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NEW RECORDS OF IRISH FUNGUS GNATS
(DIPTERA: MYCETOPHILIDAE)

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A preliminary account of the Irish species of this family recently appeared (Chandler, 1976) in which 165 species, about forty per cent of the British fauna, were accepted as Irish. It is now possible to add 23 species to bring the Irish list to 188. At the same time the British total of 410 stated in my previous contribution (*op. cit.*) has been increased (Chandler, 1975; Lastovka & Kidd, 1975; Hutson & Kidd, 1975) to 415 while the addition of another dozen is now contemplated so that the Irish list remains at 43 per cent of the British fauna.

During 1975 I was in Ireland from 21-30 June, when several localities favourable to these insects were visited. Notwithstanding the prevailing very dry weather conditions that encompassed my visit, 67 species of Mycetophilidae were collected, including 12 additions to the Irish list while two others (*Zygomyia pictipennis* (Staeger) and *Orfelia zonata* (Zetterstedt)) confirmed Haliday's records. New localities were also discovered for some other species previously little known in Ireland.

Of the localities I visited during 1975, the most productive were again Glendalough, Co. Wicklow (23 species, 19 in oakwood near the waterfall; 12 species additional to the 57 found previously) and among localities not previously investigated, the Devil's Glen, Co. Wicklow (25 species, mostly from the shaded banks near the floor of this deep wooded glen) and Bansha Wood, Co. Tipperary (18 species, concentrated in a small area of birch wood surrounded by conifers).

I have also had the good fortune to study a further batch of Irish mycetophilids collected by Mr A. G. Irwin, mostly during the period April-June

1975 and a few in October and November 1974. This material included 39 species, six new to Ireland and two (*Mycetophila blanda* Winnertz and *Leia winthemi* Lehmann) the first record since Haliday. Finally, Mr A. E. Stubbs visited Ireland from 14-24, July 1975 when his primary aim was to increase knowledge of the Irish distribution of crane flies (Tipulidae). Although he visited a larger number of localities than I was able to include in my itinerary, the weather had by then deteriorated rendering collecting difficult. He took only 17 species but one was a first Irish record and another (*Isoneuromyia semirufa* (Meigen)) was the first since Haliday's time.

I am thus able to report that at least 90 species of fungus gnats have been found in Ireland during 1975 of which 19 are new to the Irish list. With the appearance of the work of Lastovka & Kidd (1975) it has been possible to assign Irish material of the *Mycetophila ruficollis* Meigen group to two of its component species while two species of *Exechiopsis* may be added on the basis of females now determined. Some further specimens collected by Mr R. I. Vane-Wright in 1970, previously undetermined, have also been taken into account and they included one more addition to the Irish list. An earlier record of *Coelosia flava* (Staeger) has also been brought to light from the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) accessions.

The ease with which the current additions have been made to the Irish list is strongly indicative that knowledge of the Irish Mycetophilidae is still in an early phase and any further collecting is likely to be instructive. It is unfortunate in this context that fungus gnats were not collected in Ireland during the mild humid autumn of 1975 which was one of the best seasons for fungi in recent years.

Collectors' names are abbreviated in the following notes (AGI=A. G. Irwin, AES=A. E. Stubbs, PJC=P. J. Chandler, RIVW=R. I. Vane-Wright) which are restricted to species of special interest or those for which there are few previous Irish records.

SPECIES NEW TO IRELAND

Diadocidia spinosula Tollef

Recently separated from *D. ferruginosa* Meigen, it will probably be found to be widespread throughout the British Isles.

WICKLOW: Glendalough, 24.6.75, ♂ in oakwood by waterfall (PJC).

Macrocera lutea Meigen

A local, mainly northern species in Britain.

WICKLOW: Glen of the Downs, 24.6.75, ♀ in damp woods by stream (PJC).

M. angulata Meigen

A common species in Britain.

KERRY: Killarney, 17.7.75, ♀ in *Arbutus* woods near upper lake (AES).

Neoempheria pictipennis (Haliday)

Local in Britain. Haliday described it from an English type.

TIPPERARY: Bansha Wood, 22.6.75, ♀ in small birchwood (PJC).

Polylepta guttiventris (Zetterstedt)

Widespread but local, mainly northern and western in Britain.

WICKLOW: Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, 2 ♀ (PJC).

Synapha fasciata Meigen

Common in Britain.

WICKLOW: Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, 5 ♀ (PJC).

KERRY: Brandon Point to Sauce, 13.6.70, ♀, 3 ♂ (RIVW).

Boletina basalis (Meigen)

Often very common in damp woodland in Britain and it is curious that it has not previously been taken in Ireland.

DOWN: Ballygowan, 19.5.75, by woodland stream, 3 ♂.

ANTRIM: Portlengone Forest, 24.5.75, ♀ (AGI).

