

This Bulletin gives details of forthcoming events, including the Annual Meeting in November. There are also items of news on schemes and past meetings as well as other matters of interest.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES 10 NOVEMBER 1984

On Saturday 10 November 1984, the Annual Meeting will be held at the British Museum (Natural History) at South Kensington, London.

The programme is as follows:

MORNING SESSION (Main Lecture Hall)

Chairman Dr. Tony Irwin (organiser of the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme).

11.00 am The Biological Records Centre and its role in relationship to the Diptera Recording Schemes. Paul Harding.

11.20 am The study of Anthomyiidae and their plant host relationships. Michael Ackland.

11.45 am How to study aphid feeding hoverfly larvae and their parasites. Dr Graham Rotheray.

12.10 pm The pathogens of Diptera larvae. Dr John Carter.

12.35 pm A photographer's view of hoverflies and other Diptera. Andrew Callow.

LUNCH

1.00-2.00 pm (Choice of pubs, cafes, etc, or bring sandwiches).

AFTERNOON SESSION (Demonstration Room, Palaeontology Department)

2.00-2.30 pm Informal and setting up exhibits.

2.30-3.30 pm Informal or choice of demonstrations.

Mosquito study techniques
Rearing hoverflies
The study of larger Brachycera
The study of Anthomyiidae
Photographic techniques

3.30-5.30 pm Informal or join discussion groups in side room.

Hoverflies	3.30-4.00
Larger Brachycera	4.00-4.30
Mosquito Discussion Group	4.30-5.30

5.30-5.45 pm Informal and removal of exhibits.

It is to be hoped that the morning programme will provide everyone with an interesting mix of topics. Last year the afternoon session gave more time for informally meeting each other and chatting, rather than a long period of talks and discussion in the main room. This year we are trying a slightly different formula by offering room for discussion groups in a separate room for those particularly interested.

Two years ago we did very well for exhibits but last year was looking thin by comparison. This is a valuable element of the day, giving others the chance to see your interesting finds, the results of studies, new ideas for equipment and any other items that are of interest and promote discussion. It will be very welcome if more people can bring along an exhibit to help make the day a success.

During the afternoon most of the recording scheme organisers will be present and there will be experienced Dipterists covering most families of flies. For those finding their feet in Diptera, or embarking upon an unfamiliar family, then this is a good opportunity to get advice (please ask for an introduction if you do not know who to turn to). There will be the opportunity to get advice on problem specimens, particularly for recording scheme groups, providing the number of specimens to be looked at during the meeting is not too large. If you are at square one, don't worry, there will be plenty of people happy to scan boxes of flies and help you.

DIPTERISTS' SUPPER 1984

This year the Dipterists' Supper will be held on Saturday 10 November. As usual, it will take the form of an evening buffet and will be held in the Conversazione Room of the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London. Sherry will be served from 5.45 pm and the supper will begin at 6.30 pm. The Museum's main car park, at the Cromwell Road entrance, will be available for guests during the whole evening.

The cost this year will be £7. The number of guests will again be limited to 80, and admission will be by ticket only. Please let Adrian Pont (Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD) know by 29 October if you will be able to attend. Your subscription should accompany your acceptance, and cheques should be made payable to Adrian. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope for your ticket.

REPORTS ON FIELD MEETINGS IN 1984

Mark Ash New Forest 2-3 June

A total of about 20 dipterists and coleopterists attended one or both days of this joint meeting with the BENHS, timed to coincide with the main emergence period of the dead wood fauna. Despite mostly cool and cloudy weather some interesting species were seen, including Dryodromia testacea (Empididae) which was quite frequent on hawthorn flowers, Pocota personata (Syrphidae) was observed ovipositing and Conops vesicularis (Conopidae) was also found. A report of the results from this meeting has been sent to the Forestry Commission (who are responsible for the management of the New Forest). This stressed the national and international importance of the dead wood fauna at this site, and the need for cessation of the removal of dead wood.

Muir of Ord Near Inverness 9-17 June

Eighteen dipterists enjoyed the warm hospitality of Mr and Mrs Smith, the wardens of the comfortable field centre at Tarradale House on the Black Isle, in north-east Scotland. Members of the party ventured as far afield as the west coast (Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve), north to the Dornoch sandhills, east to Culbin Forest and south into the Spey valley. Highlights

included the hoverflies Hammerschmidtia ferruginea (on an aspen trunk) and Chamaesyrrhus scaevoides (under pines) both from Speyside, the conopid Physocephala nigra, the tephritid Campiglossa argyrocephala, and the empidids Rhamphomyia aethiops and a species of Oedalea new to Britain. The second British locality for the crane fly Limonia cinereipennis proved to be only a few hundred yards from the field centre. On the last day a small party took the chair lift up Cairn Gorm, and in fine weather discovered several of the mountain top specialities such as Hydrophorus rufibarbis (Dolichopodidae) and Spilogona triangulifera (Muscidae). So once again Scotland turned up trumps, with a fine array of little known flies from diverse sites amidst splendid scenery.

FIELD MEETINGS IN 1985

Great Breach Wood, Somerset 18-19 May 1985

Bill Dean will be leading a joint meeting with the BENHS at this excellent Somerset Trust Reserve which contains mainly mature oak and ash with some conifer and beech plantations. Access is off the Street to Kingweston road at the Fountain Forestry entrance, and the meeting place is just inside the gate at 10.00 hours (grid reference ST 5032 on the 1:50,000 sheet 182). Please let Bill Dean know if you are coming, his address is 8 Cross Road, Bradford Abbas, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6SG.

