

DIPTERA



RECORDING SCHEMES BULLETIN NO. 18, March 1985

This issue announces the date of the next Annual meeting and Dinner and includes a programme of field meetings for the 1985 season. There are various other items of news, preliminary maps of cattle-visiting Muscidae and some information about the British Entomological and Natural History Society.

ANNUAL MEETING AND DIPTERIST'S DINNER NOVEMBER 9, 1985

Get out your diary now, before you forget, and make sure you have this date annotated. The venue has been booked at the British Museum (Natural History) in London as usual.

There will be a morning lecture programme. The afternoon will probably follow the 1984 format, with one room for exhibits and demonstrations, and another room for discussions. If you want to make suggestions for the programme, then please chip in ideas by early July.

FIELD MEETINGS IN 1985

Brannets Wood, Essex, 5 May 1985

Near Aveley (TQ 594804) meeting at 10 am. There is a small but active group of Essex dipterists who are running a series of field meetings this summer. All are welcome to join in. Leader and information - Del Smith (32 Edenhall Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex RM3 7RT: tel. Ingrebourne 75555).

Great Breach Wood, Somerset, 18-19 May 1985

Bill Dean, a hoverfly fan from Dorset, is leading a joint British Entomological and Natural History Society/Diptera Recording Schemes field meeting to this entomologically rich wood. Access is from the Street to Kingweston road at the Fountain Forestry entrance, and the meeting place is just inside the gate at 10.00 hrs (grid reference ST 5032 on OS 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.

New Forest, Hants, 1-2 June 1985

Following the successful meeting at Mark Ash last year another joint BENHS/Diptera Recording Schemes field meeting is being organised, this time at two little-known localities. On Saturday 1 June meet beside the road at SU 262168 by 10.30 hrs for recording in Bramshaw Wood, and on Sunday 2 June meet at the car park at SU 228146 by 10.30 hrs for Eyeworth Wood. Both these sites contain much dead wood and should be productive for many of the ancient forest species. Please inform Ian McLean, NCC, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA if you intend to come to either meeting.

Thompson Common SSSI, Norfolk, 1 June 1985

A Norfolk Naturalists Trust reserve which is proving very exciting for Diptera, with excellent grasslands and pools. It is one of the best sites for pingos (a glacial landform with depressions now occupied by ponds)

whose fauna has very unusual species - and there is plenty of scope for adding to the species list and improving knowledge of habitat associations.

There are plenty of other sites at hand. A trip on Sunday will be arranged if anyone wishes to make it a weekend outing. Leader and information - Tony Irwin, Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich NR1 3JU.

Berwick Pond, Essex, 9 June 1985

Near Rainham (TQ 543837) at 10 am. Leader and information - Del Smith (address above).

Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve, 22 June, 1985 Bedford Purlieus SSSI, 23 June, 1985

Woodwalton Fen, near Huntingdon is one of the major fens but relatively few dipterists have visited it. A visit to Monks Wood NNR can be included later in the day. For those of you who wish to stay, or come up on the Sunday, we propose visiting Bedford Purlieus to the west of Peterborough; this locality has the richest flora of any British woodland yet it is seemingly unworked for Diptera. A few other local sites are at hand.

The meeting will be linked to a British Entomological & Natural History Society meeting, including also coleopterists and hemipterists. Accommodation will be available Saturday night at Monks Wood Experimental Station (some work space also: bookings via Brian Eversham at BRC, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE17 2LS). Leader and information - Alan Stubbs.

Charterhouse in Mendip, Somerset, 29 June - 7 July, 1985

Details of our main summer field meeting were announced in the last Bulletin.

The area has a great range of good quality habitats and there will be people knowledgeable on most groups of Diptera. If you are new to Diptera and feel shy about coming on these meetings, don't worry. Apart from gaining records, the object is to give you an opportunity to pick up experience in how to collect and gain advice on identification.

The meeting will be led by Alan Stubbs, with the support of other Central Panel members including Ian McLean and Peter Chandler.

We already have a good nucleus of people booked. If you want to be sure of a place please book soon, and preferably by 31 March. Write to Ian McLean, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA, enclosing a deposit of £5 (cheques payable to I McLean).

The Chase, Essex, 28 July 1985

Near Basildon (TQ 693866) at 10 am. Leader and information - Del Smith (address above).

