

CRANEFLY RECORDING SCHEME

Newsletter No. 3\*

August, 1973

The number of participants continues to grow, including new people from Scotland and Wales. With the crane-fly season now in full swing we hope that you are succeeding in finding material; certainly it is encouraging that most of those who originally only offered to send material have taken up the offer of photocopied keys.

With this newsletter are four enclosures:

1. Check list of British Tipulidae. If you read this newsletter you will find that this is already out of date, but we hope that it will nevertheless prove useful.

2. Atlas of genitalia of British Tipulinae. These figures are mainly from the works of Savtshenko and Mannheims and we have not confirmed that all agree with British specimens. Please let us know of any specimens that do not seem to agree with these figures, although some allowance should be made for distortion caused by slide preparation or the drying of specimens, the geographical origins of the specimens figured and any shortcomings in the methods used to reproduce these figures. Males of Crane-fly species have the advantage of bearing characteristic external genitalia which, particularly in the larger species, are often easy to see even with only a hand lens. However, especially with dried material, it may sometimes be necessary to dissect the genitalia to see certain details, such as the inner clasper and aedeagus. Whilst this atlas gives considerable scope for finding characters to separate species in the Tipulinae, the selected parts illustrated from British specimens in Alan Stubbs' introductory series in the Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologists Society will still be useful in focussing attention on the critical differences.

3. 1972 bibliography (part 2). We hope that this is the rest of the papers published in 1972 that relate to western palaeartic crane-flies, but we are still open to correction.

4. 1973 bibliography (part 1). Papers noted so far in this year's publications.

Autumn Meeting. The second CRS meeting will be held on 10th November, 1973, again at the British Museum. We will try to plan a programme based largely on the results of the questionnaire, but if anybody has any further ideas for talks and demonstrations we would be pleased to hear about them. Also, perhaps we should start thinking of other locales for meetings; if any member feels that he may be in a position to act as host for some future meeting, we would like to hear from him.

New participants.

Adams, C.R., West of Scotland Agricultural College, Auchincruive, Ayr.  
Brummit, J.M., 69 Cambrian Drive, Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire.  
Crow, P.N., Dolafon, Plas Tan-y-Bwlch, Wlaentwrog, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merioneth.  
Duncan, Sir A., Castlehill, Kirkmahoe, Dumfriesshire.  
Else, G., 10 King George Road, Porchester, nr. Fareham, Hants.  
Huxley, M., 21 Sheppey Road, Maidstone, Kent.  
Lynch, W., 49 Springwell Crescent, Blantyre, Glasgow.  
Stewart, R. McGregor, Zoology Department, West of Scotland Agricultural College,  
New Building, Auchincruive, Ayr.  
Worrell, A., 90 Muncaster Road, Battersea, London, S.W. 12.

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\*This is not a publication. Any original data or records noted here should not be cited without permission.

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Newsletter No. 3 (Contd.)

Our circulation abroad. We are now circulating all information to a number of active workers abroad. These are Prof. C.P. Alexander (U.S.A.), Theowald van Leeuwen (Holland), J. Martinovsky (Czechoslovakia), H. Mendl (Germany), E.N. Savtshenko (U.S.S.R.), D. Simova (Yugoslavia), J. Stary (Czechoslovakia), B. Tjeder (Sweden).

These people seem most impressed that there is sufficient interest in Britain to make a scheme such as this possible. They are very helpful and provide us with a lot of valuable information from their own unpublished work. Some of this information is passed to you through this newsletter so we would stress once more that readers observe the comment at the bottom of the first page of this newsletter, that any information distributed to participants in the scheme must not be published without consulting one of the organisers.

Forest of Dean Field Course. There are 14 people booked on the week's field course and it is clear that others would have come but for prior commitments.

Welsh Recording Group: Welshpool. Six members of the Crane-fly Recording Scheme attended the weekend field meeting at Welshpool organised by the National Museum of Wales on 9-10th June. The tentative results of one person (A.E.S.) have provided about 100 species, including 60 from one locality. A number of species new to Wales included Molophilus lackschewitzianus, Erioptera squalida and Ptychoptera scutellaris; in fact, six of the seven British Ptychoptera spp (all except longicauda) were found in a single locality.

