

T. J. J. J.

20 SEP 1976 September 1976

Diptera Recording Schemes Bulletin No. 2

The purpose of this Bulletin is to give details of events in the autumn.

INSTRUCTION FIELD MEETING IN ASHDOWN FOREST, SUSSEX

Bulletin No. 1 gave advance notice of an autumn field meeting in early October. We regret this late following announcement caused by the collapse of initial accommodation arrangements.

The meeting is based on the Sussex University biology laboratory at Isle of Thorns, Chelwood Gate, from 12 am on Thursday 7th October to Sunday 10th October. You are welcome to come for all or part of this period. Accommodation is extremely difficult in this area, but hotels at Ardingley and Ashurstwood (within 4 to 5 miles of Isle of Thorns) are prepared to offer us rates of £3.50 B & B per night in twin-bedded rooms. A party of 20 can be fitted in. There are plenty of alternative eating places for the evenings (the hotels charge £1.50).

The time of year is most suited to Nematocera and it is hoped that the exceptional weather will permit the usual good number of Tipulidae and Mycetophilidae. However, even if your favourite group of flies is not on the wing, you should enjoy the countryside in this area. Ashdown Forest is a large tract of heath, bogs and woods with streams and ponds. The surrounding area also has plenty of good habitat.

Whilst it is hoped that some worthwhile collecting will be achieved, this meeting will have a strong emphasis towards instruction since we cannot guarantee good weather or abundant flies. A programme of lectures will particularly relate to the more popular recording schemes and will have a particular emphasis on hoverflies over the weekend when most people are present.

Bookings (enclosing £1 deposit) and enquiries should be made through A E Stubbs (address at end of bulletin). There should be sufficient cars to give lifts to those without transport within the area. Please bring your own microscope and lamp if possible. This is the occasion to bring some boxes of specimens to sort out or check.

ANNUAL MEETING OF RECORDERS

As announced in Bulletin No. 1, the annual meeting is arranged on Saturday 13 November at the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington. We hope as many of you as possible will come, both beginners and specialists, since this is as much as anything a social occasion to meet people with common interests.

The programme is as follows, the morning session being in the lecture theatre (ask for directions at the Museum front door) and the afternoon session is in the Conversazione Room.

- 11 - 11.20 am Introduction
- 11.20 - 12 am "The present state of the study of Diptera" - K G V Smith.
- 12 am - 12.40 pm Lecture, title to be announced.

LUNCH (you may join groups going to local pubs or the Victoria and Albert Museum cafeteria.)

- 2 - 2.30 pm View of Exhibits
- 2.30 - 4 pm Open discussion on recording schemes, led by members of the Central Panel.
- 4 - 5 pm Identification consultancy

(5.45 pm

Dipterists' Dinner)

The Diptera Section of the British Museum will be open to view during part of the afternoon. The identification consultancy is offered since many of you will only have rare chances of getting an opinion on baffling specimens. If you are still finding your feet with diptera and have rather a lot of specimens to be checked over, by all means bring them along, since there will be plenty of people around to help out on the common species.

You are invited to bring exhibits. These may be interpretative and on any aspect of the study of diptera. Also, many people will welcome the chance of seeing rare and interesting species - these tend to clog up keys and create terrible hurdles when one has no idea what they look like. How about letting us see some of those goodies from the field meetings or your local area.

It is hoped to show a few slides of some of the collecting spots we found during the summer field meeting - please bring some slides along for the 11 am session if you have any.

ANNUAL DIPTERISTS' DINNER

The first event of this sort last year was very well received. We hope even more of you will be able to join in the buffet social this year. It is open to all members of the recording schemes but is a totally separate venture from our own meeting earlier in the day. It is organised by A.C.Pont (Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW 7) who will circulate everyone who received his invitation last year. If you do not get a circular, or suspect you were not on his list last year, he will be very happy for you to write to him.

The cost is £4 and the event will begin at 5.45 pm on 13th November (following the annual meeting of recorders, in the Conversazione Room).

SOCIETY EXHIBITIONS

P J Chandler and A E Stubbs will be at the Amateur Entomologists Society Exhibition on Saturday 2nd October (held at University College School, Frognal, Hampstead, London NW3, 12.30 to 4.30 pm) and at the British Entomological and Natural History Society Exhibition on Saturday 30th October (Old Chelsea Town Hall, 12 to 4.30 pm). Please make yourself known to us if you are attending these functions - both open to non-members of the Societies.

The Central Panel
of Diptera Recording Scheme Organisers

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