

Scarcer Diptera found in the Bristol Region in 1999, 2000 and 2001

DAVID J. GIBBS

6 Stephen Street, Redfield, Bristol BS5 9DY

Summary

Records from Somerset or Gloucestershire are presented for forty-eight species in the following families: Cylindrotomidae, Limoniidae, Ditiomyiidae, Keroplatidae, Mycetophilidae, Dixidae, Rhagionidae, Stratiomyidae, Tabanidae, Acroceridae, Bombyliidae, Asilidae, Hybotidae, Dolichopodidae, Lonchopteridae, Platypezidae, Syrphidae, Pipunculidae, Micropezidae, Lonchaeidae, Conopidae, Ulidiidae, Tephritidae, Lauxaniidae, Chamaemyiidae, Sciomyzidae, Clusiidae, Heleomyzidae, Drosophilidae, Chloropidae, Ephydriidae, Scathophagidae, Muscidae, Fanniidae, Calliphoridae, Tachinidae. Comments are made on their past and present status in this district.

Introduction

Little seems to have been published on the Diptera of the Bristol Region since Audcent's annotated lists published in the Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists Society in 1948 and 1950. Here I discuss those scarcer species likely to be of more than local interest, found during my fieldwork from 1999 to 2001. Some of these species were also recorded during dipterists' field meetings based at Charterhouse-in-Mendip in 1985 and 1986; relevant records from these meetings are cited where known but the results of these meetings have not been collated.

Diogma glabrata (Meigen, 1818) (Cylindrotomidae)

This rather pale crane fly was recorded from three sites close to Bristol by Audcent (1948) but this appears to be the first record in the region since 1929. A single individual was swept from understorey vegetation at Monk Woods ST 7570 on 24 July 1999.

Erioptera meijerei Edwards, 1921 (Limoniidae)

This small yellow crane fly was not recorded by Audcent (1948) and this would appear to be the first record for Gloucestershire and the Bristol region. A single male was swept from sedges at Lawrence Weston Moor ST 5479 on 30 July 1999.

Pilaria fuscipennis (Meigen, 1818) (Limoniidae)

This slender yellowish crane fly was described as rare by Audcent (1948) with just one record from St Audries, Somerset; there are no records for Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). A single male was found at Monk Woods ST 7570 on 24 July 1999.

Atypophthalmus inustus (Meigen, 1818) (Limoniidae)

There are no published records of this crane fly for Somerset (Audcent 1948) and it is unrecorded in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999), so it appears to be very rare in the region. Found in Folly Wood ST 6060 on 25 July 2001.

Helius pallirostris Edwards, 1921 (Limoniidae)

This crane fly is unrecorded in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) but there are records from Shapwick (1927) and Backwell (1928) in Somerset (Audcent 1948). One was found at Clapton Moor on 2 September 2000.

Limonia trivittata (Schummel, 1829) (Limoniidae)

This small yellowish crane fly is known from two records each in Gloucestershire and Somerset

(Audcent 1948, Alexander 1999). Individuals were found in Monk Woods ST 7570 on 24 July 1999 and 20 July 2000.

Ormosia bicornis (de Meijere, 1920) (Limoniidae)

This small crane fly is known from an old Gloucestershire record (Alexander 1999) but there are none from Somerset. It was frequent in Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 12 September 2000 and nearby at Folly Wood ST 6060 on 28 September 2001.

Ditomyia fasciata (Meigen, 1818) (Ditomyiidae)

This fungus gnat is known from a single record in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) but Audcent (1948) did not list it. It was found at Brown's Folly on 24 August and 25 September 2000 and Monk Woods on 22 September 2000.

Keroplatus testaceus Dalman, 1818 (Keroplatidae)

This most distinctive of fungus gnats is recorded from three sites in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and four in Somerset (Audcent 1948, Chandler 1993). It was taken at Cleve Heronry ST 4666 on 11 September 2000 and Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 12 September 2000.

*Macrocera longibrachiat*a Landrock, 1917 (Keroplatidae)

This distinctive species was previously known as British from a single male collected at Clovelly, North Devon in 1927 (Edwards 1927). One male was taken in calcareous woodland at Weston Big Wood ST 4574 on 1 September 2001.

Macrocera pusilla Meigen, 1830 (Keroplatidae)

Locally this species has only been recorded at West Town in 1928 (Audcent 1948). A single male was taken in Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 12 September 2000.

Boletina nitida Grzegorzek, 1885 (Mycetophilidae)

This species is recorded from a single site in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999); Audcent (1948) gave only an old record from Leigh Woods, Somerset but it was recorded at two sites in October 1986, Rodney Stoke and Ivy Thorn Hill (Peter Chandler *pers. comm.*) It was found again at Ivy Thorn Hill ST 4734 on 20 June 2001 and at Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 29 June 2000.

