

This newsletter has the main purpose of reporting the results of the first summer field meeting and the second indoor meeting. Some very useful records have been obtained in the closing part of the 1973 season and we are also pleased to announce some forthcoming events for next year - please note the need for early booking on the field course at Reigate, the main event of next summer's programme.

A particular welcome is extended to the 20 new participants of the scheme.

Meeting held on 10th November 1973

This second national meeting of participants took place in the British Museum (Natural History). Thirty-one people attended coming from Dumfriesshire, Merioneth, Durham, Liverpool, Nottingham, Bristol and other distant parts.

The morning programme included slide illustrated talks on 'crane fly ecology and collecting hints', 'the Tipulinae' and 'why names change'. In the afternoon J. Bowden spoke of his work on light trap samples of Tipulinae at Rothampsted Experimental Station, aided by excellent diagrams specially prepared by his colleague Mrs. J. Soul. A discussion on larvae, with particular reference to collecting them, involved about half the group. The rest of the afternoon was spent in the Diptera Section at the Museum variously viewing specimens and literature, and some practising identification with the aid of microscopes. P.J. Chandler assisted those wishing for advice on other families, and was delighted to identify a specimen of the Syrphid Callicera aenea F. taken by Mrs. Peperzeel at Worthing. The occasion was especially notable in that a box of crane flies handed in for determination contained a genus of Tipulidae new to Britain (see 'New Species').

On behalf of the party, we should like to express our thanks to Mr. B.H. Cogan of the Museum Diptera Section for acting as host to our proceedings.

Reports will be circulated later outlining the talks on 'Crane fly ecology and collecting hints' and 'Tipulinae at Light Traps', together with an alternative Key to Nephrotoma species.

The Forest of Dean Field Meeting: August 1973.

The Wilderness Field Centre, Mitcheldean, run by Gloucestershire County Council, proved to be a successful base, with very acceptable accommodation and remarkably good food. The party was finally 11 strong and covered the range from experienced to beginners with crane flies. We had sufficient cars to give mobility.

The party concentrated on diptera in general, enabling the newcomers to become familiar with the families and the more experienced to specialise. Well before the end of the week everyone was enthusiastically collecting crane flies even if they did not set out to do this.

Crane flies were not particularly abundant, but considering the poor time of year for low altitude, the results were well up to our hopes. 110 species of crane flies were found, resulting from collecting in 26 localities or sub-localities distributed in fifteen 15 km squares within Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. All collecting was in the Forest of Dean/Woolhope area except the cars split one day with a party going to the Black Mountains - yielding the highest catch of 50 species for one locality. It was noteworthy that the crane fly specialists were getting different catches from one another and the less experienced among us were readily able to add species.

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

Results - well for the inaugural crane-fly field meeting a rather high standard was set - a crane-fly new to Britain, Limonia (Dicranomyia) frontalis Staeg. (from Stroat, Glos.). The notable species included Erioptera areolata, E. vicina, Gonomyia bifida, G. conoviensis, Helius pallirostris, Limnophila mundata, Limonia stigmatica, Molophilus corniger, M. propinquus, M. pusillus (sensu the organisers) Ormosia bicornis, Prionocera turcica, Ptychoptera longicauda (several localities, all Ptychoptera except paludosa), Tipula couckeii and T. solstitialis.

Whilst there was no systematic attempt to cover all other diptera, representatives of many families were found and over 200 species have been named. Among the more interesting records were:- Rachnochlama Rachnochlama cooki cooki Hut., Empis scotica Curt., Rhamphomyia hirsutipes Coll., Hilara matrona Hal., Psila lefebvrei Zett., Loxocera fulviventris Mg., Themira superba Hal., Tetanocera punctifrons Rond., Clusia flava Mg., Acletoxenus formosus Lw., Stegana coleopterata Scop., Elachiptera diastema Coll., Allophora obesa F., and Billaea carinifrons Fl.

A special effort was made to keep fungus gnats (Mycetophilidae) since a Handbook is under preparation (AMH). As a result of combined collecting, over 1000 specimens were pinned. Whilst this material has yet to be determined we can report that the material included a Mycetophilid new to Britain (from Blakeney Hill, Glos.).

#### More Species of Crane-flies new to Britain

The previous newsletter reported two species new to Britain taken in July this <sup>1973</sup> year and in the report on the Forest of Dean Field Meeting you will see that Limonia (Dicranomyia) frontalis Staeger was added to the list (formal paper in preparation). The latter species runs to distendens in the key by Coe, but is most easily distinguished in having an open discal cell.

At the Second Meeting of the Scheme held at the B.M. in November, Chris Little handed in for determination a box of crane-flies from Kent. Included among some very interesting species was a male Dicranoptycha fuscescens Schum. from Darenth Wood, taken on 5th June 1973. This is a genus new to Britain, in the tribe Limoniini.  $R_2 + 3$  is simple, and in the key to the tribe in Coe, page 23, the genus runs to couplet 8 but will not run further because of the conflicting characters of r present but m-cu beyond the end of the upper basal cell (i.e. opposite the discal cell). The tip of  $R_1$  is long as in the sub-genus Limonia and the base of  $R_3$  is ellowed. The wing and body length is 10 mm, thorax grey-brown, abdomen dark brown and male hypopygium orange brown. The wings are somewhat narrow. A formal publication concerning this record is now in press.

In the short existence of the scheme the total number of new British species is now six, including two new to science.

#### Have you data to send in?

We already have records for well over 800 squares and will almost certainly be over the 1000 mark by next winter. The task of processing and collating this data is a large one and it will be a hopeless task if it is all left till the 1974/75 winter when preparing the provisional Tipulinae atlas. It will, therefore, greatly assist the organisers if those of you with large quantities of unsubmitted records could send in your present data this winter.

