

Fungus Gnats Recording Scheme

Newsletter 8 Spring 2015

The updated review of the conservation status of all species carried out in 2013, mentioned in recent newsletters, has yet to be adopted, while further additions continue to be made to the British list. 2014 produced an interesting range of new records.

Results of Field Meetings in 2014

There were four Dipterists Forum field meetings in 2014, three of which I attended. Numbers of species recorded was generally higher than in 2013 but dry conditions in late summer reduced gnat activity, and the late autumn flush of fungi that finally came was too late for the autumn field meeting.

The number of species recorded at each meeting were: Swanage, Dorset 16-18 May (66), Kingussie 1-7 June (160), Bangor, North Wales 5-12 July (80) and Worksop & Nottingham, Nottinghamshire 11-18 October (106). The combined total for the four meetings was 231, compared to 203 for the five meetings in 2013. The combined total for the two Kingussie meetings (September 2013 and June 2014) was 198.

Swanage: Gnat numbers were relatively low at most of the sites explored on this three day meeting, the largest numbers being found at the first site visited on 16 May. This was Wytch Heath, where 44 species were recorded in a conifer plantation, among undergrowth of holly and ground cover of heather and accumulations of dead wood. These included *Mycetophila sublunata*, which was also found at Arne on 18 May. At Studland, the wood by the Discovery Centre produced *Mycetophila uliginosa*.

Kingussie: The species count while at Kingussie was 158, but two extras from Moffat were found by Alan Stubbs on the way up to bring the overall total to 160. The weather was changeable, with two wet days on which fieldwork was limited. The last day produced the best site totals, 50 at Craigellachie NNR, 52 at Lynachlaggan Wood and 56 at Uath Lochans.

Phronia bicolor, from pinewoods at Boat of Garten, was an addition to the British list. *Brevicornu subfissicauda*, from Altnaglander, was already known to me as British, but has hitherto escaped publication (except in Fauna Europaea), so further details are given here. A *Trichonta* species found at Altnaglander has genitalia differing from published figures and awaits elucidation. Other good finds were *Mycetophila mohilevensis* from Boat of Garten aspen wood and *Sciophila plurisetosa*, at Loch Morlich. These are the 5th British record in



both cases, following the correction of a previous record attributed in error to *S. plurisetosa* (see below).

Sciophila rufa was recorded from larvae in their webs under *Fomes fomentarius* brackets growing on dead birch trunks. I collected a larva at the Boat of Garten aspen wood on the Monday 2 June; this spun a cocoon on the next day and a female gnat emerged on the following Tuesday 10 June. Chris Spilling found larvae at two other sites, Lynachlaggan Wood (NH8102) and Glen Feshie (NH8502), and also reared adults from them.

One species that I was surprised not to see was *Gnoriste bilineata*, a large gnat with long proboscis that flies in May and June, and is widespread in the Highlands. Geoff Hancock tells me that he caught it at Mound Alderwood in Sutherland on 24 May during a Malloch Society meeting. I found it at the same site on 26 May 2002.

Bangor: I was absent from this meeting. Gnat samples have been provided by some of the participants, for which I am grateful to Martin Drake, Andrew Halstead, Roger Morris, Alan Stubbs and Rob Wolton. Low catches in other groups have been reported from this meeting (Drake 2014), so it is pleasing to note that the gnat records amounted to 80 species, including some new to Wales. In particular two very little known *Macrocera* species were turned up by Martin Drake, who also found *Manota unifurcata* for the first time in N Wales - the most northerly British record so far (further details of these records below). *Keroplatus testaceus* was found on the Lleyn peninsula on 9 July, confirming its widespread presence in N Wales; an Anglesey record was cited in newsletter 6 (p. 3).

Nottinghamshire: It was a uniform selection across most sites, with mostly common species, though the areas of Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park visited showed great potential, and this region is to be the location for the 2015 summer field meeting. The most Notable finds were *Exechia dizona* and *Exechiopsis seducta*, both from Aviary Wood (SK625732), part of Clumber Park. *Greenomyia mongolica* at ivy flowers in Morning Springs Wood (SK495489) was unexpected (see below). *Mycetophila hetschkoi* was found at Seller's Wood (SK523454), a new regional record for this mainly south-western species. Top sites for gnats were the area of Clumber Park close to the south gate (SK615735) (52), the Birklands area (SK626684) of Sherwood Forest (50), Morning Springs Wood (34) and Aviary Wood (33). Andrew Halstead caught *Mycetophila sigmoides* at Wollaton Park (SK5238) on 18 October

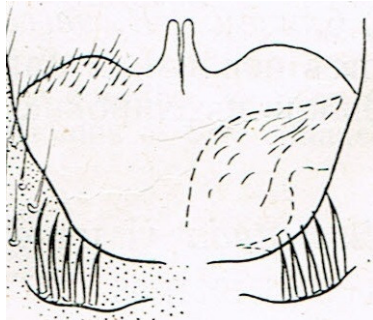
Gnats new to Britain in 2014

Like other recent additions to the British list the three species introduced here can presently only be treated as Data Deficient. One of the species added last year, *Epicypsa fumigata*, on a single specimen found in Devon by Rob Wolton, was found again by him in 2014 at a nearby site (see below). There have been further records in 2014 of some other recently added species, including *Exechiopsis seducta*, *Mycetophila sublunata* and *Greenomyia mongolica*, but none of *Exechiopsis davatchii*.

