



Readers are, I am sure, only too well aware of the number of name changes for hoverflies that have been published in recent years. In **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 14** the recording scheme organisers drew readers' attention to many of these, and writers on hoverflies have been using the new names increasingly. Because of this I have generally not amended species names quoted in copy for the newsletter if the name used is either that in Stubbs and Falk or is one of those referred to in the recording scheme's list, although I realise that this is inconsistent. For example, I have treated both *Chrysogaster chalybeata* and *Chrysogaster cemiteriorum* as acceptable names for the same species. Peter Chandler's check list of the Diptera is however soon to be published; once it is I shall treat it as the authoritative source of names, and make amendments accordingly to conform to the new checklist. For the benefit of readers I intend to include in the first newsletter after checklist publication a list of hoverfly names where these differ either from the list in Stubbs and Falk or that issued by the recording scheme.

Turning from scientific to vernacular names, a subject which has several times featured on this page in previous issues, I noted that several English language names for hoverflies are included in the **Michelin Field Guide to Insects** (I-Spy Ltd. 1997). I contacted Ken Preston-Mafham, the author of the guide, in order to ascertain the origin of the names he has used, and his reply appears on page 2.

Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 27** should be sent to me: **David Iliff, Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 4HN**, to reach me by 9th December 1998 (or they can be handed to me on Dipterists' Day on 14 November).

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## SUGGESTED ENGLISH NAMES FOR SYRPHIDAE

**Ken Preston-Mafham**  
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The publishers of the I-Spy guide wanted as many common names as possible to be included, so I thought up names for many insects, including hover flies. Had sufficient time been available I would have included more.

There are strong pressures these days to do what the moth people did years ago, and devise names for many of our common insects. If such names are used often enough they become accepted and fixed, as has happened with the moths and more recently with the Odonata. I am doing a lot of writing at present for the current natural history partwork and will soon be doing an identification guide on hover flies for them with about 16-18 species. I shall need common names for all of these, as they only use Latin names if it is unavoidable. I have been thinking about hover fly names and would like to hear comments of newsletter readers on these, which I have listed below. I have tried to think up names that describe the insect, or show differences from a related species, as, for example, the tapered drone fly (*Eristalis pertinax*) in the guide. Incidentally I think that where possible the words "hover fly" should be included: we should use "marmalade hover fly" rather than "marmalade fly" for *Episyrphus balteatus*. I hope readers will not be afraid to suggest a better name when they can think of one for any of the species in my list, and also to add further names for species that I have omitted. It would be useful to have a list of names available and published for all except perhaps the very rarest British species.

Additional species that are similar to those on my list, but rarer, can simply be included by adding the prefix "scarce". It would be beneficial to try and achieve a consensus on an agreed list, and once that is done, publish it in this newsletter in the hope that the names will be used.

*Arctophila fulva* - autumnal bumble bee hover fly  
*Anasimyia lineata* - beaked hover fly  
*Anasimyia transfuga* - dark marsh hover fly  
*Baccha elongata* - club-tailed hover fly  
*Brachypalpoides lenta* - red-belted hover fly  
*Cheilosia illustrata* - miniature bumble bee hover fly  
*Chrysotoxum bicinctum* - twin-belted hover fly  
*Chrysotoxum cautum* - common wasp hover fly  
*Chrysotoxum festivum* - dark wasp hover fly

