

Carmarthen - 16-23 July 1988

The Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Scheme is following in the steps of the dipterists by holding a field meeting at Carmarthen. Hymenopterists have several times been invited to our meetings, so they reciprocate the invitation. There will be no Diptera leader (the dates clash with the previously arranged Galashiels meeting) but anyone wishing to take up the offer should contact Ian Morgan (NCC, 16 Barn Road, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA31 1DD, tel Carmarthen 232 772 by 30 April). Ian knows his hoverflies and will give enthusiastic encouragement, though his attention will be somewhat deflected towards aculeates and leading the meeting as a whole.

Bideford, Devon, 12-16 October (Main Autumn Foray)

A booking has been placed with Hallsannery Field Centre, near Bideford, North Devon. This will be our first meeting in North Devon and the road system enables us to readily radiate out; including the fringe of Cornwall. Further details will be given in the summer Bulletin.

RECORDING SCHEMES AND STUDY GROUPS

Cranefly Recording Scheme

Atlases to Tipilinae and Ptychopteridae are currently being processed for publication by BRC.

The British Entomological and Natural History Society has agreed in principle to publishing two colour plates to the Ctenophora of Europe. Steven Falk and the scheme organiser are collaborating on this.

Dixidae Recording Scheme

It is hoped that provisional maps for the fourteen British species of Dixidae may be produced in the near future, updating those in the FBA key. Thus, please send in your records!

Miss Kathleen Goldie-Smith has taken over from Dr Henry Disney the organisation of the mapping scheme, with Henry to advise, and she will refer all "tricky identifications" to him! She will be pleased to receive records and specimens, especially living larvae which can be bred through, of any age; for identification purposes, preserved larvae should be at least 3rd instar. For the continuation of her detailed study of the eggs, she is particularly interested in living larvae of any species other than Dixella autumnalis, D. aestivalis and D. amphibia. They can be posted first class, overnight, in wet plant material - not in water, and should preferably be preceded by notification of their imminent arrival.

Records and specimens should be addressed to your new scheme organiser:- Dr E K Goldie-Smith, 44-46 Military Road, Rye, E Sussex, TN31 7NY.

Mycetophilidae Recording Scheme

British Fungus Gnat List raised to 499

The 1976 British Check List included 415 species of "fungus gnats" (Exechia seriata (Meigen) and its synonym pallida (Stannius) being listed separately in error to give a total of 416). This list had risen slowly from 402 recognised by Edwards (1925 and 1941) and included in the 1945 Kloet & Hincks Check List (5 of these since deleted).

Intensive collecting, particularly on the Diptera Recording Schemes meetings from 1975 onwards and progressive examination of Museum collections have resulted in a surprising number of additions to the British List. Some are due to investigation of closely related species groups, several are new to science but the majority are well distinguished species previously described from other parts of Europe.

The published British List now stands at 453 but the list used for the Biological Records Centre Recording Card drawn up in 1985 was 471 then known to me. From this total, 323 species were selected for inclusion on the card, as most likely to be recorded and these included 6 species yet to be published as British. This selection has proved relatively successful as few samples have included more than 5 species not on the card.

