

Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme

Newsletter 23

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From the Scheme Organiser

Requests for Information

Larger Brachycera recorders may be able to assist with the following requests for help:

1. Andrew Grayson is compiling a complete Yorkshire Diptera List and requires significant records, especially since 1991, which may update the present County list. Andrew's publication will subdivide records according to vice-counties and list number of County sites. The following species are currently excluded because of erroneous or doubtful records:
Chrysops viduatus, *Haematopota grandis*, *Hybomitra muehlfeldi*, *H. solstitialis*, *Tabanus bovinus*, *T. miki*, *Sargus cuprarius*, *Stratiomys chamaeleon* and *Ogcodes pallipes*. If you can help please contact Andrew at 56 Piercy End, Kirkbymoorside, York YO62 6DF.
2. Neil Harvey is compiling Essex records for a review of distribution and status of Larger Brachycera in the Essex Field Club annual report. Any post-1990 records would be welcomed. You can e-mail them to Neil at atneilh@essexwt.org.uk.

Atlas News

I have approached Dr Mark Hill, the new Head of the Biological Records Centre at Monk's Wood, regarding their assistance in helping us to publish a new Larger Brachycera Atlas. I received a very positive response, although a meeting will be required before they can commit themselves to any agreement or timescale. We will need to discuss practical issues such as how much data entry is required, how the text will be prepared and who will publish it. Hopefully, we should be able to do most of this within the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme keeping BRC staff to a minimum.

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***Dioctria cothurnata* Meigen, 1820 (Diptera: Asilidae) new to v.c. 65 (North West Yorkshire)**

Andrew Grayson, 56, Piercy End, Kirkbymoorside, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 6DF.

Around midday on 12.7.2003, I swept a male and female *Dioctria cothurnata* Meigen, 1820 *in copula* from amongst waist-high vegetation towards the edge of a sheltered, densely-vegetated woodland glade in Langton Wood, Great Langton, 44/29-96-. Langton Wood adjoins a gravel-bottomed section of the River Swale, and is a rather overgrown mixed woodland containing several man-made, or obviously man-managed, fish-ponds.

***Ogcodes pallipes* Latreille in Olivier, 1812 (Diptera: Acroceridae) deleted from the Yorkshire list**

Andrew Grayson

Skidmore (1969) added *Ogcodes pallipes* to the Yorkshire list on the basis of a specimen taken at Ellerburn Bank, Thornton Dale, v.c. 62, on 14.7.1968 by Mrs. H. E. (Tim) Flint, and identified by her husband, John H. Flint. Two further v.c. 62 records were subsequently produced via Donald H. Smith who identified material from Strensall, 14.7.1957, leg. Arthur Smith, and Malton Road, York, 28.7.1943, leg. John H. Elliott. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to examine the three relevant specimens, all of which proved to be *Paracrocera orbiculus* (Fabricius, 1787); therefore, *O. pallipes* is deleted from the Yorkshire list.

P. orbiculus is the only acrocerid known from Yorkshire; it is widely distributed in the county, but very local, being principally found on vegetation in the vicinity of bogs, or boggy flushes.

Thanks are due to Adrian Norris for allowing access to John Flint's collection, held at Leeds Museum, and to Don Smith for the loan of the specimens he holds.

Reference

Skidmore, P. 1969. The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union One Hundred and Seventh Annual Report [for 1968]: Entomology: Diptera. *The Naturalist* **94**: 14-18.

A second Yorkshire site for *Tabanus maculicornis* Zetterstedt, 1842 (Diptera: Tabanidae)

Andrew Grayson

In Yorkshire, *Tabanus maculicornis* has only been known from Ashberry Pasture, Rievaulx, (44/56-84-), in the North York Moors (Grayson, 1995; Stubbs & Falk, 2001; Grayson, 2002): fortunately, it persists at this locality as, more-or-less, a locally common species. A second Yorkshire site was recently discovered, the details of which are given below.

On 14.6.2003, I encountered two female *T. maculicornis* at the margin of Low Pasture, Hawnby (44/541891), which is a rough pasture/meadow with flushes, and is hence similar to Ashberry Pasture. One *T. maculicornis* voucher specimen was taken at rest on a fence-post beside a small stream, a second female alighted on the same post less than a minute after the first was captured. Other tabanids present at Low Pasture on 14.6.2003 were *Haematopota crassicornis* Wahlberg, 1848, *H. pluvialis* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *Hybomitra distinguenda* (Verrall, 1909).

