

DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES

Sepsidae Newsletter No. 1

1983

This is the moment that you have all been eagerly awaiting! I am now anxious to assemble locality records for British Sepsidae and, next spring, to forward them to Paul Harding at BRC for the production of computer files and distribution maps.

At present I am transferring the BMNH records and other records that I used for the Sepsidae Handbook on to record cards (GEN 7), and I ask all those who have expressed interest in this recording scheme to send me their records. With this letter you will receive a number of GEN 7 cards for your own use. Please complete them as soon as convenient and return them to me at the address given below. If you need further cards, please write to the Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE17 2LS.

Some of you have already sent me your records on BRC cards. For these I am most grateful, and would ask you simply to check that I have all your records and also to advise me of any changes in your identifications. Others have sent me lists of localities or grid references for each species. I would ask you to compile these lists again, with full data, on the enclosed record cards. Some of you may already have some specimens identified or checked by me. Please include them in your lists unless you hear directly from me: I will probably have listed them already, but I may not yet have checked grid references and v.c. numbers. Those who have not sent me any records previously are asked to list all the records in their private or institutional collections.

Since the publication of my Royal Entomological Society Handbook (1979) there have been no changes in the British Sepsidae fauna - no additional species and no changes in nomenclature. However, doubts still remain whether nigripes Meigen (which will key out to flavimana Meigen) is actually a good species or merely a reduced form of fulgens. In assessing your records, please use caution as regards Themira ♀♀ that key to couplet 8, and do not list records of T. pusilla, T. germanica, N. pectinulata, S. neocynipsea or S. biflexuosa that are based only on ♀♀. I cannot undertake to identify collections for you, but am willing to check or verify problematic specimens.

I apologise for the impersonality of this newsletter, but I am sure everyone will appreciate that even a scheme of modest size such as this involves too many people for me to send out individual letters.

Christmas is approaching, and I hope you will receive this newsletter well before the holiday break. What better way of recovering from the gastronomic and bipulous excesses of Christmas than by assembling your Sepsid records? Thank you, and a Happy Christmas and successful New Year to you all.

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