

DIPTERA



RECORDING SCHEMES BULLETIN NO 35, MARCH 1993

DO YOU READ THIS BULLETIN?

Our address list stands at over 400 names. It is gratifying to know that so many people are interested in flies and the popularity of the bulletin and the associated scheme newsletters is testimony to the effort of Alan Stubbs, the elder statesman of Dipterologists. However, we have to operate in the prosaic world of money, and we are concerned at the ever-rising cost of producing and mailing this bulletin and the newsletters. The enclosed letter gives your current details on the mailing list.

Please reply to Stuart Ball

IF YOU STILL WISH TO RECEIVE THE BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTERS.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Autumn Meeting - South Lake District, 7 - 11 October 1992

Six of us attended this meeting based at Bowness where the regional office of English Nature provided hospitality and facilities. We visited about forty sites in twenty 10 km squares, and recorded 50 species of crane flies and collected more than 134 species of fungus gnat (even though Peter Chandler, who identified them, was not present). The only major surprise was *Tipula limbata* which has not been recorded in any of the autumn meetings before. Other uncommon crane flies were *Erioptera diuturna* which was widespread on flushes, *Ormosia haemorrhoidalis*, *Pedicia straminea*, *P. occulta* and the tiny *Molophilus pusillus*. The lauxanid with the long finger nail, *Aulogastromyia anisodactyla*, cropped up a couple of times and larvae of the stratiomyid *Oxycera pygmaea* were found in two limestone trickles. The deer fly *Lipoptena cervi* was particularly frequent. Alan Stubbs recorded the winter gnat *Trichocera japonica* that has not been formally added to the British list and which may turn out to be widespread.

Hoverfly Workshop 5 - 7 March 1993, Preston Montford Field Centre

The Hoverfly Recording Scheme held a weekend workshop in early March, based at Preston Montford Field Centre, Shrewsbury. The event was jointly run by the recording scheme organisers, Roger Morris (who took the burden of workshop organiser) and Dr Stewart Ball, together with Dr Graham Rotheray (hoverfly larvae) and Alan Stubbs. We had thirty resident and nine non-resident participants. The accommodation was excellent with a large lab, another work room/bar, and all mod con twin bedrooms.

We ran parallel beginners and advanced courses. People in the latter group tested new keys to *Platycheirus*, *Sphaerophoria* and female *Neocnemodon*, together with other handouts. Alan Stubbs brought his reference collection and dealt with problem specimens. There was an illustrated talk on hoverfly larvae and the option of an outing to become familiar with the techniques of finding them. There were also optional sessions on the hoverfly computer database and photography.

Brigitte Peterek gave a short talk on a PhD study she has just started at the University of Central Lancashire (Preston), investigating hoverfly mimicry and ecology.

The workshop proved sufficiently successful that there was enthusiasm for similar courses on flies to be arranged in the future. Hence, about the same time next year we hope to arrange a workshop with parallel options of an introduction to the families of flies and a more specific course on a chosen family. Any encouragement and requests to Roger Morris please who needs to know if there will be support. See also the next item.

FORTHCOMING INDOOR MEETING

Introduction to the study of flies - 8 May 1993, 10.30-16.30, Reading

The British Entomological & Natural History Society now has a purpose built headquarters at The Pelham-Clinton Building at Dinton Pastures Country Park, Reading. To make wider use of the facilities, a series of workshops has been arranged for members and visitors, particularly to help and encourage beginners and new members taking up the study of a group of invertebrates. Leading specialists in the group concerned will talk about and demonstrate fieldcraft, curation and identification techniques. The events will be informal with the emphasis upon practical demonstrations and plenty of opportunity to try out the methods and ask questions. If you have problem specimens that defy identification, by all means bring them along to challenge the experts! The library and collections of the society will be available to study during the workshops. If you have your own microscope and illumination source you may like to bring them along because the numbers of these at Dinton Pastures are limited. There will be the opportunity for fieldwork within the park.