References

- Grayson, A. 1995. The Horseflies of Yorkshire. A comprehensive county account. Andy Publications. Kirkbymoorside.
- Grayson, A. 2002. Some behavioural observations of *Tabanus maculicornis* Zetterstedt (Diptera: Tabanidae). *Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme Newsletter* **20**: 8-9.
- Stubbs, A. E. & Drake [C.] M. 2001. British Soldierflies and their Allies. An illustrated guide to their identification and ecology: covering all flies (Diptera) in the families Acroceridae, Asilidae, Athericidae, Bombyliidae, Rhagionidae, Scenopinidae, Stratiomyidae, Tabanidae, Therevidae, Xylomyidae and Xylophagidae. British Entomological and Natural History Society. Reading.

A review of the Yorkshire status of *Hybomitra distinguenda* (Verrall, 1909) (Diptera: Tabanidae)

Andrew Grayson

A BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Hybomitra distinguenda (Verrall, 1909) was added to the Yorkshire list by Fordham (1919) on the basis of a male specimen from Skipwith Common, 2.8.1918; however, Grayson (2000) considered that this record was probably erroneous. The earliest known authentic specimens were taken at Gormire (presumably in the vicinity of Gormire Lake) by Chris Cheetham on 26.6.1920. The majority of subsequent Yorkshire records are post 1990. This current review takes into account a previously neglected record from v.c. 65 (Payne, 1955), and a first record from v.c. 64, whence 5 females were encountered by the author in the Cayton Gill area of the Ripley Castle Estate on 29.6.2003.

STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION

H. distinguenda is widely distributed in Yorkshire. It occurs locally in the North York Moors area, and records exist from single localities in v.c.s 63, 64, and 65. Four old records exist from v.c. 61, but it is probable that none of these are authentic. Current knowledge indicates that the overall county status is probably very local.

THE YORKSHIRE RECORDS OF *HYBOMITRA DISTINGUENDA* BY VICE-COUNTY

(* = estimated National Grid reference)

v.c. 61 South East Yorkshire.

There are no known authentic records from this vice-county. A record from Allerthorpe Common, 31.7.1934, is erroneous (Grayson, 1995). A further record from Allerthorpe, 30.8.1927, W. J. Fordham was marked “? this species” by the recorder! A record from

Bubwith, pre 1919, is a duplicate locality name referring to a record from Skipwith Common, 2.8.1918, (Fordham, 1919), which is also probably erroneous (Grayson, 2000).

v.c. 62 North East Yorkshire.

Ashberry Pasture, 44/56-84-*, 17.6.1978, J. H. Flint
44/567847, 7.6.1992 (1♀ on fence-post), A. Grayson
44/568848, 27.6.1993 (2♀♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Beadlam, 44/652847, 21.7.1991 (1♀ trapped inside kitchen window), A.G.
Biller Howe Dale, 45/916017, 28.7.2002 (1♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Bridestones, 44/87-91-*, 1985 (1♀), D. H. Smith, (t. A.G.)
Cockerdale, Oldstead,
44/533807, 13.7.2000 (1♂ squashed on road), A.G.
44/533807, 17.6.2002 (1♂ on bog vegetation), A.G.
Fen Bog,
44/85-97-, 11.7.1990 (3♂♂1♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
44/85-97-, 1.7.1991 (2♂♂1♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
44/85-97-, 14.7.1992 (3♂♂3♀♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
44/85-97-, 11.7.1994 (1♂1♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
Fylinghall,
Gormire, 45/93-04*, 26.6.1929 (1♀ on Laurel bush in garden), W. J. Fordham
Cheetham, 44/50-83-*, 26.6.1920 (1♂2♀♀ in Leeds City Museum, t. A.G.), C. A.
Hollin Hill Bogs, 44/672737, 2.6.2000 (1♂ resting on vegetation), R. Crossley, (t. A.G.)
Laskill Bridge, 44/563908, 16.6.2003 (1♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Low Pasture, Hawnby,
44/543893, 14.6.2003 (1♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Northdale, 44/84-97-, 1.7.1991 (1♀ on fence-rail), A.G.
Sutton Bank, near Gliding Club,
44/522822, 5.7.2001 (1♀ flying around car bonnet), A.G.
Tranmire Bogs, 44/805972, 14.7.2002 (1♀ attacking recorder), A.G.

v.c. 63 South West Yorkshire.

