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Requests for Information

Larger Brachycera recorders may be able to assist with the following requests for help:

1. Andrew Grayson is compiling a complete Yorkshire Diptera List and requires significant records, especially since 1991, which may update the present County list. Andrew's publication will subdivide records according to vice-counties and list number of County sites. The following species are currently excluded because of erroneous or doubtful records: *Chrysops viduatus*, *Haematopota grandis*, *Hybomitra muehlfeldi*, *H. solstitialis*, *Tabanus bovinus*, *T. miki*, *Sargus cuprarius*, *Stratiomys chamaeleon* and *Ogodes pallipes*. If you can help please contact Andrew at 56 Piercy End, Kirkbymoorside, York YO62 6DF.

2. Neil Harvey is compiling Essex records for a review of distribution and status of Larger Brachycera in the Essex Field Club annual report. Any post-1990 records would be welcomed. You can e-mail them to Neil atneilh@essexwt.org.uk.
Atlas News

I have approached Dr Mark Hill, the new Head of the Biological Records Centre at Monk’s Wood, regarding their assistance in helping us to publish a new Larger Brachycera Atlas. I received a very positive response, although a meeting will be required before they can commit themselves to any agreement or timescale. We will need to discuss practical issues such as how much data entry is required, how the text will be prepared and who will publish it. Hopefully, we should be able to do most of this within the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme keeping BRC staff to a minimum.

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Dioctria cothurnata Meigen, 1820 (Diptera: Asilidae)
new to v.c. 65 (North West Yorkshire)
Andrew Grayson, 56, Piercy End, Kirkbymoorside, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 6DF.

Around midday on 12.7.2003, I swept a male and female Dioctria cothurnata Meigen, 1820 in copula from amongst waist-high vegetation towards the edge of a sheltered, densely-vegetated woodland glade in Langton Wood, Great Langton, 44/29-96-.

Langton Wood adjoins a gravel-bottomed section of the River Swale, and is a rather overgrown mixed woodland containing several man-made, or obviously man-managed, fishponds.

Ogcodes pallipes Latreille in Olivier, 1812 (Diptera: Acroceridae) deleted from the Yorkshire list
Andrew Grayson

Skidmore (1969) added Ogcodes pallipes to the Yorkshire list on the basis of a specimen taken at Ellerburn Bank, Thornton Dale, v.c. 62, on 14.7.1968 by Mrs. H. E. (Tim) Flint, and identified by her husband, John H. Flint. Two further v.c. 62 records were subsequently produced via Donald H. Smith who identified material from Strensall, 14.7.1957, leg. Arthur Smith, and Malton Road, York, 28.7.1943, leg. John H. Elliott. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to examine the three relevant specimens, all of which proved to be Paracrocera orbiculus (Fabricius, 1787); therefore, O. pallipes is deleted from the Yorkshire list.

P. orbiculus is the only acrocerid known from Yorkshire; it is widely distributed in the county, but very local, being principally found on vegetation in the vicinity of bogs, or boggy flushes.

Thanks are due to Adrian Norris for allowing access to John Flint's collection, held at Leeds Museum, and to Don Smith for the loan of the specimens he holds.

Reference

A second Yorkshire site for *Tabanus maculicornis* Zetterstedt, 1842 (Diptera: Tabanidae)
Andrew Grayson

In Yorkshire, *Tabanus maculicornis* has only been known from Ashberry Pasture, Rievaulx, (44/56-84-), in the North York Moors (Grayson, 1995; Stubbs & Falk, 2001; Grayson, 2002): fortunately, it persists at this locality as, more-or-less, a locally common species. A second Yorkshire site was recently discovered, the details of which are given below.

On 14.6.2003, I encountered two female *T. maculicornis* at the margin of Low Pasture, Hawnby (44/541891), which is a rough pasture/meadow with flushes, and is hence similar to Ashberry Pasture. One *T. maculicornis* voucher specimen was taken at rest on a fence-post beside a small stream, a second female alighted on the same post less than a minute after the first was captured. Other tabanids present at Low Pasture on 14.6.2003 were *Haematopota crassicornis* Wahlberg, 1848, *H. pluvialis* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *Hybomitra distinguenda* (Verrall, 1909).