The first of these workshops is an *Introduction to the study of flies*, run by Alan Stubbs, Peter Chandler and Ian McLean. Ian (Indoor Meetings Secretary of BENHS) can supply further details: 109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8TZ.

The Pelham-Clinton Building, Dinton Pastures Country Park, Davis Street, Hurst Reading RG10 0GH, grid reference SU 784 718, turn left off the B3030 driving north from Winnersh.

FORTHCOMING FIELD MEETINGS

Spring Field Meeting - Whiteford Burrows, Gower Peninsula, 23 - 26 April 1993

As advertised in the last bulletin. This 4-day-long weekend meeting is a joint venture between BWARS and the Diptera Recording Scheme group. The accommodation is being provided free by CCW and NT on the understanding that we will concentrate our efforts on the parts of the Gower that are of interest to CCW, and make suggestions on management and conservation policies. This will include surveying the superb limestone cliffs of the South Gower Coast SSSI, dune systems, saltmarshes and woods such as Nicholaston.

For more information, contact **Steve Falk**, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry CV1 5RW.

Abinger Rough, Surrey, 12 June 1993

A combined meeting of the BENHS and the Diptera study groups. Abinger Rough is a small area of south-facing downland and woodland belonging to the National Trust. It is intended to visit other nearby sites during the day (wellies required for one). Meet at 11.00 am, National Trust car park at TQ109478. Turn north from the A25 at the crossroads by Crossways Farm, following signposts to Effingham (White Down Road). Car park is 500 yards on the left.

Contact John Dobson, 048 641 3221 (daytime) or 0483 424660 (evenings and weekends).

Weekend Field Meeting, South Cumbria, 25-27 June 1993

This joint meeting between the British Entomological and Natural History Society and the Coleopterists will be held at Castle Head Field Centre near Grange Over Sands. The cost will be £58.00 covering three nights in single/shared accommodation, meals and packed lunch, and a lab. Anyone interested in this meeting should book a place with **Roger Morris**, enclosing a non-returnable deposit of £10.00 (NOT at JNCC, but at his home address: 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB).

East Norfolk, 4 - 11 July 1993

As previously advertised, the next summer meeting will be based near Norwich. We have already interested the Hymenopterists in joining us and we welcome any other non-dipterists.

The main attractions are The Broads, pingos and other famous fens but the coast also offers us a range of habitats such as brackish grazing marsh, saltmarsh, dunes and the best soft cliffs in East Anglia. For those prepared to go a little further, the Breck is within reach.

The centre that has been booked is a few miles north of Norwich. It can sleep 36 people. More than twenty people have booked so far and the few single and double rooms have been allocated. Many people have also expressed an interest in the generous offer by the Centre to put up some of the party in B&B. As this was too popular, I'm afraid that the remaining places will have to be in the Centre's accommodation. The total cost from Sunday (note) to Sunday will be £118. There is a booking form at the end of the Bulletin. Please send a £10 deposit with your booking, payable to the Horstead Centre, to **Martin Drake**.

Autumn Field Meeting, provisionally 13-17 October

Details of this long-weekend meeting will be announced in the next bulletin.

Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group (GIG)

Keith Alexander and Dave Clements are in the process of organising a series of weekend field meetings for 1993. Anyone interested in receiving notice of these should contact either Keith (The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1QW) or Dave (see conopid scheme for address).

DIARY DATES

Annual Meeting of the Diptera Recording Schemes, and Supper, 6 November 1993

Apologies for not being able to avoid Guy Fawkes weekend again. David Henshaw (address under III International Congress item) is organising the Supper (Many thanks for the excellent one last year!). More details in the next Bulletin.

British Entomological and Natural History Society Exhibition, 30 October 1993.

Amateur Entomologists Society Annual Exhibition, 9 October 1993.

Summer Field Meeting, 1994, Preston Montford.

