



The spread westwards and northwards of *Volucella inanis* and *Volucella zonaria* has been reflected in occasional articles in this newsletter over the years. This issue has no fewer than four notes on the subject, an indication of the increased spread of these species within the last couple of years. Look out for Stuart Ball's and Roger Morris's forthcoming paper on the expansion of these species.

Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 34** (which is expected to be issued in August 2002) should be sent to me: **David Iliff, Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HN**, Email [davidiliff@talk21.com](mailto:davidiliff@talk21.com) to reach me by 21 June. More contributions to "Interesting recent records" are especially needed. At present this feature has a very south-western bias.

### CONTENTS

Stuart Ball & Roger Morris	The future of the Hoverfly Recording Scheme	2
Mike Bloxham	<i>Brachyopa</i> species in the West Midlands: records of all four species	4
Simon Damant	Further hoverflies at Wimpole Hall	5
David Iliff	Dark form of <i>Leucozona lucorum</i> : unusually frequent in Gloucestershire in 2001	7
Phil Wilkins	<i>Volucella inanis</i> in Northamptonshire	8
Brian Wetton	<i>Volucella inanis</i> in Nottinghamshire	8
Neil Frankum	<i>Volucella inanis</i> new to Leicestershire	9
David Iliff	First record of <i>Volucella zonaria</i> in North Gloucestershire	10
Kenn Watt	Diptera survey of Insh Marshes RSPB Reserve, Speyside	10
Kenn Watt	Scotland's Hoverfly Recording Scheme: <i>Xanthandrus comtus</i> back from the edge of extinction	11
Alan Stubbs	Notes from the literature	12
Alan Stubbs	Hoverfly identification notes	13
	First International Workshop on the Syrphidae	14
	Interesting Recent Records	15

Book Review: Zweefvliegen Veldgids by Menno Reemer	15
Book Review: Auf Gläsernen Schwingen: Schwebfliegen by Ulrich Schmid	16

## THE FUTURE OF THE HOVERFLY RECORDING SCHEME

**Stuart G. Ball**  
255 Eastfield Road, Peterborough, Cambs

**Roger K.A. Morris**  
c/o 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB

It is hard to believe that more than a year has passed since the **Provisional Atlas** was published, yet that is the case and we have given a great deal of thought to the way forward for the Hoverfly Recording Scheme. The Hoverfly Workshop at Stuttgart in July gave us real impetus to look afresh at the Recording Scheme and the possibilities that it might offer in furthering our knowledge of hoverfly biology; the Workshop was a tremendous success and gave us the kick start we needed. The last trawl for data was around 1996 and there must be lots of new records. Whilst the **Provisional Atlas** is a vast improvement on our previous knowledge, there is much scope for further improvement. We hope that this will act as a stimulus for new recording especially in places where our knowledge of hoverfly distribution is relatively poor.

Now that the **Provisional Atlas** is complete, we have turned our attention to ways in which the data may be used to look at the changes that are occurring in hoverfly distribution and conservation status. For example, we have shown a close correlation between the frequency of *Rhingia campestris* and rainfall (in prep.), and have explored the current distribution and expansion of range of *Volucella zonaria* (in press). In addition, there are indications that the phenology of some species is changing in response to climate change (Morris, 2000) and there is scope for looking at phenological change across the UK assuming that sufficient data can be secured.

As those readers who attended Dipterists Day last November will know, we have a number of proposed projects. In particular, we hope recorders will share our enthusiasm for new projects:

1. Phenological change in *Epistrophe eligans* and *Leucozona lucorum*. What we really need are detailed records of when these species are seen at specific sites. For example, they are perhaps suitable for recording on a regular basis from the garden. Details of all dates seen and numbers of individuals involved would be ideal. Start to keep an eye open for them from the middle of March in southern England. If we get such data from a wide range of localities it may be possible to pick up the changes both east/west and north/south, but perhaps also according to altitude.
2. Changes in the distribution of *Volucella zonaria* and *V. inanis*. Again detailed data of observations from all sites on all occasions should help the development of a more complete picture of these species' status and

changing distribution. We are in the process of preparing a paper on *V. inanis*, which will follow its changing fortunes and current expansion of range.

