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IRISH FUNGUS GNATS (DIPTERA : MYCETOPHILIDAE)
ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

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During a short visit to Ireland in late September-early October 1977 several interesting localities previously unworked for fungus gnats were visited. Despite the prevailing wet weather and strong winds experienced, 87 species were obtained of which nineteen are additions to the Irish list but two deletions are necessary, bringing the total to 205.

Since publication of my first supplement to the Irish fungus gnat list (Chandler, 1977a), the British list has been increased from 415 to 431 (Chandler, 1977b-d) while at least twenty more species not yet recorded are known to occur. One species previously quoted as *Brevicornu* (*B.*) species in my preliminary list I now consider to be *B. arcticum* Lundst. and it is described and figured by Chandler (1977c); the occurrence of *B. arcticum* in the British Isles is based at present only on this Irish specimen.

The specimen from Glenariff, Co Antrim recorded as *Pseudexechia trisignata* Edw. (Chandler, 1976) proved to be a new species which has been described from this and British material (Chandler, 1978); both this species and the true *trisignata* occurred during the recent visit.

The occurrence in the west of Ireland of three species not collected in the British Isles since the early years of this century (*Exechia dizona* Edwards, *Mycetophila strigatoides* Landrock and *M. hetschkoi* Landrock) was especially encouraging.

An undescribed *Sceptonia* species recorded below is a widespread member of the *S. nigra* Meigen group, which had been overlooked until recently and will be described in a subsequent article.

DELETIONS FROM THE IRISH LIST

The additions recorded here include *Mycomya duplicata* Edwards, of which females are presently not distinguishable from the much commoner British species *M. tenuis* Walker; the latter must therefore be deleted until males are found in Ireland as its presence on the Irish list is based (Chandler, 1976) on females only.

Docosia sciarina Meigen must be deleted too because re-examination of the pair in Haliday's collection under this name has shown them to be *D. gilvipes* Walker; these may therefore be type material of *D. gilvipes* (see Chandler, 1976), which is the only *Docosia* confirmed as Irish. This genus now includes nine British species (two of these yet to be published) of which several others should occur in Ireland. Searching lichen covered tree trunks in the spring should add some *Docosia*; this habitat produced four species in Wales in May 1977.

THE LOCALITIES

Only sixteen localities were sampled during this visit, when fungi were prolific in most wooded areas but conditions often too wet for sweeping. Some of them (Lough Key Forest Park, Glen of Knocknarea, Glencar waterfall) were previously visited during May 1970, a less favourable time of year for Mycetophilidae. The total of species collected, however, only differed significantly at Lough Key 28.9.77 (17 species) where a small area containing a lot of dead wood produced most species.

Comments are made below on those localities considered likely to repay closer investigation.

- (1) mixed deciduous woods (oak, ash, etc.) near River Suck and Cloonalis House, west of Castlerea, Co Roscommon, 29.9; (25 species).
- (2) Westport Demesne, Co Mayo, 29.9, extensive mixed deciduous woods (oak, beech, etc.) containing many fallen trunks covered with mosses, lichens, fungi, etc. (25 species).
- (3) oakwoods bordering the south-west shore of Lough Conn, near Pontoon Bridge, Co Mayo, 30.9. (21 species obtained under very wet conditions; nearby conifer plantations, Drummin Wood on the east shore of Lough Cullin produced 15 species).
- (4) Templehouse Demesne, Co Sligo, 1.10; mixed woods (oak, ash, beech, pine, etc.) between the loops of Templehouse Lough (27 species; the greatest number of individuals were observed here).
- (5) Dunmany Forest, Co Tyrone, 2.10 (18 species); a small area of open deciduous woodland on the summit of the hill, mostly covered with conifer plantations, produced most species.

It was particularly noticeable that *Mycetophila luctuosa* Meigen was the commonest species in most localities and occurred at fifteen of the sites visited; *Exechia fusca* Meigen, present at ten localities, was second in frequency.

SPECIES NEW TO IRELAND AND OTHER NOTABLE RECORDS

Species new to Ireland are marked †

† *Bolitophila (Cliopisa) oclusa* Edwards

MAYO: Drummin Wood, 1 ♂.

Formerly considered a scarce southern species, it has recently been found in several Scottish and Welsh localities and might occur wherever its food-plants, *Tyromyces* species, are available.

Diadocidia spinosula Tollet

MAYO: Westport Demesne; woods by Lough Conn.

† *Mycomya duplicata* Edwards

TYRONE: Dunmany Forest, 1 ♂.

Widespread but not often recorded.

Megalopelma nigroclavatum Strobl

MAYO: Drummin Wood, 1 ♂.

Phthinia winnertzi Mik

MAYO: Westport Demesne, 1 ♂ flying about decaying beech log.

†*Coelophthinia thoracica* Winnertz

SLIGO: Templehouse, 1 ♂; TYRONE: Dunmany Forest, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Widely distributed in Britain but perhaps commoner in the north and west.

Leia winthemi Lehmann

MAYO: Westport Demesne, 1 ♂.

