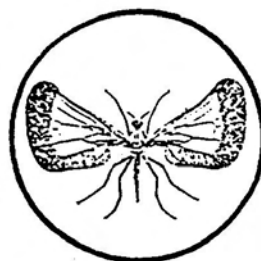


DIPTERA



RECORDING SCHEMES BULLETIN NO 38, AUGUST 1994

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES - SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 1994, THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON.

Programme

Chairman for morning session - Anthony Bainbridge.

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| 11.00 | Andy Godfrey | Flies in tussocks. |
| 11.20 | Steve Falk | Dung fly, blow fly and flesh fly faunas in Warwickshire. |
| 11.40 | Darwyn Sumner & Lance Gorman | Hoverfly recording in NW England. |
| 12.10 | Roy Crossley | Empidoidea in site quality assessment. |
| 12.30 | Alan Maibach | Saproxylous hoverflies in the New Forest. |
| 1.00 | Lunch - bring your own or forage in local pubs and restaurants. | |
| 2.00 | Informal exhibits session.
Mounting techniques by Andy Godfrey. | |
| 3.00 | Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Dipterists' Forum (lasting c. 20 min). | |
| 3.50 | Logo competition. | |
| 4.00 | Identification of <i>Playtcheirus</i> made easy, Steve Falk and Alan Stubbs | |
| 5.30 | End of afternoon session. | |

Resumé. Not all flies like to fly - Andy Godfrey's talk will demonstrate what most of us miss just swinging a net when the sun shines, and that coleopterists do not have a monopoly on grubbing. Steve Falk will have moved on from hoverflies and is now expounding the cause for calyptrate groups. He will introduce their biology and usefulness in assessing the worth of sites. Hoverflies cannot be left out so we have the regional recorders for NW England to describe the distributions patterns and rare species that have emerged from many years recording. This presentation will be followed up in the afternoon with a hands-on demonstration of their database. Roy Crossley will show that a more disciplined approach to evaluating the results of a day's catch can lead to a better assessment of the conservation value of sites, using the results from Yorkshire woodlands for the families for which he and Anthony Bainbridge run their study group. Finally, we are very pleased to invite Alan Maibach from Switzerland to discuss his results of a study he is undertaking this year investigating the exact microhabitat requirements of dead wood hoverflies in the New Forest, and comparing these with what is known on the continent.

The afternoon is devoted mainly to informal exhibits and discussion, and two demonstrations. This year's meeting marks a new phase for the dipterists as we put our group on a formal footing with the inaugural AGM. This is a unique occasion. Your participation is critical at this stage in helping to mould the Forum into a society that can best fulfil your needs.

We welcome new dipterists and this is your chance to get names checked, exchange material and just chat to people who don't think you're nuts. The afternoon is usually too short, so discussion continues over supper (see below). Do please bring along your exhibits and displays.

Procedure for the day

The annual meeting will be held at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London. South Kensington is the nearest tube station. Parking is still not available in the museum grounds. You can park by Imperial College, north of the museum, at a price, with the advantage over meters that you pay the attendant

for parking for the whole day.

We are holding the whole day's proceedings in the Palaeontology Room. We are hiring the room and will charge you £3.00 to cover the cost. This is £1.50 less than the entrance fee (£4.50) which you will not be charged. To avoid having to persuade the reception staff that you are attending the dipterists' meeting so do not have to pay, you will have to identify yourselves by showing them this bulletin (or a photocopy of the front page). **Don't forget to bring it!**

The museum bookshop has kindly continued to offer a 10% discount to us.

Logo Competition

We need a logo for the Dipterists' Forum. Bring your suggestions along on (or post if you are not attending) and we will hold a competition for the most appropriate entry.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Dipterists' Forum will be held at 3.00 pm on Saturday 12 November 1994 at the Natural History Museum, London.

Agenda

- 1 Opening remarks.
- 2 Report of the Interim Committee.
- 3 Adoption of the draft constitution.
- 4 Questions to the Interim Committee.
- 5 Election of officers. Nomination have been sought for the following posts:

Chairman	Roy Crossley
Treasurer	vacant
Secretary	Alan Stubbs
Subscriptions & membership secretary	Mike & Liz Howe
Central panel co-ordinator	Martin Drake
Field meetings secretary	vacant
Indoor meetings secretary	vacant
Publicity officer	Patrick Roper
Ordinary members	Stuart Ball
	Steve Falk
	Roger Morris
	Chris Spilling
	two vacant posts

Unelected members:

BENHS representative	Peter Chandler
Dipterists Digest editor	Graham Rotheray

The newly elected Governing Committee will fill vacant posts by co-option later.

