

EDITORIAL

It is good to be able to introduce another Newsheet which, although slimmer than the last, is nonetheless full of good things. Your editors are again grateful to contributors for enabling us to sustain interest over the past five years. The items in this issue are as diverse and interesting as ever. I should like to draw attention to Terje Jonassen's papers on the Norwegian fauna. We are always glad to have supportive material from our colleagues overseas, and his notes are the first we have received from Norway. No doubt his suggestions on possible additions to the British fauna in these genera will bear fruit in the coming seasons. Please see my note on his communication, and contact me if you would like copies of his papers.

Before closing I should like to add a remark prompted by Alan Stubbs' note in the February Bulletin on his early retirement (in fact from the end of March 1991). It would not be right to let this opportunity pass without acknowledging, on behalf of readers of this Newsheet if of no others, the debt which we as amateur dipterists owe to Alan's dedication and professionalism, and to his leadership in the Recording Schemes, without which British dipterology would be greatly the poorer. D and E fans everywhere will want to convey thanks to Alan, and our best wishes for many more successful and creative years among the flies.

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DOLICHOPODIDS IN NORTH WALES

Checking identifications in a student's insect collection recently I was interested to find a male specimen of Argyra elongata. It had been found 26 July 1990 in a pitfall trap at Cors Erddreiniog NNR, Anglesey, set in a Schoenus flush by M. Crick and is the first record for Anglesey of this species. A single male Hypophyllus discipes was taken at Gregynog, Montgomery, 10.6.90. (M.J.M.). It was flying round a pile of logs near a small stream and the marshy bottom of the Dingle. This is the first Montgomery record. Both species appear to be new to North Wales.

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RECENT LITERATURE

MEUFFELS, H.J.G., and GROOTAERT, P., 1990. The identity of Sciapus contristans (Wiedemann, 1817) (Diptera : Dolichopodidae), and a revision of the species group of its relatives. Bull. Inst. R. Sci. nat. Belg. Ent. 60 : 161-178.

This paper is important to British Dolichopodid enthusiasts. It demonstrates that there has been much confusion over both the recognition of, and the names applied, to Sciapus contristans and its relatives. The authors recognise four distinct species. One is new and named S. basilicus Mfls. and Grt. The others are S. zonatulus (Zett.), S. maritimus Beck., and S. contristans (Wied.). Only S. zonatulus and S. contristans are definitely British. S. loewi Becker is a synonym of S. contristans (Wied.); and S. maritimus of Collin and British authors, but not Becker, is a synonym of S. zonatulus (Zett.). Previous records of "S. contristans" from Britain must be regarded as unreliable as they could relate to several species. The true S. maritimus Becker and the new species S. basilicus have yet to be found in Britain though both may well occur here. The paper includes well-illustrated descriptions of the four species. A key to both sexes of the species known from Belgium and the Netherlands includes all British species except S. heteropygus, which however is distinguished in a footnote. Male hypopygia and female terminalia are figured. This is a needed study, which has been well executed.

C.E.D.

A LETTER FROM NORWAY

Included you will find some of my most recent papers on the Empidoidea. It may well be that these papers are little known to the "Empid and Dolichopodid Study Group", since they are primarily dealing with the Norwegian fauna. I will, however, call your attention to a couple of things which may concern the British fauna, too.

The first has to do with the species Thrypticus intercedens Negr. (see my 1990 paper). This species has been found at different localities along the western coast of Norway. Comparing with flies with a similar Norwegian distribution, I find it highly probable that it occurs in Great Britain also. A search at suitable localities (see paper) e.g. in Scotland, will possibly prove fruitful.

Furthermore, please note what is said about Platypalpus brachystylus (Bezzi) in my 1988 paper. It would have been interesting if someone over in England could examine Collin's specimens of longicornis var. to see whether my theory is correct. Also, extra care should be taken with specimens of P. longicornis taken e.g. in the Scottish highlands. Some of them may well be brachystylus!

