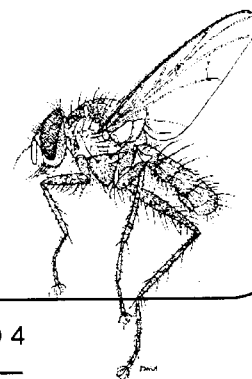


ANTHOMYIIDAE NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1998

NO 4

INTRODUCTION

After a few delays and some two years transversing the Post Office system, the Anthomyiidae Study Pack (ASP) has finally reached the last person on the posting list, and I am expecting it back to base soon. I am sorry it has taken so long to reach those near the end of the list, which has grown to nearly 20 at the last count. I hope you felt it was worthwhile when you received it. I propose in future to offer new versions of the keys on floppy discs, in WordPerfect 6.0 WIN. Where possible these new keys will be included in the bi-annual bulletin Newsletters (as here), but some may be too long for this.

D.M. Ackland 24 The Moors Kidlington Oxon OX5 2AJ. Tel. 01865 378867

SOME IMPORTANT RECORDS OF ANTHOMYIIDAE FROM SCOTLAND

Ivan Perry was collecting in the Spey Valley at the end of June and the beginning of July, 1997. In spite of very wet weather he found some extremely interesting Anthomyiidae. He has asked me to include a note about them in this Newsletter; I am very grateful to him for allowing me to examine his material, and indeed to retain one or two specimens.

***Delia diluta* Stein**

I have never found this species, though it seems to occur in widely separated localities. I do not think that there are any genitalia drawings in the 'ASP', so will add some to this Newsletter (page 3). Ivan's record is:

Delia diluta Stein, 95, ELGIN, Dorback Burn., 4.vii.1997, IP, two males swept from short rabbit-grazed turf on sandy mounds.

Other records on my database are: 95, ELGIN, Nethy Bridge, 10.vii.1938, JEC;
11, S.HANTS, Farley, in 1933., BMNH; 11, S.HANTS, Farley Down, 11.vi.1933, JEC;
23, OXON, Aston Rowant NNR, 2.vi.1933, JEC; 34, W.GLOS, Guiting Wd., in 1939, BMNH;
41, GLAM, Gower, Cefu Bryn, 7.vii.1954, EAF; 108, W.SUTH, nr Bettyhill, 3.vii.1928, JEC;
W.SUTH, nr Tongue, 5.vii.1938, JEC, BMNH.

***Delia interflua* Pand.**

Ivan's record:

88, MID PERTHS, Ben Lawers, 24.vi.1997, IP, 800-850 m. swept from base rich grassland on north facing slope.

Other records: 65, N.W.YORKS, Slightholme Beck, NY966126, 23.vi.1981, JHC; 87, W.PERTHS, Loch Katrine, in 1945., BMNH, Collin 1933 Scot Nat :120 [as *latifasciata*]; 88,

MID PERTH, Glen Lochay, 8.vi.1932, F.W. Edwards; 88, MID PERTH, Killin dist, in 1932, BMNH; 89, E.PERTH, Blair Atholl, in 1943, BMNH; 95, ELGIN, Aviemore, in 1934, BMNH; 95, ELGIN, Kinrara, in 1959, BMNH; 95, ELGIN, Odhair, Grantown, in 1937, BMNH; EASTER, Loch Garten, in 1957, BMNH; 106, E.ROSS, Flowerburn, Fortrose, 01/04/05, Jenkinson.

Delia penicillaris Rondani

There is a male specimen in the Natural History Museum, collected many years ago by Wainwright. I do not at present have further details of this specimen. I have not seen any other British specimens, only material from Scandinavia, Italy and Greece. I had always assumed it to be a montane species; but Ivan's capture of several males in a locality near Aviemore (where J.E. Collin, d'Assis Fonseca and myself have collected quite extensively) is extremely interesting.

Ivan's record is:

INVER: Kinrara, near Aviemore, 4.vii.1997, 6 males, swept from herb rich turf on the slope by road through the SSSI, much of Kinrara was under water at the time and the flies were concentrated on the higher ground, IP.

Paregle atrisquama Stein

The first British specimen of *P. atrisquama* was caught by J. Cole in Merioneth in 1987 (see Ackland, 1989, Entomologist's Monthly Magazine 125:220). Ivan Perry caught another male in Scotland: INVER: Cairngorm, 5.vii.1997, 650-750 m, beside the path between 1st and 2nd stations of the chair lift, weedy vegetation of dandelions etc. [sounds like my garden-DMA].

EGLE Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830

In the Anthomyiidae Newsletter No 3 (February 1997) there was a short note on early spring Anthomyiidae. Species of *Egle*, which breed in *Salix* catkins, are among the earliest species of Anthomyiidae to emerge, and so you may be able to go out and catch some of these species quite soon after receiving this Newsletter. I have written a new key to the males as there was not a recent key in the 'Anthomyiidae Study Pack'; there have been some changes since Hennig's revision of the Palaearctic species. This key is only provisional, and some of the characters I have included may not be entirely reliable over a larger number of specimens. All the species (males) can be identified reliably from the genitalia, which were figured in the 'ASP'. I have added a few drawings with this new key which I hope will encourage the collecting of these flies.