Haw Park, Wakefield,
44/36-14-, 6.1991 (1♂ in beating-tray), D. G. Hemingway, det. J. D.
Coldwell, (t. A.G.)

v.c. 64 Mid West Yorkshire.

Cayton Gill, 44/281629, 29.6.2003 (1♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
44/281631, 29.6.2003 (1♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Nidderdale Way, near Cayton Gill,
44/279627, 29.6.2003 (1♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
44/276626, 29.6.2003 (2♀♀ attacking recorder), A.G.

v.c. 65 North West Yorkshire.

Payne (1955) contains a record from Carperby, Wensleydale, 9.7.1955. This refers to a specimen taken on the writer, Kenneth G. Payne, by his wife, Joyce, whilst they collected around the edges of Locker Tarn, which lies within National Grid reference 44/00-91-. Ken (pers. comm.) no longer has the specimen, and probably used Edwards *et al.* (1939) to determine the species; therefore, whilst the determination was probably correct, it is also possible that the specimen may have been a female *Hybomitra montana* (Meigen, 1820) with an extensively orange-flanked abdomen.

References

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Fordham, W. J. 1919. Notes on the Entomology of the Bubwith District. *The Naturalist* **44**: 15, 70-71.
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 Grayson, A. 2003. *Tabanus sudeticus* Zeller, 1842 (Diptera: Tabanidae) drinking at pools during hot weather. *Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme Newsletter* **22**: [4].
 Payne, K. G. 1955. Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Excursions in 1955: Carperby, Wensleydale, V.C. 65, July 9th: Diptera. *The Naturalist* **80**: 170-171.

Interesting Records in 2003

Compiled by the Scheme Organiser, Simon Hayhow

TABANIDAE

<i>Atylotus rusticus</i>	Long Hendon N.R., Bucks.	29.6	JW,MS
<i>Tabanus maculicornis</i>	Thompson Common N.R., Norfolk	15.7	MP

STRATIOMYIDAE

<i>Oxycera pardalina</i>	Whitewell, Lancs.	5.8	DH
<i>Oplodontha viridula</i>	Thompson Common N.R., Norfolk	15.7	MP
<i>Stratiomys singularior</i>	Ashton Keynes, Wilts.	7.8	JG

ACROCERIDAE

<i>Ogcodes pallipes</i>	Capel Llaniltern, Glam.	11.6	DC
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BOMBYLIIDAE

<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Breach Wood, Dorset	27.3	MP
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Wyke Wood, Dorset	27.3	MP
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Ventnor, IOW	11.4	DD
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Luccombe Down, IOW	17.4, 24.4	DD
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Bonchurch, IOW	18.4	DD
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Shide Quarry, IOW	22.4	DD
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Chale Green, IOW	23.4	DD
<i>Bombylius minor</i>	Throop Heath, Dorset	7.8	MP

ASILIDAE

<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	Warmwell Heath, Dorset	2.8	MP
<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	Marazion Marsh, Cornwall	-.8	DF per KM
<i>Eutolmus rufibarbis</i>	Grimes Graves, Norfolk	12.7	MP
<i>Eutolmus rufibarbis</i>	Cranwich Heath, Norfolk	12.7	MP
<i>Eutolmus rufibarbis</i>	Lynford Meadows, Norfolk	12.7	MP
<i>Eutolmus rufibarbis</i>	RAF Barnham, Suffolk	14.7	MP
<i>Eutolmus rufibarbis</i>	Kings Forest, Suffolk	14.7, 16.7	MP
<i>Eutolmus rufibarbis</i>	Ramparts Field, Suffolk	16.7	MP
<i>Machimus arthriticus</i>	King's Forest, Suffolk	12.7	MP
<i>Choerades marginatus</i>	Redgrave & Lopham Fen, Suffolk	13.7	MP
<i>Choerades marginatus</i>	Wayland Wood, Norfolk	15.7	MP
<i>Choerades marginatus</i>	Grafton Wood, Worc.	1.9	MM

Thanks to the following for 2003 records:

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