Roger Morris will lead this meeting which he has provisionally booked with the Field Studies Council centre at Preston Montford Field Centre for the end of May-early June. One of the attractions of this early meeting will be hunting for *Chalcosyrphus eunotus*. Those who attended the workshop here in March felt this would be an excellent venue. Because the FSC require a hefty early deposit, Roger will be requesting, in the next bulletin, that your deposits reach him before Christmas '93.

Third International Congress of Dipterology, 15-19 August 1994

As reported in the last Bulletin, for details contact either David Henshaw (34 Rounton Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3AR) or Dr Steve Marshall (Dept. Environmental Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1).

NEWS FROM THE SCHEMES AND RECORDING GROUPS

Conopid Recording Scheme

Professional and domestic pressures have meant that activity on the Conopid Scheme has been somewhat limited over the last year, although records have continued to come in at a steady pace. The enhanced recognition of *Myopa extricata* (see last Newsletter) has resulted in a scatter of new records, indicating that it is quite a widespread species in the southern half of Britain, and not as rare as was previously thought. Other recent records of interest include the discovery of *Sicus abdominalis* in Surrey by Roger Morris and several Oxfordshire specimens of *Leopoldius brevisrostris* taken by Keith Porter. Meanwhile, Steve Crellin has continued to find *Zodion notatum* on the Isle of Man.

Numerous specimens have been forthcoming for identification, including some valuable series of *Myopa*, which I have been very pleased to see. For all those of you who are eagerly awaiting correspondence or return of specimens, please accept my apologies. A springtime purge is promised!

Dave Clements, 1 Quarry Close, Statton, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2JN.

Cranefly Recording Scheme

A BRC Provisional Atlas to *Ptychoptera*, including keys to the adults, is in the final stages of editing before going to press. The Long-palped Cranefly Atlas has been published.

A revised checklist to British species is nearly finalised. Resolution of some species complexes has now been largely completed, and this has entailed upgrading a number of named varieties to species rank and definition of a number of apparently undescribed species. The *Dicranomyia mitis* complex includes five full species and the '*Limnophila*' *nemoralis* complex comprises three or possibly four species.

It is hoped to launch a newsletter before the main field season gets under way.

Empididae and Dolichopodidae Study Group

Contributions to the next issue of the Empid & Doli Newsheet will be welcomed by Roy Crossley (1 The Cloisters, Wilberfoss, York YO4 5RF), before the end of July.

Fungus Gnat Recording Scheme

Following on from the Report in the January 1992 Bulletin, the accounts of additions to Part 1 of the Handbook (*Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 5: 107-126) and of the genera *Phronia* and *Trichonta* (*Ent. mon. Mag.* 128: 237-254), have now been published. A species previously confused with *Mycetophila fungorum* will be described in a paper on the *fungorum* Group to be published in February (*Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.*). The remaining known additions are being dealt with progressively; a paper on four *Anatella* species has been submitted and one on five *Rymosia* species is nearly ready.

While 1992 provided new records of a number of scarce species, no further addition to the British list have come to notice and the overall total has been revised to 522.

Draft manuscript keys to British species of *Phronia* and *Trichonta*, including copies of genitalia figures from

the literature, are now available in addition to those of *Mycetophila* and the genera of Mycetophilinae previously compiled. Address: Weston Research Laboratories Ltd, Vanwell Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4UF.

Peter Chandler

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

At Dipterist Day in November, we were pleased to report that some 133,000 records 2343 computerised. Since then, great efforts have been made to get the flood of new RA33 data onto the computer and to start the mammoth task of entering Gen 7 records. As a result, the dataset now stands at around 150,000 records on computer with the scheme organisers.

In addition to data entry, we undertook the organisation of a workshop on hoverflies at Preston Montford in March. Eventually, interest in this meeting proved to be remarkably high with total of twenty five participants booked for the residential meeting and interest expressed by four or five others to attend as day visitors (see Meetings Reports above).