Most of the so-called rare species (and recently added species) are actually quite abundant if one looks in the right place at the right time. For example, in suitable warm early spring days a mass emergence may take place; the adults, which have been in soil or fallen catkins during the winter, crawl up the trunks of *Salix* where these are in sunlight; sometimes I have found literally hundreds on a few trunks, and they are easy to poot. Unfortunately at this time they are teneral and will collapse and shrivel if pinned. In order to record the species I generally put them in alcohol and identify them by the genitalia. It might be possible to keep them in a gauze cage for a few days to harden. If the site is re-visited a few days later, adults will be found hovering around the willow blossoms, often at some distance from the ground, and can be netted with a long handled net. It is important to make sure that the abdomen (males) is supported away from the hind femora in side pinned specimens, so that the 5th sternite can be seen. Most of the species with long setae on this sternite can be recognised if the specimen has not shriveled.

The commonest species are *E. ciliata*, *minuta*, and *parva*. *E. ciliata* is the largest species and is easy to recognise. *E. minuta* and *parva* are quite difficult to separate, but I hope the characters in

the key will be useful. There appear to be two 'forms' of *minuta* (slightly different shape of cercal plate) but I am not sure at present if this is significant.

My records at present are for the following Vice Counties:

bicaudata: Berks, Oxon, Cambs, Hunts; *brevicornis*: S. Hants, E. Sussex, Bucks, Glam, Anglesey [This is the only species I have not personally caught, so would be interested to hear of records, and indeed have some specimens. It appears to be quite uncommon]; *ciliata*: S. Devon, E. Sussex, Berks, Oxon, Cambs, Hunts, North, W. Glos; *minuta*: E. Sussex, Berks, Oxon, W. Suff, Cambs, Scotland [top of the Cairngorms on dwarf Sallow]; *parva*: S. Devon, Berks, Oxon, Cambs, North, Worcs; *parvaeformis*: N. Som, S. Hants, E. Sussex, Berks, Oxon, Cambs, Merion; *rhinotmeta*: Oxon, S. Hants, E. Sussex, Berks, Oxon, Cambs, Hunts, Caern, Anglesey, Elgin; *steini*: S. Devon, Berks, Cambs; *subarctica*: Berks, Oxon, Hunts, North, Cambs.

There are very few records from Scotland, though I am sure that most species occur there. The problem is that in the past collectors based in England have not ventured to Scotland until June ! I hope that members of the Malloch Society will try collecting around Sallow as soon as the weather permits.

I have not at present been able to identify females, except *ciliata*, *rhinotmeta*, and by association what are probably the females of *parva*, *minuta* etc. So please keep any pairs in cop.

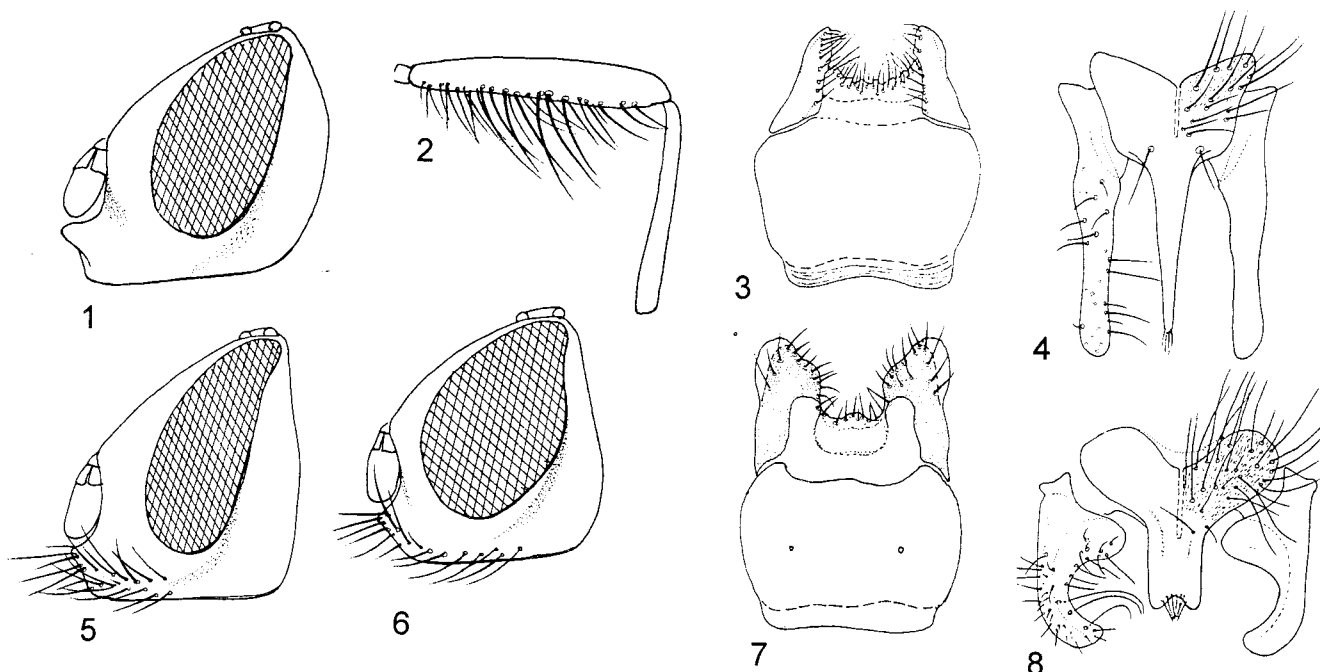
Delia diluta Stein male. This species has rather similar genitalia to *D. platura*, *florilega*, *tumidula* and *flavogrisea*. The surstyli are apically more robust (cross section round or oval, unlike *platura* and *florilega*) and carry dense, erect whitish setulae; the mid tarsi have no developed dorsal setulae. A useful character may be that the scutellum is darker on the disc.