*Criorhina berberina*, var *oxyacanthae* - tawny bumble bee hover fly  
*Dasysyrphus albostratus* - white-striped hover fly  
*Dasysyrphus tricinctus* - narrow-banded hover fly  
*Dasysyrphus venustus* - tear-drop hover fly  
*Epistrophe eligans* - black-tailed hover fly  
*Episyrrhus balteatus* - marmalade hover fly  
*Eristalinus sepulchralis* - mourning hover fly  
*Eristalis arbustorum* - dwarf drone fly  
*Eristalis horticola* - elegant drone fly  
*Eristalis intricarius* - dwarf bumble bee hover fly  
*Eristalis nemorum* - whining drone fly  
*Eristalis pertinax* - tapered drone fly  
*Eristalis tenax* - drone fly  
*Ferdinandea cuprea* - coppery hover fly  
*Helophilus trivittatus* - pale brindled hover fly  
*Helophilus pendulus* - brindled hover fly  
*Leucozona glauca* - blue-banded hover fly  
*Leucozona lucorum* - dainty bee hover fly  
*Melanostoma mellinum* - small chequered hover fly  
*Melanostoma scalare* - chequered hover fly  
*Meliscaeva cinctella* - darting hover fly  
*Meliscaeva auricollis* - pale darting hover fly  
*Merodon equestris* - narcissus fly  
*Metasyrphus corollae* - vagrant hover fly  
*Metasyrphus latifasciatus* - broad-banded hover fly  
*Metasyrphus luniger* - lunar hover fly  
*Myathropa florea* - false drone fly  
*Parhelophilus frutetorum* - reedmace hover fly  
*Platycheirus albimanus* - pale-footed hover fly  
*Platycheirus manicatus* - bulldog hover fly  
*Platycheirus peltatus* - bristly-legged hover fly  
*Rhingia campestris* - snout-faced hover fly  
*Rhingia rostrata* - scarce snout-faced hover fly  
*Scaeva pyrastris* - pied hover fly  
*Sericomyia lappona* - pale bog hover fly  
*Sericomyia silentis* - common bog hover fly  
*Syritta pipiens* - thick-legged hover fly  
*Syrphus ribesii* - common banded hover fly  
*Syrphus vitripennis* - lesser banded hover fly  
*Volucella bombylans* - bumble bee hover fly  
*Volucella pellucens* - blackberry hover fly  
*Volucella inanis* - lesser hornet hover fly  
*Volucella inflata* - orange-browed hover fly  
*Volucella zonaria* - hornet hover fly  
*Xanthogramma pedisequum* - ornate hover fly  
*Xylota segnis* - gold-belted hover fly  
*Xylota sylvarum* - gold-tipped hover fly

Readers will note that I have used the form "hover fly" (two words) rather than "hoverfly" (Also "drone fly" and "bumble bee"), as indicated in the most recent instructions to zoologists with regard to common names. I feel this makes sense since it makes it clear that they are true flies, unlike butterflies, dragonflies, mayflies, sawflies etc. (names joined) which are not.

(Editors comments: I sincerely hope that readers will give thought to Ken's proposals, and let me know their views on his list, or alternative suggestions, via this newsletter, or on Dipterists' Day. While we have got used to the term "hoverfly" as a single word in recent years it is hard to argue with the logic of Ken's suggestion of splitting it to two words, although it would perhaps be premature for me to change the title of this newsletter just yet. When I received his copy I conducted a quick scan of literature available to me and found it far from consistent on this matter: Coe used the form "hover-flies" (i.e two words hyphenated). Colyer and Hammond in **Flies of the British Isles** did likewise; in fact in that book all English names for families are of the form where "fly" is a separate word, with a hyphen being used only in the case of "hover-flies" and "louse-flies". I have searched Verrall in vain for any mention of an English name for the family. Brunetti's 1923 book on Southern Indian hoverflies, which seems to be closely modelled in style on Verrall, uses only one English name for the Syrphidae, which is "sun-flies".)

## **CALIPROBOLA SPECIOSA AT HIGH HAWTHORN BLOSSOM**

**Malcolm Smart**

**"Southcliffe", Pattingham Road, Perton, Wolverhampton, WV6 7HD**

I spent the morning of 2 May 1997 recording Diptera in brilliant sunshine in the vicinity of Denny Wood in the New Forest, a known locality for *Caliprobola speciosa*. It was very early in the season for that species and no specimens were seen in their characteristic positions flying around or resting on old tree stumps. Before leaving the site I investigated a tall free-standing roadside hawthorn bush/tree in full blossom. There were a number of large Syrphidae buzzing around the blossom just at the upper reach of my net (with 2m handle) including *Criorhina floccosa*, *Myathropa florea* and *Eristalis tenax*. One particular specimen eagerly feeding on the blossom was largely obscured from my view. On netting it I discovered it was a female *Caliprobola speciosa*. I estimate that the blossom at which it was found was at about 3.7m above ground level.

## **PLANT A PARSNIP GARDEN - FOR HOVERFLIES**

**Austin Brackenbury**  
**76 Crawford Road, Sheffield, S8 9BU**

As the originator of the so-called "Brackenbury Lure" (**British Hoverflies; 1983, Stubbs and Falk, p.18**), may I suggest an additional technique for attracting hoverflies for those Syrphidists living, like myself, in botanical habitats devoid of wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) much loved by hoverflies as a feeding station.