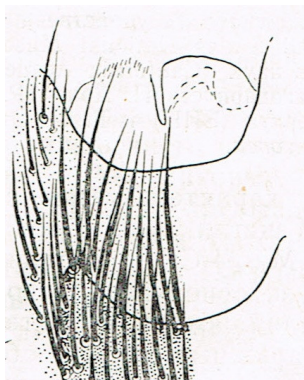
Brevicornu subfissicauda Zaitzev, 1985

Thompson Common (TL9396), Norfolk, 29.v.2000, 1 male (I. Perry); Altnaglander (NJ169285), Banffshire, gully in birch woodland, 2.vi.2014, 1 male (A.E. Stubbs).

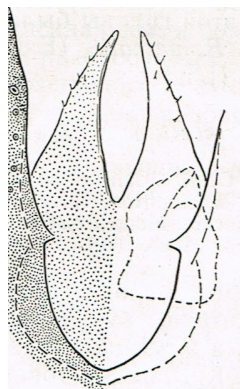
This is a member of the species group including *B. fissicauda* and *B. intermedium*. These species have very similar structure to the male genitalia, with a convex apical margin to sternite 8 (shown in figure of *fissicauda* below), differing most obviously in the form of the ventral median process of the gonocoxites, which is not easy to see without mounting and dissection of the genitalia. *Brevicornu subfissicauda* was described from the USA by Zaitzev (1985), and the figures of the three species shown here are taken from his paper (it is not included in Zaitzev 2003). It was later recognised to occur in Europe, where it is widespread but rarely recorded; there are records from France (Withers 2014), Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Croatia and Serbia.



Brevicornu subfissicauda ventral median process of gonocoxites (from Zaitzev 1985)



Brevicornu fissicauda



Brevicornu intermedium

ventral median process of gonocoxites (from Zaitzev 1985)

Brevicornu fissicauda is a common species throughout Britain while *B. intermedium* is widespread in the south, with a Scottish record from Caddam Wood (NO3856) on 22.x.1993; *B. subfissicauda* is apparently less frequent, but could have been overlooked.

Mycetophila stylatiformis Landrock, 1925

Windsor Forest (SU9274), Berkshire, 25.vi, 2 males; 7.viii, 1 male; 18.ix, 7 males; 2.x, 1 male (all 2014: P.J. Chandler).

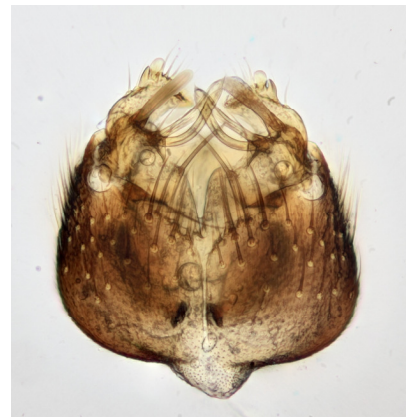
This species is very close to *M. stylata* (Dziedzicki, 1884), which has not been found at Windsor, so 11 females found there (25.vi, 23.vii, 18.ix, 2.x and 23.x) were concluded to also be *M. stylatiformis*. A further male has since been found in material collected by Ivan Perry at the Warburg Reserve on 21.vi.2014, while he also found a male of *M. stylata* there on 19.x.2014.

Mycetophila stylatiformis is only separable by small differences in the male genitalia from *M. stylata*, so females cannot at present be separated. These species both have a broad apical marking including the tips of both radial veins.

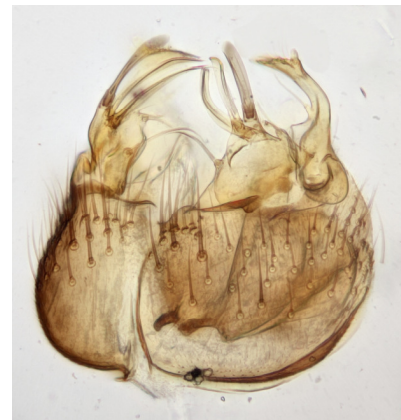


Wing of *Mycetophila stylata*

Zaitzev (2003) figured *M. stylata*, but *M. stylatiformis* has only been figured by Landrock (1925, 1927). The gonostylus in both species has the ventral lobe bearing three large thickened setae. They differ in the form of the dorsal lobe, which is more slender and tapered apically in *M. stylatiformis* (see photographs).