The recording season will shortly be upon us, so perhaps everyone would bear in mind that we are very keen to receive all records, even if they are of common species. The data will eventually be used for looking at flight periods as well as distribution and any other analyses that might further the study of hoverflies. Also, if you visit far-flung parts of the country, do record what you see, south & west Scotland, north-west England, central Wales and Lincolnshire are all seriously under-recorded.

Alan Stubbs has found a *Platycheirus* that is apparently new to Britain, caught during the Skye field meeting in 1991.

Roger Morris & Stuart Ball

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Progress with the larger Brachycera book is reported under 'News and requests'. A newsletter is on its way.

Tephritid Study Group

Laurence Clemons is preparing a preliminary atlas. The call-in date is the end of March 1993 so you still have a few days to get your information to him. He has no plans for a newsletter in the near future because no-one has sent any articles (hint). There are no back issues of the first five newsletters (except No. 4, and Martin Drake has a few of these), but virtually all the information in them is contained in Ian White's RES Handbook, which post-dates the last Newsletter. If you are interested in the group, write to Stuart Ball who will put your name on the mailing list for any future newsletters.

Laurence Clemons: 14 St John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

DIPTERIST DIGEST

Phil Withers has completed editing the edition on immature stages and this will be available very shortly. The next issue, Graham Rotheray's Colour Guide to Hoverfly Larvae, will be ready by about May. A special issue detailing the Diptera of Rum (Rhum), South Uist and adjacent Outer Hebrides islands is also nearing completion.

Prices are not yet available but all current subscribers of Dipterist Digest will receive a flyer, by post, with further details. Non-subscribers should write after the end of March to **Derek Whiteley**, 17 Rustlings Road, Sheffield S11 7AA. Send all copy for any future issue to **Graham Rotheray** (editor), Royal Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JE.

PUBLICATIONS

Dorset Hoverflies by D A Levy, E T Levy & W F Dean (1992), published by A D & E T Levy. County atlases for dragonflies and butterflies are commonplace but, for flies, any county atlas is a big leap forward. The rich hoverfly fauna of Dorset (202 species) has been recorded by the authors for eight years up to 1991, supplemented by museum, literature and other records. Each species is mapped on a tetrad scale and notes of the more interesting records are summarised. There are also accounts of the most productive localities and the rarest species, and a short history of early collecting in the county. Price £3.95 plus postage & packing, from Richard Surrey, Dorset Environmental Records Centre, Colliton House Annexe, Glyde Path Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ.

Tachinidae. Robert Belshaw's book in the RES Handbooks series is likely to be available in about three months time.

NEWS AND REQUESTS

Western Isles Issue of Dipterists Digest

Readers may be aware that I have been asked to edit a special issue of the Dipterist Digest which will be devoted to the Western Isles of Scotland. Having now prepared the basic list from published sources and material to hand, I am now in a position to receive records from others wishing to contribute. Currently, there are about 1200 species on the list, comprising some 12,000 records. The ideal, of course, is for you to publish your own work then send me a copy to include in the references, but all records will be gratefully received and, of course, fully acknowledged. The rawest data in the form of photocopied pages of scrawl from field note books will be quite as acceptable as the "coffee-table glossy", and, strange as it may sound, I am particularly interested in the commoner species ("which are they, in fact?"). The islands concerned in this issue are from Islay to the St Kilda and Rona groups. The Orkneys, Fair Isle and Shetlands are **not** to be included.

Peter Skidmore, 169 Carr House Road, Doncaster, S Yorks DN4 5DP

Drosophilidae.

Paul Beuk and Brian Pitkin are close to completing a book on British Drosophilidae which will be published by the Royal Entomological Society in its Handbook series. In order to boost the information on distribution and habitats, they would welcome any existing data you have for inclusion in the Handbook, but don't delay because it is hoped to have the book published this year. This will form the beginning of a recording scheme which obviously will get under way more seriously when the book becomes available. BRC has agreed to produce maps from data vetted and processed by Brian so its involvement is minimal. Contact Brian Pitkin at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD).