References


A review of the Yorkshire status of *Hybomitra distinguenda* (Verrall, 1909) (Diptera: Tabanidae)
Andrew Grayson

A BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

*Hybomitra distinguenda* (Verrall, 1909) was added to the Yorkshire list by Fordham (1919) on the basis of a male specimen from Skipwith Common, 2.8.1918; however, Grayson (2000) considered that this record was probably erroneous. The earliest known authentic specimens were taken at Gormire (presumably in the vicinity of Gormire Lake) by Chris Cheetham on 26.6.1920. The majority of subsequent Yorkshire records are post 1990. This current review takes into account a previously neglected record from v.c. 65 (Payne, 1955), and a first record from v.c. 64, whence 5 females were encountered by the author in the Cayton Gill area of the Ripley Castle Estate on 29.6.2003.

STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION

*H. distinguenda* is widely distributed in Yorkshire. It occurs locally in the North York Moors area, and records exist from single localities in v.c.s 63, 64, and 65. Four old records exist from v.c. 61, but it is probable that none of these are authentic. Current knowledge indicates that the overall county status is probably very local.

THE YORKSHIRE RECORDS OF *HYBOMITRA DISTINGUENDA* BY VICE-COUNTY

(* = estimated National Grid reference)

**v.c. 61 South East Yorkshire.**
There are no known authentic records from this vice-county. A record from Allerthorpe Common, 31.7.1934, is erroneous (Grayson, 1995). A further record from Allerthorpe, 30.8.1927, W. J. Fordham was marked “? this species” by the recorder! A record from
Bubwith, pre 1919, is a duplicate locality name referring to a record from Skipwith Common, 2.8.1918, (Fordham, 1919), which is also probably erroneous (Grayson, 2000).

v.c. 62 North East Yorkshire.
Ashberry Pasture, 44/56-84, 17.6.1978, J. H. Flint
44/567847, 7.6.1992 (♂ on fence-post), A. Grayson
44/568848, 27.6.1993 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Beadlam, 44/652847, 21.7.1991 (♀ trapped inside kitchen window), A.G.
Biller Howe Dale, 45/916017, 28.7.2002 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Cockerdale, Oldstead,
44/533807, 13.7.2000 (♂ squashed on road), A.G.
44/533807, 17.6.2002 (♂ on bog vegetation), A.G.
Fen Bog,
44/85-97, 11.7.1990 (♂♀ ♀♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
44/85-97, 1.7.1991 (♂♀ ♀♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
44/85-97, 14.7.1992 (♂♀ ♀♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
44/85-97, 11.7.1994 (♂♀ ♀♀ on fence-rails), A.G.
Fylinghall, 45/93-04, 26.6.1929 (♀ on Laurel bush in garden), W. J. Fordham
Cheetham
Hollin Hill Bogs, 44/672737, 2.6.2000 (♂ resting on vegetation), R. Crossley, (t. A.G.)
Laskill Bridge, 44/56908, 16.6.2003 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Low Pasture, Hawnyby,
44/543893, 14.6.2003 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Northdale, 44/84-97, 1.7.1991 (♀ on fence-rail), A.G.
Sutton Bank, near Gliding Club,
44/522822, 5.7.2001 (♀ flying around car bonnet), A.G.
Tranmire Bogs, 44/805972, 14.7.2002 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.

v.c. 63 South West Yorkshire.
Haw Park, Wakefield,
44/36-14, 6.1991 (♂ in beating-tray), D. G. Hemingway, det. J. D. Coldwell, (t. A.G.)