DIPTERISTS' SUPPER, SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 1994

The Dipterist's Supper will be held after the annual meeting at the Rooms of the Royal Entomological Society, 41 Queen's Gate, at the west side of the Natural History Museum; 6.30 for 7.00 start. You will be able to get into the RES Rooms at 6.00. To give me increased confidence that the event will be a sell-out, I would like to know well in advance who intends to attend. The cost will be £13.50, a small increase on last year's price which is offset by the lower cost of the annual meeting (see above). I will gladly accept you cheque; enclose a SAE for your ticket.

David Henshaw, 34 Rounton Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3AR.

DIPTERISTS' FORUM: REPORT OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

An interim committee comprising Stuart Ball, Martin Drake and Alan Stubbs has been acting on behalf of the Central Panel of Diptera Recording Scheme Organisers. A consultation document, approved by the Central Panel, has been the framework on which we have been operating in recent months.

Our priority has been to look into all aspects of administration, including costs, services and constitution.

The British Entomological and Natural History Society has now agreed to accept us as an affiliated body. We still need to set ourselves up as a self-running body and the arrangement will be for an initial 3 years whilst implications for BENHS are negotiated with the Charities Commission. This affiliation is seen as of mutual benefit, and for one thing brings together rather than fragments entomology. The Society is very much field-orientated, with a membership which shares much of our outlook (indeed 70 of our members are already BENHS members). The Society holds extensive collections and library in a custom-built building at Dinton Pastures Country Park, near Reading, which is suitable for day workshops. They have agreed to financial underpinning if we should need it, which amounts to bridging loans and underwriting of costs (within a fixed ceiling) which is very reassuring when starting with no reserves in the bank. As a Forum we bring to BENHS our 21 years experience of running recording schemes and organising field and other meetings. Already our Forum concept is catching on as a catalyst within the Society and at least one other recording scheme is sizing up whether to follow the dipterists lead. Subscription to the Forum will pay for the services the Forum provides to its members: those also belonging to BENHS will get the full entitlement of that society, including its journal and right to borrow from the library (we have felt it would be self defeating to require all dipterists to accept the expense of having to subscribe to BENHS, at £12, but it would further cement the relationship if more dipterists join that society rather than retreat from it).

Dipterists Digest will come within the Forum as from 1995. Derek Whiteley deserves an enormous round of applause for launching this journal, and for bearing the burden of keeping it going during difficult times. He is handing it over to the Forum without assets, without financial liabilities. He will continue to act as Productions Editor for a year or two whilst the Forum settles down, with Graham Rotheray now getting fully into the driving seat as Editor.

The future of the Bulletin and Newsletters, and the financial equations involved, has been high on the agenda. In future we cannot expect freebies from the conservation agencies, and BRC has signalled that it faces continued difficulties with reproducing and circulating the number of newsletters required within assured time scales. Hence the bold solution is for the Forum to undertake all reproduction and enveloping, with BRC picking up the mailing cost. BRC have also agreed to reproduce, envelope and mail one newsletter per scheme to people who are not Forum subscribers, on a time-scale dictated by availability of staff resources. Non-members will not get the Bulletin nor alternate issues of the twice-yearly hoverfly and empid & doli newsletters. BRC will handle requests for newsletters from foreign dipterists who are not Forum subscribers. Subscriptions may therefore be a little higher than otherwise but the benefit is the provision of a more reliable service.

Vitally important, we have a membership and subscriptions secretary, Liz Howe, with the help of husband Mike. She will maintain computer listings, with the facility to run off address labels when a big circulation is coming up. Her task is a little bigger than perhaps she first bargained for since we are going for single point subscriptions for both the Forum and Dipterist Digest.

It was perhaps too much to hope for that we could simply adapt BENHS by-laws. Hence a constitution has been prepared, in part drawing upon the BENHS version but also taking account of the formats adopted by some other societies. We have come up with some extra thoughts of our own. The main thing is to get something workable as a start and leave the first elected committee to decide whether it needs modifying.

