

This Bulletin gives the date for your diary of the next Annual Meeting, includes a brief report on the last Annual Meeting, and has details of forthcoming field meetings in 1983.

Annual Meeting - 12 November 1983

This year the meeting will be held on Saturday 12 November, at the usual venue of the British Museum (Natural History). There will be lectures in the morning, discussions and exhibits in the afternoon, and the Dipterists' Supper in the evening. A full programme for the talks and other events will be included in the next Bulletin.

Suggestions as to what topics you would like included in the afternoon session would be very welcome. Possibilities include identification workshops, discussions on the progress of some of the recording schemes, or a return to the more general discussions of particular themes as in past years. Favourable comments have been received on the more informal afternoon session organised in 1982, but if you have new ideas on what you would like to be available in 1983 please write to Alan Stubbs so that consideration can be given to different proposals.

Report on the 1982 Annual Meeting

The informative selection of morning lectures were followed after lunch by a number of demonstrations of various techniques. This gave the opportunity for those present to exchange hints and tips for collecting and studying flies, and proved a popular innovation. Some excellent exhibits were on view including national distribution maps, local mapping and trapping projects, life history observations, flies recorded during 1982 (and earlier), and several items of equipment. The Dipterists' Supper was as popular and successful as ever - surely this must be the best food (and conversation!) at any entomological dinner in the world.

Field Meetings in 1983

Cornwall, 2-10 July 1983

The main summer field meeting this year is to be based at St Agnes on the north coast of Cornwall. Although quite extensive lists were built up by Lamb, Jenkinson and others during the early part of this century, little has been published on the Cornish Diptera in recent years and so this meeting gives an opportunity to explore a part of Britain unfamiliar to many dipterists. Nearby habitats available include sandy 'Towans' (coastal dunes), rocky shores and clifftop grassland, cliff seepages, wet pastures, moorland and bogs, and areas of woodland beside streams and on the coast. The meeting is well timed for hoverflies and larger Brachycera, and also for the local specialities amongst the acalypterates, empids, dollies and many other groups.

The Breanoc Field Centre at St Agnes has sleeping accommodation for 8 in 4 twin-bedded rooms, and laboratory space for 20+ in two rooms. They will provide B&B, evening meal and packed lunch for approx. £62 for the 8 nights of the meeting (booking details given below). Please bring your own sheets or sheet sleeping bag. To supplement the sleeping accommodation etc., the nearby ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Field Centre) Lemorna House Hotel can take up to 16 additional people and they have double and single rooms available. They can offer B&B, and a set menu evening meal for approx. £67 for the eight nights, or if you prefer to have a choice of food on the evening menu then the cost is approx. £97 for the 8 nights (packed lunch is not included with either option).

To simplify the organisation of the meeting, and to allow you to choose which accommodation you prefer, please could you book your place direct with the Breanoc Field Centre or the Lemorna House Hotel, and then inform Ian McLean of your booking. You are advised to book as soon as possible to ensure you can reserve the type of accommodation that you want, and if you book with the hotel please mention that you are joining the entomological field meeting. Booking details:

Mr and Mrs R Burrows
Breanoc Field Centre
Goonvrea
St Agnes
Cornwall TR5 ONW
Tel. St Agnes (087255) 2727

Mr and Mrs M House
Lemorna House Hotel
Goonvrea
St Agnes
Cornwall TR5 ONG
Tel. St Agnes (087255) 2670

Deposit (with booking) of £10

Deposit (with booking) of £10

It is suggested that we arrive in time for evening meal on Saturday 2 July, and depart after breakfast on Sunday 10 July 1983. Notification of booking and any questions you may have should be sent to:

I F G McLean
Nature Conservancy Council
19/20 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PY
Tel. 01-235 3241

Weekend meeting at Hainault Forest, Essex 4-5 June 1983

Following the very successful week-end meeting held in Epping Forest last autumn, David Henshaw has kindly offered to lead a similar meeting at the ancient woodland of Hainault Forest in Essex. Although there has been little entomological recording there in recent years a rich Diptera fauna is likely to be present, and this meeting is timed to coincide with the peak season for many dead wood species, including hoverflies. For details of this meeting please contact:

David Henshaw
34 Rounton Road
Waltham Abbey
Essex EN9 3AR

Weekend meeting on the Suffolk coast, 16-17 July 1983

It is planned to visit a number of Suffolk coastal sites during this week-end, including Walberswick NNR, Benacre Broad, Covehithe etc. There are excellent coastal marshes, reed beds, soft rock cliffs with seepages, some deciduous woodland and sandy heaths - plenty of alternatives no matter what families you are interested in. For further information contact Ian McLean (address above).

Field Studies Council courses at Malham Tarn in 1983

'Flies, Midges and Gnats' 20-27 August 1983 (£106/104) and 'Invertebrate fauna surveys and site evaluation for conservation purposes' 23-30 July 1983 (£108/106) both run by Dr Henry Disney, from whom further details are available at Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9PU. Fees (in brackets) are for non-members/members of the Field Studies Council.