Last year, having found a couple of supermarket parsnips with a good growth of rootlets and top shoots hiding away in the back of our vegetable cupboard, I turned accepted horticultural practice on its head by planting into our garden the root rather than the seed of parsnip.

One survived attack by slugs and eventually flowered, but this coincided with a patch of bad weather so the local hoverflies missed out on an unfamiliar treat. Presumably staggered sets of "expired" parsnips would provided a succession of plants in flower.

Further trials will be done in 1998, much to the delight of the hoverflies and the anguish of "proper" gardeners.

## **PROVISIONAL LIST OF HOVERFLIES RECORDED ON HOUNSLOW HEATH LNR 1996-1997**

**John Herbert**  
**Flat 3, 5 Manorgate Road, Kingston, Surrey, KT2 7AW**

During 1996 and 1997 79 species of hoverfly were recorded and determined at Hounslow Heath LNR. Among these were two RDB 3 species, nine notable species and many local species. The number of hoverflies recorded so far obviously shows that the reserve is very important for invertebrates and further surveying of the site will produce more surprises. It may be interesting to note that hoverflies are now regularly being used for site evaluation. Virtually all the hoverflies were hand-netted, and catching was undertaken two to three times per week or when weather permitted. Several rare and notable flies were found including one or two primary woodland indicators (e.g. *Epistrophe euchroma*). Also found was the rare *Cheilosia mutabilis* for which there are hardly any southern records (R K A Morris - pers comms). Records from the wetland area include the notable *Neoascia interrupta*; the reserve is probably the best site in the whole of the London area for this hoverfly (C W Plant - pers comms).

The hoverfly records for the site for 1996 and 1997 are listed below, with comments. As far as is known no hoverfly recording had previously been undertaken at the reserve, so most of these records are new for the site. A list of around a hundred or so

species should be attainable for this reserve with a couple more years of recording and a bit of extra effort.

*Baccha obscuripennis*: only two records, both from the same area of woodland in the south-east sector.

*Melanostoma mellinum*: fairly common; frequently in wetland area in 1997.

*Melanostoma scalare*: common: in most areas of reserve

*Platycheirus ambiguus*: frequent in early spring, often on *Prunus* blossom; only recorded in north-west and west areas. Recorded in both years (local).

*Platycheirus albimanus*: common; both years.

*Platycheirus angustatus*: frequent in wetland area; both years, common in 1997.

*Platycheirus clypeatus*: frequent in wetland area. Larvae predatory on aphids in wet and marshy areas. Both years.

*Platycheirus fulviventris*: frequent in wetland area. Associated with open marshland especially where *Glyceria* grows. Both years (local).

*Platycheirus tarsalis*: one record only (1997) from wetland area.

*Platycheirus scutatus*: common; most areas.

*Pyrophaena granditarsa*: one record (August 1997) from wetland area.

*Pyrophaena rosarum*: one record from wetland area (local). Both species of *Pyrophaena* are likely to be found at larger/older damp habitats of the London area.

*Paragus haemorrhous*: fairly common, especially in the west and north-west sectors where it seems to favour low-growing bramble present on acid grass (local)

*Chrysotoxum bicinctum*: fairly common, especially around wetland perimeter (local).

*Chrysotoxum cautum*: recorded twice in 1997 in the cleared hawthorn areas just to the west of the staff yard (local).

*Chrysotoxum festivum*: frequent in both years (local).

*Chrysotoxum verralli*: frequent; has a restricted UK distribution being present in south-east England and East Anglia only (local).

*Dasysyrphus albostratus*: frequent on the reserve, mainly in the areas with mature oaks; both years (local).

*Didea fasciata*: recorded several times from two areas of the reserve. Very local in the UK (notable B)

*Epistrophe diaphana*: one record from woodland edge in north-east sector. A scarce fly mainly recorded from broadleaved woodlands (notable B).

*Epistrophe eligans*: common.

*Epistrophe grossulariae*: recorded twice on western boundary near River Crane (local).

*Epistrophella euchroma*: four records, all in 1997 (RDB3).

*Episyrphus balteatus*: common.

*Leucozona lucorum*: frequent in clearings and woodland margins.

*Melangyna compositarum*: one record in 1996. A species with a predominantly northerly distribution (local).

*Melangyna labiatarum*: frequent on umbel flowers along woodland rides and edges.

*Meligramma cincta*: one 1996 record from south-east woods.

