

This Bulletin gives details of the forthcoming Annual Meeting and dates for the Autumn field meetings as well as news of the season so far.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES - 30 OCTOBER 1982

This will be at the usual venue, the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. The usual morning lecture programme will be followed by a different format for the afternoon session, in place of the discussion point a series of informal practical demonstrations will be given.

MORNING LECTURE SESSION (Main Lecture Hall)

Chairman: E G. Hancock (Bolton Museum)

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| 11.00 - 11.20 | A Brakenbury | - | The Hoverflies of Oughtibridge Signal Box |
| 11.20 - 11.45 | R Nash | - | Alexander Haliday, a "talented Irish Naturalist" |
| 11.45 - 12.10 | O Watts | - | Hoverfly diversity and the coniferization of deciduous woodland |
| 12.10 - 12.35 | R Uffen | - | Studying British Tephritidae |
| 12.35 - 13.00 | P Skidmore | - | Studies in Muscid Biology |

LUNCH (13-14.00) A variety of canteens, cafes, restaurants and pubs are available locally in South Kensington, or you can bring your own sandwiches if you prefer.

AFTERNOON SESSION (Demonstration Room, Palaeontology Department)

The change from a discussion to a series of informal demonstrations of various techniques used in the study of Diptera will be an opportunity to see at first hand some of the methods you may have read about in the Dipterists' Handbook and elsewhere. You will be able to choose which demonstrations you wish to attend during the afternoon and also view the exhibits and chat to others in the main demonstration room. It has been very pleasing to see many new faces at the annual meeting in recent years, and we would be delighted to welcome those who haven't attended before, however new to the study of flies.

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| 14.00 - 14.30 | Setting up time for exhibits, informal discussion. |
| 14.30 - 16.30 | Demonstrations on how to mount small flies on slides, make genitalia preparations, pinning and mounting flies, use of trapping techniques, rearing techniques (e.g. from plants, fungi and dead wood) and the use of field equipment. If you have discovered the perfect pooter or the ideal rearing container, then please bring it along so that others can benefit from your invention. Who knows, your device could be named after you - the next best thing to lending your name to a new fly! |
| 16.30 - 17.45 | Viewing of exhibits, identification service (from scheme organisers and other specialists) and informal discussion. |

The morning talks cover a variety of topics, from an historical review of the well known nineteenth century Irish entomologist Alexander Haliday, to current studies on flies which should provide some practical ideas for investigations which could be carried out by any dipterist.

There have been many excellent exhibits for the afternoon sessions in recent years, so please try to put together a display of the flies you have found this year, or bring along some drawings, photographs or literature which will be of interest to others. Often bringing an exhibit will enable you to meet other dipterists with similar interests, and the flexibility of the programme should allow plenty of time for informal discussion throughout the afternoon.

18.00 Onwards DIPTERISTS' SUPPER

This follows on from the annual meeting. Tickets for this ever popular event must be obtained in advance - book in good time as numbers are limited to 80 and demand for places is always heavy. Tickets for this buffet dinner at £5 each (including wine) are available from the organiser: Adrian Pont, Entomology Section, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

Applications must arrive by 15 October and cheques should be made payable to Adrian Pont. A separate notice about the Supper is not included with the Bulletin this year.

FORTHCOMING FIELD MEETINGS

Long week-end field meeting in the New Forest, 6-10 October 1982

The traditional autumn foray for craneflies, fungus gnats, platypezids and latecomers from other families will run from Wednesday, 6 October, until Sunday, 10 October. It is planned to stay in Guest House accommodation in Lyndhurst, and to use the NCC office in Lyndhurst to set up microscopes, etc., for sorting and identifying the material caught. This autumn meeting is an excellent opportunity to explore some of the well-known New Forest localities, where so many rarities associated with bogs and ancient forest occur. No previous experience of collecting or identifying the autumn fauna is required, and you are very welcome to come for the week-end only if it is not possible to arrive earlier. For further details please contact: Ian McLean, Nature Conservancy Council, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

Week-end field meeting at Epping Forest, 25-26 September 1982

This is an opportunity to explore this fine ancient forest where recent recording has demonstrated an excellent hoverfly fauna (including rare species dependent on dead wood) and a good representation of other families. At this time of year craneflies and fungus gnats should be numerous together with other groups associated with fungi. You are invited to join in for either or both days of the week-end.