There have been two coinciding deadlines. Firstly, the August Bulletin that is the logical basis for lining up the AGM. We have come up with candidates for most positions, and have had some volunteers for various slots, but we are still looking for a treasurer and for secretaries for indoor and out-door meetings (such secretaries are not expected to organise everything, but to delegate events to others). The second deadline is the Third International Dipterological Congress in Canada (to be followed by the European Entomological

Congress in York in early September) where there will be opportunities to publicise the Forum and Dipterists Digest, canvassing for international subscriptions.

We think (hope!) that all the essentials are in place. The intention is to keep the operation, out put and tone very much as it has been in recent years. The real difference is that we have to finance the operation ourselves, and indeed to share out some of the tasks. As it is, the luckless Peterborough dipterists will additionally be burdened with getting all the right things in the right envelopes, which with anything up to eight optional items per mailing of c 200 becomes something not to be meditated upon, so don't be surprised if sometimes it is simpler to send out to everyone rather than spend hours being more discerning. Despite the nightmares, the economics improve with scale so please spread the word and bear in mind that the Forum, its future and what it becomes, is very much in your hands.

Alan Stubbs

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Autumn Field Meeting, Denbyshire, 12-16 October

No organiser has been found so please contact Martin Drake (address at end of bulletin) who will act as go-between if you want to come. The meeting will run from Wednesday evening to Sunday.

Dartmoor, 10 September (note a week later than previously advertised). A residential visit in search of new localities for the rare hoverfly *Eristalis cryptarum*. No venue has been arranged yet so contact Roger Morris on 0924 387010 during office hours.

Larger Brachycera Workshop - I. 19 November 1994.

Dinton Pastures, Reading. Martin Drake will lead the workshop which is one of the programme of indoor meetings of the British Entomological and Natural History Society. He will give a general introduction to the group and its biology, but most of the day will be devoted to identification, using the extensive collection at Dinton Pastures. Contact Ian McLean (BENHS Indoor Meetings Secretary), 109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8IZ if you would like to come. Dinton Pastures is at SU784718, off the B3030 driving north from Winnersh.

Larger Brachycera and Conopid Workshop - II. 10-12 March 1995.

Preston Montford, Shropshire. Following the previous successful identification workshops, Roger Morris has organised this meeting. The cost will about £65 but it has not been fixed yet. The tutors will include Alan Stubbs, Roger Morris, Dave Clements (conopid scheme organiser), and Martin Drake (larger Brachycera scheme organiser). Please contact Roger with a £30 deposit: English Nature, 44 Bond Street, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire WC1 2QP.

British Entomological and Natural History Society Annual Exhibition, Saturday 22 October. Imperial College, South Kensington, London (north of the Science Museum). Extensive members' exhibits including Diptera. Lots of people to talk to.

Amateur Entomologists' Society Annual Exhibition, Saturday 8 October. Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road, Sunbury, Midds., outer SW London near the end of the M3. Large trade exhibition with equipment, new and second-hand books, displays, etc. Usually a number of dipterists present.

Main Summer Meeting, 1995

We are having trouble finding a venue with suitable accomodation. Please bare with us till the next Bulletin.

REPORT OF SUMMER 1994 MEETING AT PRESTON MONTFORD, SHROPSHIRE

If you had laid bets on getting seven days on the trot with cold drizzly weather, our week in late May was the one to have chosen. Temperatures went to well below 10°C at midday too often for human comfort, let alone for flies. Consequently, the results were not as good as had been hoped. Nevertheless, the 25 people who attended the meeting kept in good spirits. Stuart Ball had to leave early in the week so we did not benefit from his diligent data inputting and daily update that added much to the two previous meetings, but Liz and Mike Howe stepped into the breach and managed to put data in (but not out).

Craneflies, which do not seem to mind dull weather, were on good form, with 126 species. The best find of the meeting was the crane fly *Lipsothrix nigrostigma*, recorded near Iron Bridge from two streams with excellent log jams in which its larvae live. This species was known from only the type specimen from Lancashire, and from the continent, so it was remarkable to find it again after 50 years of obscurity. Ovipositing females were observed but the larvae and pupae collected here turned out to be the common *L. nervosa*. Other good finds were *Prionocera subsericornis* on alder-shaded mud at two sites, *P. pubescens* and *Limnophila fasciata* at Whixall Moss, and the impressive *Tanyptera atrata* at Chartley Moss, Brown Moss and Wyre Forest.