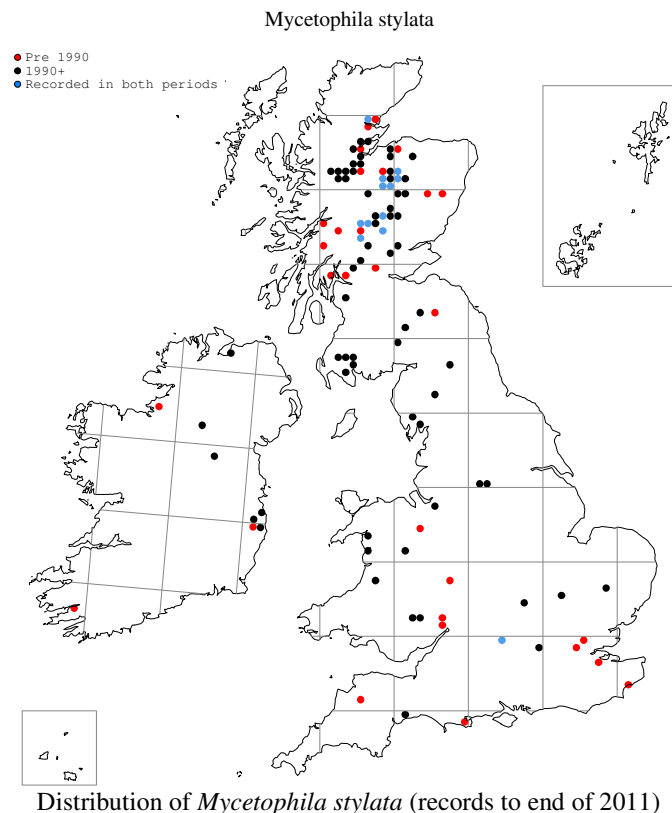
Male genitalia of *M. stylata*, ventral view



Male genitalia of *M. stylatiformis*, ventrolateral view

In Europe *M. stylatiformis* is little recorded. Landrock (1925) described it from the Czech Republic and there are otherwise records only from Spain (Chandler & Camaño Portela 2011), Germany, Slovakia and Serbia, while *M. stylata* is more widely known but again there may have been confusion between them.

Specimens of *M. stylatiformis* were exhibited at the BENHS Exhibition and the DF AGM in Carlisle. It is possible that it has hitherto been confused with *M. stylata* and it will be necessary to check previous records to ascertain if that is the case. *Mycetophila stylata* has a mainly northern and western distribution (see map below) and is common in Scotland, but there is a scatter of records in the south-east. It has not been recorded at Windsor, although there is a record of it from the nearby Burnham Beeches (SU98) and the finding that both species are present at the Warburg Reserve supports the need to verify earlier records.



***Phronia bicolor* Dziedzicki, 1889**

Kinchordy conifer woods, near Boat of Garten (NH9317), 2.vi.2014, 1 male (P.J. Chandler).

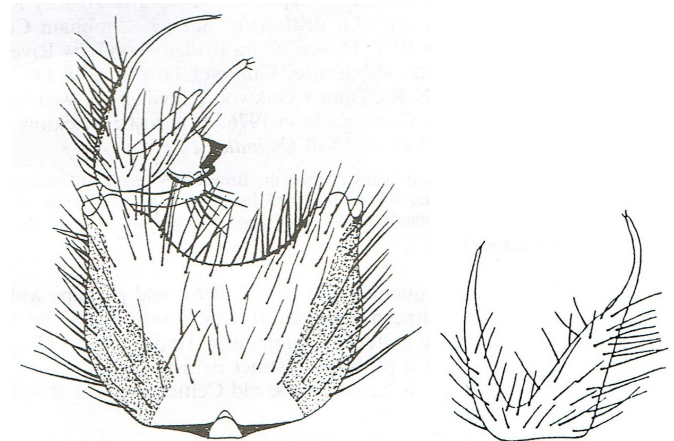
This male of *Phronia bicolor* was found among a large catch of gnats that were congregating around the upturned roots of fallen pine trees, taking advantage of the localised higher humidity. It is close to *P. coritanica*, which was in numbers there and at other sites visited during that week, so could easily have been overlooked elsewhere. *Phronia coritanica* is a common species throughout the British Isles

Phronia bicolor is a Holarctic species that is widespread in Europe, so there is no obvious reason why it should not have been recognised in Britain before. I have checked available