Autumn Foray

We have yet to make arrangements for the traditional long weekend in October, when craneflies and fungus gnats are the prime groups for recording. Details will be announced in the next Bulletin (hopefully

by August) but we will keep anyone informed of progress if you let us know of your interest in the meeting.

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Entomological Section Field Meetings 1985

Dipterists are most welcome to attend any YNU Ento Section meetings, and a field meeting of particular interest to dipterists this year is that on Sunday 19 May at Melbourne (Pocklington) for the Pocklington Canal area. Meet at Cross Keys Inn, Melbourne (SE 753441) at 11.00 hrs, details available from Peter Kendall (tel. Goole 60371).

Other meetings

There may yet be a few more day or weekend meetings and we will inform those in range of the venue.

NEWS FROM THE SCHEMES

Mosquito Recording Scheme

A new key to adults and the early stages is to be published by the Freshwater Biological Association, hopefully this autumn. It is hoped that more people will contribute to the recording of mosquitoes when these keys become available.

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Tony Irwin is short of material for inclusion in the next newsletter, so please send any items of news, observations etc to Tony Irwin, Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich NR1 3JU.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

BRC has agreed to produce another preliminary atlas, again with about 30 maps. The genera in mind are Sphegina, Brachyopa, Criorhina, Parasyrphus, Chamaesyrrhus, Hammerschmidtia and the Eristalinae. Maps of Platycheirus are planned for inclusion in the 1986 Hoverfly Newsletter. Any records of these genera would be particularly welcomed by the scheme organiser, Philip Entwistle.

Merodon equestris has a virus disease which has been recorded from form transversalis in France. Living examples of Merodon from Britain (any colour form) would be welcomed by Philip Entwistle for screening for the virus. The adult flies should be fed with a 10% honey or sucrose solution and sent live in a matchbox, or similar small container, to Philip Entwistle, Institute of Virology, Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3SR.

APPEALS FOR INFORMATION

Wanted - Opomyzids

I am preparing a revised key to this family and wish to figure the genitalia of males and females. I would like to see specimens of the rarer species, ie NOT Opomyza germinationis, O. petrei, O. florum or Geomyza tripunctata, although I would like to see males of G. balachowski because Vockeroth (1961) claims that it may be two species. I would be delighted to receive specimens in alcohol since this avoids having to damage the specimen for maceration. As hard-pressed ecologists don't have time to pin all their

catch, I hope to produce a key that works for both wet and dry material. I am also collecting distribution records for this family and for Lonchopteridae. Martin Drake, 16 Castle Crescent, Kendal, Cumbria.

Wanted - Information on Bibionidae

Information, observations or records of the family Bibionidae are requested to aid current research into aspects of the biology of the Bibionidae. 18 species occur in the UK belonging to the Genera Bibio and Dilophus.

Details of the distribution, life-cycle, abundance and behaviour would be welcomed in addition to any reports of plant damage in grassland, arable crops or other situations.

Please write to: Shaun D'Arcy-Burt, Department of Agricultural Zoology, Queen's University of Belfast, Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5PX.

Wanted - Records of Scottish Dolichopodidae

Iain MacGowan has been compiling records of Scottish Dolichopodidae from museum and private collections. Any records (with date, locality and grid reference) will be very welcome, please write to Iain MacGowan, 40 Hamilton Street, Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire.

Stover Country Park, Nr Newton Abbot, Devon

During Diptera Recording Schemes field meetings based at Bovey Tracey in 1978 and 1981 visits were made to Stover Lake (SX 8375). This is now part of a Devon County Council Country Park, and the warden would be pleased to receive any species records from these field meetings or from other visits by dipterists. Please send records to R K Merrifield, 22 Kingsweir Road, Ruislip Manor, Middlesex HA4 6AY and they will be forwarded to the warden.

University of Bristol Lizard Project

Records of terrestrial invertebrates, including Diptera, would be welcomed by the organisers of this project, which has been primarily concerned with flora and vegetation types of the Lizard. Any dipterists intending to record flies on the Lizard in 1985 should contact Mrs Stella Turk (Shangri-la, Reskadinnick, Camborne (tel. Camborne 712069)) for details of the potentially most valuable sites to visit. Some limited contribution towards travel expenses within the county could be available from Project funds to volunteers resident in Cornwall, or to those visiting Cornwall for other purposes but willing to record at the Lizard. Past records of Diptera from the Lizard would also be very welcome.