3. Mapping the colour forms of *Merodon equestris*. This species probably became established at a number of locations at around the same time. Do similar proportions of the various colour forms occur uniformly across the country, or are there distinct differences? If so, what are the controlling influences? We would be pleased to receive detailed recording of all colour forms and the numbers of each. We will be doing a trawl of museum specimens as part of this project, but would be very pleased to have assistance with this.

4. Testing ideas about the possible rise or decline in the distribution and frequency of particular species. We have detected strong evidence of a major decline in the distribution of *Chrysotoxum verralli*. Is it really in trouble? Are other species in trouble too? Do make sure that we get all records rather than just the interesting species. We use the relationship between numbers of an individual to overall numbers of records as the basis upon which we evaluate changing populations of individual species, and if we only get records of rarer species this skews the analysis significantly.

5. Testing the habitat predictions that can be made using Syrph-the-Net. We would like to set up a network of testers who would identify a preferred site, characterise it according to the plant communities it supports and undertake detailed recording to compare the predicted list with the observed list. For recorders who want to look at their favoured site this is an exciting possibility. As a first attempt we think woodland sites offer considerable potential - any takers?

6. Filling in the gaps - we would like to reinforce the current knowledge of distribution of all species and to bring the data-set up to date. We should be able to let you know when we last received records from you. We think it may be possible to include distribution maps in a revised *British Hoverflies*.

7. Following the process of hoverfly migration. Most years see a big influx of commoner migrants (*Episyrphus balteatus*, *Eupeodes* spp. and *Scaeva pyrastris*). The influx in 2001 started in Stamford on 25 July and lasted for some ten days before its impact petered out. When did it start elsewhere in the country? What about this year? It would be extremely helpful to have notes on the frequency of other species over the summer. We have also drawn attention to the possibility of *Volucella zonaria* being a more active migrant than might previously been thought - can we find any evidence for this conjecture?

All of these projects will contribute to our understanding of hoverfly biology and we hope to build on this work in a full revision of Alan Stubbs' & Steven Falk's **British Hoverflies**. However, in late December 2001 we were asked by the BENHS to partially revise **British Hoverflies** into a single volume for publication this autumn, thus overcoming the need for additional supplements to cover additions since

1996 and name changes listed in the 1998 Check List. This new version will include revised keys to cover all of the species known to date. The information from the 1996 supplement will also be incorporated, the nomenclature will be updated and some species accounts will be updated where major new information has emerged. This will be an interim measure but we hope that it will resolve some of the current problems that everyone is experiencing with widely spread sources for identification. At the moment we have not finalised plans for a fully revised version, but we hope that the new volume will not only incorporate new and revised keys, but will also provide a full synthesis of current knowledge. Our current target is that it should be available in 2005, and by doing the partial revision this year we will be making good progress.

Although we have had a lower profile for the last few years, we have not been wholly inactive. In particular, we have been working in association with Birmingham University and the Field Studies Council running courses in hoverfly identification. This year's course (largely for beginners) at Preston Montford Field Centre will be from 17 to 30 May and will concentrate on building skills in relative beginners so that they should be able to identify hoverflies with some confidence.

After last year's disastrous season when we were barely able to do any recording because of foot & mouth disease, we hope that this year will be better and that there will be a flood of new and exciting records. Please bear in mind the possibility that even records of commoner species can be really important. Good hunting - we hope to hear from you over the next year and would be delighted to get the backlog of records so that data input can start afresh. If you hold data in machine-readable form we should be able to manipulate it into the Recording Scheme Database without re-entering all of the records by hand. Please check with Stuart what format he needs.

#### References

Morris, R.K.A., & Ball, S.G., (in press). Sixty Years of *Volucella zonaria* (Poda, 1761) (Diptera: Syrphidae) in Britain. British Journal of Entomology & Natural History.

### **BRACHYOPA SPECIES IN THE WEST MIDLANDS: RECORDS OF ALL FOUR SPECIES**

**Mike Bloxham**

**1 St. John's Close, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 6TH**

From conversations with dipterists I suspect that this genus of hoverflies has, until recently, been one of the least thoroughly investigated in the family Syrphidae. It is probable that, even now, plenty of us fail to spot these rather unobtrusive and slightly dowdy insects unless we have them in mind and keep a sharp lookout for them in suitable localities. Usually associated with mature trees and sap runs, they are not only inconspicuous but also have relatively short flight periods. It is possible that the current run of comparatively damp years has favoured them by optimising suitable habitats. On my own territory in the Sandwell Valley, 2001 has

certainly been an excellent year for two species, *Brachyopa scutellaris* and *B. pilosa*.