*Meligramma triangulifera*: recorded three times in 1996: a male and a female taken in different areas, and a small swarm of males seen hovering above an elder (*Sambucus*) in a hawthorn (*Crataegus*) clearing (notable B).

*Meliscaeva auricollis*: common.

*Metasyrphus corollae*: regularly recorded from the reserve.

*Metasyrphus latifasciatus*: two records, one from short acid grassland, and one from the wetland area.

*Metasyrphus luniger*: common.

*Scaeva pyrastris*: recorded on several occasions; large influx in 1997, when many were feeding on wild carrot (*Daucus*) in wetland area.

*Sphaerophoria menthastris*: frequent in wetland area, netted from marshy grassland (local).

*Sphaerophoria rueppellii*: frequent in and around wetland area (local).

*Sphaerophoria scripta*: common.

*Syrphus ribesii*: common.

*Syrphus torvus*: three records.

*Syrphus vitripennis*: common.

*Xanthogramma pedisequum*: frequent, especially on the west side where short turf is present; both years (local).

*Cheilosia albitarsis*: two records from wetland area.

*Cheilosia grossa*: recorded regularly from one area; small swarms of males often seen there in early spring.

*Cheilosia illustrata*: four records from a damp ditch surrounding wetland area.

*Cheilosia intonsa*: one male in wetland area in 1996 (local).

*Cheilosia mutabilis*: recorded in both years in an area of heathy woodland; few recent records from London area (RDB3).

*Cheilosia pagana*: one 1996 record from wetland area.

*Cheilosia praecox*: frequent, both years (local).

*Cheilosia vernalis*: recorded for first time in 1997.

*Chrysogaster chalybeata*: two females on wild carrot in wetland area in 1997 (local).

*Chrysogaster hirtella*: one male in wetland area in 1996.

*Chrysogaster solstitialis*: first records in 1997: two males on *Heracleum* on west side of reserve near River Crane.

*Lejogaster metallina*: several records from wetland area: both years.

*Neoascia interrupta*: frequent in wetland area. A very local species occurring mainly in south-east and east of England (notable B).

*Neoascia tenur*: frequent in and around wetland area (local).

*Anasimyia contracta*: several records from wetland area in 1996 (local).

*Eristalinus sepulchralis*: frequent in wetland area; both years (local).

*Eristalis arbustorum*: common.

*Eristalis horticola*: recorded for first time in 1997. Many present in autumn.



*Eristalis intricarius*: common.

*Eristalis pertinax*: common.

*Eristalis tenax*: common.

*Helophilus hybridus*: recorded for first time in 1997 from wetland area; several occurred with an influx of *H. trivittatus* (local).

*Helophilus pendulus*: common.

*Helophilus trivittatus*: several records, with an influx in 1997 (local).

*Myathropa florea*: common, especially in more wooded areas.

*Parhelophilus frutetorum*: frequent in wetland area (local).

*Parhelophilus versicolor*: frequent in wetland area (local).

*Eumerus tuberculatus*: frequent.

*Merodon equestris*: infrequent; a few records.

*Pipizella varipes*: several records.

*Pipizella virens*: one female on umbels in 1997 (local).

*Volucella bombylans*: frequent (both colour forms).

*Volucella inanis*: frequent, especially in south-west area (notable B).

*Volucella inflata*: one in May 1996 feeding on hoary cress (notable B).

*Volucella pellucens*: common.

*Volucella zonaria*: frequent, especially in more wooded areas (notable B).

*Syrpitta pipiens*: common.

References: Stubbs, A. and Falk, S.J. 1983. **British Hoverflies**. British Entomological and Natural History Society.

Falk, S.J. **A review of scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 1**. NCC

Plant, C.W. **Hoverflies (Diptera Syrphidae) in the London area: Progress report and selected distribution maps**. Lond. Nat: 69 53-65.

Shirt, D.B. 1987. **British Red Data Book.2 . Insects**. NCC.

## HOVERFLIES IN MACAU - A LONG DISTANCE RECORDING SCHEME

David Iloff

Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 4HN

In September 1996 I received a letter from Emmett R Easton of the University of Macau telling me that he had read my article on hoverflies in Hong Kong which was included in **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 17**. The article had been passed to him by Joanne Ward of the Nature Conservancy Council. Emmett enclosed with his letter relevant pages of a checklist of agricultural insects in Hong Kong, and suggested that when I next visited Hong Kong I should meet him to examine hoverflies that he had caught in Macau. Ironically I was actually in Hong Kong when he wrote his letter, and I even visited Macau for a day while there. His letter was awaiting me on my return to the UK, so we have yet to meet in person.