Despite the poor weather, a reasonable number of hoverflies were found. These included *Orthonevra brevicorne*, *Neoscias geniculata*, *N. obliqua* at a butterbur bed, *Brachypalpoides lenta*, *Xylota abiens* and *Platycheirus tarsalis* which was quite widespread. Andy Godfrey reared *Mallota cimbiciformis* from rot hole debris taken from an alder. The meeting was too early for many larger Brachycera but *Beris clavipes* and *Atherix ibis* was frequent at some sites. Empids, as expected from this period, were in abundance. These included *Rhamphomyia micropyga*, *R. hybotina* and *Empis nigripes* at several wooded sites. Although early for dolichopodids, *Syntormon macula* turned up on a sandy stream shore.

Cyclorrhaphans included *Phaonia atriceps*, *Cnemacantha muscaria*, *Odinia maculata* taken from a sap run on oak, an adult *Aulicigaster leucopeza* from a sap run on horse chestnut and its larva from another sap run.

NEWS FROM THE SCHEMES

Chironomid Study Group

From its small beginning last year, the CSG has now grown to 18 members spread fairly evenly through England (are there no Chironomists in other parts of the UK?).

We have had three field trips. The first was in Salcey Forest on the Northamptonshire/Buckinghamshire border on 2 January (sic) when the target species was the winter-flying *Gymnometriocnemus brumalis* which is associated with old woods. We were successful in locating this in some quantity and are trying to establish how far north it is found. Suffolk and Northants are the limits reported so far. Other Diptera found on what turned out to be a wonderful, sunny winter's day were *Trichocera regelationis*, *T. rufescens*, *T. hiemalis*, *Brillia modesta*, *Mycetophila formosa*, *Lonchoptera lutea* and *Minilimosina vitripennis*. Peter Langton, the other CGS member who turned up, searched mainly for early stages but found only *Limnophyes minimus*.

Our next trip was to Thursley Common National Nature Reserve in Surrey where, armed with a permit, we hoped to refind *Graceus ambiguus*. This insect has been described as "flying low in great numbers over ponds on heaths" and in the 1920s or 1930s was reported from Burnham Beeches and Woking. Not much seems to have been seen of it since and it was certainly not in evidence at Thursley (and neither were any other members of CSG so the coordinator had an afternoon in splendid isolation wallowing about on the bog). The final outing was in June to Dinton Pastures, Berkshire, where the Chironomids have hardly been touched. The watery world of gravel pits, lakes and the river Loddon presented an embarrassment of riches and the results of an afternoon's work plus material already gathered by Peter Chandler is going to keep me (and probably one or two others) busy for some time.

One very encouraging step forward has been the preparation by Peter Langton of a key to the British species of *Limnophyes*. These are fiendishly difficult "little black jobs" that were revised on a Holarctic and

Afrotropical basis by Saether in 1989. All UK material not determined by reference to Saether will need to be re-examined in the light of Langton's new key and there may well be species not previously reported from the British Isles or new to science. I will supply anyone with a copy of the key to the British species if they send a stamped addressed A4 envelope (CGS members will get one with their next mailing).

Patrick Roper, Organiser: Chironomid Study Group, South View, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0PE.

Crane-fly Recording Scheme

A bumper pack and Newsletter 7 were circulated earlier this summer.

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme and Empid & Dolichopodid Study Group

Newsletters are circulated with this bulletin to those on the schemes mailing lists.

Hoverfly Recording Scheme

No sooner published (and advertised here), then retracted. *Platycheirus europaeus* Goeldlin, Maibach & Speight really should be called *Platycheirus europaeus*, not *P. octomaculatus* (von Roser, 1840) as stated in the last bulletin. See Schmidt 1991, *Nachr. bayer Ent.* 40 (4): 128. Hoverfly Newsletter No 18 has just been circulated by BRC.

Tephritid Recording Scheme

BRC have now transferred all records onto their database. The site map looks good, with records from 857 10km squares in Britain and Ireland. Records from Liverpool Museum's catalogue have yet to be entered. So far none has been submitted from the Channel Islands (hint!). I have had no records from the Norfolk or Shropshire meetings and if anyone has not submitted these to Stuart Ball, could they either do so so they can be forwarded, or send them direct to me. Despite some good distribution patterns, I feel that it would be premature to publish anything at this stage, at least not until 1000 squares have been covered. I could provide copies of my hand-plotted maps to anyone interested on receipt of a sum yet to be determined to cover photocopying and postage. As regards the submission of records, I would like to hear from anyone who has the use of an Amstrad PCW (not PC) with 3" or 3½" drives and utilising Locoscript 1 or 2. Much unnecessary work can then be eliminated in assimilating records.