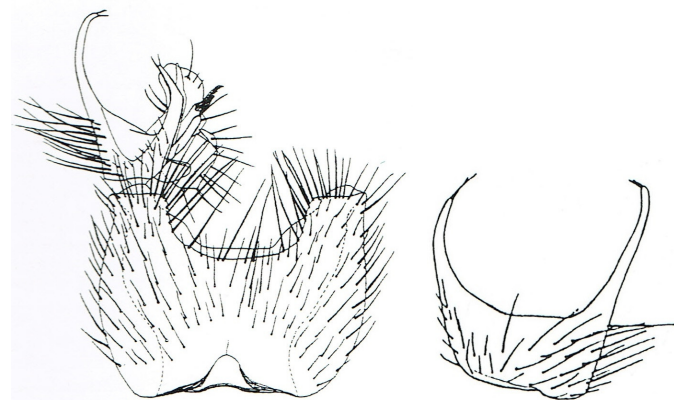
specimens of *P. coritanica* and haven't yet found another example of *P. bicolor*.

Chandler (1992) figured the genitalia of this and allied species and the figures of *P. bicolor* and *P. coritanica* from that paper are shown here. Zaitzev (2003) also figured *P. bicolor* but omitted *P. coritanica*, which is widespread in western and northern Europe, but not yet recorded for Russia.

The most obvious difference between these species is the form of the apical ventral margin of the gonocoxites which is shallowly and evenly concave in *P. bicolor*, but with a stepped appearance to this margin in *P. coritanica*. Both have the gonostylus deeply divided into two lobes, which are slender apically with short apical hairs, but with a differently formed basal part.



Phronia bicolor: ventral view of male genitalia and lateral view of lateral lobe of right gonostylus (from Chandler 1992)



Phronia coritanica: ventral view of male genitalia and lateral view of lateral lobe of right gonostylus (from Chandler 1992)

New findings of *Macrocera*

Macrocera records don't often figure in accounts of interesting finds. As reported above Martin Drake found two scarce species on the Bangor field meeting. He also caught specimens of *M. pusilla* at two sites on the Devon coast, which may throw light on the identity of *M. propleuralis*. Ivan Perry was puzzled by some specimens from a montane site in Scotland, which appear to be *M. estonica*.

Macrocera estonica Creag an Lochainn (NN592411), Perthshire, 1 male, 2 females (I. Perry).

One of the females is typically coloured, the thorax and abdomen mainly shining black with obscurely yellowish scutellum and narrow hind margins to the abdominal tergites. In the male and second female the body coloration is by contrast shining dark brown, with the abdomen a little darker. This initially suggested that they might be a different species but there are no apparent structural differences. It is possible that they were general and had not taken on the full coloration characteristic of this species, but there is no other evidence to support that conclusion. Further investigation of *M. estonica* at this site and elsewhere would be of interest.

This species has been recorded from a range of open habitats, including moorland, heathland and wetlands. There are previous British records from 14 hectads, mostly from the Pennines to the Scottish border, but there are several from Welsh and East Anglian wetlands. Previous Scottish records are from upland sites, the Langholm Hills, Dumfriesshire (1979) and Allt Feith Lair, Perthshire (1999).

Macrocera fastuosa Coedydd Aber (SH6671), N Wales, 1 male, 7.vii.2014, mixed woodland with a waterfall (C.M. Drake).

There are only three previous widely scattered English records: Clovelly, Devon (1927), Wyre Forest (1988) and Chafer Wood, North Yorks Moors (2000). These few records are from wet woodland with streams. The larval biology is unknown. Its survival at the two pre-1990 sites is in doubt, so it has been suggested to warrant Vulnerable status in the latest unpublished review. This new discovery in Wales is therefore highly significant and investigation of its status there would be desirable.

Macrocera inversa Coed Ffrith Siân (SH783616), N Wales, 9.vii.2014, 1 female, mixed woodland with stream (C.M. Drake).

This is a more remarkable find even than that of *M. fastuosa*. It was only hitherto known in Britain on the type material of the synonym *M. bipunctata* Edwards, from two sites in NW England: Bowness (1889) and Tilberthwaite Ghyll (1923). Precise habitat details were not recorded for the two British records, but Tilberthwaite Ghyll is a rocky gorge with waterfalls, suggesting an open upland habitat. The larval biology is unknown.

It was also suggested for Vulnerable status in the unpublished current review; it was recognised that the lack of more recent records may be due to insufficient recorder effort in the habitats concerned, but the absence of post-1923 records indicated that it was clearly very restricted in occurrence or even extinct in Britain. Again further investigation of its Welsh status is necessary. Both this and *M. fastuosa* are widespread but uncommon in Europe.

Macrocera maculata Isle of Grain (TQ873741), East Kent Malaise trap, 16.vii-21.viii.2014, a site with small strips of roadside woodland (M. Ashby, T. Bantock & C.W. Plant).

This species is found in dry woodland and woodland edge habitats, also old hedges, often in calcareous areas. It is widespread in the eastern counties of England, north to Yorkshire and extending west to Somerset, with previous records from 21 hectads. The larval biology is unknown.