Chironomidae

Patrick Roper, who some of you may have met at the autumn meeting at the Natural History Museum, is keen to start a study group for the Chironomidae and has asked anyone interested to get in touch. He will give more detail in a future edition of this newsletter when he has had time to evaluate the response (unlikely, he supposes, to be overwhelming) and draw up a broad plan for the study group. His address is South View, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0PE. Tel: (0424) 870208.

Introduction to Diptera Workshop

You will see above that Alan Stubbs, Peter Chandler and Ian McLean are holding an "Introduction to Diptera"

workshop, following hot on the heels of the successful Hoverfly Workshop. We feel that there is room for yet another workshop for well established hoverfly and larger Brachycera collectors who need cajoling into tackling some of the other families that are covered by recording schemes. If you have any views on this idea, could you contact Martin Drake, Roger Morris or Stuart Ball (addresses at end of bulletin).

The DOTY Award

It must be either the long summer days or long winter nights that makes life more than a wee bit different in Scotland. Ken Watt, organiser of the hoverfly recording scheme in those parts, has instituted a means of thanking those who make a major contribution to Scottish dipterology the DOTY Award. It was presented to Graham Rotheray at the Malloch Society annual dinner. Well done Graham. No doubt the large circumference Marris House net embroidered with *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* will make an excellent wall hanging to impress your museum director. This year's winner has to nominate next year's winner.

Report of the Select Committee on Systematic Biology Research

The deep concern over the decline in taxonomy in universities, institutes and museums has at long last been receiving attention in Parliament. The following notes are based on the December edition of the Newsletter of the Friends of the Natural History Museum, which refers to the House of Lords debate on the report on 9 July 1992. Lord Dainton, chairman of the Select Committee, stressed the importance of systematics and suggested a boost of £1 million per year in research in systematic biology over the next five years.

He appealed to the Government to maintain core funding in real terms for the NHM (and Kew Gardens). He urged the Department of National Heritage to provide £0.5 million per year to assist collections with research potential but which have no existing grant aid. Research Councils should fund MSc courses. DNH requires improved access to scientific advice over funding. The World Bank's Environmental Facility should, with scientific advice, be a source of funds for biodiversity projects, as at the NHM. The Natural Environment Research Council is to make £2.2 million available over five years for taxonomic fellowships and the Wellcome Trust has also promised generous support for such fellowships.

In this post-Rio era, the Government's written reply to the report is awaited.

Larger Brachycera Book: Progress Report.

It is a relief to report that the major stumbling block, how to do the colour plates, has been resolved. The layout for 17 photographic plates was taken to David Wilson (a BENHS member well known for moth plates) in mid January, with financial assistance from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee towards his costs. The trial runs gave excellent results so there is confidence that the final results will be very acceptable.

Nearly all the species recorded this century are included, often both sexes and in some cases varieties as well. The specimens are mainly from Alan Stubbs's collection but the almost complete coverage of high quality material has been possible only through the willing loan of specimens from the Natural History Museum and the Hope Department (Oxford) and from the personal collections of John Cole, Ivan Perry, Steven Falk, Ian Mclean and Peter Chandler, the latter also being instrumental in loans from the BENHS collections.

The museum collections in themselves are an amalgamation of the collections of earlier generations of dipterists. This fact underlines the frequent calls in this Bulletin for current generations of dipterists to ensure that their collections pass to properly curated museums when their entomological activities cease, preferably under the terms of a will. Even with access to major national collections, it has to be said that top quality material of many species, not necessarily uncommon ones, is surprisingly sparse and that scarcer species are often poorly represented. Your support and help for these and other national, provincial and other permanently curated collections and, indeed, that BENHS collection is very important.