v.c. 64 Mid West Yorkshire.
Cayton Gill, 44/281629, 29.6.2003 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
44/281631, 29.6.2003 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
Nidderdale Way, near Cayton Gill,
44/279627, 29.6.2003 (♀ attacking recorder), A.G.
44/276626, 29.6.2003 (♀♀ attacking recorder), A.G.

v.c. 65 North West Yorkshire.
Payne (1955) contains a record from Carperby, Wensleydale, 9.7.1955. This refers to a specimen taken on the writer, Kenneth G. Payne, by his wife, Joyce, whilst they collected around the edges of Locker Tarn, which lies within National Grid reference 44/00-91. Ken (pers. comm.) no longer has the specimen, and probably used Edwards et al. (1939) to determine the species; therefore, whilst the determination was probably correct, it is also possible that the specimen may have been a female *Hybomitra montana* (Meigen, 1820) with an extensively orange-flanked abdomen.

References


**Interesting Records in 2003**

Compiled by the Scheme Organiser, Simon Hayhow

| FAMILY       | SPECIES                  | Site                                      | Date  | Coordinates
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------
| TABANINIDAE  | *Atylotus rusticus*      | Long Hendon N.R., Bucks.                  | 29.6  | JW, MS       |
|              | *Tabanus maculicornis*   | Thompson Common N.R., Norfolk            | 15.7  | MP           |
| STRATIOMYIDAE| *Oxy cerca pardalina*    | Whitewell, Lancs.                         | 5.8   | DH           |
|              | *Oplodontha viridula*    | Thompson Common N.R., Norfolk            | 15.7  | MP           |
|              | *Stratiomys singularior* | Ashton Keynes, Wilts.                    | 7.8   | JG           |
| ACROCERIDAE  | *Ogcodes pallipes*       | Capel Llanilthern, Glam.                  | 11.6  | DC           |
| BOMBYLIIDAE  | *Bombylius discolor*     | Breach Wood, Dorset                       | 27.3  | MP           |
|              | *Bombylius discolor*     | Wyke Wood, Dorset                         | 27.3  | MP           |
|              | *Bombylius discolor*     | Ventnor, IOW                              | 11.4  | DD           |
|              | *Bombylius discolor*     | Luccombe Down, IOW                        | 17.4, 24.4 | DD |
|              | *Bombylius discolor*     | Bonchurch, IOW                            | 18.4  | DD           |
|              | *Bombylius discolor*     | Shide Quarry, IOW                         | 22.4  | DD           |
|              | *Bombylius discolor*     | Chale Green, IOW                          | 23.4  | DD           |
|              | *Bombylius minor*        | Throop Heath, Dorset                      | 7.8   | MP           |
| ASILIDAE     | *Asilus crabroniformis*  | Warmwell Heath, Dorset                    | 2.8   | MP           |
|              | *Asilus crabroniformis*  | Marazion Marsh, Cornwall                  | - .8  | DF per KM    |
|              | *Eutolmus rufibarbis*    | Grimes Graves, Norfolk                    | 12.7  | MP           |
|              | *Eutolmus rufibarbis*    | Cranwich Heath, Norfolk                   | 12.7  | MP           |
|              | *Eutolmus rufibarbis*    | Lynford Meadows, Norfolk                  | 12.7  | MP           |
|              | *Eutolmus rufibarbis*    | RAF Barnham, Suffolk                      | 14.7  | MP           |
|              | *Eutolmus rufibarbis*    | Kings Forest, Suffolk                     | 14.7, 16.7 | MP |
|              | *Eutolmus rufibarbis*    | Ramparts Field, Suffolk                   | 16.7  | MP           |
|              | *Machimus arthriticus*   | King’s Forest, Suffolk                    | 12.7  | MP           |
|              | *Choerades marginatus*   | Redgrave & Lopham Fen, Suffolk            | 13.7  | MP           |
|              | *Choerades marginatus*   | Wayland Wood, Norfolk                     | 15.7  | MP           |
|              | *Choerades marginatus*   | Grafton Wood, Worc.                      | 1.9   | MM           |

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