Macrocera pusilla Haven Cliff (SY2689), coastal landslip, 2 males and Seaton (SY2389), seepages on soft rock cliffs, 2 males 23.ix.2014 (C.M. Drake).

These specimens, found by Martin Drake at two coastal sites in Devon, vary in the length of vein Sc, such that one of those from Seaton would run to *M. propleuralis* in the handbook, leading to the suspicion that it may be a variant of *M. pusilla*.

Macrocera propleuralis was described by F.W. Edwards (1941) from a single female caught by him on the window of a beach shelter at Sidmouth, Devon on 11 June 1938. It has not been identified by any subsequent authors, so no male has been associated with it. It was compared to *M. fasciata* and in the key by Hutson *et al.* (1980) it is grouped with that species as having vein Sc reaching the tip of the basal cell (i.e. the level of the radiomedial fusion) as in most *Macrocera* species. Edwards (1941) also added *M. pusilla* to the British list on one female, compared to *M. anglica* as both have vein Sc short and ending well before the tip of the basal cell. Males of *M. pusilla* also agree with *M. anglica* in having three teeth on the gonostylus while most *Macrocera* have only two.

I have not yet been able to compare these specimens of *pusilla* with the holotype of *M. propleuralis*, but Erica McAlister has kindly supplied the photograph shown here, which tends to confirm this conclusion. The specimen had been partly dismembered and the apical part of the abdomen had been macerated and placed in a tube of glycerine by Tony Hutson.



The main doubt about its conspecificity with *M. pusilla* relates to its size (wing length 5mm), while most *pusilla* are 3-4mm wing length. However, these Devon specimens vary from 3.6 to 4.3mm, the largest being that with vein Sc longest. Females of *Macrocera* may also be larger than the corresponding males. Vein R₁ is described as thickened apically in *M. propleuralis* as appears in the photograph; this is less evident in males of *M. pusilla* but other characters are similar. The proximity of its type locality to these new records of *pusilla* strongly supports the synonymy and would explain why *propleuralis* has remained "Data Deficient".

Macrocera pusilla is a Nationally Scarce species with a scattered but widespread distribution in S England and Wales, with records hitherto from 22 hectads. It is found in wooded, woodland edge and open habitats, including bogs and fens, in addition to the coastal habitats recorded here. It had also been recorded from another coastal site in the same area, Culverhole Point (SY2789) on 26.vi.2003 by David Gibbs.

Recording at Windsor Forest in 2014

I have made regular visits during 2014 to the Highstanding Hill area of Windsor Forest, at about fortnightly intervals. This survey was initiated as a result of the recognition that the Diptera records for the Windsor Forest and Great Park area needed to be collated, both to establish what is already known and to assess the effect of management changes. Attention was concentrated on the Highstanding Hill area because that is well known to dipterists and was one of the areas included in the Dipterists Forum weekend field meeting in 2010.

That meeting was arranged because, while there had been extensive recording at Windsor in the second half of the 20th century, there had been a hiatus in recording there since the 1990s. The need to determine the present status of the Diptera fauna there was considered a priority. As far as I know there had not been any further Diptera recording at Windsor since 2010, except that Buglife have been surveying for the crane fly *Gnophomyia elsneri* (at its only British locality), which Alan Stubbs and Sarah Henshall were successful in finding during 2014 (Buglife September News).

Fourteen visits were made from 16 April to 15 November, only missing a second May visit due to wet weather at the time (so there was a 4 week gap in recording between 13 May and 11 June). These visits were usually for 2-3 hours from mid-afternoon onwards, only the autumn visits being made earlier in the day to enable sufficient time to be spent in daylight. Attention was concentrated on the vicinity of the stream, where fungus gnats were numerous on most visits. On the first visit in April there were swarms of gnats in flight, taking advantage of shafts of sunlight reaching the streambed; 44 species were recorded on that occasion. Otherwise they were mainly around overhangs and fallen trees, which are numerous in the vicinity of the stream. During the summer the streambed had largely dried up, but provided a humid refuge, since it follows a meandering course between steep slopes. On each visit a section of the stream and its tributaries were covered, so that during the year the entire length from Badger's Bridge to the northern edge of the Forest north of Darkhole Bridge was sampled.

Altogether 161 species of fungus gnats were recorded, the greatest number (71) on 25 June, while the number of individuals

was greatest on 7 August (sample comprised 646 gnats of 46 species). Both figures fell off in the autumn visits, probably due to low fungus numbers following earlier drought, and dispersal of gnats from the stream after recent rain. On the latest visit gnats were only found away from the stream. Terrestrial fungi had only started to appear in numbers by November and species developing in terrestrial fungi were sparsely represented throughout.