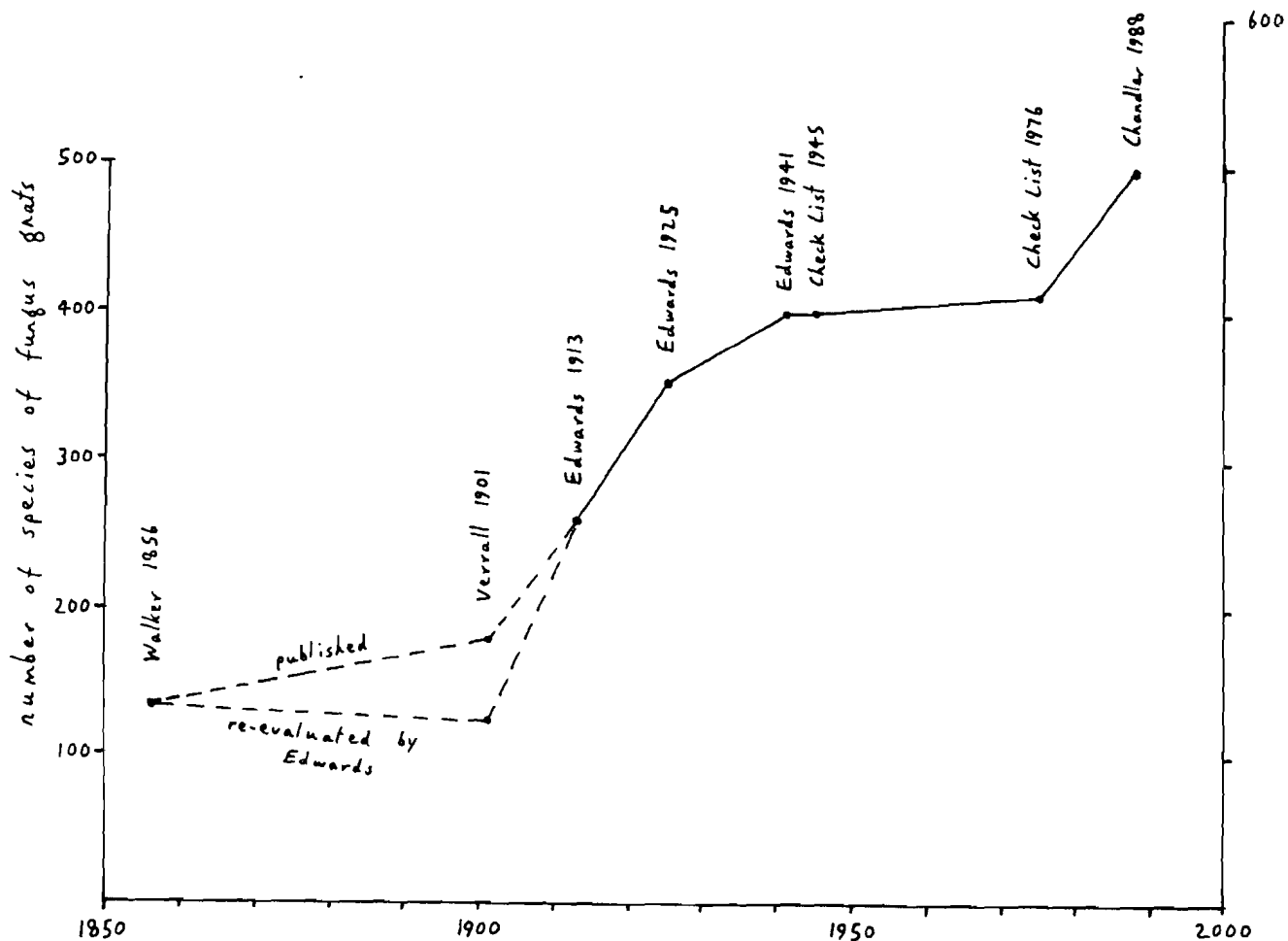
Since the submission of a Check List to BRC, additions to the list have continued apace. Some of these were covered by a paper (Chandler, 1987a) on species additional to Part I of the RES Handbook (Hutson, Ackland & Kidd, 1980) but 4 more additions to Part I are now known to me. Additions to a Mycetophilinae (to be covered by Part II of the Handbook) have accumulated at a faster rate and at least 42 species of this sub-family now await addition to the British List. Ten of these species have already been published from Ireland (Chandler, 1987b) but all also occur in Britain.

Accounts of the 46 additional British species are under preparation. These bring the List to 499, a figure inviting at least one decisive addition. The chances are that 1988 will bring such a notable event.

I have prepared a key to genera of Mycetophilinae and to the species (now increased to 70) of the genus Mycetophila and would be able to provide copies of these to anyone interested.

Peter Chandler

Are we to detect a desperate plea for assistance in finding 'one decisive addition'? Ed.



Based on information provided by Peter Chandler.