Mycomya flavicollis Zetterstedt, 1852 (Mycetophilidae)

Locally this fungus gnat seems to be relatively frequent in the Cotswolds (Alexander 1999) but Audcent (1948) did not list it for Somerset. A single male was found at Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 25 September 2000.

Mycomya occultans (Winnertz, 1863) (Mycetophilidae)

This fungus gnat has not previously been recorded in the region (Chandler *pers. comm.*) but is probably well distributed. It was recorded from Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 29 June 2000, Monk Woods ST 7570 on 22 September 2000 and Weston Big Wood ST 4574 on 1 September 2001.

Neoempheria bimaculata (von Roser, 1840) (Mycetophilidae)

This fungus gnat has no previous Somerset or Gloucestershire records (Chandler *pers. comm.*). A single male was found at Monk Woods ST 7570 (V.C. 6) on 22 September 2000.

Megophthalmidia crassicornis (Curtis, 1837) (Mycetophilidae)

Locally this fungus gnat was recorded from Clevedon in 1940 (Audcent 1948) and there are unpublished records from Wells, July 1902 (C.G. Lamb, Cambridge University Museum

collection) and Brompton Ralph. 8 July 1973 (C.H. Andrewes, Natural History Museum, London). It was taken at Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 12 September 2000.

Exechiopsis dimitrescae (Burghele-Balacesco, 1972) (Mycetophilidae)

Previously this fungus gnat has been recorded from Midger Wood in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and at four sites in Somerset in 1986 (Withial Combe, Cogley Wood, Edford Wood and Ebbor Gorge; Peter Chandler *pers. comm.*). Males were found at Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 12 September 2000 and Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 25 September 2000.

Exechiopsis membranacea (Lundström, 1912) (Mycetophilidae)

This was known in Somerset from Edford Wood, where it was found on 18 October 1986 (Peter Chandler *pers. comm.*). One male was taken in Folly Wood ST 6060 on 25 July 2001.

Rymosia signatipes (van der Wulp, 1859) (Mycetophilidae)

In Somerset this fungus gnat is recorded from a few sites including Cogley and Cheddar Woods (Chandler *pers. comm.*). One was swept in Weston Big Wood ST 4574 on 1 September 2001.

Mycetophila autumnalis Lundström, 1909 (Mycetophilidae)

There are no previous records from Somerset of this fungus gnat but it is likely to be under recorded (Chandler *pers. comm.*). A single male was found at Monk Woods ST 7570 (V.C. 6) on 22 September 2000.

Mycetophila eppingensis Chandler, 2001 (Mycetophilidae)

This recently described fungus gnat is unrecorded in the region. Males were found at Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 12 September 2000 and Monk Woods St 7570 (V.C. 6) on 22 September 2000.

Dixa maculata Meigen, 1818 (Dixidae)

In the region this meniscus midge is known from three Somerset records, a single undated record from Cheddar (Audcent 1948) and in October 1986 it was recorded by Alan Stubbs at Cogley Wood and Withial Combe (Peter Chandler *pers. comm.*). A single male was taken at Monk Woods ST 7570 on 20 July 2000.

Symphoromyia immaculata (Meigen, 1804) (Rhagionidae)

Locally, this small silvery-grey snipe fly was first recorded at Charterhouse in 1923 (Audcent 1948) and all subsequent Somerset records are also from the Mendips (Drake 1991); there are no records from Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). A single female was swept from long grass at Ashton Court Meadow ST 5472 on 7 July 1999; it was also frequent in tall *Brachypodium* grassland at Wavering Down ST 4055 on 15 July 2001.

Haematopota grandis Meigen, 1820 (Tabanidae)

One of the "clegs", this horsefly was previously known from two records adjacent to the Severn in Gloucestershire, the latest at Severnside in 1997 (Alexander 1999). A single female was found at Littleton Brick Pit ST 5991 on 4 August 2000.

Beris clavipes (Linnaeus, 1767) (Stratiomyidae)

This species was quite frequent in Audcent's time with eight localities listed (Audcent 1948), nearly all in Somerset. It now seems to be much scarcer but still occurs. One was obtained from a *Carex*-rich ditch at Pawlett Levels ST 3143 on 4 June 1999, another in scrub at Sand Point ST 3265 on 18 May 2001.

Beris fuscipes Meigen, 1820 (Stratiomyidae)

Locally this species is known from an old record near Bristol (Drake 1991). One male was beaten from overhanging foliage at Slader's Leigh ST 4256 on 11 July 2001.

Neopachygaster meromelas (Dufour, 1841) (Stratiomyidae)

This small black soldierfly was not recorded by Audcent (1948) and I know of no subsequent records for the Bristol region. A single individual was found hovering near a dead elm (*Ulmus*) tree at Radstock Sidings ST 6954 on 16 June 1999 and one found at Slader's Leigh ST 4256 on 11 July 2001.

