

Diptera Recording Schemes Bulletin No 7

This circular is to announce forthcoming meetings.

FIELD MEETINGS 1979

WEST SUSSEX/HAMPSHIRE JUNE 1979

A provisional booking has been made at The Rogate Field Centre, Petersfield for Friday 8 June to Friday 15 June. At present 30 places have been reserved, but additional room is available at the centre should the demand for this meeting exceed this number.

Rogate is an excellent centre for exploring a wide range ^{of} habitats in West Sussex and Hampshire, and the period booked should coincide with peak conditions for most groups of Diptera. There is a rich variety of woodland types (excellent for craneflies) with oak dominant on the heavier Weald soils, and fine examples of Beech woods on the lighter calcareous of the South Downs. Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve contains what is generally regarded as the finest yew wood in Europe, as well as areas of chalk heath and scrub.

The South Downs have some of the best examples of chalk grasslands, these should be in peak condition for hoverflies and for the immense variety of acalypterates which are associated with this habitat. At Arundel Park damper conditions at the foot of the downs provide particularly good conditions for many groups of flies, and further collecting at this site should prove well worthwhile.

The river valley habitats gives scope for those interested in the larger Brachycera, example, the fauna of Amberly Wildbrooks is good at this time of year. Several areas of heathland will be worth sampling, on the Lower Greensand at Iping and Ambersham Commons there are areas of dry heath with small patches of bog and wet heath - an excellent combination for this type of habitat.

A previous meeting based at Rogate in 1974 had excellent results, and while rarities cannot be guaranteed, it is anticipated that there will be ample scope for everybody whatever their particular speciality may be.

The cost for seven nights stay, including full board (bed and breakfast, packed lunch and evening dinner) and use of the excellent laboratory facilities is a modest £35.70. You might like to compare that with the current £56 for centres run by the Field Studies Council, and most other centres are over £40 per week now.

Bookings should be via I F G McLean (address below) as soon as possible please, and enclosing a £5 deposit.

The meeting will probably be led by Dr A Irwin. As usual access arrangements will be made in advance for visiting sites, including National Nature Reserves. Please bring your own microscope plus lamp if possible, and copies of Keys that you wish to use.

GALLOWAY, SCOTLAND JULY 1979

A provisional booking has been made at the Stranord field centre near Newton Stewart for Monday 16 July to Saturday 21 July.

This centre is a well-situated base for obtaining access to an outstanding variety of coastal sites, together with a range of lowland and upland habitat. The country is relatively little known entomologically, though a recent survey party collecting a range of invertebrate groups had good results.

This time of year will be suitable for many families of Diptera on both lowland and upland sites, and there are some promising oak woods and river valleys which should prove popular.

The charges are very reasonable, there is a £2.40 booking fee and the accommodation is 55 pence / day. Meals can be arranged, breakfast plus evening meal should be about £2.50 / day each at maximum.

Bookings should be via I F G McLean (address below) as soon as possible please, and enclosing a £5 deposit. It is likely that some of those wishing to attend this meeting may decide to travel up a few days early, and B & B accommodation may be available near Dumfries and/or Carlisle. This would enable a fine range of coastal sites and a variety of bogs/mosses etc. to be sampled. Contact I F G McLean if you are interested. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to collect in this region of Scotland at a very modest cost. Microscopes and lamps are not available at the centre, so it is essential to bring your own (with an extension lead for the lamp if possible).

The meeting will be led by A E Stubbs, and arrangements have been made with regional NCC staff to allow access to scheduled sites.

NYMPFIELD, GLOUCS OCTOBER 1979

A provisional booking has been made at the Woodchester Park Field Centre for a long week-end, assembling Wednesday evening 10 October and dispersing on Sunday 14 October

The field centre is situated in a wooded valley two miles long with a series of large lakes and no public access. The site is scheduled as an SSSI, and there are plenty of woodlands available in the area which should prove rewarding for craneflies and fungus gnats. The Forest of Dean is also within range, and previous experience suggests that this should be an excellent area at this time of year.

The cost is £5.70 per day, including full board (breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal) and booking should be made via I F G McLean. It is possible to book for the week-end (Friday and Saturday nights) if you are unable to stay for longer.

ADDRESS FOR BOOKING FIELD MEETINGS

I F G McLean
Nature Conservancy Council
19/20 Belgrave Square
LONDON SW1X 8PY

REGIONAL FIELD MEETINGS

London and South-East England 2 - 3 June 1979

This meeting will include visits to a number of localities in The Chilterns, for further details contact A E Stubbs, Nature Conservancy Council, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

East Anglia 23 - 24 June 1979

Following the first very successful regional meeting in August 1977, Dr A G Irwin is again organising a weekend meeting in East Anglia. For further information please contact him at The Castle Museum, Norwich, Norfolk NOR 6BS.

Northern England 21 - 22 July 1979

The first recording schemes meeting for this region, suggested localities are southern valleys of the North Yorks Moors and Thorne Moors. For details contact the organiser P Skidmore, Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AE.

Annual Meeting and Dinner

All recipients of this bulletin will be sent a circular with further details of this most important event in the Dipterist's year.

Meanwhile, the date for your diary is 10 NOVEMBER 1979.