Priory Wood (the main wood in the Sandwell Valley complex) consists of some 20 acres of deciduous woodland almost equally divided by two lakes. In the Southern part, *Brachyopa scutellaris* has been recorded around the base of the dominant veteran ash trees for a period of more than twenty years. The Northern part contains few ash but mature beech and grey poplar tend to dominate. During coppicing operations to open canopy here, *Brachyopa pilosa* was added to our hoverfly list when males were noted in some numbers at the irresistible bait of sap oozing from the recently cut stump of a large decaying sycamore. No females were seen and it is possible that sap runs that are high in the trunks of these other tree species are normally used for breeding by this species (this would accord with observations by other workers and might explain why I have previously failed to record it). Material from the centre of the dead sycamore stump will be retained to see if *pilosa* can be bred out.

The Cardiff meeting provided a chance for exhibition of *Brachyopa insensilis* taken at a high sap run on a veteran beech at Oakwood Pastures near Lichfield last year and this year saw the *Brachyopa* species set completed during a Wyre Forest meeting when Paul McGhee and Rosemary Winnall (Wyre Forest Study Group) showed me a *Brachyopa* resting on the trunk of a mature oak. This was identified as *B. bicolor* by Roger Morris & Stuart Ball at the 2001 Preston Montford Hoverfly course.

#### **Details of Records (2000- 2001)**

*Brachyopa bicolor* (Fall.): Wyre Forest (Lembrook, on the Shropshire/Worcestershire border) 12 May 2001 on a mature oak .

*B. insensilis* (Collin): Oakwood Pastures near Lichfield 13 May 2000 on a beech sap run.

*B. pilosa* (Collin): Sandwell Valley (West Bromwich) 26 May 2001 at exuding sap on sycamore stump .

*B. scutellaris* (R-D.): Sandwell Valley (Sot's Hole, West Bromwich) swept in mixed woodland. 9 May 2000. Sandwell Valley (West Bromwich) 23 May 2001 on veteran ash.

I am indebted to Malcolm Smart for checking *B. insensilis* and *B. pilosa* against specimens from his extensive reference collection at Wolverhampton.

#### **FURTHER HOVERFLIES AT WIMPOLE HALL**

**Simon Damant  
The National Trust, Wimpole Hall, Arrington,  
Nr. Royston, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0BW**

After the last article in the Hoverfly newsletter we have recorded some very good hoverflies at Wimpole. It all started in the winter of 2001. Ivan Perry came to look at a fallen ash tree with a rot hole in it as it was here that I had found what would

have appeared to be *Pocota personata* larvae. Both Ivan and I took a larva each and kept them for rearing. In June Ivan had a fully emerged *P. personata*; unfortunately it would seem that mine will not be out until this coming June. The rot hole involved could have been caused initially by either a woodpecker or a fungus called *Inonotus hispidus*. It also had an old bees' nest in the upper reaches with debris at the bottom along with old bird skeletons and a store of very old rotten horse chestnut conkers. The medium was dark red and sticky and looked very rich. Altogether there were about eight larvae though there could have been more. In June, just after Alan Stubbs and Ivan Perry had visited and had gone home, I inspected a large rot hole in a beech tree in front of the hall. To my surprise there was a male *P. personata* hovering around the rot hole and occasionally landing on a leaf, probably to rest. A few days later there seemed to be quite a number of *P. personata* flying around and Pete Kirby saw three in the park. On this beech tree in front of the hall I also caught what was later identified as *Brachyopa bicolor* though at first I thought it was *B. pilosa*. This was seen hovering around a sap run on the beech tree, but it has also occurred on other isolated horse chestnut trees in the park, but not in the woods like *B. scutellaris* and *B. insensilis*. I have to admit that these flies must be the most difficult larvae to breed and the only success I had was from an elm tree branch stub high in the canopy which was cut off while doing tree surgery work in a village north of Cambridge. The whole stub was put in a container and kept moist with rainwater. The larva turned out to be *B. insensilis*.