B. nigricans Dziedzicki

A mainly northern species in Britain.

LOUTH: Ballymascanlon swamp, 29.6.75, ♂ in alder carr (PJC).

Leia crucigera Zetterstedt

Rather local and southern in distribution in Britain.

WICKLOW: Derrybawn Woods, 24.6.1975, ♀ in dry oakwood (PJC).

Anatella unguigera Edwards

Most *Anatella* species are widespread but collected rather sporadically and it is likely that further species will be found in Ireland.

DOWN: Rostrevor, 13.4.75, ♂ (AGI).

Exechiopsis hammi (Edwards)

This and the following species are widespread in Britain although not frequently collected.

LEITRIM: Glencar Waterfall, 15.5.70, ♀ (PJC).

E. jenkinsoni (Edwards)

WICKLOW: Glendalough State Forest, near Avoca river, 17.9.68, ♀ (PJC).

Allodiopsis (Gymnogonia) excogitata (Dziedzicki)

Frequent in Britain.

DOWN: Cairn Wood, 26.4.75, ♀ (AGI).

Allodia truncata Edwards

Widespread but local in Britain.

CORK: Glengarriff, 19-20.6.70, ♂ (RIVW).

Trichonta atricauda (Zetterstedt)

This is very close to *T. melanura* Staeger, which Mr Irwin collected in Ireland during 1974; both are fairly frequent in Britain.

WICKLOW: Derrybawn Woods, 24.6.75, ♂ (PJC).

Phronia biarcuata Becker (= *johannae* Steenberg, *praecox* Edwards)

Frequent and widespread in Britain, as is the following species.

WICKLOW: Glendalough, 24.6.75, ♀ (PJC).

P. tarsata (Staeger)

WICKLOW: Derrybawn Woods, 24.6.75, ♂ in dry oakwood (PJC).

Dynatosoma fuscicorne (Meigen)

A common and distinctive British species, which develops in a wide variety of Polyporaceae; it is surprising that it has not been recorded previously from Ireland.

DOWN: Stormont, Belfast, 10.6.75, ♂ (AGI).

Mycetophila forcipata Lundström

Not commonly collected but widespread in Britain; associated with the birch bracket fungus *Piptoporus betulinus*.

WICKLOW: Glendalough, woods near waterfall, 24.6.75, ♂; Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, ♂ (PJC).

M. trinotata Staeger

Frequent in Britain.

WICKLOW: Glendalough, by stream near Royal Hotel, 24.6.75, ♂ (PJC).

Platurocypta punctum (Stannius)

Nearly as frequent as *P. testata* in Britain and with similar habits, also developing in myxomycetes.

DOWN: Ballygowan, 19.5.75, ♀ (AGI).

Epicrypta aterrima (Zetterstedt)

Frequent in Britain.

DOWN: Ballygowan, 19.5.75, ♀ (AGI).

THE MYCETOPHILA RUFICOLLIS MEIGEN GROUP

It has now been possible to assign to species available Irish specimens of this group of which four British forms were recognised by Lastovka & Kidd (1975). Two of these are distributed throughout Britain and not surprisingly these two have been found to occur in Ireland, both of them no doubt commonly. It should be noted that many British and Irish specimens of *M. britannica* examined have only 7-9 close set basally directed spines on the posterior margin of the dististyle instead of the 11-13 depicted by its describers.

M. ichneumonea Say

WICKLOW: Glendalough.

CORK: Glengarriff.

ANTRIM: Glengarriff; Massereene.

M. britannica Lastovka & Kidd

DOWN: Stormont, Belfast.

WICKLOW: Glendalough.

KILDARE: Ardscoil Mote.

TIPPERARY: Woodrooff woods; Bansha Wood.

KERRY: Kenmare; Derrycunihy.

OTHER NOTABLE RECORDS

Antlemon servulum (Haliday)

This rather local species has been collected twice previously at Ardscoil Mote (Chandler, 1976).

KILDARE: Ardscoil Mote, 23.6.75, abundant amongst low vegetation and on *Heracleum* flowers in diffuse sunlight (PJC).

Cerotelion lineatus (Fabricius)

It is pleasing to report the occurrence of this large striking species, previously recorded in Ireland only from Ross Island, Killarney, from two further Irish localities.

WICKLOW: Glendalough, 24.6.75, ♂ swept over ground in oak woods with a few logs and stumps.

MONAGHAN: near Lough Fea, 29.6.75, ♂ on partly hollow log in beech woodland (PJC).

Isoneuromyia semirufa (Meigen)

KERRY: Killarney, 17.7.75, ♂ in *Arbutus* woods near upper lake (AES).

Orfelia (Pyratula) zonata (Zetterstedt)

WICKLOW: Glen of the Downs, 24.6.75, ♀; Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, ♀ (PJC).