Vanoyia tenuicornis (Macquart, 1837) (Stratiomyidae)

This small black and yellow soldierfly was unrecorded by Audcent (1948); subsequently there has been one record from Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and four from Somerset (Drake 1991; A. Foster *pers. comm.*). A few individuals were swept from wet grassland at Max Bog ST 4057 on 25 June 1999.

Odontomyia ornata (Meigen, 1822) (Stratiomyidae)

The Somerset Levels is now the most important stronghold for this distinctive soldierfly, with most records south of the Mendips (Drake 1991). Adults were found at Pawlett Levels ST 3143 on 16 June 2000 and larvae were found at Clapton Moor ST 4573 on 4 September 2000.

Oxycera morrisii Curtis, 1833 (Stratiomyidae)

This black and white soldierfly was recorded at Edington, Somerset in 1947 and 1948 (Audcent 1948) and more recently from two sites in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and Prior Park in Somerset (A. Foster *pers. comm.*). Two were swept from vegetation along a ditch at Max Bog ST 40 57 on 25 June 1999.

Oxycera pardalina Meigen, 1822 (Stratiomyidae)

Audcent (1948) only listed this very elusive, black and white soldierfly from two sites but recently it has been found more frequently in the Bristol region. Gloucestershire seems to be a stronghold for the species with six known sites, most of them recent (Alexander 1999); there are also recent records from Somerset (Drake 1991; A. Foster *pers. comm.*). A single female was swept from vegetation beside springs in Monk Woods ST 7570 on 24 July 1999; it was also found at Slader's Leigh ST 4256 on 11 July 2001 and taken from a woodland stream in Folly Wood ST 6060 on 25 July 2001.

Oxycera pygmaea (Fallén, 1817) (Stratiomyidae)

This tiny soldierfly was not listed by Audcent (1948), but there are two records for Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). Two were swept from vegetation near seepages at Max Bog ST 4057 on 25 June 1999 and 26 June 2000. This would appear to be the first record for Somerset.

Ogcodes gibbosus (Linnaeus, 1758) (Acroceridae)

This hunch-backed fly only appears to have been recorded previously in the region once, also close to the Poldens (Drake 1991). Singletons were found in tall grassland at Ivy Thorn Hill ST 4734 on 20 June and 26 July 2001.

Bombylius canescens Mikan, 1796 (Bombyliidae)

This bee-fly was always uncommon and has declined dramatically in Gloucestershire, where it is now probably extinct (Alexander 1999); in Somerset it now appears to be confined to the

Mendips. There is a strong population at Dolebury Warren ST 4558, where one female was seen on 5 June; three including one female ovipositing and nectaring were observed on thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) on 11 June 1999. It was also recorded at Tickenham Hill ST 4472 on 30 May and 26 June 2001; the first Somerset records away from the Mendips since 1942 (Audcent 1948).

Bombylius discolor Mikan, 1796 (Bombyliidae)

Considerable efforts were made to find this bee-fly in 1999; in Audcent's time it was considered to be fairly common but records have been sparse recently. Good breeding colonies were found at Troopers Hill ST 6273 on 6 April; Uphill ST 3157 on 7 April; Hellenge Hill ST 3457 on 18 April and Cadbury Castle ST 6224 on 10 May 1999; singletons were seen at Moorlinch ST 3936 and Walton Hill ST 4634 on 3 May 1999. Subsequent additional records are from Cheddar Gorge ST 4854 on 10 April 2000 and Collard Hill ST 4834 on 4 May 2001.

Villa cingulata (Meigen, 1804) (Bombyliidae)

This bee-fly till recently had not been seen in Britain since 1938 and was presumed extinct (Stubbs 1997). There are no historical records from either Gloucestershire or Somerset. Three females were noted at Tucking Mill ST 7661 on 19 July 2000; about five individuals of both sexes were seen in 2001.

Asilus crabroniformis Linnaeus, 1758 (Asilidae)

This large spectacular robberfly was considered "not uncommon" in Audcent's time but clearly commoner in Somerset than in Gloucestershire (Audcent 1948). Now it is virtually extinct in Gloucestershire, but still locally frequent in Somerset. A single female observed ovipositing around horse dung at Monk Woods ST 7571 on 1 September 1999 is the first recent Gloucestershire record. A large population was found to be centred on Weston Moor, in the Gordano Valley, ST 4473 on 23 August 1999, seeming to extend as far as the coast at Charlcombe Bay; it was also observed at Clapton Moor ST 4573 on 30 August 2000 and Purn Hill ST 3357 on 21 August 2001.

Platypalpus excisus (Becker, 1907) (Hybotidae)

This species has been recognised as specifically distinct and occurring in this country relatively recently, previously confused with the common *P. nigratarsis* (Fallén). There do not appear to be previously published records for Somerset. A single male was found on Brean Down ST 2958 on 19 April 2000.