BENHS field meeting at Thompson Common, Norfolk 6 August 1983

You are very welcome to come along to this BENHS field meeting on this little recorded but very promising site which is a Norfolk Naturalists' Trust Reserve. The meeting will be led by Ian McLean, if you are interested please write to him for further details.

Reports on Autumn Field Meetings held in 1982

Epping Forest proved a very successful venue for a weekend meeting held on 25-26 September. Considering the wet weather conditions a good variety of species were found including a chironomid possibly new to G.B. (Heterotanytarsus species). Among the other finds were Clusia flava, Auologastromyia anisodactyla, Lonchaea contigua and Phaonia pratensis.

The New Forest meeting (7-10 October) also had poor weather but nevertheless 132 species of fungus gnats were recorded, significantly more than found on previous autumn meetings in the south. Some of the more interesting discoveries were Macrocera pusilla, Keroplatus testaceus, Boletina pallidula, Exechia exigua, Allodia barbata and Mycetophila dentata for the gnats and Palloptera scutellata, Pherbellia scutellaris and Platypalpus sylvicolus among the other Diptera.

NEWS FROM THE SCHEMES

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Top copy maps for Tipulinae are partly complete and will hopefully be submitted to BRC in April for Atlas production.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

Phillip Entwhistle is planning to produce a second newsletter in a few months time. He will welcome contributions in the form of species notes, records and practical hints etc so that recorders can exchange information in a rapid and informal way.

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

A second news letter is planned for the autumn, and all recorders are invited to submit short articles for inclusion. Odd notes which perhaps do not warrant formal publication will be very welcome. Please don't forget the special project for 1983 - Beris biology. Any observations on behaviour, breeding sites, etc., are needed to give us a better picture of this shy group of flies. Meanwhile, to keep you busy this spring

MARCH AND APRIL

Bombylius major and B. discolor. Record date of first sighting, grid square and air temperature (if possible). Remember that they start flying in March! Also if you see any bees out with them, please note the species or send a specimen to me.

MAY

This is the month for the beautiful Odontomyia argentata. Anyone living south-east of a line from Lincs. to Dorset should be able to find this species beside still or slow-flowing water. June will be too late!

Rhagio annulatus (easily confused with R. tringarius) is out from Mid May until June in deciduous woodland in southern Britain. It is almost certainly not as rare as the records suggest. Can anyone prove this?

JUNE TO AUGUST

More bee fly biology! I have a suspicion that our Thyridanthrax fenestratus may be a parasitoid of tiger beetles. I would welcome any evidence for or against this idea.

HOVERFLY BOOK

Everything is going ahead for publication in the summer/autumn by the British Entomological and Natural History Society. Details will be issued when available.

A NEW BOOK ON NORTH-WEST EUROPEAN HOVERFLIES

DE ZWEEFVLIEGEN VAN NOORDWEST-EUROPA etc by V S van der Goot. A couple of copies are available from Ian McLean price £6 each inclusive, please write if you are interested. This book received a very favourable review from Martin Speight in the EMM recently. Included are 12 colour photographs and 496 figs in 275 pages with 473 species keyed - the book is in Dutch, but the large number of illustrations make it easier to use.

PLASTAZOTE

It is obvious to all who have used it, or seen it in use, that Plastazote has great virtues as a base for staging pinned material or for lining storeboxes or pinning trays. It is flexible yet strong, does not deteriorate with age, can be readily cut, takes pins without permanent deformations, and is in short, the answer to many a dipterists' prayer. The main problem is that it comes in sheets measuring 1000 mm by 750 mm, each large enough to last most of us half a lifetime.

I am willing to act as a central source of small quantities of Plastazote. I would aim to buy in adequate quantities and at all gauges, and resell it on demand in any size, however small. (I would also be available at Dipterists Day in November). I am banking on the fact it should be fairly easy - and cheap - to send small quantities through the post. I would aim to cover only material costs plus VAT and postage - I shall not be looking for a "jobber's turn". As a rough guide a piece 9 mm thick measuring 760 mm by 250 mm (approximately 30 inches by 10) would cost 75p inclusive. The gauges available are 2, 5 and 9 mm.

To enable me to assess whether this service would be worthwhile I need to be able to estimate demand. If you would find the scheme I propose useful please write or telephone and let me know your likely requirements. I would expect to put in an order with the suppliers in March by which time the first round of the market survey should be complete. Having met the initial peak demand I would expect to keep a stock to satisfy occasional requests. A Bainbridge, 'Amoore', 166 Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7JJ Tel no (0252) 515318.

BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION LIST

A revised mailing list for those currently receiving the Bulletin is included with this mailing. Please check your entry and send any corrections or changes of address to Ian McLean, NCC, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY

AND NOW THE FIRST CUCKOO FLY OF SPRING

Does Spring drive you mad too? Why should those ridiculous feathered things get all the lime light just because they make silly noises. Trust your Larger Brachycera Scheme organiser to come up with the answer (see p 3). We now await the historic and gleeful moment when 'The Times' publishes a letter on the first sighting, or even a buzz from the first cuckoo fly of Spring. And to follow Bombylius you will all be expecting to find dashes of silver by every pool and rill May - that should drive you all cuckoo but keep trying.

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

The Central Panel of Diptera
Recording Scheme Organisers