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NORWAY

[The author has enclosed copies of four recent papers on the Norwegian fauna:

1. Additions to the Norwegian fauna of Dolichopodidae (Dipt).
Fauna norv. Ser B. 32 : 97-99; Oslo 1985
2. New Norwegian Empididae (s.str.)(Dipt.)
Fauna norv. Ser B. 34 : 37-40; Oslo 1987
3. Empidoidea (Dipt.) new to the Norwegian fauna
Fauna norv. Ser B. 35 : 71-76
4. Notes on Norwegian Dolichopodidae (Diptera)
Fauna norv. Ser B. 37 : 105-106; Oslo 1990

If you would like a copy of any of these, please contact me.

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Does Parathalissius occur in Britain?

Although Collin figures the wing of Parathalissius alterum, (1961 British Flies : Empididae VI p.21), and the genus is included in his key to Palaearctic genera of Hybotinae (p.228), there appears to be no record of any species having been recorded in Britain.

Dr. Hans Ulrich of Bonn is interested in the genus and he feels that there is no reason why representatives should not be present in the British fauna.

Specimens should be sought on the sea shore where they are easily visible, but difficult to net. The flies are silvery-white with sizes ranging from c.2mm. - 4mm. and in the field they bear a superficial resemblance to Dolichopodids.

They should be preserved in 70% alcohol, NOT pinned, and Dr. Ulrich will be pleased to receive examples at:-

Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig,
Adenauerallee 150-164,
5300 Bonn 1,
Germany.

Roy Crossley
1 The Cloisters
Wilberfoss
York
YO4 5RF

Readers will recall discussion at the Annual Meeting last November on a future issue of the Digest to be devoted to Dolies and Empids, presenting the opportunity to revise and collect a number of papers which have appeared in the Newsheet in recent years, and to publish some new material if appropriate. This followed a suggestion I had tentatively put forward in the Editorial to Newsheet No. 9. I should have known better. In no time at all the outlines of the scheme have become clearer, Derek Whiteley has allocated DD no. 12, to appear towards the end of this year or early in 1992, to D and E publications, and as 'Guest Editor' I have agreed to pull the edition together. I shall be casting about during the next few months for new or reissuable material and would welcome offers of text and illustrations (x 2 in the latter case). I intend also to contact authors directly.

In order not to lose sight of some of the other material which has appeared in the Newsheet I intend to publish an index, by author, subject and species, in a later Newsheet.

A J Bainbridge

THREE SPECIES OF DOLICHOPODID NEW TO BRITAIN

It is apposite to draw attention here to the fact (as recorded in Bulletin no. 31, February 1991) that two papers in Issue 7 of the Dipterists Digest record three species of Dolichopodid new to Britain :

Syntormon luteicornis : a species new to the British Isles,
R M Blackith, R E Blackith, M C D Speight

Two Hercostemus (Gymnopternus) species new to Great Britain;
Marc Pollet

Those of our readers with an interest in these genera will be keen to examine UK records, and visit sites similar to those where these species have been recorded. It is to be expected that H. blankaartensis and H. sylvestris will be found at many more sites in the future.

Please contact Derek Whiteley if you have not yet bought a copy of DD7.

A J Bainbridge

MORE ON THE HABITAT OF DOLICHOPUS ANDALUSIACUS

I now have yet another locality for D.andalusiacus following further surveys of National Trust properties in the south-west in 1990. I mention it because the habitat is somewhat bizarre, and adds further to the confusion of this species' requirements. The specimen I took was swept from a flush emanating from mine waste, at Chapel Porth, St. Agnes. The water must be rich in heavy metals, judging by the composition of the flush, which was largely composed of half-metre deep cushions of thrift (Armeria maritima) with few other plants - most unusual, and very disconcerting when one normally associates thrift with dry rocky ground! There were very few other invertebrates associated with the flush (I found no other dolies) which leads me to suggest that D.andalusiacus might prove to be a poor competitor, only surviving where most other species are absent. Does this then unite the various known localities for this species?...well, it was just an idle thought.

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