Platypalpus mikii (Becker, 1890) (Hybotidae)

This species has been recorded locally from Somerset (Falk and Crossley in preparation). It was taken at Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 3 July 2000 and Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 29 June 2000.

Achalcus britannicus Pollet, 1997 (Dolichopodidae)

This tiny yellowish brown fly is probably the most frequent of the newly described *Achalcus*, but I know of no previous records from Gloucestershire or Somerset. A single male was found in a dip-net sample at Weston Moor ST 4473 on 2 August 1999.

Hercostomus plagiatus (Loew, 1857) (Dolichopodidae)

This metallic green fly was not listed by Audcent (1948) and there are still no records from Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999), but in Somerset it is now known from Berrow (Assis-Fonseca 1978). This species proved to be frequent at Max Bog ST 4057 on 25 June and 27 July 1999 and 26 June 2000.

Orthoceratium lacustre (Scopoli, 1763) (Dolichopodidae)

The status locally of this shiny green fly is unknown but it is likely to be very uncommon; it has been recorded in Somerset (Assis-Fonseca 1978). A single female was swept in calcareous woodland at Purn Hill ST 3357 on 21 August 2001. Nearly all records are from the coast so this individual may be a stray.

Medetera bispinosa Negrobov, 1967 (Dolichopodidae)

This dull metallic fly was not known by Audcent but records of *M. nitida* (Macquart, 1838) from Edington (Audcent 1948), Blaise Castle (Alexander 1999) and Leigh Woods (Assis-Fonseca 1978) are probably referable to *bispinosa*. There is one confirmed record for Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). Several were seen on a dead elm at Stockwood Open Space ST 6269 on 14 June 1999.

Neurigona suturalis (Fallén, 1823) (Dolichopodidae)

This slender fly seems to have been quite frequent, especially in Gloucestershire, in Audcent's time with eight localities listed (Audcent 1948), but I know of no subsequent records. One male came to MV light at Tytherington Common ST 6788 on 24 June 1999 and one was taken in broadleaved calcareous woodland at Tickenham Hill ST 4472 on 26 June 2001.

Systemus scholtzii (Loew, 1850) (Dolichopodidae)

This small, metallic green, species was not listed by Audcent (1948) or by Alexander (1999) but both counties are cited by Falk and Crossley (in preparation), who list 12 counties in southern England for it. A single female was pooted from a fallen, but still living, maple tree *Acer campestre* at Cleeve Heronry ST 4666 on 15 August 1999.

Sympycnus spiculatus Gerstäcker, 1864 (Dolichopodidae)

This fly is unrecorded in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999), but in Somerset there is a record from West Town (Audcent 1948). It was found at Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 29 June 2000 and Monk Woods ST 7570 (V.C. 6) and ST 7571 (V.C. 34) on 20 July 2000.

Lonchoptera scutellata Stein, 1890 (Lonchopteridae)

This tiny yellowish fly was not recorded by Audcent (1948) and I know of no recent records. One was taken at Rendcomb Park SP 0109 on 16 October 1999.

Agathomyia cinerea (Zetterstedt, 1852) (Platypezidae)

This small flat-footed fly has no previous records from the region. Two females were swept from the vicinity of a large fallen branch at Cleeve Heronry SY 4666 on 4 October 2000.

Brachypalpus laphriformis (Fallén, 1816) (Syrphidae)

Another hive-bee mimicking hoverfly, this was only recorded from three sites by Audcent (1950); Levy and Levy (1998) added three more for Somerset so it is still rare in the county. One male was taken from hawthorn (*Crataegus*) blossom at Goblin Combe ST 4765 on 16 May 1999, a female was taken from a hogweed (*Heracleum*) flower at Radstock Sidings ST 6954 on 16 June 1999 and one was seen in Cheddar Gorge ST 4754 on 31 May 2000.

Cheilosia soror (Zetterstedt, 1843) (Syrphidae)

This all black hoverfly appears to have been overlooked by earlier collectors as it is now known to be frequent in Somerset, especially on calcareous soils (Levy and Levy 1998). It was recorded in the Avon Gorge ST 5674 on 18 July 2000, at Slader's Leigh ST 4256 on 11 July 2001 and from Weston Big Wood ST 4574 on 12 July 2001.

Chrysotoxum elegans Loew, 1841 (Syrphidae)

This very striking black and yellow hoverfly has always been uncommon, especially in Gloucestershire; it has declined and is now rare and perhaps confined to the Mendips (Levy and Levy 1998). It was recorded from Dolebury Warren ST 4558 on 4 July 1999, Cheddar Gorge ST 4754 on 22 July 2000 and 19 July 2001 and at Slader's Leigh ST 4256 on 11 July 2001.