The book will be published by the British Entomological and Natural History Society on similar lines to '*British Hoverflies*'. We are open to ideas for a title (can you improve on '*British Robberflies and their allies*') and, if there is an option on a frontis photo, we shall be looking for a slide such as a close-up of colourful tabanid eyes or an action shot. Provisionally, we expect the book to be ready to go to press next winter, to be available for the field season of 1994. Timing of publication may be affected by another Society publication but a clash is probably avoidable. A further account is given in the Larger Brachycera Newsletter.

Alan Stubbs

Current national distribution of the Goat Moth *Cossus cossus* - appeal for recent records.

An Atlas of the rarer British macro-moths is currently in preparation for publication by JNCC in 1993. The Atlas will include all the species of recent macro-moths recorded from 1980 onwards from less than one hundred of the 10km squares nationally. The Goat Moth is one of the species involved.

Aware that a whole suite of invertebrates is associated with the burrows and sap runs produced by *Cossus*, the national network of moth recorders would like to bring the recording project to the attention of entomologists working on other orders and to appeal for any records of *Cossus*. The scheme concentrates on records from 1980 onwards but because colonies of *Cossus* are often long-lived, earlier records are also of interest. If required, site details can be stored confidentially on the JNCC Invertebrate Site Register and used only for mapping to the nearest 10 km square.

It would be appreciated if the following details could be supplied: recorder, determiner, site name and whether SSSI or nature reserve, county, 6-fig grid reference, date, approximate number of larvae or adults seen or a description of workings, species of tree infected and its size, and other information about the find, the behaviour of the insect and how long you have known the colony.

Similarly, any records of Clearwing moths (Sesiidae), which are also found using the methods employed by dipterists - sweeping, Malaise traps and searching blossoms, would also be welcome. Please send your records to Paul Waring (Co-ordinator of the National Network for the Recording and Conservation of the Rarer British Macro-moths), 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6LS.

Paul Waring

Techniques for making slide mounts

A number of publications illustrate wings using photographs. These frequently show more detail than line drawings, so here is some advice on how to prepare wings to a standard good enough to photograph. The notes given here concern mounting wings on slides but the procedure is similar for antennae, legs, genitalia and other parts.

My primary interest is microscopy, with flies as my main subjects. I obtain my material using water traps with an inverted plastic bottle to maintain the water level in hot weather and chloral hydrate as a preservative. Samples are bulk stored in iso propyl alcohol.

Cutting off wings. Grip the wing close to the thorax with a pair of finely honed forceps and use a razor to slice the wing off. Use either manufactured scalpel blades or a small piece of razor slotted into a square wooden handle (round handles roll onto the floor!).

Preparing the wings. Place them in a mixture of xylene and iso propyl alcohol. For all but the largest wings, suitable containers are inverted plastic stoppers from 1" tubes or snap-on caps, kept in a petri dish or equivalent container to reduce evaporation. Because metal forceps can easily damage wings, two home-made tools may be useful, made out of slivers of good quality elastic rubber slotted into square wooden handles. The 'finder' is a thin triangular-section piece tapered to a point and inserted at an angle of about 30°. The 'floater' is a thin-edged spade about 10x20 mm whose edge is as thin as possible. It is used for moving wings from place to place by teasing it under the submerged specimen.

If the wing is more than 5 mm long, it may need to be flattened. Do this by placing it between two pieces of glass (cover slips will do) held temporarily with a bull-dog clip while they are bound together with cotton. Put this in xylene for 2-3 days; the cotton will shrink and flatten any corrugations in the wing.

Mounting. The best mountants are thick solutions of Numount or balsam dissolved in xylene, and it is applied most easily using a glass rod. Cover slips are best handled using paddle-shaped forceps. The procedure is:

- 1 Float the wing in xylene.
- 2 Put some mountant on a glass slide.
- 3 Use the finder to get the wing onto the floater, touch the underside of the floater on blotting paper to remove excess liquid.
- 4 Use the finder to slowly tease the wing off the floater into the mountant, keeping it at a low angle. If bubbles do get trapped, dab the wing with the finder and push the bubbles into the surrounding medium. The mountant can be thinned by dipping the finder in xylene but do not apply so much that the wing floats away from the centre.
- 5 Pick up the cover slip with the paddle-shaped forceps and slowly lower it by one edge over the wing. This should avoid any bubbles but any that form may be dispersed to the edge of the cover-slip by gently pressing on it.