*Callicera aurata* and *Callicera spinolae* larvae were found in the parkland high up in beech and horse chestnut rot holes full of water. The medium in the rot holes was blackish and had a rather silty feel but no strong smell unlike the rot holes used by *Myathropa florea* which generally seem to prefer those with a sulphurous smell and lots of leaf debris. Another feature of these rot holes used by *Callicera* sp. were that they dried out in the summer but in the autumn had refilled with water. I collected two larvae from two horse chestnut rot holes. *C. aurata* pupated and emerged in early June and to my amazement *C. spinolae* pupated and emerged in late August. Unfortunately which species came from which tree I do not know; however on 12 September the first *C. spinolae* was seen at some early flowering ivy on a sunny wall and for the next five days they were always present at the ivy. At least two females and one male were seen, though next year perhaps it may be an idea to capture and mark to acquire a better picture.

*Mallota cimbiciformis* was another species with larvae located in large very wet rot holes in horse chestnut trees and in sycamore trees. The sycamore trees were different in that there were only small holes in the trunk leading to big cavities full of water. *M. cimbiciformis* rat-tailed maggots are easily recognisable from *Myathropa florea* especially when they pupate as the head section can grow large horns. It would seem that this might be an adaptation for living in almost permanent rot hole pools in trees. This is one species that I also found difficult to rear with some of the pupae dying in the medium. Perhaps they need something to rest on in the rot hole pool because they do not appear to come out of the water in their natural state. In June Ivan Perry caught the first emerged fly on bramble, however later on I found individuals at rot holes in trees especially horse chestnut. On some days they would be seen accidentally when working in the woods which was surprising as it would seem there were quite a few around.

*Myolepta dubia* was also another species the larvae of which were seen quite often in horse chestnut rot holes. However it did occur in field maple rot holes in the woods as well. It would appear that this fly has a liking for smallish rot holes that are black and soggy but not under water. They do occur in other rot holes but not in numbers. Again these tended to be difficult to rear; they would pupate and emerge but at least half would not develop properly. It did seem as if they were in some cases malformed.

This year there were quite a few *Volucella inflata* and on one occasion in August at an old oak tree with seeping sap runs there were up to five of these flies at the sap.

In one of the woods where I was running a white Malaise trap I caught an unusual *Ferdinandea* sp. This proved quite difficult to identify so it was given to Ivan Perry who confirmed it as *F. ruficornis*. It was the only one seen this year. *F. cuprea* however was extremely common this year and a very good way of watching this one is to slash a medium sized willow branch or young tree (I actually used one small willow tree as a post for the Malaise trap) so that it weeps. The result is a feast for all sorts of flies and beetles and a lot of wasps, a very easy attractor. Other species caught were *Pipizella virens* which was identified by Ivan Perry. They were caught alongside woodland in the malaise trap in another area.

A single *Sphegina clunipes* was caught in wet woodland while a fair number of *Cheilosia lasiopa* and *Platycheirus tarsalis* were caught in the same situation. It is interesting to note that in the wet woodland I did catch a large number of *Criorhina berberina*. Also caught in this wetland area was *Riponnensia splendens*, while just below the lake in a wet seepage a number of *Orhonevra brevicornis* were captured and seen. Altogether there are at present approximately 110 species of hoverfly at Wimpole though some still need identification and undoubtedly a few more will turn up, as there are records of other species nearby.

## **DARK FORM OF *LEUCOZONA LUCORUM* UNUSUALLY FREQUENT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE IN 2001**

**David Iloff  
Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote,  
Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HN**

**British Hoverflies** describes the occurrence of individuals, particularly males, of *Leucozona lucorum* in which the pale markings on tergite 2 are significantly reduced. In most years I have seen males of this dark form, but they have been less frequent than the typical males. However this year almost every male *L. lucorum* that I saw in Gloucestershire (my records of the species were confined to May and June) was of this dark variant.

At the Stuttgart Syrphidae Workshop, Anne Halpin and Graham Holloway presented the results of their studies into the functions of colour variations in hoverflies, which indicated the likelihood that they are associated, at least in some species, with thermoregulation, the darker individuals emerging in periods of lower solar radiation, and their darker colours enabling them to warm up faster.

While considering the status of the dark form of *L. lucorum*, I recalled that another spectacular black and white member of the Syrphinae, *Scaeva pyrastris*, also has a variant that has the usual white markings on the tergites missing. However, while the dark forms of *L. lucorum* are usually male (indeed I do not recall seeing a female of this form), that of *S. pyrastris* is apparently confined to females.

