

This Bulletin gives details of forthcoming events. We have to consider the question as to whether there is interest or not in a journal being started. It is hoped that this topic, within the traditional blend of events, will draw as many of you as possible to the Annual Meeting on 31 October.

ANNUAL MEETING OF DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES - 31 OCTOBER 1981

The venue is the British Museum (Natural History) at South Kensington.

MORNING LECTURE SESSION (Main Lecture Hall) Chairman: Dr N Burgess (Mosquito Recording Scheme)

- 11.00 - 11.20 Dr K Snow Studying the breeding sites of mosquitoes.
11.20 - 11.50 Dr C Thompson Personalities behind the names (provisional title)
11.50 - 12.15 F Gilbert Feeding behaviour of hoverflies
12.15 - 12.35 P Withers The Diptera of a Suffolk Fenland Nature Reserve
12.35 - 1.00 A E Stubbs Recording schemes and the use of records

LUNCH (various canteens, cafes, pubs etc or bring your own sandwiches if you prefer)

AFTERNOON SESSION (Demonstration Room)

- 2.00 - 2.30 Setting up time for exhibits, informal discussion
2.30 - 4.30 DISCUSSION POINT Chairman Dr A Irwin (Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme)
1. The proposed journal of Diptera - consideration of resolution within this Bulletin.
2. Field sampling and interpretation of records. This theme follows on from the last talk of the morning. Dr H Disney will help set the discussion going.
4.30 - 5.45 Viewing exhibits, identification service and informal discussion
6 pm Dipterists Dinner starts for those with advance booking

We are now getting well over 100 people attending all or part of these events. For newcomers to our ranks, and for those who have been apprehensive about coming in previous years, we would like to say please come and join in. It does not matter how new to Diptera you are, this event is for you. It gives you the chance to meet people and obtain advice. There should also be plenty of interest in the lectures and discussion.

The lecture programme is designed to give you a varied blend of subjects. The mosquito scheme is new, so there will be slides of breeding sites and some ideas on how the many amateurs amongst us could contribute to the scheme. Dr Chris Thompson (a world authority on hoverflies from the USA) has offered to tell us about the personalities of the people who first started to name flies, such as Meigen (we are promised entertainment, not nomenclature). The theme of feeding behaviour of hoverflies should have wide appeal, a subject that your speaker has been involved with in his PhD research. A study of a particular site always has its fascination and it is especially pleasing that an amateur dipterist should be the speaker. Finally, it is a long time since we had anything on the wider aspects of recording schemes so a brief review will lead into the interpretation of results and onto newer themes, including how the schemes relate to Red Data Books and conservation.

The afternoon session gives a chance for people to mill about and chat informally. The increasing number of exhibits in recent years has given a great boost to the atmosphere of the occasion - we all like to see what the other fellow has been finding so let's have plenty of exhibits please. Even if you do not want to exhibit as such, well by all means bring along a box of flies that you want some advice on - it is amazing what turns up on these occasions. Last year we had an incredible new distribution record among an unidentified box of the seasons hoverflies. Stephen Falk will have largely completed his hoverfly paintings, so no doubt these will be on display.

Discussion point covers two subjects. Firstly the proposed journal. The question is important and the decision one way or the other must be clear. A good airing was given last year, so please refer back to the reports in Bulletin 10 and also carefully read the further note in this Bulletin. On the expectation that we do not need 2 hours on the journal, the other topic will concern how to record flies and to what extent such records are representative of that habitat or site. This matter relates to site evaluation for conservation purposes, a theme which is apparently emerging as a popular one.

DIPTERIST'S DINNER The Dinner (a buffet) will follow on from the Annual Meeting but because of the catering arrangements tickets must be obtained in advance. This event is open to all dipterists but try to book in good time - the 80 tickets soon get snapped up on a first come first served basis for this very popular event. It allows further time for informal gathering and the exhibits of those attending are transferred from the demonstration room. A separate notice giving details is enclosed with this Bulletin.

NEWS FROM THE SCHEMES

At last we have an atlas, a photocopied version in lieu of a printed one to save waiting. The Ptychoptera Atlas should now have reached everyone, even those who have not expressed an interest in this family. Hopefully it will spur all schemes on and the key leaves no excuse for not helping with recording. This is a 'preliminary' atlas. However, BRC says we can have a proper printed 'provisional' atlas if we get up to 1000 10 Km squares with records - we're well within reach of that goal, it's up to you all.

Crane-fly Recording Scheme

The Ptychoptera Atlas apart, the scheme is churning steadily ahead behind the scenes. There are draft maps for all 110 species of Tipulinae and the means of reproducing these is a matter requiring solution. There are now records for 1665 squares on the situation map with more still to be processed (1562 squares

are for post 1960 records). This is pretty good, but we ought to aim for 2000 which is reckoned to represent reasonably complete coverage.

