

# DIPTERISTS DAY



Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 10.30 to 13.30 GMT

## ON-LINE EVENT

This year Dipterists Day will be an on-line event, with presentations from speakers and live Q & A sessions.

## REGISTRATION

To register for this event, use the link below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/995330012216897552>



## PROGRAMME

- 10:30 Welcome and orientation  
[Zoe Adams (NHM)]
- 10:40 Darwin Tree of Life: How to squash as many flies into the project as we can.  
[Lyndall Pereira (NHM)]
- 11:00 Darwin tree of life project: Molecular techniques.  
[Mara Lawniczak (Sanger Institute)]
- 11:20 Coffee break
- 11:50 Darwin tree of life project: implications for UK Diptera.  
[Zoe Adams (NHM)]
- 12:10 First insights from the Sarcophagidae Recording Scheme.  
[Charles Griffiths (DF), Daniel Whitmore (Stuttgart Museum) & Nigel Jones (DF)]
- 12:30 New Rhinophoridae recording scheme.  
[Ryan Mitchell (Oxford Museum)]
- 12:50 Brickopore workshop: eDNA sequencing explained through the medium of Lego! <http://brickopore.co.uk/>  
[Andie Hall (NHM)]
- 13:10 Closing remarks  
[Zoe Adams (Organiser) & Rob Wolton (DF Chair)]

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*Each presentation will last 15 mins, with a short 5 mins question and answer session at the end.*

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## PROJECTS

### Darwin Tree of Life



A collaboration of the Wellcome Sanger Institute with the Natural History Museum London, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, The Marine Biological Association, The Earlham Institute, The University of Oxford and its Wytham Woods field station, The University of Edinburgh, The University of Cambridge, EMBL-EBI and others. The aim, to sequence to high quality the genomes of all eukaryotic species in Britain and Ireland.

Together they will collect and identify specimens, extract and sequence DNA and RNA, and assemble and annotate the genomes of the approximately 60,000 species with which we share these islands. Probably the best known and most deeply studied biota in the world. The data will be made openly available for re-use in biological research, conservation, biotechnology and beyond.

The 30-month Phase I of Darwin project began in November 2019, and aims to sequence the first 2000 species, representing half of all the families of organisms present in these islands.

[Project Website](#)

## SPEAKERS

Lyndall Pereira [Profile](#) [Publications](#)

Lyndall studied for her Doctorate at Rhodes University, South Africa, finishing in 2016. She then moved to London and did project work on freshwater invertebrates with Ben Price at the Natural History Museum, before moving to Edinburgh for a Postdoctoral post at the National Museum of Scotland. In March 2020 Lyndall returned to London, and the Natural History Museum, to take up the post of Sample Coordinator for Darwin Tree of Life project.

Mara Lawniczak [Profile](#) [Publications](#)

Mara Lawniczak is an evolutionary geneticist with a long-standing interest in speciation and biodiversity, coupled with a desire to do science that has positive impacts on global health. She strives to build genomic resources that deliver impact in malaria control while also enhancing our understanding of evolution. Mara has worked on Diptera for her entire scientific career, but on flies that many of you will think are boring (*Drosophila* & *Anopheles* species). Her love of flies as more than genetic models or disease vectors has been growing steadily over the past few years and she's thrilled to talk to this group of experts about both the Darwin Tree of Life project and exciting plans for UK flying insect biodiversity studies.

Zoe Adams [Profile](#) [Publications](#)

After finishing her degree Zoe worked briefly for the National Rivers Authority at their base in Huntingdon, before taking up a post as a Research Assistant at the Natural History Museum in 1993. At the museum Zoe has worked with the Sandfly Research group, and the Veterinary and Forensic Entomology Research group, before transferring to the Diptera Curatorial Team in 2012. She took up the position of indoor meeting secretary for the Dipterists Forum in 2019.

Daniel Whitmore [Profile](#) [Publications](#)

Daniel studied for his PhD at La Sapienza University of Rome, then in 2012 he moved to the University of Copenhagen for a postdoctoral post in the research team of Thomas Pape, where he continued to study Sarcophagid flies. In 2013 he moved to London, and the Natural History Museum, where he worked as a curator, and as Senior Curator in Charge of the Diptera and Siphonaptera collections. In 2018 Daniel moved to Germany to take up the post of Diptera Curator at the State Museum of Natural History in Stuttgart.

Nigel Jones

Nigel Jones has a longstanding interest in Diptera and aculeate Hymenoptera (36 years plus). Apart from co-organising the Sarcophagidae Recording Scheme, he is County Diptera Recorder for Shropshire and also co-organises the Dolichopodidae, Empididae & Hybotidae Recording Scheme, with responsibility for Empididae (and related families). He recently launched a Study Group for the Lonchaeidae – lance flies.

## SARCOPHAGIDAE RECORDING SCHEME



Begun in Spring 2020 the scheme has made great strides, with the publication of a new [Key to Adult Flesh Flies of the British Isles](#).

Identification workshops are in the pipeline and the scheme has an active presence on [facebook](#), and twitter under the handle [@uksarcs](#).

Visit the [scheme page](#) on the Dipterists Forum website for further details.

## RHINOPHORIDAE RECORDING SCHEME



The scheme is very much in its infancy and Ryan will be updating us on his plans.

Visit the [scheme page](#) on the Dipterists Forum website for information on identification resources.

### Charles Griffiths

Charles studied MSc Entomology at Harper Adams University in 2017 / 2018, with a thesis on melanisation & polymorphism in wood ants. Since graduating, Charles has worked as an Entomologist in integrated pest management R&D, conducting research into sustainable Drosophilid management and investigated the role of flies as pollinators of horticultural crops. His recent research, together with taking part in an FSC 'Identifying Hoverflies' course & 'Fly School' in California, has led to an avid conversion to the study of Diptera. Currently Charles works in Essex as a Research Assistant for AgroChemex Environmental Ltd., where he continues to investigate sustainable pest management options and hunt for Sarcophagids.

### Ryan Mitchell

Whilst studying a degree in Animal Conservation Ryan decided to develop entomology field skills through a range of volunteering opportunities with Sussex Wildlife Trust and RSPB. In 2018 gained a post at the Ulster Museum as a Trainee Natural Sciences Curator whilst there developed skills in entomology collections management, curation, and collections development. After completing the trainee post Ryan took a position at the Oxford University Natural History Museum as a Collection Assistant, he is currently working on the Hope Project.

### Andie Hall [Profile Publications](#)

Andie started her career in industry working as a Lab Technician for Cardinal Health and Scherer DDS in Swindon, between 1998 and 2004. She then moved to London to take up a post as a Research Assistant at the Natural History Museum. Since being at the Museum Andie has worked on a huge range of projects, across the Life Sciences, and has a wealth of knowledge on harvesting, processing, and sequencing DNA for research projects. Now part of the Core Research Laboratories team Andie has been a first-hand witness to the rapid transformation of this fascinating, and increasingly vital field.