Criorhina asilica (Fallén, 1816) (Syrphidae)

This hairy hive-bee mimicking hoverfly was not too uncommon in the past with eight localities listed by Audcent (1950) and there is no evidence that its status has changed with five subsequent records for Somerset (Levy and Levy 1998). One male was taken from hawthorn (*Crataegus*) blossom at Goblin Combe, ST 4765 on 16 May 1999.

Criorhina ranunculi (Panzer, 1804) (Syrphidae)

This large, hairy early spring hoverfly was described as uncommon by Audcent (1950), but in the Bristol region it is now best described as local. It seems likely that the very early flight season of this species has resulted in it being under-recorded; it may not in reality merit Nationally Scarce status. It was noted at Lower Woods ST 7486 on 23 March 1999, Prior's Wood ST 4974 on 2 April 1999, Bourton Combe ST 5068 on 9 April 1999, Folly Farm ST 6 60 on 10 April 1999 and Coombe Dingle ST 5578 on 15 April 1999.

Eumerus ornatus Meigen, 1822 (Syrphidae)

This hoverfly is widespread in Somerset and Gloucestershire, although still very local (Audcent 1950; Levy and Levy 1998). A single female was taken in the Avon Gorge ST 5674 on 8 June 2000.

Mallota cimbiciformis (Fallén, 1817) (Syrphidae)

This hive-bee mimicking hoverfly has always been rare in the Bristol region, with just three old records (Audcent 1950) and four subsequent records, the most recent in 1961 at Ashton Court (Levy and Levy 1998). A single male was found at Ashton Court ST 5572 on 20 June 1999.

Orthonevra brevicornis (Loew, 1843) (Syrphidae)

This small bluish black hoverfly was not listed by Audcent (1950); more recently there have been a few records (Levy and Levy 1998). It was fairly frequent at Lawrence Weston Moor ST 5479 on 20 May 1999; several individuals were also seen resting on rocks in a small stream at Folly Farm ST 6160 on 22 May 1999.

Pipizella virens (Fabricius, 1805) (Syrphidae)

This small black hoverfly is local and not very common in the Bristol region (Levy and Levy 1998). A single male was taken from hogweed (*Heracleum*) flowers at Max Bog ST 4057 on 25 June 1999.

Volucella inanis (Linnaeus, 1758) (Syrphidae)

This striking hoverfly is known from three previous records in Somerset, only one of these in the north of the county, Leigh Woods in 1917 (Levy and Levy 1998). One male was found at Tickenham Hill ST 4472 on 27 August 2001.

Volucella inflata (Linnaeus, 1794) (Syrphidae)

This attractive black and orange hoverfly was considered to be uncommon by Audcent (1950) but, at least south of Bristol, it appears to be locally common in and around the better areas of woodland (Levy and Levy 1998). It was recorded from Browns Folly ST 7966 on 1 June 1999;

Walton Common ST 4273 on 27 June 1999; at a sap run issuing from an oak tree (*Quercus*) at Dolebury Warren ST 4558 on 4 July 1999; the Avon Gorge ST 5674 on 8 June 2000; Dowlings Wood ST 6060 on 3 July 2000; Tickenham Hill ST 4472 on 30 May 2000; Slader's Leigh ST 4256 on 11 July 2001 and Weston Big Wood ST 4574 on 12 July 2001.

Volucella zonaria (Poda, 1761) (Syrphidae)

This striking hoverfly was a great rarity in Bristol in Audcent's time, with just one known record. It is now quite frequent within the city of Bristol, but very rarely seen in the surrounding areas. Single individuals were noted at Kingsweston Down ST 5578 and Brandon Hill ST 5772 in July 1999 and at Bath ST 7364 on 23 July 2001.

Xanthandrus comtus (Harris, 1780) (Syrphidae)

There are only about four recent records of this striking hoverfly in north Somerset (Levy and Levy 1998). A single male was netted hovering over a path in scrub at Sand Point ST 3265 on 24 June 2001.

Dorylomorpha hungarica (Aczél, 1939) (Pipunculidae)

This shiny black big-headed fly was recorded from just two sites on the Somerset Levels by Audcent (1950) (as *haemorrhoidalis* (Zetterstedt, 1838)). This little known species proved to be fairly common at Lawrence Weston Moor ST 5479 on 20 May and 30 July 1999 and at Max Bog ST 4057 on 27 July 1999 and 1 May 2000.

Eudorylas zermattensis (Becker, 1898) (Pipunculidae)

Locally this fly seems to be known previously from a single specimen from north Somerset (Coe 1966). A single male was taken in Bath ST 7364 on 17 August 2001.

Pipunculus zugmayeriae Kowarz, 1887 (Pipunculidae)

This species is known from a single old record in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). One male was swept at Avonmouth Sewage Farm ST 5379 (V.C. 34) on 29 May 2001.