The season has been quite a good one for craneflies, nice and wet. Nothing new (so far) but plenty of rarities. Tipula dilatata has been taken at Aviemore (something that Yerbury and Collin missed!); also in Scotland useful new records of Limonia consimilis, L. halterella, L. omissinervis, Discobola annulata, Dicranota gracilipes and Psiloconopa meigeni.

In the south, Tipula nigra has been popping up rather more frequently than usual.

Erioptera bivittata has been found on Romney Marsh.

Some useful collections and enveloped samples have been identified. More envelopes stuffed with craneflies please!

Larger Brachycera Scheme

The production of Microchrysa maps with the last bulletin produced a welcome response so that M. cyaneiventris can now be recorded from Essex and Hertfordshire though still not from Surrey, Sussex or Kent. M. flavicornis can now be recorded from Gloucestershire (ST 66) but still no records from further to the south-west. M. polita seems to be the odd one out in this genus preferring drier habitat than the other two and, unlike them, does not come to light traps.

The Oxycera dives on the Teesdale meeting can only be upstaged by an extra British specimen of the horsefly Atylotus rusticus, taken on Pevensey Levels in Sussex. (The only records accepted in the Handbook date from last century). In fact in some areas horseflies have been leaping into nets rather more often than usual. In Norfolk three Stratiomys potamida were found unbeknown to the scheme organiser sitting in his Castle at Norwich - that will keep him on his toes. Psilocephala rustica has been retaken on the Monnow River, Gwent.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

What a season! or rather What season? For the umpteenth season Syrphinae have been sparse. Things like Xylota segnis have been almost non-existent in some districts. However, do not despair. There have been a fair number of highlights. Roy Crossley in Yorkshire hit the jack pot for those early things that are supposed to be on sallow catkins in the spring - he says it was just a very short period, other sunny days being typically uninspiring. A Didea alneti was taken at Culbin Sands, Scotland, and Melangyna guttata in Breconshire. The Ashford meeting found Lejops vittata on Romney Marsh, and a Xanthandrus comptus (recent records are almost non-existent) as well as the new Neoscia interrupta. However, this year Olly Watts caused the main stir whilst sorting through his malaise trap material from Oxfordshire - the new Dasysyrphus (first announced at our Annual Meeting last year), Metasyrphus neilseni (well thats what it seems to be; otherwise only known from Scotland) and various other things including a problem Parasyrphus.

Sciomyzidae Recording Scheme

The build up in data is gaining momentum. A number of people are reporting in with very good records and the point is being reached where there are some very good representative lists for various habitats in certain districts. Pherbellia knutsoni from Cambridgeshire is perhaps one of the best records this season. The Ashford meeting seems to have cultivated a few more adicts for this fascinating family.

REPORTS ON 1981 FIELD MEETINGS

There have been two summer meetings, with the autumn field meeting still to come.

Ashford We happened to pick the week when this was the wettest part of the country but little field time was lost. The accommodation was fine - a Volucella zonaria

in the grounds - that had the Yorkshire contingent hopping. Since the worst weather was inland, coastal habitats proved the best bet, with enthusiasm for the marsh fauna rising steadily during the week. Eric Philp was a great help in steering us towards the best remnants of marsh, sometimes kicking himself for what he's been missing in his home country all these years but at least he had us all well disciplined in recording tetrad as well as site for his Kent records centre. Sciomyzids proved a roaring success for those who had not had the chance to work with them before. The party did well on the levels for aquatic Stratiomyids (including Nemotelus nigrinus and Stratiomys furcata) and hoverflies (the Lejops vittata being the outstanding find). On the last morning, it was possible with a few sweeps of the net to obtain half a dozen Oxycera trilineata in one go on tree foliage. Crane-flies proved very rewarding on the marshes, with plenty of scarce species including the rarity Erioptera bivittata. The pretty banded-winged Anthomyza bifasciata was swept off Typha angustifolia.

Off the levels there was a Xanthandrus comptus among the hoverflies. Ivan Perry is getting very keen on Trypetids so we went to see if the foodplant host of Trypeta lhommei could be ascertained - the fly is still in its original site but the plant relationship remains baffling. On shingle the otitid Herina paludosa (thats what it seems to be) was found at two localities and on saltmarsh fringe Melieria omissa. The rare dolichopodid Teuchophorus spinigerellus was found at Pegwell Bay. The rare crane-fly Limonia inusta was taken in a wood but woodland did not reach its potential.

Overall a very worthwhile advance has been made in recording this part of Kent, with some useful sites for Diptera located in such geographic districts as Romney Marsh where very little was previously known.

Teesdale Those who thought that it always rains on the Pennines were proved wrong for most of the week as only on the last couple of days did the clouds come down. With comfortable accommodation in the village and spacious laboratory facilities close by at the field centre, the scene was set for an enjoyable week exploring the uplands and wooded valleys around Middleton in Teesdale. Members of the Yorkshire Naturalists Union entomology section were able to join us for a baking hot Midsummer's Day trek along the Tees on the first full day of the meeting. The Scathophagid Gymnomera tarsea was a good record on this occasion.

