

CRANEFLY RECORDING SCHEME

Newsletter No. 5

September 1974

The results of the Rogate Field Meeting should be of general interest and it is hoped that the coming events will attract the usual support. You are reminded that only a few more months collecting is available before the first provisional maps are produced.

It is important that you note the change of address for the scheme correspondence - the new address is given at the end of the circular.

Rogate Field Meeting. Twenty-one people attended our second field course. Collecting was mainly devoted to the area of West Sussex and east Hampshire lying close to Rogate Field Centre, but one party visited a Surrey locality and another reached the Sussex coast. The results were very worthwhile and reflected the wide range of good habitats available in this area.

A total of 124 crane-fly species was recorded. This included the second British record of Tasiocera jenkinsi and the third locality for Limonia (Geranomyia) bezzii plus the extreme rarities Erioptera mejerei, E. neilsemi, Limonia distendens, Rhabdomastix hilaris and Tasiocera laminata. Among the uncommon species were Diogma glabrata, Erioptera vicina (a northern species), Helius pallirostris, Limonia inusta, L. stigma, Molophilus bihamatus, M. undulatus, Ormosia pseudosimilis, Pilaria scutellata, Ptychoptera longicauda, Tipula helvola and T. verburyi. Specimens of Pilaria referred to P. discicollis var. decolor Zett. (see Edwards 1938) require further study.

The records of other groups of diptera included many species of interest and a selection of the more notable ones are as follows:-

THEREVIDAE	<u>Psilocephala rustica</u> (a Welsh borderlands rarity)
ASILIDAE	<u>Eutolmus rufibarbis</u> , <u>Laphria marginata</u>
STRATIOMYLIDAE	<u>Oxycera formosa</u> , <u>O. pulchella</u>
BOMBYLIIDAE	<u>Thyridanthrax fenestratus</u>
TABANIDAE	<u>Chrysops viduatus</u> , <u>Tabanus glaucopsis</u>
SYRPHIDAE	<u>Xanthandrus comtus</u> , <u>Xylota florum</u> , <u>X. xanthocnema</u> , <u>Volucella inflata</u> .
SCATOPHAGIDAE	<u>Norellia spinipes</u> .
TACHINIDAE	<u>Echinomyia ferox</u> , <u>E. grossa</u> . <u>Phania vittata</u> .
CALLIPHORIDAE	<u>Macronychia polyodon</u> .
TEPHRIDAE	<u>Ictericica westermanni</u>
MYCETOPHILIDAE	<u>Keroplatus testaceus</u> , <u>Cerotelion lineatus</u> , <u>Neuratelia nigricornis</u> , <u>Megalopelma nigroclavatum</u> .

Recent Results. Material from more distant parts has flowed in fairly well this year. A first batch of samples from Shetland (Institute of Terrestrial Ecology survey) contained 12 species, of which Tipula alpium was one of the more frequent species and a further series of samples is anticipated. Mainland Scottish material has come from various sources. Ken and Trudy Side brought back material from southern and mid Ireland and the Belfast Museum collection was brought to Rogate for identification. Welsh material includes large samples from North Wales collected by John Brummitt; the Denbigh list now stands at 134 species.

At last a reasonable amount of material has been obtained from Cornwall though this still only covers scattered localities for early July. Tipula verburyi and T. unca were among the commonest Tipulines

whilst Nephrotoma quadrifaria was surprisingly absent. Gonomyia conoviensis was perhaps the best species. The narrow marshy valleys with sallow in north Cornwall appear to be particularly rich. There was also a useful boost for Devon.

A survey in the Folkestone area has yielded 83 species despite the sampling being confined to mid June and early August. The third British record of Erioptera limbata was obtained and the new county records are Ptychoptera longicauda, Limonia unicolor and Pedicia littoralis. The latter is a northern and western streamside species whose nearest record is in western Berkshire, 115 miles away.

Provisional Maps of Tipulinae. Biological Records Centre hopes to be able to produce maps for some, but not all, Tipulinae this winter. Mock up maps have been made ready for 30 species on the basis of available data, though more data should come in before the maps go to press. The selection has not been finalised but the groups with species of some economic interest will be incorporated. The present maps include Nephrotoma and Tipula, Acutipula, Lunatipula, Schummelia, Beringotipula and Nigrotipula.

Some interesting patterns are emerging such as parallel distributions between species. The grassland Nephrotoma appendiculata, N. flavescens and Tipula vernalis are very restricted in Wales to coastal areas and major valleys. Some Nephrotoma, such as scurra and cornicina, and Tipula cava show a marked south-eastern distribution but have some outliers, notably on Welsh sand-dunes and the sandy soils around Liverpool. Lunatipula peliostigma is largely confined to a very odd belt running through southern East Anglia to Oxford. Some patterns are probably real, such as that of Nephrotoma quadristriata on western sand dune slacks - of five localities, 4 are on National Nature Reserves! But other patterns may melt away as further recording provides clarification. Whether these maps are true or false largely depends on you so please help collect material - Tipula paludosa, one of the commonest autumn grassland species, shows a markedly clumped distribution but according to the maps is equally markedly absent from the areas where many recorders live. So please, if nothing else, try to obtain specimens or records of this species from as many squares as possible (T. puludosa is a large brown species with a brown front margin to the wing; the females are distinct, in that the wings are distinctly shorter than the abdomen but in the male one must check for T. oleracea or, in October and early november, T. czizeki).

Autumn Meeting. The Third CRS meeting will be held on Saturday 9th November at the British Museum (Natural History). A programme will be issued later, but will include a talk on the results of the scheme so far, including provisional maps of the Tipulinae. We are open to requests and ideas for talks and demonstrations.

New participants

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