†*Rymosia bifida* Edwards

MAYO: Westport Demesne, 1 ♂.

Local but widespread in Britain.

Allodiopsis (Gymnogonia) excogitata Dziedzicki

ROSCOMMON: Castlerea; MAYO: Westport Demesne.

†*Exechia dizona* Edwards

MAYO: Westport Demesne, 1 ♂; SLIGO: Templehouse Demesne, 1 ♂.

The British records were recently discussed (Chandler, 1977b), the only precise data being from Studland, Dorset in 1910. It is an attractively marked species with two broad yellow bands at the bases of tergites 3-4.

†*E. exigua* Lundstrom

MAYO: woods by Lough Conn, 1 ♂.

Uncommon but widespread in southern England, bearing some resemblance to *E. dizona* but with only tergite 3 broadly yellow.†*E. nana* Staeger

MAYO: woods by Lough Conn, ♂; SLIGO: Templehouse, 2 ♂; ANTRIM: Barnett's Park, Belfast, 3.10, 2 ♂, 2 ♀.

Frequent at least in England and Wales; its occurrence in Ireland was expected. The females were of the form I considered to be *nana* (1977b) and their occurrence with males tends to confirm this.*Exechiopsis (E.) clypeata* Lundstrom

MAYO: woods by Lough Conn, ♂; SLIGO: Templehouse, ♂.

†*E. (E.) indecisa* Walker

TYRONE: Dunmany Forest, ♀.

Frequent in Britain: this identification is probably correct but the ♀ characters of *E. pseudindecisa* Lastovka & Matile, which I recently added to the British List (1977c) have not yet been clarified.†*E. (E.) intersecta* Meigen

ROSCOMMON: Castlerea, ♂; SLIGO: Glen of Knocknarea, 1.10., ♂, ♀.

Widespread but local in Britain.

†*E. (E.) pulchella* Winnertz

MAYO: Lough Conn, ♀.

Frequent and widespread in Britain.

†*Pseudexechia aurivernica* Chandler (1978).

SLIGO: Cloonacurra, wooded bank of Owenmore river, 1.10, 1 ♂.

Previously recorded (Chandler, 1975) from Glenariff, Co Antrim as *P. trisignata* Edwards. British material is from north Wales and the Lake district.*P. trisignata* Edwards

SLIGO: Glen of Knocknarea, 2 ♀, ♂; TYRONE: Dunmany Forest, ♀.

The Down example previously cited has not been re-examined so it is pleasing to obtain confirmation of the species as Irish.

†*P. trivittata* Staeger

SLIGO: Templehouse, 1 ♂.

A few Scottish examples have been seen since I commented on distribution of *Pseudexechia* in my preliminary list (1976) so it is proving to be as widely distributed as *trisignata*.†*Phronia basalis* Winnertz

TYRONE: Dunmany Forest, 1 ♀.

Frequent at least in southern Britain, often abundant in beechwoods.

†*P. nitidiventris* Wulp

ROSCOMMON: Castlerea, ♂; MAYO: Lough Conn, 2 ♂.

Frequent in Britain, especially in the north and west.

†*P. strenua* Winnertz (= *flavicollis* Winnertz)

ROSCOMMON: Castlereagh, ♂; MAYO: Lough Conn, 2 ♂.

Frequent in Britain, especially in the north and west.

†*P. strenua* Winnertz (= *flavicollis* Winnertz)

ROSCOMMON: Castlereagh, ♂.

Frequent in the south in Britain.

P. tenuis Winnertz

MAYO: Lough Conn, ♂.

P. triangularis Winnertz

MAYO: Lough Conn, ♂; SLIGO: Cloonacurra, ♂.

Mycetophila blanda Winnertz

SLIGO: Templehouse, ♂.

†*M. hetschkoi* Landrock

ROSCOMMON: Lough Key Forest Park, 28.9, ♂.

The only previous record from the British Isles was of a single male collected in north Yorkshire in 1904 (Edwards, 1941).

†*M. pumila* Winnertz

ROSCOMMON: Castlereagh, 1 ♂.

Uncommon but widespread in Britain.

†*M. strigatoides* Landrock

MAYO: Westport Demesne, 1 ♂.

I was delighted to find this species which I was currently adding to the British list (1977d) on a single male collected in Scotland in 1904 but hitherto confused with *bialorussica* Dziedzicki, which is also scarce.

M. stylata Dziedzicki

LEITRIM: Glencar waterfall, 2.10, 1 ♂.

Zygonia pictipennis Staeger

ROSCOMMON: Lough Key Forest Park, ♀.

Sceptonia fumipes Edwards

ROSCOMMON: Castlereagh; MAYO: Westport; SLIGO: Cloonacurra.

Evidently a frequent Irish species; the male of a pair under *S. concolor* Winnertz, labelled "Ireland" in Haliday's collection, has now been dissected and found to be *fumipes*.

†*Sceptonia* sp. n. near *nigra*

ROSCOMMON: Lough Key, ♂.

Platurocypta punctum Stannius

ROSCOMMON: Castlereagh.

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