Despite the sunshine and abundance of flowers, hoverflies proved very hard to find throughout the week, but this was compensated for by good finds in several other families. A single male Oxycera dives turned up beside some superb base-rich seepages, and Peter Skidmore managed to locate what seem to be the larvae of this species (hitherto undescribed) from the appetizing substrate underfoot. We were fortunate to have another sunny day for a walk from Cow Green to Widdybank Farm (via Caldron Snout and Falcon Clints) in the botanically famous Upper Teesdale NNR. Among the muscids Thricops aculeipes was a notable record here. Altogether 120 species of fungus grats were recorded during the week, and several rare Empididae were found including Dolichocephala ocellata in company with its two common congeners. Henry Disney did a water-trapping study at three of our localities as a comparison to the party's net-waving activities, which were susceptible to interruption by rain towards the end of the week. However, successful entertainment was devised for one wet afternoon - find a Trollius meadow and use a pooter to collect Chiastocheta from the flower heads - the winner (in terms of number of Chiastocheta species) had the smallest pooter too!

NEWS AND IDEAS

Hoverfly Work Shops

This year Derek Whitely arranged a weekend hoverfly course at Sheffield which attracted 21 people, including those with some previous knowledge and people who were new to flies. The event will be repeated by popular demand. By co-incidence Philip Entwistle, Hoverfly Recording Scheme organiser, has received a suggestion from David Emley of Staffordshire that there should be regional identification workshops for Syrphidae.

The development of local initiatives like these has always been seen as an essential evolutionary step towards ensuring people have the help they need. It's all a question of a few people getting together and organising something on a local basis, whether on hoverflies or other aspects of Diptera, or just a field recording meeting. The address list will help and the relevant scheme organisers and regional representatives can advise. The limitation is largely the current distribution of people with sufficient background to run identification courses but there ought to be scope in some districts.

Trypetids

Raymond Uffen is hoping to do some more work on the biology of trypetids. There is plenty of scope since the foodplants of a number of species are unknown or need checking. The seasonal occurrence of adults also needs clarification in various species. A number of people seem to be interested in this family. ~~Sounds~~ as though it would be worth contacting each other - via Raymond.

Hoverflies of Wharncliffe Wood, Yorks

A paper on the remarkable hoverfly fauna of this wood has been published in Sorby Record, and will no doubt be on view at the Annual Meeting. Derek Whitely will be pleased to hear from anyone with an interest in this and other papers in this publication.

JOURNAL OF DIPTERA

As mentioned in the last bulletin Henry Disney and Martin Speight have been investigating the feasibility of producing a journal of Diptera. They will report during the afternoon discussion session of the annual meeting. As chairman, I shall be asking the meeting to consider the following options:

1. To leave things as they are.
2. To improve the present bulletin.
3. To produce a journal of Diptera.

If you have any views on these, or can suggest any further options then be prepared to speak at the meeting. If you are not attending the meeting but want to make your views known then write to me now. I will make sure that everyone's ideas are considered. Please bear in mind that the purpose of this discussion will be to decide on the nature of the publication to be produced. There will be no time to consider detailed proposals.

Tony Irwin,
Norwich Castle Museum
Norwich
Norfolk NR1 3JU

ADDRESS LIST SUPPLEMENT

MacGowan, 1 40 Hamilton Street, Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire. H.
Waller, G 9 Cobay Close, Hythe, Kent Bull.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Speight, Dr M C D Forest and Wildlife Service, Research Branch,
Sidmonton Place, Bray, Co. Wicklow, Eire

Snow, Dr K North East London Polytechnic, Romford Road,
London E15 4LZ

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Entwhistle, P F Institute of Virology, Mansfield Road, Oxford
OX1 3SR

Gilchrist, M W 63 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight
PO35 5UA

Bainbridge, Dr A 166 Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants
GU14 7TJ

Jackson, Mrs F A 6 Ford Lane, Allestree, Derby DE3 2EW

Ely, W A 30 Broom Terrace, Rotherham, Yorkshire

Little, C 148 Chiltern Park Avenue, Berkhamsted, Herts

Erzinclioglu, Y Z Department of Zoology, University of Durham,
South Road, Durham DH1 3LE

Jefferies, M G 14 McAlpine Place, Farrer, A.C.T.2607, Australia

And Now Nappy Trappy!

A new trapping technique has been developed in a Norwich garden. It involves suspending freshly-washed squares of white towelling on a clothes-line. After a few hours these may be covered with Meligethes or staphylinid beetles or perhaps with small, black flies. One recent haul included four species of Meomura (Carniidae). These were M.vagans, M.flavifacies, M.lacteipennis and the rarely taken M.triangularis. Anyone wishing to try this technique is welcome to visit the Irwin's and wash some of Amy's nappies!

Central Panel of Diptera Recording Scheme Organisers

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