

DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

Sepsidae Newsletter No. 2 - 1984

It is a pleasure to record such a good response to my request for Sepsid records. The purpose of this second newsletter is to express my thanks to all those who have contributed records or material towards the Sepsidae Recording Scheme since Newsletter No. 1 (December 1983), to give a brief progress report on the scheme, and to announce two recent changes to the British List.

The stack of GEN7 cards containing your records eventually grew to 17 cm in height. The cards were passed to Paul Harding (BRC) at the end of May. During the summer they will be checked and prepared for data processing. First print-outs of the maps and lists of records will, I hope, be available in the autumn and will be displayed at the Dipterists' meetings on 10 November.

There is still time for records sent to me during July to be included in the first set of maps. But in any case this will be an ongoing scheme and I shall continue to collect records for further editions of the maps. Please continue sending me your cards and (in small numbers!) your queries.

Now for news of two additions to the British List:

Sepsis nigripes Meigen, 1826

After some hesitation as to the status of this form, I have now seen sufficient non-British material to convince myself that it is a good species, and it can be re-instated to the British List. It was first recorded as British by B.R. Laurence (1952, Entomologist's mon. Mag. 88 : 82, figs. 5-7). In my Handbook key it will run to couplet 9 on page 21. The male resembles that of flavimana most closely in the form of the fore tibia, but differs by the less swollen fore femur, shape of the genital surstylus, mainly dark legs (as in fulgens) and small size. Compare Laurence's figures with those of flavimana and biflexuosa given in my Handbook. The species is evidently a member of the cow-dung community, but like biflexuosa, is extremely scarce in this country and has probably reached the limit of its range in southern England.

Themira biloba Andersson, 1975

A surprising discovery of a species known only from Skåne province in S. Sweden, collected at Timworth, W Suffolk, 10 July 1914, by C.G. Nurse. Andersson's material was collected on the margins of Krankesjön (Lake Kranke), and it is possible that Nurse's specimens were actually collected around Livermere Lake, close to Timworth. This species may be associated with waterfowl droppings, as is evidently the case with several other species of Themira.

It runs to putris in my Handbook key, couplet 7 on page 15, but differs by having the section of costa between h and sc subequal to that between sc and r1 (10 : 10, in putris 10 : 7); ♂ fore femur with the more apical of the pegs entirely straight; ♂ fore metatarsus longer than segment 2 (10 : 7, in putris subequal); ♂ surstylus distinctly bilobed on inner surface. See Andersson's description (1975, Ent. scand. 6: 57-60) which includes a more detailed comparison of biloba and putris.

This species may well be more widespread in East Anglia, but must be very restricted ecologically or chorologically to have been overlooked for so long.

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