### **VOLUCELLA INANIS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**Phil Wilkins**  
**30 Pembroke Road, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9HA**  
**[phil@bombus.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:phil@bombus.freeserve.co.uk)**

On 13 July 2001 I got out of my car at work on the northern edge of Northampton (Grid ref. SP776636). On a small patch of bramble, *Rubus fruticosus* agg, next to the car park several hoverflies were feeding. However, one seemed much larger than the rest. Closer examination revealed this to be *Volucella inanis*. This appears to be the first Northamptonshire record for the species. The habitat is suburban, with several patches of waste ground. There are several large old conifers (pine and cedar) close by. The only other hoverflies feeding on the bramble were *V. pellucens* (single) and *Episyrphus balteatus* (many), though there were many bumblebees, *Bombus* spp., and social wasps, *Vespula* spp.

The *V. inanis* was very faithful to this patch of bramble. It was present for a few weeks thereafter. It was later found dead within the buildings nearby (now in my collection).

Interestingly, I later saw a second individual feeding in my garden in Ringstead, north east of Northampton, Grid Ref SP989753.

I lived in Northamptonshire until August 2001.

### **VOLUCELLA INANIS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**Brain Wetton**  
**27, Appledore Ave, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2RL**

The August 2001 Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum contains a note by Alan Stubbs that "*Volucella inanis* has turned up in Peterborough". He goes on to suggest "it obviously took the wrong turn at Watford" and "seemed unaware that it had travelled so far north". Well, it has clearly gone further north than this note suggests and in greater numbers too.



The new hoverfly e-group, which was reported in the August issue of the Hoverfly Newsletter, has reported several other specimens of *V. inanis* in Northamptonshire (see above). All of these exceed the northernmost (Oxfordshire) records in the **Provisional Hoverfly Atlas**.

However, during 2001, my wife and I have recorded twelve sightings of *Volucella inanis* in Nottinghamshire. The records were between 20 July and 22 August. All but one of the records was at Attenborough Nature Reserve and on several occasions up to three specimens were recorded. They included both males and females. Some were caught and all the key characteristics checked including the yellow second sternite. Photographs were taken both in the hand and feeding on plants. The flowers on which they were seen were creeping thistle, angelica, hedge parsley, bramble and ragwort. The single specimen which was found elsewhere than Attenborough was at Colwick Country Park.

There has clearly been a significant northward extension of range of this species and the numbers recorded in Nottinghamshire suggest that they have bred locally rather than simply been immigrants, though no proof of breeding has been possible this season.

## **VOLUCELLA INANIS NEW TO LEICESTERSHIRE**

**Neil Frankum**

**33 Notton Way, Lower Earley, Reading. RG6 4AJ**

Whilst on a flying visit back to Leicestershire on the 13th August 2001, I was able to spend a bit of time looking around my parents' back garden (3 Chapel Lane, Knighton. SK596014). Whilst observing the insects attracted to the flowers of one of several large clumps of marjoram, I noticed a large hoverfly mimicking a wasp. This was quickly identified as *Volucella inanis*. That evening, a look at the **Provisional Hoverfly Atlas** (Ball & Morris 2000) showed that this record was over 50km. further north than any previous record. It is a new species for Leicestershire, and is the 66th species of hoverfly to be recorded from the garden.

I also saw *V. inanis* a couple of weeks later (2 September 2001) at BBOWT's Warburg Reserve in Oxfordshire (a first record for the site according to the warden's species list). *V. zonaria* was seen on 4 August 2001 in my garden in Reading. Given that I have not seen either of these species before despite being a lot more active at fieldwork in the past, and was not actually out particularly looking for Diptera on any of these occasions, either I have been lucky, or these two large *Volucella* species have had a good year this year. Has anybody else made similar observations?

Reference: Ball S.G. & Morris R.K.A 2000 **Provisional Atlas of British Hoverflies (Diptera Syrphidae)**; Huntingdon, Biological Records Centre.

## **FIRST RECORD OF *VOLUCELLA ZONARIA* IN NORTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**David Iliff  
Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote,  
Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HN**

The westward spread of *Volucella zonaria* from the Home Counties has been the subject of a number of articles in earlier newsletters. Until last year the nearest sites in my local area where the species has been recorded were the northern suburbs of Bristol (in VC34: West Gloucestershire), where it was recorded first in 1943 and has been seen regularly since the 1950s.