Of these 161 species, 23 are new records for the Windsor Forest and Great Park area (hectad SU97), bringing the total of fungus gnat species recorded for this hectad to 249. Previous records have yet to be fully collated, so I can't at present say how many other species have previously been recorded for the Highstanding Hill area within the Crown Estate, or how many species found in 2014 are new to that part of the Estate. The most recent previous visit on which fungus gnats were recorded in the same area was during the DF field meeting on 23 May 2010, when only 34 species were recorded, but including 8 species not found in 2014. Most of those 8 were common species that would have been expected to occur, e.g. *Neuratelia nemoralis* and *Tetragoneura sylvatica*. The gap in May recording in 2014 may have been responsible in part for the discrepancy. In 2010 *Platyura marginata* was numerous both in this area and in Cranbourne Park, visited on 22 May 2010, but only one male was seen in 2014, on the 13 May visit.

Noteworthy records among the additions include *Neoempheria bimaculata* (4 males 25.vi, 2 males 9.vii, 2 females 7.viii), *Dynatosoma cochleare* (1 male 3.ix), *Mycetophila caudata* (1 male 23.vii), *M. lastovkai* (35 males, 9 dates vi-xi), *M. sigmoides* (1 female 18.ix) and *M. sublunata* (1 male 3.ix). A male of *Mycetophila lubomirskii*, which I had previously found there in 1999, was recorded on 13.vi. Males of *Allodia foliifera*, which I had recorded there on 22.vi.1971, were found on 20.viii and 2.x.

It is hoped to extend recording to other areas of the Forest and Great Park in subsequent years.

Other recording in 2014

Ivan Perry made 7 visits to the **Warburg Reserve** (SU715879), from 21 June to 19 October, and recorded 165 species, continuing to add to the inventory for this rich site. With 24 additions, this brought the total for his visits from 2010 onwards to 234 species. New 2014 records included *Mycomya insignis*, *Synplasta rufilatera* (previously found at this site in 1972: Falk & Chandler 2005), *Dynatosoma cochleare*, *Mycetophila hetschkoii* (another easterly extension to its range), *M. lastovkai* and *M. sigmoides*. As related above both *Mycetophila stylata* and *M. stylatiformis* were recorded here, and both members of another species pair, *M. stolidata* and *M. freyii*, were also found in 2014. Among species also recorded by Ivan in previous years were *Greenomyia mongolica*, *Neoempheria bimaculata*, *Allodia foliifera*, *A. westerholti*, *Mycetophila caudata*, *M. sublunata* and *Sceptonia tenuis*.

Some of Ivan's finds at Flitwick Moor, Bedfordshire and Lynford Water, Norfolk are reported elsewhere here. He also had a successful week in Scotland in September. Different climatic conditions to the south had resulted in a profusion of fungi, with the benefit of fine weather every day. He recorded 180 species. These include *Macrocera estonica* and *Mycetophila lubomirskii*, discussed elsewhere here. Other noteworthy records were *Mycomya ornata* (Creag an Lochainn, NN592411, 10.ix),

Anatella pseudogibba (Ben Lawers, NN612785, 10.ix), *Brevicornu foliatum* and *Rymosia acta* (both at Carie, Rannoch, 12.ix), and *Phronia caliginosa* (Carie, Rannoch, 8.ix).

Rob Wolton ran a Malaise trap from 1 April to 17 November at **Scadsbury Moor**, Rutleigh (SS516023), Devon. A considerable catch of gnats, supplied in three samples (April-June, July-August and September-November) comprised 141 species. These included the second British record of *Epicrypta fumigata* (see below). Also found were *Leia bilineata*, *Leptomorphus walkeri*, *Mycetophila eppingensis*, *M. strigatoides* and *Rymosia britteni*. This site is now part of Locks Park Farm, for which Rob published an inventory of species recorded at a hedge (Wolton *et al.* 2014). In the previous newsletter (newsletter 7, p. 4) the results of trapping in a small copse on this farm were reported. The combined result for the three trapping sites provide records of 204 species of fungus gnats for Locks Park Farm.

Batches of flies from several sites examined for Keith Alexander, Colin Plant, Scotty Dodd, Chris Dutton and Andrew Foster provided gnat records, some of which are detailed below.

Keith's samples from **Swinmore Orchards**, Herefordshire, included 47 species. Material from various sites around **Bredon Hill**, Worcestershire examined for Chris Dutton included 33 species. Both sites produced *Sciophila interrupta* and *Cerotelion striatum*. Also from Bredon Hill were *Keroplatus testaceus* (this and previously mentioned species at SO948402), *Mycetophila sigmoides* (SO937392) and *Acnemia amoena* (SO968405). The last mentioned species was also trapped by a fallen beech at Betchworth (TQ216525), Surrey on 19.viii.2013 by Scotty Dodd. These records are additional to those cited by Alexander (2014), who summarised knowledge of the distribution of *A. amoena*.