Since our initial exchange of correspondence, Emmett has sent me for identification several specimens of hoverflies he has collected in Macau. Since it is difficult to maintain pinned specimens in Macau due to the high humidity, he has been happy for me to determine the specimens and for them to be set and labelled and be kept in the UK. Emmett has also sent me species lists for two sites in South China, and a list of hoverfly species in the collection of the Sun Yat Sen Museum in Guangzhou. These lists have had the effect of reassuring me; having on several visits to Hong Kong only found about 18 species of hoverfly (and knowing for example that well over a hundred dragonfly species have been recorded in the territory) I had thought that I had done rather badly in terms of the number of species I had found. However the lists for the two China sites contain 14 and 18 species respectively, and the museum collection has 35; collectively these lists include almost all of the species I found in Hong Kong, and some of those listed which I did not find in the territory are species well known in Britain, such as *Scaeva pyrastris*, *Metasyrphus corollae* and *Eristalinus sepulchralis*.

Most of the specimens of hoverflies collected in Macau which Emmett sent me were of species that I had become familiar with in Hong Kong, such as *Dideopsis aegrotus*, *Eristalinus arvorum* and *Phytomyia zonata*. He also collected some *Episyrphus balteatus* and the similar *Episyrphus nectarinus*. Among the specimens that Emmett sent me were two which were unfamiliar to me, and which required some research and the help of Nigel Wyatt of the Natural History Museum to determine. One was *Episyrphus arcifer*, a member of the genus which does not obviously resemble the familiar *E. balteatus*. The other, the first hoverfly specimen that Emmett sent, turned out to be a *Mallota*, either *M. curvigaster* or *M. vilis* (these may well be synonyms). This intriguing insect has curved and thickened rear femora which have a large ventral excision and a prominent projecting tooth; it has been the subject of some dispute over the years as to which genus it belongs to (it has been placed at different times in *Eristalis*, *Helophilus* and *Merodon*, and before being identified as a *Mallota* was included in the genus *Tigridomyia*). The *Mallota* specimen has been placed in the NHM collection; the remaining specimens have been mounted and are being kept by Martin Matthews.

Probably most hoverfly recorders receive records from time to time of flies which are not hoverflies, but because they resemble them in appearance and/or behaviour are mistakenly reported as such; for example I have on several occasions received specimens of *Bombylius major* described by the collector as a "hoverfly". My Hong Kong photographs included one of a small fly with a yellow and black striped abdomen hovering; I had been confident that this was a hoverfly, but had totally failed to find it in the NHM hoverfly collection. Emmett came to my rescue and enabled the mystery to be solved by sending me specimens of this fly which he had taken in Macau (also hovering). Unlike me, Emmett had immediately suspected that they were not hoverflies and he was correct. In fact they were examples of the Calliphorid *Stomorina discolor*.

In the newsletter article on Hong Kong hoverflies which resulted in Emmett contacting me, I referred to the species *Paragus serratus*. I have now discovered that this identification was incorrect; all examples of *Paragus* with a serrated rim to the scutellum which I saw in Hong Kong actually belong to the very similar species *P. crenulatus*.

### **BOOK REVIEW: SOMERSET HOVERFLIES by E.T. and D.A. LEVY**

**Dorset Hoverflies**, by Ted and Dave Levy and Bill Dean, was reviewed by Roger Morris in **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 17** (November 1993). The new book, on the hoverflies of Somerset, is in the same format as its predecessor. Besides the comprehensive distribution maps and species lists that one would expect from a county survey, both books have several additional features, such as the histories of early collecting in the county, biographies of collectors, descriptions of some of the county's best sites for hoverflies and essays on species of special interest. However this new book is enhanced in a number of ways; for example the book has more illustrations; the artwork (by M.J.Levy) includes many photographs of sites, early collectors and of hoverflies (20 of which are in colour).

Not only does **Somerset Hoverflies** contain a wealth of information, but it is also a very good read, reflecting not only the depth of research that went into its production but also the enthusiasm the authors clearly have for their subject. The book is essential for anyone who expects to record in Somerset or adjacent counties, and would be a valuable addition to the bookshelf of anyone interested in hoverflies .