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

DIPTERISTS DIGEST - publication plans

This note is to bring everyone up-to-date with publishing plans for the journal.

The current position is that the Colour Guide to Hoverfly Larvae (the "missing" No. 9) is with the printers and should be out any day now. On the basis of about 50 pages per issue, to hand is enough copy for two general issues which includes all the papers received to date and clears the backlog that has accumulated. This includes behaviour-biased papers that Phil Withers had hoped to include in a behaviour "special". In addition, Peter Skidmore is compiling a "special" on the Western Isles. The first of the 50 page issues will appear in August and the second to coincide with Dipterist's Day in November. Thereafter, we aim to produce two 40 page issues per year if, that is, authors send in enough material. So, please, let's have your papers!

The previous editorial panel has agreed to continue. The main roles are to referee papers, suggest referees and provide advice and support in developing the journal. Peter Chandler and Phil Withers have agreed to help in a more active way, as Associate Editors.

A year-volume-number system is being introduced, bringing Dipterists Digest more in line with other journals. The 50 page issues will start the new system. Furthermore, we will provide 15 free reprints for each author of major articles excluding notes. In future, emphasis will be on general rather than special issues.

It has taken a while to sort out the backlog and agree and arrange all these changes so please bear with us and continue to support the journal which we are now confident can go from strength to strength.

Subscriptions/back issues/sponsorship: Derek Whiteley, 17 Rustlings Road, Sheffield S11 7AA.

Editorial: Dr Graham Rotheray, Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

NEWS AND REQUESTS

Diptera Recording in Lincolnshire.

Andy Godfrey has been elected the Diptera Recorder for the Lincolnshire Naturalist's Union, with responsibility for all families except syrphids, for which Jill Binding is the recorder. Andy would be pleased to receive records for the old county of Lincolnshire (VCs 53 & 54). Send to 11 William Street, Wellgate, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S60 2NG.

International Study of British Flies

I am currently assembling information on the following categories:

- Species known only from GB (or British Isles), ie endemic.
- Species whose GB populations are important in a European or World context. Examples, preferably quantified, where GB populations are less than 1000 adults.

One can, of course, go through the Palaearctic and Nearctic Catalogues for species listed as GB only, but it needs the advice of specialists to put a confidence limit on the likelihood of such species being confined to GB as opposed to being under-worked elsewhere. The ideal is a complete list with categories of confidence.

Any information that reaches me by late August can be considered for Biodiversity Challenge 2, an update of the document produced by a consortium of non-governmental organisations (RSPB, WWF, Wildlife Trusts, FoE, Plantlife and Butterfly Conservation; I represent the last, covering all invertebrates) aimed at keeping the government on its toes after its Rio Conference commitment. The need for developing this type of information will continue beyond August.

Alan Stubbs

WANTS AND EXPERTS LISTS

Additions to the list in Diptera bulletin 37:

Chironomidae	Patrick Roper	wet or dry, not in deluges.
Hippoboscidae	Neil Redgate	records as well as material
Nycteribiidae	Neil Redgate	records as well as material
Sarcophagidae	Steve Falk	
Rhinophoridae	Steve Falk	
Calliphoridae	Steve Falk	
Scathophagidae	Steve Falk	

Parasitoids of larvae

David Notton is researching the biology of some British diapiids - tiddly shiny black or brown Hymenoptera with next to no venation. If anyone rears diapiids from Diptera larvae and does not have an outlet for them, please pass them to David at 16 Crawshaw Drive, Emmer Green, reading RG4 8SX.

AND NOWTHE EYES HAVE IT

I'll bet most of you have not bothered to look to see which flies have eye patterns. I have to confess I've been kicking myself for missing out on some opportunities. However, just to goad everyone on, here are some results which may surprise you.