Charterhouse in Mendip, Somerset 29 June-7 July 1985

A booking has been made with a field centre in the heart of the Mendip Hills not far from Cheddar Gorge. Nearby are top quality woodlands and grasslands on these limestone hills, and the Somerset Levels marshes with their excellent Stratiomyidae fauna are also close at hand. A variety of coastal habitats are within easy reach, and the experience of local entomologists indicates that this should be an excellent venue for recording a wide range of Diptera.

We have booked the field centre at a flat rate of £100 per night, so the more who come along the cheaper it will be! Assuming a party size of 20 this would mean a cost per person of £5 per night, and we anticipate that the cost of food and paying for a cook will not be more than £3 per person per day.

Bookings, with a deposit of £5 (cheques payable to I. McLean) should be made before the end of February 1985 if possible. To book your place, please write to Ian McLean, Nature Conservancy Council, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

NEWS FROM THE SCHEMES

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Some useful batches of enveloped material have been sent in, including Nephrotoma sullingtonensis by Mike Edwards - the first record since it was originally taken in 1938. The new Dicranomyia obtained last year in Argyll has been named as cinereipennis and this was again found at Muir of Ord on our field meeting in 1984.

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Another newsletter was issued this autumn. It was sent to those registered with the scheme ('B' on the address list) or make due contact with the scheme organiser Dr Tony Irwin, Castle Museum, Norwich NOR 6SB.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

The scheme organiser, Philip Entwistle, is appreciative of the flow of records. Another newsletter is in preparation so notes, observations, comments, etc, are welcome. Platycheirus is a genus that is receiving priority for some preliminary maps.

Our knowledge of the distribution of many species is increasing fast. For instance there are a number of species new to Scotland, including three records of Brachyopa pilosa which was only known from southern England.

The book on British Hoverflies has sold over 700 copies and is still selling steadily as news spreads. The print run was 1000 with 1000 spare copies of the plates. A reprint will be required, perhaps by next spring. This will give the chance to correct proof errors and simple faults with the keys. A revised amendment slip for the first printing will also be prepared. If there are any amendments not listed on the existing amendment slip, then please let Alan Stubbs or Philip Entwistle know - preferably by the Annual meeting in November.

Sepsidae Recording Scheme

Adrian Pont has issued the first newsletter for this scheme, announcing two sepsids new to Britain. Records are now with the Biological Records Centre for map production but please continue to keep new records flowing in.

NEWS OF OTHER STUDIES

Wanted - Psychodids

A select group of dipterists are already aware of my growing preoccupation (my wife would say obsession) with moth-flies, and I have been gratified with the quantity (and quality) of the material so far sent me. I am now in the position of having constructed a draft generic key, which I hope to have available for the recording schemes meeting in London later this year.

However, before I can start work on species keys, I need still more material. There are several notable gaps in my collection, and the sooner these are filled, the quicker the keys will be finished. Specimens (in alcohol) can be sent to me at 27 Beech Way, Dickleburgh, Diss, Norfolk, or passed on by your regional scheme organisers. Please pack all tubes well and if possible wedge some cellulose wadding (nappy liner) into the tube, as this greatly reduces the jostle factor.

Collections from anywhere are welcome, but Wales and Scotland are poorly represented and I am especially keen to receive material from upland habitats.

My warmest thanks to the faithful few, and as for the rest I wait in anticipation.

Phil Withers

NEW REFERENCE WORK

Hippoboscidae and Nycteribiidae

The Royal Entomological Society has published a handbook (volume 10 part 7) covering these two families (price to fellows £2.80, to non-fellows £4.00). The author, Tony Hutson, gives an excellent review of biological knowledge and his keys are well prepared and easy to use.

A NEW GREAT BRITAIN HEADQUARTERS FOR THE NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL

The new headquarters is at Northminster House in the centre of Peterborough. It is expected to become operational in late October-mid November with the transfer of staff and closure of the offices in London, Banbury and Huntingdon.

The move will bring under one roof the Great Britain Headquarters, the England directorate, the Chief Scientist's Team (except upland specialists), and central services such as cartography, publications and the main library. The East Midlands regional office will be incorporated; also the Geology and Physiography Section in autumn 1985.

Thus the entomologists in NCC with a Great Britain remit will be based at Peterborough. Chief Scientist's Team staff comprise Alan Stubbs and Dr Ian McLean (terrestrial invertebrates) and Margaret Palmer (aquatic invertebrates). This means that the Invertebrate Site Register will now be run from Peterborough. The England Field Survey Unit Entomologist, Dr David Sheppard, is also at the new headquarters.

The address is Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA tel 0733 (Peterborough) 40345.

AND NOW HEAD FLYMAN WANTED

We have recently received a newspaper advertisement.

They do things differently down under, thinking of Adelaide in particular. It sounds as if the Australians may be looking for a Diptera recording schemes organiser at last, giving the opportunity of a new role for Mike Jefferies - long since deported for finding rare hoverflies that eluded everyone else and for wearing a ridiculous uniform in the field (see Bulletin No 6). It's a curious advert involving taking charge of the flying system, supervision of other staff working on the flies and staging. Suspicion of insanity caused by too many fly ridden bilabongs is inevitable when they ask for a minimum of three years experience in the operation of counterweight flies - do they mean counterfeit, or just what sort of Dipterans do they have down under (re-read of Mike Jefferies last letter - yes, they do have some pretty amazing beasties)? So if you fancy working for the Adelaide Festival Centre (surely the first international festival of flies - bit much their upstaging our Dipterist's Day) then be reassured that wages are in accord with the performing arts centres award. Unfortunately, you have missed the deadline for applying for this job but it's bound to be re-advertised; they cannot possibly have found someone or perhaps we should see who's missing at our next re-union!

Central Panel of
Diptera Recording Scheme Organisers

Co-ordinator
A E Stubbs
Nature Conservancy Council
19 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PY (until mid-November, see above).