The book is funded by the Somerset Wildlife Trust, and can be obtained from the authors at **9 Chilton Grove, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 4AN**; price £6 plus £1 postage and packing (cheques to E.T. Levy). Copies will be available for purchase on Dipterists' Day (14th November).

## INTERESTING RECENT RECORDS

### From Richard Underwood:

Martin Mere Wildfowl &  
Wetland Trust, Burscough,  
Lancs.

|           |  |                                 |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------|
| 21/5/1996 |  | <i>Platycheirus podagratus</i>  |
| 4/6/1996  |  | <i>Neocnemodon vitripennis</i>  |
| 2/7/1996  |  | <i>Anasimyia contracta</i>      |
| 10/7/1996 |  | <i>Anasimyia lineata</i>        |
| 29/7/1996 |  | <i>Eristalis abusivus</i>       |
| 13/8/1996 |  | <i>Neoascia geniculata</i>      |
| 14/8/1996 |  | <i>Parhelophilus versicolor</i> |
| 30/4/1997 |  | <i>Pipiza bimaculata</i>        |
| 12/8/1997 |  | <i>Dasysyrphus tricinctus</i>   |
| 12/9/1997 |  | <i>Triglyphus primus</i>        |

Blythe Hall, Ormskirk, Lancs

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 16/6/1996 | <i>Cheilosia nasutula</i> |
|-----------|---------------------------|

Wheldrake Ings, N. Yorks

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 14/7/1996 | <i>Anasimyia contracta</i>  |
|           | <i>Anasimyia lineata</i>    |
|           | <i>Anasimyia transfuga</i>  |
|           | <i>Eristalis abusivus</i>   |
|           | <i>Platycheirus scambus</i> |

Thorne Moors, Humberside

|           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 15/7/1996 | <i>Anasimyia lineata</i> |
|-----------|--------------------------|

Wharram Quarry, N. Yorks

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 16/7/1996 | <i>Chrysogaster virescens</i> |
|-----------|-------------------------------|

Wheldrake Ings, N. Yorks

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 17/7/1996 | <i>Platycheirus scambus</i> |
|-----------|-----------------------------|

Cerrog y Coed, Gwent

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 9/6/1997 | <i>Chrysogaster macquarti</i> |
|          | <i>Rhingia rostrata</i>       |

Cannop Ponds, Gloucs

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 10/6/1997 | <i>Chrysogaster macquarti</i> |
|           | <i>Sphegina elegans</i>       |

Symond's Yat, Gloucs

|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 10/6/1997 | <i>Sphegina elegans</i> |
|-----------|-------------------------|

Nr. Mynydd Du Car Park,  
Gwent

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 11/6/1997 | <i>Cheilosia mutabilis</i>   |
|           | <i>Sphegina clunipes</i>     |
|           | <i>Sphegina verecunda</i>    |
|           | <i>Didea fasciata</i>        |
|           | <i>Megasyrphus annulipes</i> |

Goldcliff, Gwent

|           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 12/6/1997 | <i>Anasimyia contracta</i> |
|-----------|----------------------------|

**From David Iliff:**

|                                    |           |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Mallards Pike Lake, Gloucs         | 2/5/1998  | <i>Megasyrphus annulipes</i><br><i>Neocnemodon pubescens</i> |
| Woodmancote, Cheltenham,<br>Gloucs | 17/6/1998 | <i>Xanthogramma citrofasciatum</i>                           |
| Horsey Mere, Norfolk               | 17/6/1998 | <i>Lejops vittata</i>  |

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Bristol and District Hoverfly Group**

Readers who live anywhere near Bristol or who are likely to visit the area may be interested to know that there is a Bristol and District Hoverfly Group. The aim of the group, which held its first meeting in March 1995, is to stimulate recording in and around Bristol, to unite the existing specialists, to encourage new recorders and to promote knowledge and conservation of hoverflies.

The group has held a small number of indoor and field meetings since its inception and has produced and circulated to its members distribution maps for hoverflies of the region.

The Bristol district has a rich history of Diptera recording, e.g the work of H Audcent which was published in the 1940s by the Bristol Naturalists Society and the work of d'Assis Fonseca who lived in Bristol until his death a few years ago. The records of Ray Poulding and Simon Randolph in the 1980s are particularly important, and experts such as Mike Paskin continue this tradition today.

Those interested in becoming involved in the group should contact **Ray Barnett, City Museum and Art Gallery, Queens Road, Bristol, BS8 1RL (0117 9223571).**