

Notes on the Diptera of Somerset.

PART II.¹

BY H. J. CHARBONNIER.

THIS second part of the list includes the PLATYPEZIDAE, PIPUNCULIDAE, SYRPHIDAE, CONOPIDAE and OESTRIDAE.

The PLATYPEZIDAE are small insects and appear very scarce in the County ; their larvae, as far as known, feed on fungi.

The PIPUNCULIDAE are also small and difficult to find ; there should be many more species recorded yet, from the County ; their larvae are parasitic in the bodies of CICADIAE. The flies have wonderful powers of hovering flight.

The SYRPHIDAE contain the most beautiful of our native flies ; they are all useful or harmless, with only one or two exceptions, and present the most striking instances of mimicry that are to be found in our insect fauna ; whole genera having assumed the form and colouring of Hymenoptera. Colonel Jermyn has been investigating this point ; and I have made a great many notes on Variation in some of the species. In a later number we hope to give some account of our observations in these fascinating problems.

The SYRPHIDAE are extremely numerous in species ; 125 are recorded here. Their larvae have varied habits, many feeding on Aphides, and so proving true gardener's friends ; others live in stagnant water or mud ; others in decaying fungi and vegetation, and one or two spend their larval stage in garden bulbs, Narcissi or Onions.

1. Part I was printed in the *Proceedings*, Vol. LXI, 189-204.

Some species are unaccountably local, occurring only in one particular spot, perhaps only a few yards square; others are found everywhere.

The CONOPIDÆ are a small group of flies that are parasitic in the larval stage, inside the bodies of Humble Bees.

The OESTRIDÆ are during their larval stage very injurious to live stock; the redoubtable Ox Warble Fly causing great loss and damage.

I gratefully acknowledge the help and co-operation I have received from Colonel Jermyn and Mr. A. E. Hudd, F.S.A., F.E.S.; their records are noted by their initials (J.) and (H.). I have also received specimens from various parts of the County from—(A.) Mr. H. Audcent; (B.) Mr. Charles Bartlett; (C.) Mr. W. C. Crawley, F.E.S.; (G.) Mr. G. C. Griffiths, F.E.S.; (R.) the Rev. S. O. Ridley.

(W.) means that the species, taken in Somerset, is in the Watkins collection in the Bristol Museum; (V.H.) that the species is recorded in the *Victoria County History, Somerset*; S.M. that I have taken the species in the neighbourhood of Shepton Mallet.

PLATYPEZIDÆ. (*Platypeza* = flat or broad footed). The broad hind tarsi, and peculiar venation distinguish these small black and silvery flies.

Platypeza atra, Mg. Weston-super-Mare (J).

Callimya leptiformis, Fall. Leigh Woods. (C. W. Dale, V.H.).

(*Callimya* = beautiful fly.)

PIPUNCULIDÆ. Small dark flies with enormous eyes, found flying among low herbage.

Chalarus spurius, Fln. S.M., in May.

Verrallia aucta, Fln. Leigh Woods.

„ *villosa*, V. Ros. Leigh Woods.

Pipunculus campestris, Lt. S.M., in September.

„ *geniculatus*, Mg. S.M., and Axbridge (R).

„ *incognitus*, Verr. Flax Bourton (H).

(*Pipunculus* = little pipers or chirpers.)

SYRPHIDAE. Medium to large, brightly coloured flies frequenting flowers; many are fine hoverers, some brilliant, others densely hairy and bee-like.

Paragus tibialis, F. Nailsea. Closely resemble small bees.

Pipizella virens, F. Freshford.

(*Pipizella* = diminutive of *Pipiza*.)

Pipiza noctiluca, L. Nailsea, Freshford and S.M.

(*Pipiza* = refers to piping hum.)

Cnemodon vitripennis, Mg. Freshford, in April.

(*Cnemodon* = armed legs, refers to spur on trochanter of ♂.)

Orthoneura nobilis, Fal. Taunton, in June.

(*Orthoneura* = straight nervure.)

Liogaster metallina, F. S.M., Clevedon (W), a very local insect.

(*Liogaster* = shining abdomen.)

Chrysogaster splendens, Mg. Banwell, Leigh Woods and Rownham (H).

„ *hirtella*, Lw. Minehead (V.H.). Leigh Woods (H).