PRELIMINARY MAPS OF CATTLE-VISITING MUSCIDAE

Enclosed with this Bulletin are twelve maps of cattle-visiting Muscidae assembled from data sent in by contributors to the Diptera Recording Schemes, and from data abstracted from museum collections.

These maps already indicate different distributions for these species, though there is still plenty of scope for recorders to improve on our knowledge of these flies.

For those who have not yet contributed records but would like to do so, or for those wishing to commence recording in 1985, please write for further

information to: Dr J E Hillerton, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading RG2 9AT. Further records for any of these species, or for Hydrotaea dentipes, will be very welcome.

THE BRITISH ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The BENHS is the leading national Society for the field entomologist, organising a full programme of field meetings each year, and holding about 18 indoor meetings at the Society's rooms (74 South Audley Street, London W1Y 5FF) with a wide variety of lectures on entomological and natural history subjects. An annual dinner and exhibition held each autumn provide an excellent opportunity to meet other entomologists and exchange ideas and information. There are dipterists present at most events organised by the Society. The Society's rooms contain an extensive library for the use of members, and comprehensive collections of British insects, including the Diptera collections of C O Hammond and H W Andrews. The Society publishes the Proceedings twice each year, and a list of the papers on Diptera published from 1973 to 1983 is included with this Bulletin. The Society also publishes books on British insects, most recently 'British Hoverflies' by A E Stubbs and S J Falk, which are available at a discount to members. The annual subscription is £9.50 for those residing within 30 miles of the Society's rooms, £5.50 for those living outside this area, and £2.50 for Junior members (under 21). Membership application forms are available from Mr P J Johnson, 31 Oakdene Road, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7JV.

OBITUARY - SIR ARTHUR DUNCAN

Sir Arthur Duncan died on 2 November. He was an active entomologist for many years based in Dumfries, a poorly worked part of the country. He recorded craneflies with the late E S Brown in the 1940's and 1950's (card index with scheme organiser) and attended some of the early Crane-fly Recording Scheme meetings in London as well as several Dipterist's Annual Meetings. He helped organise and attended our Newton Stewart field meeting in 1979. He was the chairman of the Nature Conservancy from 1953 to 1961 and was a past Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries. We shall miss a friendly and enthusiastic dipterist. His collection (of various orders) is now at the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh.

DISTRIBUTION OF DIPTERA BULLETINS

This Bulletin is being sent to a number of European dipterists to inform them of the field meetings and annual indoor meeting to be held in 1985. It is hoped that a wider circulation of the Bulletin will enable European dipterists to keep in touch with dipterological events in Britain, and promote the exchange of information and specimens between dipterists in different countries.

ADDRESS LIST OF THOSE RECEIVING THE BULLETIN

Enclosed with this Bulletin is an updated address list. Please remember to inform us of any change of address or additional recording schemes to which you wish to contribute. Each distribution of the Bulletin results in some envelopes returned 'not known at this address', so to avoid missing one or two issues, or even dropping out of the circulation list altogether, please send your new address to Ian McLean, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

AND NOW.....THE FIRST INSTAR

The expectant father, far from admitting that he would have less time for entomology, recounted how Mozart wrote a quartet whilst his wife was giving birth. Thus there was great expectation that birth would be given to at least a new Royal Entomological Society key - and in keeping with the occasion, written in rhyming couplets. Alas, no!

In view of the father's strong interest in cricket, there was a chance that the child would be named after the full English team. However, perchance it was a daughter. Thus speculation increased that the next candidate was the complete checklist of Chamaemyia - can you imagine aridella sylvatica McLean. And think ahead to a six year old at the daily roll call at school, standing up to say 'please teacher, under the plenary powers of the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature my Daddy says my sixth name has been changed to nigropunctata.'

Thoughts are already being given to the process of education. Recommendations will be pouring in. Suggested nursery stories include Little Boo Peep has lost her Pooter, graduating to Alice through the Microscope and the tale about Little Red Riding Hood and the Asilid. By the age of three, Colyer and Hammond should be a dawdle.

STOP PRESS. The names are to be Ailsa Heather Catriona - these are obviously the long awaited additions to the British list of Leucopis.

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Central Panel of Diptera
Recording Scheme Organisers