In addition to the fieldwork mentioned above, I made one visit to Oxwich Wood on the Gower peninsula and ten visits to **Bushy Park**, Middlesex. Dry conditions still prevailed at Bushy Park, with gnat numbers still low compared to the visits in 2011 and 2012, but showed some increase over 2013 with 75 species recorded, of which 5 were additions, bringing the site total to 166.

I also attended two Bioblitz days in the garden at **Highgrove** (ST9791), organised by the Royal Entomological Society as part of National Insect Week and a follow up to the similar event at Clarence House in 2012 (see Bulletin). It was not expected to be rich in fungus gnats and the first visit in June produced only 13 species, so it was pleasing to record 30 species on the August visit, bringing field records to 38 species. The stumpy, a wooded area with upturned stumps forming a fern garden, and the arboretum produced most records. *Cerotelion striatum*, from the contents of the catchment tray of an insectocutor in the gardeners' mess room, was an addition to the list. Other finds were *Mycetophila hetschkoi* and *M. mitis*.

In September 2014, I began to visit the **Fleet Pond** Nature Reserve, Hampshire, which includes a diverse range of woodland and wetland habitats overlapping the 1km squares SU8154, SU8254 and SU8255. Six afternoon visits were made from 9 September to 3 December, so it was a good introduction to the autumn fauna of the reserve.

This site has been the subject of several entomological surveys; those by Matthew Oates (1987-8) and carried out jointly by Mike Edwards and Peter Hodge (1997-8, 2003 and 2008) have contributed Diptera records. These surveys didn't identify any

fungus gnats, of which the only previous records are of 6 species from two earlier visits I have made, on 20 August 1966 with Alan Stubbs (2 species) and a brief lunch stop on 15 July 1990 (4 species).

In 2014, I recorded 75 species of fungus gnats, including 2 of the 6 species found earlier. The records of *Greenomyia mongolica* and *Mycetophila lastovkai* are discussed below. Other species found included *Mycetophila caudata* (Sandhills Wood, SU8255, 1 male, 22.x), *M. deflexa* (Coldstream Wood, SU8254, 1 male, 28.xi), *M. sigmoides* (several areas, 9.ix, 11.x, 22.x) and *Keroplatus testaceus* (Brookly Wood, SU8254, 1 male seen in flight, 28.xi). The lower lying woodland areas had become flooded by November, reducing the potential for gnat recording. On 18 November *Mycetophila luctuosa* were gathering around a colony of *Clitocybe nebularis*, a known host of this polyphagous species, in Brookly Wood.

Other significant 2014 records

Epicrypta fumigata The first British record was of a male found by Rob Wolton at Rutleigh Wood (SS521009), Devon by sweeping, in the period October to November 2013 (newsletter 7, p. 3). Rob has obtained a second male from a Malaise trap catch from a nearby location, Scadsbury Moor at Rutleigh (SS520015); *E. fumigata* was from the material collected from 1 September to 17 November. A male and female of the related widespread species *E. aterrima* were also found there in the July/August sample.

Exechiopsis seducta Flitwick Moor NR (TL046352), Bedfordshire, 15.ix.2014, 1 male (I. Perry); Clumber Park, Avriary Wood (SK625732), 17.x.2014, 1 male (P.J. Chandler).

In the previous newsletter a 2013 Surrey record was added to the two previously known sites in Suffolk.

Greenomyia mongolica Warburg Reserve (SU715879), Oxfordshire, 1 male, 26.vii.2014 (I. Perry); Sandhills Wood, Fleet Pond (SU8255), Hampshire, 9.ix.2014, 1 male swept from heather (P.J. Chandler); Morning Springs Wood (SK495492), Nottinghamshire, 16.x.2014, 1 male and 1 female at ivy *Hedera helix* flowers (P.J. Chandler); Peterborough, garden (V.C. Northamptonshire), 2014 (A.E. Stubbs); Ferry Meadows (W side of Peterborough: V.C. Huntingdonshire), 2014 (A.E. Stubbs).

Records of this species are still relatively few but it is clearly now widespread. This very distinctive gnat was first found in Britain in 2006 by Graham Collins. Evidently a recent arrival; first described from Mongolia, it has spread across most of Europe in recent decades. I found it numerous on hogweed *Heracleum* flowers in rides of a conifer plantation at Stock Hill Forest, Somerset on 25 July 2010, but didn't see it again until 2014, when the above records were made from Hants and Notts (exhibited at the BENHS Exhibition and the DF AGM in Carlisle).

It was known from 7 hectads when a map was published in Newsletter 4 (Spring 2010). It has since been recorded from at least a further 14 hectads, with the most northerly record in Lincolnshire (SK876645, 26 December 2011, Janet Rowley) and 6 records are from houses or gardens. Decayed wood, and compost containing fungal mycelium, are probably the main development sites. Adults are often recorded as flower visitors and a wide range of flowers appears to be visited. The wide

scatter of records and occurrence in several entomologists' gardens suggest that it may well be found anywhere in S England.