Micropeza lateralis Meigen, 1826 (Micropezidae)

This stilt-legged fly does not appear to have been recorded previously in Somerset or Gloucestershire. A single female was found at Troopers Hill ST 6373 (V.C. 34) on 16 August 2000.

Lonchaea peregrina Becker, 1895 (Lonchaeidae)

This fly was known from an old, unconfirmed, record near Bristol in Gloucestershire (Collin 1953). A single male was reared from a puparium found under the bark of dead ivy (*Hedera helix*) at Monk Woods ST 7570 (V.C. 6) on 24 May 2000, emerging on 7 June 2000.

Herina palustris (Meigen, 1826) (Ulidiidae)

This small black picture-winged fly was known to Audcent (1950) from two sites in Gloucestershire and one in Somerset. A single male was swept from grassland at Folly Farm ST 6160 on 26 June 1999.

Myopa extricata Collin, 1960 (Conopidae)

This fly was not known from the region in Audcent's time but his collection in Bristol Museum contains specimens from four localities under the name *testacea* (S. Hallett pers. comm.). There is one more recent record for Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). It seems to be frequent but much overlooked and misidentified. It was recorded from Bourton Combe ST 5068 on 9 April

1999. Walton Hill ST 4634 on 3 May 1999. Uphill ST 3157 on 4 May 1999. Staple Hill ST 6575 on 18 April 2001. Troopers Hill ST 6273 on 23 April 2001 and Ivy Thorn Hill ST 4734 on 4 May 2001.

Thecophora fulvipes (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830) (Conopidae)

This elusive species has been recorded from Stroud and Filton in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and from Shepton Mallet in Somerset most recently in 1948 (Audcent 1950). A male was taken from a *Succisa* flower at Monk Woods ST 7570 (V.C. 34) on the 22 September 2000; swept from grassland at Cross Plain ST 4155 on 15 July 2001 and Tucking Mill ST 7661 on 16 July 2001.

Noeeta pupillata (Fallén, 1814) (Tephritidae)

This attractive species was recorded from Painswick in 1890 (Audcent 1950), but there are no subsequent local records (Clemons 1996). Two individuals were swept from dry grassland at Radstock Sidings ST 6954 on 23 July 1999.

Chetostoma curvinerve (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830) (Tephritidae)

This orange brown fruit fly has not been recorded before in either Somerset or Gloucestershire. A single male was beaten from the foliage of an oak tree at Monk Woods ST 7570, just on the Somerset side of the border on 1 September 1999.

Euphranta toxoneura (Loew, 1846) (Tephritidae)

This small brownish fruit fly, which develops in the galls of sawflies of the genus *Pontania* on *Salix* is very rare in this area with one record from Leigh Woods, Somerset (Audcent 1950) and one from Stroud, Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999), both more than 60 years ago. A single individual was swept from vegetation in Monk Woods ST 7570 on 15 May 1999.

Goniglossum wiedemanni (Meigen, 1826) (Tephritidae)

This very attractive and rarely encountered fly is known from a single record in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). (Audcent 1950) recorded it from a single Somerset site but it was found at Gordano Levels on *Bryonia dioica* on the 1985 Mendips field meeting (Mike Pugh *pers. comm.*). A single individual was found on *Bryonia dioica* growing on a fence at Weston Moor ST 4473 on 14 July 2000.

Orellia falcata (Scopoli, 1763) (Tephritidae)

One of the larger tephritids, this was recorded at three sites in Gloucestershire by Audcent (1950) and there has been one subsequent record (Alexander 1999); in Somerset there is at least one old record in the far south of the county (Clemons 1996). A single individual was swept from a flower-rich meadow at Stockwood Open Space ST 6269 on 14 June 1999.

Cnemocanthera muscaria (Fallén, 1823) (Lauxaniidae)

This fly is previously unrecorded in Somerset or Gloucestershire. One was swept from grassland at Tickenham Hill ST 4472 on 30 May 2001.

Homoneura thalhammeri Papp, 1978 (Lauxaniidae)

This would appear to be the first record for the region of this lauxaniid fly, but as it has been recognised as distinct only recently it is likely to be under recorded. One male was swept at Burlledge Hill ST 5959 on 23 June 2001.

Sapromyza albiceps Fallén, 1820 (Lauxaniidae)

This small yellowish fly was previously known from Awkley in Gloucestershire and Clevedon in Somerset (Audcent 1950) and was recorded at Ebbor Gorge on 18 June 1989 by Peter Chandler (*pers. comm.*). It was found at Kingsweston Down ST 5578 on 15 July 1999 and Tucking Mill ST 7661 on 16 May 2000.