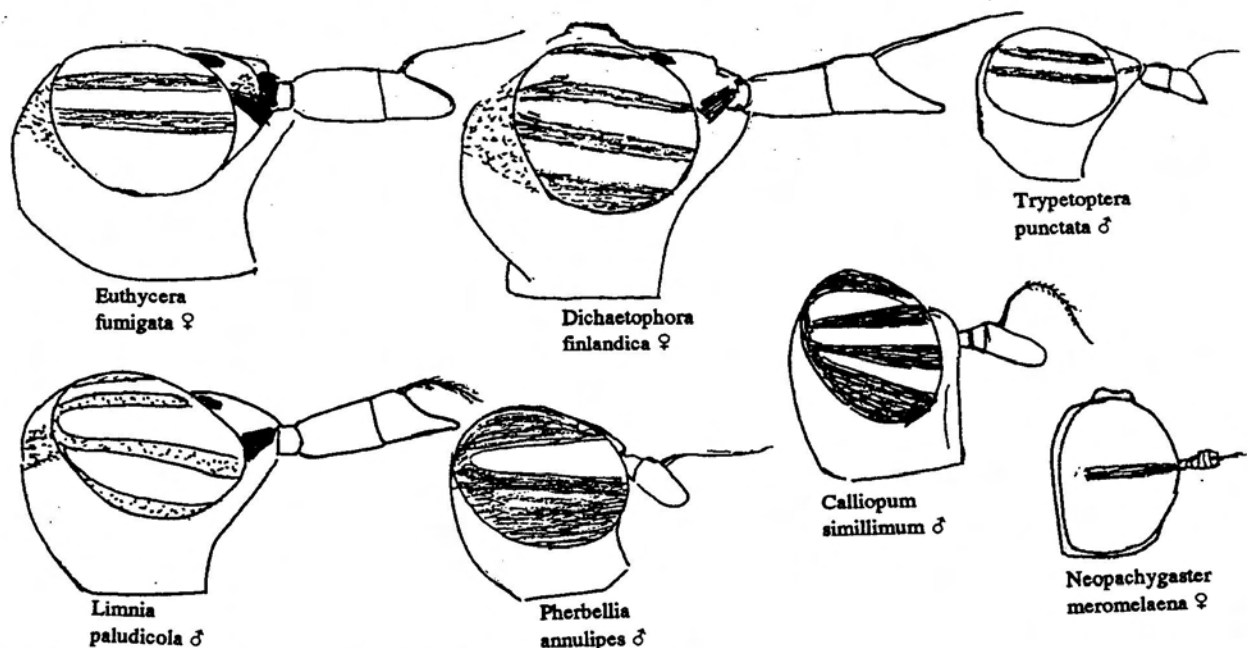
Eye bands are much more prevalent in sciomyzids than I had realised. It has not helped that these insects have been sparse this season but a number of genera have been checked. In Tetanocerinae, there are two more or less parallel dark bands in *Euthycera*, *Ilione*, *Pherbina* and *Trypetoptera*, and an extra pair top and bottom in *Dichaetophora* and *Limnia*. Is it coincidence that these genera have a dark spot between the eye and the antennae? A slightly more dorsal black spot is additionally present in all but *Pherbina* and *Trypetoptera*. There are no eye bands in the species of *Tetanocera* that I've checked, and the same is probably true of *Renocera*. A comparison between sexes has not always been possible, but there would seem little difference except that the pair of bands in *Pherbina* are slightly further apart in the female. Most of the *Pherbellia* at hand have lacked eye bands, except *P. annulipes*, a very mottled woodland species, where the eyes are dark except for a pale wedge-shaped band which at least dorsally lines up with the pale band on the front of the frons.

Calliopum, a black genus of lauxanid, has four dark bands converging towards the back of the eye (I'm pretty sure *Lauxania* has bands of some sort from past experience but none of the yellow species seem to have bands). The male of the stratiomyid *Oxycera pardalina* has an eye band aligned to the antennae, as does the female of *Neopachygaster meromelaena*, in the latter case the band not reaching the back of the eye (only one sex seen in these cases).

Why, in all cases are the dark bands maroon (or even deep purple in *Dichaetophora*) and the pale areas grey-green, unusual colours perhaps in species without bands?

There must be plenty more examples and the season has not ended yet! So please join in, making a quick sketch and note of colours. Some more surprises will be in store and there is the challenge of finding more types of patterns. If we can get a better picture of the types of patterns we may have the basis for looking into the reasons for the patterns.

Alan Stubbs



Central Panel of Diptera Recording Schemes

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