O. (Urytalpa) ochracea (Meigen)

ANTRIM: Sleevenanee, 24.5.75, ♀ at 1,500 feet (AGI).

O. (O.) fasciata (Meigen)

WICKLOW: Derrybawn woods; Glendalough, both 24.6.75 (PJC).

O. (O.) unicolor (Staeger)

WICKLOW: Whaleyabbeev, 24.6.75, ♀ in overgrown mixed woods (PJC).

Macrocera centralis Meigen

Although only one old unlocalised example was known from Ireland, this species is probably not infrequent in suitable sites.

WICKLOW: Glendalough, oakwoods, 24.6.75, ♂.

KILDARE: Ardscoil Mote, 23.6.75, ♂ (PJC).

WEXFORD: near Newbawn, 15.7.75, ♀ (AES).

Mycoma marginata (Meigen)

The first Irish males confirm the occurrence of both this and the next.

DOWN: Cairn Wood, 26.4.75, ♂ (AGI).

WICKLOW: Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, ♀; Glendalough, grounds of Royal Hotel, 24.6.75, ♂.

TIPPERARY: Bansha Wood, 22.6.75, ♀ (PJC).

M. maura (Walker)

DOWN: Hillsborough Forest, 26.4.75, 2 ♂.

ANTRIM: Portglenone, 24.5.75, ♀ (AGI).

Neuratelia nigricornis Edwards

Both species of *Neuratelia* are evidently widespread in Ireland; *N. nemoralis* Meigen has now been taken at several further localities in Antrim, Tipperary, Wicklow and Leix.

KERRY: Brandon Point to Sauce, 13.6.70, ♀; Torc Cascade, 16.6.70, ♂ (RIVW).

Sciophila hirta Meigen

DOWN: Stormont, Belfast, 10.6.75, ♂ (AGI).

Coelosia flava (Staeger)

The record previously published (Chandler, 1976) for Antrim, taken with these, suggests that *C. flava* is widely distributed at least in eastern counties in Ireland.

LOUTH: Thomastown, 29.6.75, ♀ in small copse (PJC).

MEATH: Kells, 5.6.1953 (R. L. Coe).

Boletina flaviventris Strobl

Only recorded previously from Glendalough, this species is probably

widespread in suitable situations in the older Irish woodlands.

WICKLOW: Derrybawn woods, 24.6.75, ♂; Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, ♂; Glendalough, by waterfall, 24.6.75, ♂ (PJC).

B. trispinosa Edwards

DOWN: Cairn Wood, 26.4.75, 2 ♂ (AGI).

Leia winthemi Lehmann

This is the first record since Haliday's time.

ANTRIM: Massereene, 29.10.74, 1 (abdomen missing) (AGI).

Exechia parva Lundström

DOWN: Rostrevor, 13.4.75, ♂ (AGI).

Brevicornu ruficorne (Meigen)

WICKLOW: Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, ♂ (PJC).

Cordyla semiflava (Staeger)

TIPPERARY: Bansha Wood, 22.6.75, 4 ♂ (PJC).

Trichonta vitta (Meigen)

WICKLOW: Glendalough, oakwood near waterfall, 29.6.75, ♀ (PJC).

DOWN: Dundrum, Murlough Nature Reserve, 2.11.74, ♂ ♀ (AGI).

Phronia forcipata Winnertz

DOWN: Hillsborough Forest, 26.4.75, ♂ (AGI).

WICKLOW: Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, ♂.

TIPPERARY: Bansha Wood, 22.6.75, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (PJC).

Dynatosoma reciprocum (Walker)

TIPPERARY: Bansha Wood, 22.6.75, ♀ (PJC).

Mycetophila vittipes Zetterstedt

WICKLOW: Powerscourt Deer Park; Devil's Glen (PJC).

ANTRIM: Portglenone Forest (AGI).

M. fraterna Winnertz

WICKLOW: Powerscourt Deer Park, 25.6.75, 2 ♂ (PJC).

M. finlandica Edwards

WICKLOW: Glendalough, by Royal Hotel.

TIPPERARY: Bansha Wood (PJC); Burncourt.

CLARE: Lisdoonvarna (AES).

M. blanda Winnertz

This is the first record since Haliday's under the name *arcuata* from the same county.

DOWN: Tieveockaragh, larch wood, 13.4.75, ♂ (AGI).

Zygonia pictipennis (Staeger)

This is an important record as the occurrence of the species in Ireland hitherto rested on Haliday's description of *binotata* (see Chandler, 1976), no Irish specimens having been extant.

WICKLOW: Devil's Glen, 25.6.75, ♂ (PJC).

Platurocypta testata (Edwards)

CAVAN: near Lough Ramor, 28.6.75 in birchwood (PJC).

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