Sapromyza basalis Zetterstedt, 1847 (Lauxaniidae)

This fly is known from Oakley Wood in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and there is a record from south Somerset (Mapmate data). It is frequent at Brown's Folly ST 7965, with specimens found on 29 June, 24 August and 25 September 2000.

Chamaemyia fasciata (Loew, 1858) (Chamaemyiidae)

There do not appear to be any previous records for this fly from either Somerset or Gloucestershire. Several specimens were taken at Burledge Hill ST 5959 on 23 June and 4 August 2001.

Colobaea bifasciella (Fallén, 1820) (Sciomyzidae)

This small yellow snail-killing fly was not recorded by Audcent (1950) and there are no subsequent records (Alexander 1999; Ball and McLean 1986). One male was found in a water trap at Weston Moor ST 4473 on 27 August 1999.

Colobaea punctata (Lundbeck, 1923) (Sciomyzidae)

There do not appear to be any records of this snail-killing fly in Gloucestershire or the region (Alexander 1999; Ball and McLean 1986). It was swept from a drying marsh at Avonmouth Sewage Farm ST 5379 (V.C. 34) on 5 July 2001.

Pherbellia annulipes (Zetterstedt, 1846) (Sciomyzidae)

This fly was already known locally from two sites in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and four sites in Somerset (Ball and McLean 1986). It was numerous at Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 29 June 2000.

Pherbellia dorsata (Zetterstedt, 1846) (Sciomyzidae)

Although it is known from several records in the Somerset Levels (Ball and McLean 1986), there is a single record only from Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999). It was swept from marshy vegetation at Avonmouth Sewage Farm ST 5379 (V.C. 34) on 29 May and 5 July 2001.

Pteromicra glabricula (Fallén, 1820) (Sciomyzidae)

This snail-killing fly has only been recorded once in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) although it is more frequent in the Somerset Levels (Ball and McLean 1986). It was swept from a drying marsh at Avonmouth Sewage Farm ST 5379 (V.C. 34) on 5 July 2001.

Anticheta brevipennis (Zetterstedt, 1846) (Sciomyzidae)

This black and yellow snail-killing fly was unrecorded by Audcent (1950) and there are no subsequent records from Somerset or Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999; Ball and McLean 1986). One female was taken from a very heavily choked and silted ditch at Weston Moor ST 4473 on 47 August 1999.

Psacadina verbekei Rozkošný, 1975 (Sciomyzidae)

This snail-killing fly was unknown in Audcent's time, but is now known to be reasonably widespread in Gloucestershire (Alexander 1999) and less so in Somerset (Ball and McLean 1986). It was swept from damp areas at Max Bog ST 4057 on 27 July 1999 and 1 May 2000.

Paraclusia tigrina (Fallén, 1820) (Clusiidae)

This very distinctive fly, with boldly marked wings, was not listed by Audcent (1950), but there is a Somerset record from Avon Gorge, June 1980 (E.C.M. d'Assis-Fonseca; record in Invertebrate Site Register). In Gloucestershire there is a single record from Oakley Wood (Alexander 1999). A strong colony was found on a single, naturally fallen, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* at Cleeve Heronry ST 4666 on 15 August 1999 and it was still present there on 11 September 2000.

Scoliocentra confusa (Wahlgren, 1918) (Heleomyzidae)

This small, orange brown fly is very rare in the Bristol region with just a single previous record from Coombe Dingle Gloucestershire in 1947 (Alexander 1999), a site that is now much degraded. This would appear to be the first record for Somerset. A single individual was swept in Monk Woods ST 7570 on 15 May 1999.

Eurina lurida Meigen, 1830 (Chloropidae)

This distinctive fly, one of the larger chloropids, is known from a single record in this area, Hallen in 1927 (Audcent 1950). A single male was swept from *Phragmites* at Littleton Brick Pit ST 5991 on 22 May 2000.

Chlorops adjunctus Becker, 1910 (Chloropidae)

There are no published records of this chloropid fly from Somerset, although it was taken at Draycott Sleights on 30 June 1985 by Peter Chandler (*pers. comm.*) and it is likely to be under recorded. It was swept dry grassland at Purn Hill ST 3357 on 24 May 2001 and Sand Point ST 3265 on 20 August 2001.

Dicraeus tibialis (Macquart, 1835) (Chloropidae)

This very small chloropid fly is recorded from the Somerset Levels and there are unconfirmed records from elsewhere in the county (Falk and Ismay in preparation). It was found at Tickenham Hill ST 4472 on 30 May 2001.

Stegana coleoptrata (Scopoli, 1763) (Drosophilidae)

This small blackish fly is known in this area from just one record, Chalford in Gloucestershire (Audcent 1950) but Alexander (1999) stated that this record is probably referable to *S. similis* Laštovka and Máca. A single female was taken at Monk Woods ST 7570 on 24 July 1999, which is the first Somerset record.