EVENTS FOR 1974Rogate Field Course

By now you should have received a notice of the proposed field course to be held at Rogate, Sussex, on 25th - 31st July. May we remind you that bookings should be in to Alan Stubbs by 28th February.

Day Field Meeting in Kent, May 1974.

Kent Field Club are acting as hosts (through our members Ken and Trudy Side and Eric Philp) for a Crane-fly Recording Scheme field meeting on Saturday 18th May based on the River Darent Valley. The area contains a good variety of habitats in the valley and on adjacent wooded ground. The assembly point will be Farningham Road Station (time to be announced later) which is within easy range of the London members of the Scheme. The meeting will be held jointly with the British Entomological and Natural History Society and the Amateur Entomological Society under the title 'Crane-flies and other Diptera'.

Welsh Recording Group

Following the successful multi-disciplinary field meetings in 1973, which participants of the Crane-fly Recording Scheme attended, the 1974 programme will include a meeting at Rhydycraeu Field Centre, near Bettws-y-Coed, Snowdonia. One may join in for a few days or a week during the period 22-29 May. We have only just heard of this meeting and cannot yet say whether an experienced dipterist can attend but one of the organisers of the Crane-fly scheme will go for a few days if there is the demand. If you wish for further details please write to Mr. J. Bateman, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF1 3NP (and inform Alan Stubbs of the dates you are thinking of going).

Malham Tarn Field Centre

Dr. R.H.L. Disney is running a course entitled 'Flies, midges and gnats' between 24th April and 1st May 1974 at a cost of £23.50. Malham Tarn is situated in the Craven Pennines within an area long famous for its rich biological interest. The Centre is well equipped and has a large diptera collection. The date is frankly a trifle early for highly productive collecting but you can be sure of a good introductory course to set you going for the season. Further details may be obtained from Dr. Disney, Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, Yorkshire DD24 9PU.

Third CRS Meeting, Liverpool, June 1974.

It has been suggested that meetings for recorders and all interested parties could be held outside London. As there are many areas providing ideal habitats for insects in the North West, and also several Museums, Universities and individuals interested in Diptera, there is a meeting being arranged at Liverpool Museum for the 8th - 9th June. This event is conveniently dated between several other entomological occasions. The Programme is to be arranged but it is hoped to include larval collecting and rearing and to hear members' papers on their own activities. There are facilities for study and collections of Diptera. There could be a limited amount of overnight accommodation for some visitors from far afield. The Sunday will be used for a field trip; it is thought that the hire of a minibus for this purpose might be ideal if a sufficient number of people are interested.

Would those people who wish to attend please let Geoff Hancock, (Department of Invertebrate Zoology, City of Liverpool Museums, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN.) know at least three weeks in advance and indicate whether they wish to read a paper, attend on Sunday, hear discussion on a particular subject, etc.

#### New Participants.

- Aldridge, M., 7 New Park Drive, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.  
 Arnold, R.T., 25 Swiss Valley, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire.  
 Berman, P., 7 Weelsby Avenue, Grimsby, Lincs.  
 Bondi, S., 21 Brenchley Avenue, Gravesend, Kent & Hope Hall, University of Exeter, Prince of Wales Road, Exeter, Devon.  
 Catlin, A.R., 41 Irwin Road, Bedford, Beds MK40 3UN.  
 Coulson, Dr J.C., Department of Zoology, The University, Durham City, Durham.  
 Disney, Dr R.H.L., Malham Tarn Field Centre, Nr. Settle, Yorks BD24 9PU.  
 Fahy, Dr E., An Foras Forbartha, St. Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4.  
 Golightly, W., M.A.F.F., A.D.A.S., Shardlow Hall, Shardlow, Derby DE7 2GN.  
 Ismay, J., Castle Museum, Norwich NOR 65B.  
 Measday, A.V., 84 Meadow Road, Kingswood, Watford, Herts.  
 Merrifield, R.K., 29 Orchard Lane, Amersham, Bucks.  
 Nelson, M., Nature Conservancy Council, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS.  
 Papworth, H.S., Woodlands, Cresham's School, Holt, Norfolk.  
 Peperzeel, Mrs B. van, 39 Warwick Street, Worthing, Sussex.  
 Potter, B.J., c/o Medical Unit, Royal Free Hospital, Lawn Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.  
 Roche, J., 16 Frimley Court, Sidcut Hill, Sidcup, Kent.  
 Rogerson, J.P., M.A.F.F., National Agricultural Advisory Service (North Region), Government Buildings, Kenton Bar, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 2YA.  
 White, O.M., 6 Northwood Street, Stapleford, Nottingham.  
 Wright, J.F., Department of Zoology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AJ.

#### Changes of Address and Name.

- Okley, Dr E.F., 8 The Quadrant, Redland, Bristol BS6 7JR.  
 Soul, Mrs. J., (formerly Everett, Miss J.) still at Rothamstead Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts.

#### NOTES

##### Kent Biological Archives

At Maidstone Museum there is a project under way to set up the Kent Biological Archives which will place available information onto index files on a tetrad basis (squares 2 x 2 km) for the county (excluding the present GLC area), especially for the period 1971 onwards. Eric Philip is organising the project (a member of the Crane-fly scheme) and will no doubt have a particular interest in the development of crane-fly recording in Kent where there are eight members resident in the county or the GLC border.

##### Parasites in Adult Crane-flies

On two occasions a female tipulid with a swollen abdomen has been pootered with other crane-flies, and having rendered the insects unconscious with ethyl acetate fumes, the females were slender and a parasitic grub was crawling around in the pooter (? ichneumonid). The crane-flies were Nephrotoma quadrifarea and Tipula unca, in June. The grubs would not pupate and died. We are not aware of previous reports of this nature concerning adult crane-flies (AES).