After-treatment. Bake for 24 h at 70°C, then carefully scrape off any excess mountant and seal the edges with acrylic paint (water-based) or black ring cement. Do not use alcohol-based solvents such as Gentian violet in shellac because the purple stain creeps into the mountant. Label the slide.

Cover-slips. An economical source is to break up large cover-slips (22 x 50 mm slips are marginally cheaper than 10 mm diameter ones!). Long thin slips can thus be made for long thin wings. You will need a diamond scribe to score lines of weakness, otherwise the glass breaks unpredictably.

Staining. Faint venation can be shown up easily by staining:

- 1 Put the wing between two pieces of glass with a small piece of paper as a spacer (write the specimen number on this, too). Bind with just one turn of cotton. This protects it and stops it curling up.
- 2 Place in a small container with a weak solution of 'Fast Green' in acetic acid. Monitor for several days and strengthen the stain if necessary. Acetic acid makes the wings fragile.
- 3 Transfer the bound wing to iso propyl alcohol for a while.
- 4 Take it out of the alcohol and dab off excess liquid, then place the whole in xylene in a plastic cap for a few minutes. Cut the cotton to allow the wing to float free.
- 5 Continue the mounting procedure as above.

WARNING. Xylene is smelly and not good for your health. DO NOT inhale the fumes, handle carefully and use in a well ventilated room, using minimal quantities in any open containers. Xylene and propyl alcohol are flammable.

Suppliers: Northern Biological Suppliers, 3 Betts Avenue, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 7HR.
tel: 0473 623995.

Cecil Monk

Errata

We apologise for ascribing the Kenfig Burrows meeting held last summer to the wrong organiser - it was, in fact, organised by John Deeming on behalf of the National Museums of Wales, as part of the museum's long-term study of several Welsh sites. Also, the new therevid, *Thereva cinifera*, was found at Merthyr Mawr, not Kenfig.

And Now The Way to Success

Have you ever stopped to think what fly fauna there may be on 222,000 miles of an uncollected habitat in Britain? I bet that you've just shot along, in too much of a hurry to get to some idyllic meadow or wood.

Let's face it, who has records for the fast lane of the M1? For starters, it is definitely illegal to collect - with or without the Wildlife & Countryside Act. The A1 is a wee bit different, but not a lot.

In Holland, things are done in continental style, Admittedly there is precious little wild habitat left but a Dutch Entomological Society field meeting seems to have finished up sweeping along the middle of a road. One has visions of Dutch dipterists sweeping line abreast, clogging up the road, with a convoy of irate motorists and earnest blue-flashing lights following up at the rear. Now we can see why Paul Beuk keeps escaping to Britain. However, by this means he came up with a number of flies new to The Netherlands (Ent. Ber. Amst. 52: 105-109)!

Admittedly Verrall tried looking at roads, producing the only English record of *Platycheirus melanopsis*. But make sure that you eat this Bulletin before the Department of Environment sees it. Oh, what glorious 'Green' justification for creating prime habitat for flies. A. A. Allen will not be amused, He has just published a magnificent list of goodies from Oxleas Wood (Ent Rec., 104: 265-271, 297-302), an excellent response in the midst of the infamous highway battle between the European Commission and DOE. At best we will concede that a two metre wide gravel road in Holland or the Lake District 'may' attract interesting flies.

And, if Paul wants to know what may be obtained from British roads, we shall be very pleased if he comes with a bucket and sponge to clean up the windscreens and grills of our cars at the next field meeting.

Alan Stubbs

Central Panel of Diptera Recording Schemes

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