Delia diluta Stein. Scotland: nr Tongue, 5.vii.1938 J.E. Collin

Key to British EGLE males (© DMA 1998)

- 1 4 postsutural dorsocentral setae. Notopleural depression with a few setulose hairs between the two strong setae 2
- Only 3 postsutural dorsocentral setae. Notopleural depression bare apart from the two setae. 3
- 2 Head longer than high (Fig. 1). Thorax more blackish, longitudinal vittae not so distinct. Body with thicker hairing, especially on the abdomen and hind femora. Apical half of cercal plate wider and shorter (Fig. 8). Body length 5-7 mm
 (= *muscaria* Zett.) **ciliata** Walk.
- Head scarcely longer than high. Thorax more grey, with distinct longitudinal vittae. Body hairing less dense. Apical half of cercal plate long and narrow (Fig. 4). Body length about 4.5 mm. **brevicornis** Zett.
- 3 Hind femur with long av and pv setae, distinctly longer than width of femur, the longest about twice as long as width of femur (Fig. 2). A group of long and strong setae present at the base of each process of 5th sternite. **rhinotmeta** Pand.
- Pv and av of hind femur shorter, the length of the pv is less than the width of femur. . . 4
- 4 Base of processes of 5th sternite without long strong setae (Figs 3,7). 5
- Base of processes of 5th sternite with a group of long strong setae (Figs 12, 15, 19) . . . 7
- 5 Head in profile with the lower margin more produced forwards, peristomal margin therefore somewhat in front of profrontal angle, parafacial slightly more than width of flagellomere (Fig. 5). Arista swollen basally for half length of arista (Fig. 10). Lower margin of gena behind vibrissa with 2 rows of outwardly directed setulae (Fig. 5). Area above prealar seta with 8-12 setulose hairs. T3 with only 3-4 short av setae; larger species **parva** R.D.
- Head in profile with lower margin less produced forwards, peristomal margin level with profrontal angle; parafacial narrower, less than width of flagellomere (Fig. 6). Arista swollen basally for less than half length of arista (Fig. 9). Area above prealar seta with less numerous setulose hairs, usually less than 5 6



- 6 Arista swollen spindle-like in basal quarter, abruptly becoming thinner (Fig. 11). Lower margin of gena behind vibrissa with two rows of outwardly directed setulae. T3 with 6-7 erect av setae and hairs, biserial basally. Processes of 5th sternite in profile apically widely rounded and bearing very small black spicules, processes longer and semi-shining black (Fig. 7) **subarctica** Hockett
- Arista with basal swelling longer, about one-third length of arista, and more gradually tapering (Fig. 9). Lower margin of gena with only one row of outwardly directed setulae (Fig. 6). T3 with about 4 setae **minuta** Mg.
- 7 Setae at base of processes of 5th sternite longer, processes longer and ending in a small roundish flattened plate (Figs 12, 16). Pra shorter than post npl seta; notopleural depression bare apart from the two strong setae **steini** Schnabl
- Setae at base of processes of 5th sternite shorter, processes shorter and apically pointed (Figs 15, 19) 8
- 8 T3 without av. Prealar shorter than posterior notopleural seta. Notopleural depression bare apart from the two strong setae. Penultimate section of M_{1+2} subequal or only slightly longer than lower crossvein (Fig. 17). 1st abdominal sternite almost bare, at most 1-2 hairs on each side laterally (Fig. 13). Posterior margin of 5th sternite (between processes) with two small setose protuberances (Fig. 15). Smaller species, body length about 2.5 mm **bicaudata** Malloch
- 9 T3 with a small but distinct av. Prealar seta equal to posterior notopleural seta. Notopleural depression usually with 1-3 setulose hairs in addition to the strong setae. Penultimate section of M_{1+2} distinctly longer than lower crossvein (Fig. 18). 1st abdominal sternite with 4-7 stronger setulose hairs. Posterior margin of 5th sternite with irregular hairs only (Fig. 19). Larger species, body length 3 mm. **parvaeformis** Schnabl