Recent material from Britain... Two useful batches of specimens have been sent to the organisers. Dr. MacNutt, though not a member of the scheme, brought back some crane-flies from Colonsay in the Inner Hebrides. Mr. Brummit sent a large batch of enveloped material from various localities in North Wales and the Midlands - he has now joined the scheme.

Among recent records are Molophilus lackschewitzianus (again) for another Surrey locality and Windsor Forest, Berks. Limnophila glabricula and Ptychoptera minuta are recorded from Carmarthenshire. A further 4♂ and 6♀ Limonia (Dicranomyia) omissinervis have been found at the same locality in Monmouthshire as the male last year, as well as 2♀ from Herefordshire. Limonia (L.) maculipennis was found in a public toilet by the A12 near Frostenden, near Wrentham, Suffolk (unfortunately only one half of the toilet could be visited). Tipula couckeii has been taken on the banks of the River Mole at Box Hill, Surrey, and P.R. Bailey found Tipula alpina (= brevispina) at Farnborough, Kent, a species otherwise known only from N. Lancs, Westmorland and Gloucestershire.

Two species new to Britain are discussed below in the section on notes on species.

... and abroad. AMH spent three weeks in Czechoslovakia in June, part of which was spent talking and collecting with Jaroslav Stary and Jaroslav Martinovsky. Much of interest came out of these discussions (some of which is reported below) and with their help a lot of very useful specimens were brought back to the B.M. At the time of writing this newsletter A.E.S. is in Yugoslavia for 10 days, where he will be collecting in the higher areas of the north west. R.I.V.-W. is going to the United States in September/October where he hopes to do some collecting and also to visit Charles and Mabel Alexander at their home in Amherst, Massachusetts. Peter Cranston collected during a three week trip to the Pyrenees.

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Notes on species.

DACTYLOLABIS. From discussion with Stary and collecting specimens with him, AMH feels that our Dactylolabis sexmaculata is not the same as this species as known in Czechoslovakia. However, we don't have a good series for comparison and exchange. If anyone is in a position to supply such material we would be most grateful.

LIPSOTHRIX. From comparison with Lipsothrix nobilis Loew from Czechoslovakia, it is apparent that L. nigristigma Edwards is a synonym of this species.

GONOMYIA. Stary is looking at the British 'Gonomyia lucidula' and finds that all the specimens he has looked at so far are G. abscondita Lackschewitz. However, lucidula may well also occur.

AES collected an additional species to Britain from north Hampshire in July. The discal cell is open in his specimen, but is open the wrong way for this genus so is probably a freak in this respect. Ignoring this feature it most closely resembles subcinerea, an apparently common and widespread species in North America but not recorded this side of the Atlantic. Careful comparisons will have to be made before we can decide whether it is this species or not.

GNOPHOMYIA. AES has collected 1♂ and 1♀ of an undescribed species in Berkshire in July. These specimens are a species of the subgenus (or genus) Idiognophomyia, which up to now has been known from only seven species: one from California, 3 from Africa, and one from each of Malaya, Formosa and Japan. An extremely unlikely find in Britain.

ORMOSIA. Please keep all specimens of Ormosia (s.s.) nodulosa. Stary finds that two species are confused under this name in Czechoslovakia. It may be the same in Britain, but we have not looked yet. Note also that Savtshenko has just described 13 new species from various parts of the Palaearctic.

MOLOPHILUS. Stary has pointed out that the small ♀ Molophilus sp that we mentioned in an earlier circular is probably pusillus Edwards. Many specimens show something of a pleural stripe, which is how we were misled originally. However, we still have no males of this apparently quite common species. Since many specimens will not run to pusillus in the key, be careful not to force specimens of this species into another species (e.g. pleuralis). All the material in the B.M. of this genus has recently been re-examined: no additional species were found, but this is a genus in which several additional species may well turn up over the next few years.

We repeatedly remind participants that such relatively large and difficult genera as Molophilus, Ormosia, Erioptera, etc. may well include species not yet on the British list. This, of course, applies throughout the family and people should also remain aware that frequently what has long been regarded as a common, conspicuous species may turn out on close examination to be more than one species. Thus in Newsletter no. 1 we pointed out that Theowald has found that Limnophila punctata consists of two species; we now ask you to retain all Ormosia nodulosa specimens as this may consist of more than one species; Alan Stubbs finds that there are two quite distinct ecological types of Erioptera gemina. These and other similar problems that we know of now, and any that remain to be discovered, make it important that participants retain as much voucher material as possible.

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