Saturday, 25 September. Meet at the parking area near the triple junction at TQ 410973 (OS sheet 167) at 10.00 hrs. How to get there: take the A.104 to the Robin Hood Pub and roundabout, then turn towards High Beech, the car park is about 150 metres on left. Those without transport will be met at Loughton Underground station (Central Line) at 09.30 hrs. At the car park look out for a white Volvo estate GER 500N (David Henshaw) and a red Renault 4 PEX 789R (Ian McLean).

Itinerary: in the morning visit areas south of the car park, in particular Cuckoo Pits where a botanical survey is in progress (insect lists would be appreciated for comparison with the London Natural History list of about 1940). Lunch at the Robin Hood, or bring your own sandwiches to eat nearby. In the afternoon visit areas around the Robin Hood and work towards the Conservation Centre at High Beech by late afternoon.

Sunday, 26 September. Meet at the car park next to the garage at the Wake Arms P.H. (disused) at TQ 428994 (OS sheet 167) at 10.00 hrs. How to get there: same as above but further north! For those without transport Loughton by 09.30.

£5.00 sent 9.9.82

Itinerary: visit Sunshine Plain and Wake Valley pond. There is no nearby hostelry, so bring sandwiches for lunch or make other arrangements. Again work towards the Conservation Centre by late afternoon.

Mr Paul Moxey (Warden of the Centre) has kindly offered to provide some laboratory facilities for both days in order to sort catches and have a chat before parting for the day. There may also be tea or coffee available. The Brimble Map of Epping Forest is available at £1.35, I shall have some with me for sale. Other publications on the Forest will be available from the Centre.

For those requiring lifts, advance warning would be appreciated on (0992) 717663 most evenings after 19.00 hrs. (David Henshaw) or contact Ian McLean for maps (address above).

D J Henshaw

Summer Field Meeting 1983

If present plans are completed this will be based at Grange-over-Sands in a field centre with 30 places available. This includes some space for the Hymenoptera Recording Schemes who have joined us in recent years. Details in next Bulletin.

REPORTS ON FIELD MEETINGS IN 1982

Spey Valley, Scotland, 12-20 June

It was good to see some new faces among the nineteen who attended. The food and accommodation at the Abernethy Outdoor Centre proved very satisfactory. Although we didn't see much sun at least there wasn't much rain either, and despite some cool mornings most days afforded good collecting conditions. The only major disappointment was not having suitable weather for high altitude collecting on the Cairngorms.

Many of the rare species known from old records lack habitat data, being recorded only from 'Nethy Bridge', 'Aviemore' and 'Grantown', etc. Within the week it proved possible to find some of these species, and to locate their habitats in some of the best remaining areas of marshes, river bank and river shingle, birch and pine woods both in the Spey and Findhorn Valleys. Also, the coast at Nairn proved to have an interesting fauna on the dunes and saltings.

As well as finding some nationally rare species (some of which were quite frequent in their own particular typical habitat) good species totals were obtained for most groups - keeping the keenest sorting their catches until 2 or 3 a.m. most nights!

The Hoverflies included Blera fallax (sitting on pine trunks), Callicera rufa (again around old pines), Hammerschmidtia ferruginea (one during the meeting, but also found on rose flowers the following week), Sphaerophoria loewi (one male in a Phragmites swamp) and the locally frequent Chamaesytrphus scaevoides (on Calluna and Vaccinium under pines).

Among the craneflies were Prionocera pubescens, Nephrotoma lunulicornis, Rhabdomastix hilaris, Psiloconopa meigeni, Tipula bistilata and T.juncea. Both species of Hexatoma were common, with H.bicolor preferring sections of river with shingle beds and H.fuscipennis on sandy banks.

Notable among the Larger Brachycera were the robber flies Laphria flava (sitting on pine logs), Rhadiurgus variabilis (along river banks with sand and shingle) and the therevid Thereva lunulata occurred in the same habitat as Rhadiurgus. Oxycera pardalina (base rich flushes) and Phthiria pulicaria (coastal dunes) were two other good records.

Ernoneura argus was an exciting find among the scathophagids, skimming low over the surface of Loch Garten, pausing occasionally to rest on the extreme edge of the shore. The small acalyptrates had plenty to offer including several Clusiodes species on pine and birch logs and Eccoptomera ornata. The Sciomyzidae included Ectinocera borealis, Antichaeta analis, Sciomyza simplex and Pherbellia brunnipes.

The fungus gnats did not occur in large numbers, nevertheless a Mycetophila new to Britain, Rhymosia britteni and Gnoriste bilineata (at several sites) were good finds. Among the ephydriids Scatella callosicosta turned up at Aviemore on the fine river shingle banks below the railway station, and a Pelina new to Britain was taken at Nairn.

