PS Cranston, RW Crosskey, BR Pitkin - Diptera Section, Dept. of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.
P. Freeman - c/o KGV Smith, Dept. of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History).
J Boorman - Animal Virus Research Institute, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey.
British Mosquitoes Recording Scheme, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1.

Address Corrections:

J Dear - 'Rexome', Main Road, Stickney, Lincolnshire, PE22 8AY
MCD Speight - Research Branch, Forest and Wildlife Service, Sidmonton Place, Bray, Co. Wicklow, Eire