On 25 August 2001 I saw a male *V. zonaria* on bramble alongside a public footpath just south of the village of Buckland in the north of Gloucestershire. To the best of my knowledge this is the furthest northwesterly record of this species to date. I visited Buckland on two further suitable occasions shortly afterwards, but failed to find *V. zonaria* again.

## **DIPTERA SURVEY OF INSH MARSHES RSPB RESERVE, SPEYSIDE**

**Kenn Watt,  
Kob-Web Records, 64 Hilton Drive,  
Aberdeen AB24 4 NP (tel. +44 (0)1224 483065)  
or email [Hoverfly@aol.com](mailto:Hoverfly@aol.com)**

A proposal to survey the floodplains of the Insh Marshes RSPB Reserve near Kingussie has been submitted to RSPB by Kenn Watt and members of the Malloch Society. This will be carried out during May and June and into the summer months, using mainly water traps, Malaise traps and hand netting.

Likely habitats would be swamp, grazing marsh, fen, willow scrub, alder carr, reed bed, ditches, etc.

It is anticipated that too much material will be collected for us to identify in the time allowed. Therefore, if anyone wishes to assist in this task, unfortunately purely on a voluntary basis, we would be most grateful for their help. We will do the sorting and preserving of material in alcohol.

If you can help, please reply, with your name, address, and which insect orders/families interest you.

## **NOTES FROM THE LITERATURE**

**Alan Stubbs**  
**181, Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 4DS**

**Volucella: Volume 5 (2000)**

This issue is dominated by seven papers on *Cheilosia*. This genus is huge and complex in Europe, especially in the alpine region, and it is very welcome that slowly the chaos is being sorted out.

***Cheilosia ranunculi*:**

The definition of *C. ranunculi* as a new species separated from *C. albitarsis* is the only taxonomic change that is a significant new factor for us, since both occur in Britain. (In **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 30** (August 2000), David Gibbs reported that there appeared to be two species confused under the name *C. albitarsis*).

Key to males (females not distinguished):

- A. Tergite 2 at anterior corners with some black hairs. Tergite 4 on posterior margin with erect black hairs (may be mixed with reclining ones). ***albitarsis***
- Tergite 2 at anterior corners with only pale hairs. Tergite 4 on posterior margin with reclining hairs only. ***ranunculi***

Doczkal, D. 2000. Description of *Cheilosia ranunculi* spec. nov. from Europe, a sibling species of *C. albitarsis* Meigen (Diptera Syrphidae) Volucella 5: 63-78

***Cheilosia lasiopa*:**

The larval host plant of *C. lasiopa* (ex *honesta*) has been discovered to be ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).

Stuke, J-H & Carstensen, L.B. 2000. Biologie und Morphologie des dritten Larvenstadiums von *Cheilosia lasiopa* Kowars, 1885 (Diptera Syrphidae). Volucella 5: 95-101

***Leucozona lucorum/inopinata*:**

The most relevant of the other papers to the British fauna is a description of *Leucozona inopinata* Doczkal which is very similar to *L. lucorum*. The new species is proving to be widespread in Europe. It is a potential British species since it is abundant in the Netherlands, though in different areas from *L. lucorum* (but apparently scarce in Belgium). In Northwest Germany it has a preference for dry warm places and possibly sandy soils. The occurrence of a new taxon in Western Europe was first published as *nigripila* Mik, but that species proves to be confined to the Caucasus. Identification is far from straightforward, but the following key should give a prompt to check further:

- A. Tergite 4 mainly black haired, including lateral edges. ***inopinata***

- Tergite 4 mainly pale haired, including lateral edges **lucorum**

Doczkal, D. 2000. Redescription of *Leucozona nigripila* Mik and description of *Leucozona inopinata* spec. nov. (Diptera Syrphidae). Volucella 5: 115-127

### **Hoverfly Fauna of Sweden:**

Bartsch, H.D. 2001. Swedish province catalogue for hoverflies (Diptera Syrphidae). Ent. Tidskr. 122: 189-215

This is an important update and review of the author's progressive reports on a hoverfly recording scheme for Sweden in all but name. A historic analysis from some 50,000 specimens and data from 250 entomologists has been assembled (dating from Zetterstedt, who first published in 1818).