Parydroptera discomyzina Collin, 1913 (Ephydriidae)

This tiny black shore fly was not listed by Audcent (1950) and I know of no records since. One was taken in a water trap at Pawlett Levels ST 3143 on 13 September 1999.

Conisternum decipiens (Haliday in Curtis, 1832) (Scathophagidae)

A dung fly with two old records in Gloucestershire, the latest in 1947 (Audcent 1950; Alexander 1999). One was taken at Monk Woods ST 7570 (V.C. 6) on 24 May 2000.

Hebecnema fumosa (Meigen, 1826) (Muscidae)

This blackish-brown muscid fly was recorded in Somerset from Sharpam in 1929 (Audcent 1950). This was taken in Weston Big Wood on 12 July 2001.

Fannia atripes Stein, 1916 (Fanniidae)

This species was frequently recorded in a suburban garden in Bristol from 1956 to 1985; in

Somerset there are no previous records (Falk and Pont in preparation). A single female was taken at Walton Hill ST 4634 on 4 May 2001.

Fannia norvegica Ringdahl, 1934 (Fanniidae)

This species has been recorded in Gloucestershire but not in Somerset (Falk and Pont in preparation). It was found at Brown's Folly ST 7965 on 29 June 2000 and Burledge Hill ST 5959 on 4 August 2001.

Eurychaeta palpalis (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830) (Calliphoridae)

There are previous records of this species from Somerset, including a relatively recent one (1980) (Falk and Pont in preparation). It was taken at Tickenham Hill ST 4472 on 30 May 2001.

Lophosia fasciata Meigen, 1824 (Tachinidae)

This very distinctive elongate black fly, a parasitoid of Heteroptera, was taken in Coombe Dingle in 1945 and 1947 (Audcent 1950); I know of no subsequent records in the Bristol region. It was found at Radstock Sidings ST 6954 on 23 July 1999, Tucking Mill ST 7661 on 19 July 2000 and Weston Big Wood ST 4574 on 12 July 2001.

Exorista tubulosa Herting, 1967 (Tachinidae)

This parasitoid does not appear to have been recorded from the region previously. One male was taken at Tucking Mill ST 7661 on 2 July 2001 and a female (probably of this species) was taken in Cheddar Gorge on 19 July 2001.

Zophomyia temula (Scopoli, 1763) (Tachinidae)

This black parasitoid fly is well distributed in Somerset but very scarce in Gloucestershire (Audcent 1950; Alexander 1999). It was found at Tucking Mill ST 7661 on 16 May 2000.

Cistogaster globosa (Fabricius, 1775) (Tachinidae)

This attractive little fly, another parasitoid of Heteroptera, was recorded in Gloucestershire for the first time in 1999 (Alexander 1999), but there are no previous records for Somerset. One male found was in Cheddar Gorge ST 4754 on 19 July 2001 and many males and a few females were seen in Bath ST 7364 on 23 and 28 July and 14 August 2001.

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***Xylophagus ater* Meigen (Diptera, Xylophagidae) rediscovered in**

the Bristol area - This elusive relict ancient woodland species is listed in J. Charbonnier's *The Diptera of the Bristol District* (1912. *Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society*, 4th Series, 3(2), 51-75.) as "very rare" in Leigh Woods (ST 57). H.L.F. Audcent's *Bristol Insect Fauna: Diptera* (1949. *Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society* 27(5), 409-470) was only able to repeat Charbonnier's record and, to my knowledge, there have been no further records from this locality or elsewhere in the Bristol area.

To the south-west, the closest known localities are: Holford (Cowley, J. 1953. *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* 98(1), 152-153) and Hodders Combe (1988, K.N.A. Alexander unpublished), both in ST 14 in the Quantock Hills, S. Somerset, and - to the north-east - various sites in the central Cotswold Hills, from Cirencester Park Woods (SO 90) northwards, E. Gloucestershire (Alexander in preparation. *The Diptera of Gloucestershire*, Part I Larger Brachycera. *The Gloucestershire Naturalist*.). These two areas lie some 100km apart (see Drake, C.M. 1991. *Provisional Atlas of the Larger Brachycera (Diptera) of Britain and Ireland*. NERC Huntingdon), and so it is a pleasure to report the rediscovery of the species close to the old Leigh Woods site, in Ashton Court Park, N. Somerset, and Blaise Castle Woods, W. Gloucestershire.

During 1996, a series of Owen emergence traps (Owen, J. 1989. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* 2, 65-68) were operated within Ashton Court Park (ST 5471) as part of a survey of the wood-decay communities associated with the old oak pollards of Clerken Combe (Alexander, K.N.A. 1997. *Clarkencombe Wood, Ashton Court, Bristol - Survey and Assessment of Saproxylic Invertebrates*. Unpublished report to Bristol City Council). One