„ *solstitialis*, Fln. Dunster (A). Porlock (C). Leigh Woods (H).

„ *chalybeata*, Mg. Dunster (A).

(*Chrysogaster* = golden abdomen.)

Cheilosia maculata, Fln. Common at Freshford, May, 1898. on blossoms of Wild Garlic, scarce since.

„ *scutellata*, Fln. Weston-super-Mare (J). Cheddar and Leigh Woods (H).

„ *longula*, Zett. Leigh Woods (H).

„ *pulchripes*, Lw. Batheaston (V.H.) and S.M.

„ *soror*, Zett. S.M., in April.

„ *variabilis*, Pz. Brockley, abundant May, 1916, not seen there since (H).

„ *intonsa*, Lw. Freshford.

„ *illustrata*, Har. Very local. Weston-super-Mare (J). Leigh Woods (H), recorded under the synonym of *aestraeca* in V.H.

„ *impressa*, Lw. Leigh Woods, in August.

„ *albitarsis*, Mg. Generally distributed.

- Cheilosia mutabilis*, Fln. Portishead and Leigh Woods (H).
 „ *antiqua*, Mg. Cheldar.
 „ *cycanocephala*, Lw. Batheaston (V.H.).
 „ *vernalis*, Fln. Generally distributed.
 „ *fraterna*, Mg. Batheaston (V.H.), under the synonym of *Chloris*.

(*Cheilosia* = projecting face or snout.)

- Platychirus manicatus*, Mg. Brockley and Leigh Woods (H).
 S.M.

- „ *peltatus*, Mg. Kewstoke (J). Culmhead (H).
 „ *albimanus*, F. Common everywhere.
 „ *clypeatus*, Mg. Leigh Woods (H).
 „ *fulviventris*, Mcq. Clevedon (W), in August and September.
 „ *angustatus*, Zett. Minehead (V.H.).
 „ *scutatus*, Mg. Clevedon (W). Leigh Woods (H).

(*Platychirus* = flattened foot.)

- Pyrophaena granditarsa*, F. Dunster (A). Weston-super-Mare (J). Leigh Woods (H).
 „ *rosarum*, F. Porlock (C). Both these are rare. (*Pyrophaena* = fiery markings on abdomen.)

- Melanostoma mellinum*, L. Common. Larva has been observed attacking and sucking flies.

- „ *scalare*, F. Common.
 „ *ambiguum*, Fln. Portishead (H).

(*Melanostoma* = black faced.)

- Melangyna quadrimaculata*, Verr. Freshford, in June. Rare.
 (Melangyna = female has quite black abdomen.)

- Leucozona leucorum*, L. Banwell and Brockley (H). Sometimes common.

(*Leucozona* = white waisted.)

- Ischyrosyrphus glaucis*, L. Cheddar, in August. Leigh Woods (H).

- „ *laternarius*, Müll. Dunster (A). Weston Woods (J). Both these species are very rare.

- Didea fasciata*, Mcq. Minehead (V.H.), has not been observed since.

Catabomba pyrastris, L. Leigh Woods (H), sometimes common. Mr. Slater sent me several he had bred from larvae beaten out of Pine trees.

„ *unicolor*. Weston-super-Mare (J).

„ *selenitica*, Mg. Clevedon (W), in September.
(*Catabomba* refers to loud hum or buzz.)

Syrphus albostrigatus, Fln. Cheddar (G) and (H). S.M.

„ *tricinctus*, Fln. Portishead (B). Weston-super-Mare (J). Rare.

„ *venustus*, Mg. Leigh Woods (H). Freshford. Rare.

„ *lunulatus*, Mg. Minehead (V.H.). Cheddar.

„ *lasioptthalmus*, Zett. Leigh Woods (H). Cheddar (W).

„ *annulatus*, Mg. Minehead (V.H.).

„ *grossulariae*, Mg. Leigh Woods (H). Weston-super-Mare (J). Rare.

„ *ribesii*, L. Generally distributed, in Autumn.

„ *vitripennis*, Mg. Generally distributed, in Autumn.

„ *latifasciatus*, Mcq. Weston Woods (J). Ashton Hill (H).

„ *nitidicollis*, Mg. Leigh Woods and Brislington (H).

„ *corollae*, F. Generally distributed.

„ *bifasciatus*, F. Generally distributed.

„ *balteatus*, DeG. Generally distributed.