The Empididae were well represented e.g. Wiedemannia phantasma (common at the edge of river shingle), a Helodromia sp. new to Britain from two sites, Rhagus unica, Tachypeza heeri and Ocydromia melanopleura. Finally, for the Dolichopodidae a Medetera new to Britain, Medetera infumata, Hydrophorus albiceps and Campsicnemus marginatus were some of the best finds.

At the end of the week we were left wondering what it would have been like with more sunshine, certainly the pioneers of dipterology in Scotland had left us a few new things to discover.

A E Stubbs and I F G McLean.

Cavenham Heath NNR and Tuddenham Heath NNR, 31 July and 1 August 1982

Fine weather over the week-end contributed to the success of this joint meeting with the Brit.Ent. and Nat. Hist. Soc., held at these adjacent Breckland reserves. The spider parasite Acrocera globulus turned up at Cavenham again (swept from birch foliage), while Tachina grossa and Chrysotoxum festivum were frequent on the umbels of wild parsnip. Among the many small fry, Chlorops gracilis from Tuddenham was a good find. The nearby Suffolk Trust Reserve at Wangford Warren was also visited on the Sunday afternoon, where the scarce robber fly Eutolmus rufibarbis was taken.

I F G McLean.

NEWS FROM THE SCHEMES

Mosquito Recording Scheme

Good progress has been made towards developing a special recording card to cover such aspects as type of breeding site, habitat, blood host, etc. Instructions for recorders are also already available on request from the scheme organiser, Dr N. Burgess.

Cranefly Recording Scheme

The final touches are being made to draft maps of the 111 species of the sub-family Tipulinae with notes on each species. These will go to BRC shortly as a step towards atlas production.

There has been a steady increment in records. This year the organiser got into parts of west and north-west Scotland where records were especially few. The situation map currently include 1717 10Km squares of which 1628 squares are for post-1960 records.

It is believed that yet a further Dicranomyia new to Britain has been found, this time at the top of saltmarsh in Argyll.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Records have been flowing in and some draft maps are being prepared. The scheme is not attempting to go at full scale until the hoverfly book is out but it may be possible to get some maps into the book to encourage further recording. A supplement to this Bulletin includes maps of Volucella and a list is included of species where early receipt of records will be welcomed by the organiser: Dr P Entwistle, Institute of Virology, Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3SR.

Various reports on the season have been received. The Wye Valley in the Forest of Dean produced Brachypalpus lapriformis and Criorhina ranunculi in fact the latter species has had a good year with a number of reports coming in from other districts as well. Parhelophilus consimilis was found in Radnorshire (now Powys).

The main news for Scotland is that a Cheilosia new to Britain was taken near Ballater by I MacGowan (30 May 1981). The Speyside meeting report includes some hoverflies. Lejogaster splendida was found on the Argyll coast where Iris occurs along the shore of sea lochs and Platycheirus perpallidus and Sphegina clunipes were found right up into north Sutherland. Platycheirus immarginatus was found to be relatively common on a marsh in the Cromarty Firth.

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

A newsletter for recorders will be issued this autumn.

The Speyside meeting obtained some useful records, notably the first Scottish record of Oxycera pardalina at a base rich flush near Tomintoul; other finds are reported in the note on this meeting. News has come in of a wet meadow in Herefordshire (intriguingly called 'The Flits'!) that in one afternoon yielded eight species of stratiomyids which have aquatic larvae (Nemotelus nigrinus, N. pantherinus, Odontomyia viridula, Stratiomys potamida, Oxycera formosa, O. pulchellum, O. pygmaea and O. trilineata). Stratiomys potamida has also been found at two localities near Oxford, and Nemotelus nigrinus was taken in a Pembrokeshire wet meadow.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Hoverfly Book

The British Entomological and Natural History Society have accepted in principle that they will publish the book. (AIDGAP decided that hoverflies were not taxonomically settled enough to meet their policy of doing keys to stable groups.)

Plates are nearly complete. Two-thirds of the text to species is typed and keys are complete in draft. The remaining text, which is relatively plain sailing, is currently being written. The objective is publication in early summer 1983.

Its early days to say much more since the groundwork on production and costs has yet to be fully covered. There should be firmer news by October.

Collecting Holidays Abroad

With 180 people on the circulation list, presumably a number of us do some collecting abroad. Its often a chance to see species which are particularly rare in Britain or to see related European species which leads towards ideas that extra species may be found in Britain once we know what to look for. Its also a chance to see new places,