The Swedish list currently runs to 372 species (including 5 doubtful) of which 350 have been verified. That there has been a 10% increase in the Swedish list since the author's 1995 checklist, despite the long and active history of hoverfly recording, gives some idea of the energy and care going into this project.

Much of the published analysis is by provinces (30 of them), grouped into 4 ecological zones from the semi-continental south to Swedish Lapland. Inevitably there has not been even recording effort, but the best recorded provinces in the deep south and around Stockholm have over 260 species. A revelation to emerge from critical taxonomy and field effort is the amazingly rich fauna even of the far northern provinces, approaching 200 even in Lapland examples.

Further developments are likely to include a CD (or equivalent) as a cheap and easy way of making updated catalogues available; and also to provide for others to input their data electronically. Whilst the use of provinces underlies the thinking of those who advocated the use of vice counties in Britain when the recorders were thin on the ground, the disadvantage is the loss of distribution detail where an "area" may cover a confusing ecological range. Though the author does not look ahead to grid-based distribution maps, in the longer term these would become an option providing that location data is registered in electronic format with sufficient precision.

## **HOVERFLY IDENTIFICATION NOTES**

**Alan Stubbs**

**181, Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 4DS**

### ***Platycheirus scutatus*:**

This proves to be 3 species, including the recently described *P. splendidus* (now better defined) plus a new species. Paper going to press soon (A. Stubbs). The following key is shortened. Note that *splendidus* is far commoner than *scutatus* in some parts of Britain. Species B is very scarce.

Male key only:

- |    |                                                                                        |                   |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Frons rather greyish bronze dusted                                                     | <i>scutatus</i>   |
|    | Frons almost matt black                                                                | 2                 |
| 2. | Mid tibia in side view bent near apex. Tergite 2 with small but strong spots.          | <i>splendidus</i> |
| -  | Mid tibia in side view bent near apex. Tergite 2 with very reduced spots (even absent) | Species B         |

***Xanthogramma pedissequum:***

Hopefully Christian Kassebeer will have details/names in print before the revised book appears. It is certainly difficult to have remained in limbo for about 8 years over how to record the two extra species. About 50% of *X. pedissequum* in the Natural History Museum collection belong to the new split species, which I am currently calling Species A and Species B (even my own small collection has all three species). To be going on with, look for the extent of bright yellow areas on the pleurae and the shape of the yellow markings.

***Xylota jakutorum:***

British material of *X. coeruleiventris* is now referred to *jakutorum* according to recent revision. The stated occurrence in Britain of both species is believed to be in error.

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE SYRPHIDAE**

The First International Workshop on the Syrphidae (announced in previous issues of this newsletter) took place in Stuttgart in the period 6 – 8 July 2001. The workshop was held in the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde and was organised by a committee comprising Ulrich Schmid of that museum, Gunilla Stahls-Mäkelä of the Finnish Museum of Natural History in Helsinki, Francis Gilbert and Graham Rotheray.

The event attracted about a hundred participants from 24 countries, the only major area of the world unrepresented being the antipodes. The programme consisted of presentations with subsequent discussion grouped into three main subject areas, biodiversity (covering the recording schemes of various countries, distribution, etc.) ecology (including behaviour and mimicry) and systematics (taxonomy and phylogeny). In addition some 30 posters were displayed. I do not propose to discuss here the content of the presentations or displays, but copies of the volume of abstracts are available from Ulrich Schmid, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Rosenstein 1, 70191, Stuttgart, Germany, at a cost of 15 Euros, including postage and packing.

The presentations, discussions and posters covered just about every aspect of hoverflies and contributed to a thoroughly successful conference. This success

was also further enhanced by the numerous informal discussions and exchanges between the participants during coffee and meal breaks.

The workshop was superbly organised, the venue excellent, and the atmosphere totally congenial. It was agreed, I think almost unanimously, that this first workshop of its kind should certainly not be the last.