„ *luniger*, Mg. Sometimes common, scarce in 1917.

„ *vitiger*, Zett. Cheddar (W). in August. Very rare.

„ *cinctellus*, Zett. Leigh Woods and Brockley (H).

„ *auricollis*, Mg. Clevedon (W). Freshford.

„ *cinctus*, Fln. Brockley Combe (H). Very rare.

„ *nitens*, Zett. Portishead (B). Very rare.

„ *umbellatarum*, F. Cheddar and Leigh Woods (H).

„ *compositarum*, Verr. Cheddar. Leigh Woods (H).

„ *labiatarum*, Verr. Banwell (J). Leigh Woods (H).

Rare.

Sphaerophoria scripta, L. Brockley and Leigh Woods (H).

„ *menthrasti*, L. Clevedon (W). Leigh Woods (H).

Xanthogramma ornatum, Mg. S.M. Leigh Woods.

(*Xanthogramma* = yellow letter, marks on thorax.)

- Baccha obscuripennis*, Mg. Clevedon (W). S.M.
 „ *elongata*, F. S.M. Leigh Woods (H).
Sphegina clunipes, Flin. S.M. Leigh Woods (H). Rare.
 (Sphegina = refers to claviform abdomen.)
Ascia podagrica, F. Cheddar (H). Not uncommon.
 „ *dispar*, Mg. Cheddar (G).
 „ *floralis*, Mg. Weston-super-Mare (J). Rare.
 (Ascia = hatchet-shaped, face.)
Rhingia rostrata, L. Common.
 (Rhingia = prolonged beak.)
Volucella bombylaus, L. Weston Woods (J). Banwell
 (H).
 „ Var. *plumata*, L. Weston Woods (J). Banwell
 (H).
 „ *inanis*, L. Dunster, in August (A). Leigh Woods
 (H). Porlock (C). Rare and local.
 „ *inflata*, F. Weston-super-Mare (J). Very rare.
 „ *pellucens*, F. Leigh Woods and Banwell (H).
 Common.
 The Volucellae are large and beautiful bee-like flies,
 parasitic in the larval stage, in the nests of Bombi
 and Wasps, and strikingly resemble their various
 hosts.
Arctophila mussitans, F. Batheaston (V.H.). Porlock (C).
 Very rare.
 (Arctophila = fond of the cold, this genus is found
 in Scandinavia and North America.)
Eristalis tenax, L. The drone fly or drain fly. Very
 common.
 „ *pertinax*, Scop. Very common.
 „ *arbustorum*, L. Very common.
 „ *nemorum*, L. Clevedon (W). Weston-super-Mare
 (J). Scarce.
 „ *horticola*, DeG. Cheddar. Shapwick (J). Por-
 lock (H).
 „ *sepulchralis*, L. Midford (V.H.). Leigh Woods (H).
 S.M. Rare.
 „ *intricarius*, L. Weston-super-Mare (J). A beau-
 tiful and uncommon fly.

Eristalis Var. *fervus*, L. Weston-super-Mare (J).

The flies of the genus *Eristalis* are large and handsome and very bee-like : the males are fine hoverers. Several species have been introduced into New Zealand and other countries and are now cosmopolitan.

Myiatropa florea, L. Sometimes common ; a very variable species.

Helophilus hybridus, Lw. Shapwick Heath (J). Portishead (B). Very rare.

„ *trivittatus*, F. Cheddar (Curtis). Weston-super-Mare (J). Very rare.

„ *pendulus*, L. Generally distributed.

„ *versicolor*, F. Dunster (A). Shapwick Heath (J). Rare.

„ *lunulatus*, Mg. Shapwick (V.H.). No record since.

„ *transfugus*, L. Weston-super-Mare (J). Very rare.

(*Helophilus* = loving stagnant water.)

Merodon equestris, F. } Fairly abundant in all three varieties, in gardens. Very rare a few years ago.

(*Merodon* = toothed femora.)

Mallota cimbiciformis, Flh. Weston-super-Mare Woods (J).

This very rare insect is hardly known outside the New Forest.

(*Mallota* = refers to its woolly, or fleecy appearance.)

Criorrhina ranunculi, Pz. This the most beautiful of our native flies has been taken once, at Wedmore by Mr. Harvey W. Mapleton.

„ *berberina*, F. Weston-super-Mare (J). Portishead (B).