Manota unifurcata Betchworth (TQ2152), Surrey, flight interception trap by fallen ash, 10.vii.2014, 1 female (S. Dodd); Coedydd Aber (SH6671), N Wales, 1 male (C.M. Drake).

This species was discussed in some detail in the previous newsletter, with reports of new records from Oxwich Wood and Aston Rowant, including a distribution map showing that it is known from scattered records in S England north to Cambs, and in S Wales. It was mentioned that it is possibly too secretive in behaviour to be detected more frequently. The new record from N Wales is thus a significant extension to its range.

Mycetophila lastovkai The distribution of *M. lastovkai* was summarised by Alexander (2014), indicating a recent increase in records and an easterly spread from its previously mainly south-western distribution. Records from Bushy Park (2012-2013) and Windsor Forest (2014, see above) were cited. Since that was written I have also recorded it at Coldstream Wood, Fleet Pond, Hants (SU8254, 2 males, 1.x) and Ivan Perry has found it at the Warburg Reserve, Oxfordshire (see above), supporting this trend. Also Roger Morris found it at Loamhole Dingle (SJ6605), Shropshire on 20 June 2014.

Mycetophila lubomirskii Linn of Tummel (NN911606), 13.ix.2014, male in wooded ravine (I. Perry).

This was recorded as new to Scotland from a specimen collected at the same site by Ivan on 15 July 2013. The previous most northerly record was from Sherwood Forest (Pittance Park in Edwinstowe Center Parcs, 13.vii.2008, D. Gibbs). It otherwise has a scattered distribution in SE England with 10 hectads recorded by 2011 (see above regarding records from Windsor). Jakovlev (2011) reared it from rotten spruce logs bearing the fungi *Steccherinum luteoalbum* and *Asterodon ferruginosus*.

Mycetophila sublunata Flitwick Moor NR (TL046352), Bedfordshire, 30.ix.2014, 1 male (I. Perry); Warburg Reserve, Oxfordshire (SU715879), 1 male, 19.x.2014 (I. Perry); Wytch Heath (SY9784-5), Dorset, 16.v.2014, 5 males (P.J. Chandler); Arne (SY9787-8), Dorset, 18.v.2014, 1 male (P.J. Chandler).

Three records from Surrey in autumn 2013 were the first records since it was added to the British list from 5 sites in 2011. The 2014 records from several sites, including the Warburg Reserve where it was recorded in 2011, confirm that it is now well established in England.

Phronia portschinskyi Flitwick Moor NR (TL046352), Bedfordshire, 15.ix.2014, 4 males in wet alder carr (I. Perry).

It was reported last year as obtained from the same site by Ivan on 6.x.2013. Previous British records are from wetlands in Wales and East Anglia.

Rymosia affinis Warburg Reserve, Oxfordshire (SU715879), 4.x and 19.x.2014, males swept over leaf litter in beech woodland (I. Perry).

Ivan's previous records of *R. affinis* from this site in 2011, 2012 and 2013 were the first in Britain since 1980 (see Newsletter 6, p. 2 and Newsletter 7, p. 6).

Sciophila nigronitida Isle of Grain (TQ 877756), East Kent, Malaise trap (M. Ashby, T. Bantock and C.W. Plant); Lynford Water (TL826948), Norfolk, males on five visits, 15.iv, 12.vi, 23.vi, 7.vii and 14.viii.2014 (I. Perry).

On Ivan's first visit to Lynford Water large numbers were found amongst gorse and broom bushes that are invading the grassland areas of this site. On subsequent visits only a few were seen. No females were noted on any occasion. Ivan notes that the habitat was similar to his previous find of the species at Cavenham Heath, Suffolk in 1994. It is widely distributed in Britain, but very local (with these new records it is now known from 30 hectads, of which 12 post are 1990, with none in common with pre 1990 records), and the larval biology is unknown. Some sites are broad-leaved woodland, but it is also found on open bogs, and there is a record from Gannet's Combe, Lundy Island.

Sciophila plurisetosa Loch Morlich, pine woodland on shore (NH9608), 5.vi.2014, 1 male (P.J. Chandler).

As pointed out by Alexander (2014), the rearing record from Holne Wood NNR, Devon, attributed to this species by Chandler (1987) and Falk & Chandler (2005), has been found to correctly refer to *S. baltica*. Consequently the only previously confirmed British records are from Keith Porter's Malaise trap at Wychwood, Oxfordshire in 1989, and three old ones from Scotland (Kilmun, Argyllshire 1911; Nethy Bridge 1914; Arran 1919). It has been reared abroad from *Auricularia auricula-judae*.

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Peter Chandler