### INTERESTING RECENT RECORDS

(records included elsewhere in this newsletter are not repeated here)

Recorders: Barbara Last (BL), Piers Mobsby (PM), David Iliff (DAI)

<i>Sphagina elegans</i>	1/7/2001	Daneway, Gloucestershire	DAI
<i>Sphagina verecunda</i>	1/7/2001	Daneway, Gloucestershire	DAI
<i>Microdon mutabilis</i>	3/6/2001	Langley Wood, Wiltshire	BL
<i>Xanthogramma citrofasciatum</i>	20/5/2001	Middleton, Wiltshire	BL
<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	10/8/2001	Salisbury, Wiltshire	PM
<i>Arctophila superbiens</i>	16/8/2001	Dowdeswell, Gloucestershire	DAI

**Erratum:** John Bratton's record of 29 May should, of course, have read *Brachypalpus* (not *Brachypalpoides*) *laphriformis* (editor's error).

### BOOK REVIEW: ZWEEFVLIEGEN VELDGIDS by MENNO REEMER

The study and recording of hoverflies is very active in the Netherlands, and a some excellent publications exist on the Dutch hoverfly fauna. **Zweefvliegen Veldgids (Diptera Syrphidae)** is a new field guide to Dutch and Belgian hoverflies by Menno Reemer, published in 2000 by Jeugbondsuitgeverij (Postbank 6875754, Bureau KNNV Rotterdam). It is concise and comprehensive, and although written in Dutch, it is nevertheless in my view useable by English speakers who do not know Dutch: in its early pages there are precise diagrams of typical hoverflies indicating clearly the Dutch names for all the anatomical features of the insects.

The major portion of the book comprises the field guide itself and the colour plates. The guide provides concise recognition details for every species, with a useful list for each of other similar-looking species (including those of other genera) with which it could be confused and should be compared. The colour plates are of 351 mounted specimens reproduced from **Danmarks Svirrefleuer** by Ernst Torp, plus 74 additional ones to cover species and colour forms that occur in the Netherlands and Belgium but not in Denmark. This book therefore probably illustrates more hoverfly species in colour than any other book on hoverflies published anywhere in the world.

The book is most attractively produced, and in a very handy format for taking into the field. The price is about 7.95 Euros.



**BOOK REVIEW: AUF GLÄSERNEN SCHWINGEN: SCHWEBFLIEGEN**  
by ULRICH SCHMID

Ulrich Schmid will be known to many readers as a co-founder and co-editor of the hoverfly journal **Volucella**, and a member of the organising committee of the recent Syrphidae Workshop which was held in Stuttgart's Staatlich Museum für Naturkunde. His booklet **Auf Gläsernen Schwingen: Schwebfliegen** (on glassy wings: hoverflies) is no. 40 in Series C of a series of booklets published by the museum on many aspects of their work.

This 80 page booklet, in German, is imaginatively written and superbly illustrated. Although its purpose is to introduce a newcomer to hoverflies, and it serves that purpose admirably, there is nothing superficial about its treatment of its subject. Indeed all aspects are covered in detail. The illustrations include some very fine colour photographs, not only of hoverflies (adults and larvae) but also of associated insects such as Diptera of other families and Hymenoptera, food plants and habitats, and even a spotted flycatcher. There are also some fascinating reproductions of pages of early books on the subject (such as Panzer, 1794).

The subject of mimicry of Hymenoptera is dealt with in an original way. The caption for a photograph of *Temnostoma vespiforme* begins with the words "a wasp it is not" and for one of *Arctophila bombiformis* with the words "a bumblebee it is not". The caption for a photograph of a male *Sphaerophoria taeniata* standing on a bare human arm begins "no need to panic".

The booklet explains everything that a newcomer to hoverflies needs to know, describing the family and putting it into a wider context. The colour illustrations include a spectacular picture of *Blera fallax*, a species which, although it occurs in the UK, I suspect that few of us have seen in life. The illustration on the front cover features a female *Episyrphus balteatus* on a flower of chicory (*Cichorium intybus*); an excellent choice as it shows a species which a newcomer should have no difficulty in finding, in a setting that perfectly displays the beauty of hoverflies. It is not difficult to imagine that museum visitors who pick it up and examine it in the museum bookshop will be attracted by its content and take up the study of hoverflies. This delightful booklet can be obtained directly from the museum (Staatliches Museum fuer Naturkunde, Rosenstein 1, 70191 Stuttgart, Germany). It can be ordered by letter, fax (0049 711 8936 100) or e-mail (museum.smns@naturkundemuseum-bw.de). The price is 5 Euros plus postage and packing.