„ *floccosa*, Mg. Portishead (B). Weston-super-Mare (J) and (H).

„ *oxyocanthe*, Mg. Weston-super-Mare (J). Portishead (B).

(*Criorrhina* = woolly, like a ram.)

Xylota segnis, L. Generally distributed.

„ *sylvarum*, L. Leigh Woods (H). The rare variety with yellow spots on the abdomen, has been taken at Weston-super-Mare (J).

„ *florum*, F. Dunster (A). Very rare.

„ *lenta*, Mg. Minehead (V.H.) Weston-super-Mare (J). Very rare.

(*Xylota* = refers to the habit of the larva living in decayed wood.)

Pocota apiformis, Schr. Colonel Jermyn has taken this great rarity at Weston-super-Mare. Reported from Leigh Woods about seventy-five years ago, but recorder's name forgotten (Verrall).

(*Pocota* = refers to densely hairy sides of face.)

Syritta pipiens, L. Generally distributed, and common.

(*Syritta* = refers to piping hum.)

Eumerus ornatus, Mg. Freshford. Rare.

„ *strigatus*, Fln. Leigh Woods. The larva lives in garden bulbs. I have bred it from shallots.

(*E. lunulatus*, Mg. in Victoria History is a synonym of *strigatus* *Eumerus* = thick thighs.)

Chrysoclamys cuprea, Scop. Leigh Woods (H). Weston-super-Mare (J). Nailsea.

(*Chrysoclamys* = refers to golden brilliancy.)

Sericomyia borealis, Fln. "The singing fly." This magnificent insect frequents peat bogs. Exmoor (Mapleton). Shapwick (J).

„ *lappona*, L. Miss B. Penfield has sent me this rarity from Holford on the Quantocks; and Colonel Jermyn has taken it on Shapwick Heath.

(*Sericomyia* = silky fly.)

Chrysotoxum cautum, Har. Shapwick (J).

„ *arcuatum*, L. Wellington (V.H.). Cheddar.

„ *festivum*, L. Weston Woods (J). Freshford

„ *bicinctum*, L. Generally distributed.

(*Chrysotoxum* = refers to golden arcs on abdomen.)

Callicera oenea, F. Dunster (A). A southern European species, that seems seldom to extend its range to England, and its occurrences are very few.

(*Callicera* = beautiful antennae.)

Microdon mutabilis, L. Langport (V.H.). This fly is seldom seen but Mr. W. C. Crawley has bred several from larva living in ant's nests, at Porlock.

(*Microdon* = refers to two small teeth on scutellum.)

CONOPIDÆ. Medium sized, black and yellow, wasp-like flies.

Conops quadrifasciatus, DeG. Dunster (A). Banwell and Weston Woods (J). Leigh Woods (H).

„ *vitellinus* (?). Clevedon (W).

„ *flavipes*, L. Dunster (A).

„ *ceriiformis*, Mg. Leigh Woods (H).

Oncomyia pusilla, Mg. S.M., in August. Rare.

Sicus ferrugineus, L. Minehead (V.H.). Weston-super-Mare (J). Cheddar.

Physocephala rufipes, F. Weston-super-Mare (J), and has been sent me from West Lydford by Miss W. Vincent. Rare.

Myopa buccata, L. Castle Cary. May. Very rare.

„ *testacea*, L. Batheaston (V.H.). Axbridge (R).

OESTRIDÆ. Large, hairy, bee-like flies that live but a very short time, for their mouth organs are aborted; as larvae they are internal parasites.

Gastrophilus equi, F. Horse-botfly. Wellington (V.H.), not infrequent in the larval stage, but the fly seems very rare. Colonel Jermyn has taken it just outside the county, in Wiltshire.

(*Gastrophilus* = stomach fly.)

Hypoderma bovis, DeG. Ox Warble fly. Willsbridge, on banks of Avon. Cattle are affected in many parts of the county by this fly, and it does serious damage to the stock. Messrs. R. Parsons and Sons, tanners, East Street, Taunton, had a piece of hide 14 × 24 inches, containing 402 warble holes!*

Oestrus ovis, L. Sheep nostril fly. Though the sheep in the county suffer from its attacks, I have no record of the fly being taken.

* *Flies injurious to Stock*, by E. A. Ormerod, LL.D., 1900.