

Molophilus lackschewitzianus Alexander and *Brachypalpoides lenta* (Meigen) (Dipt., Tipulidae and Syrphidae) in Scotland. — During the first field meeting of the newly organised Malloch Society two interesting species were taken in the Clyde Valley. The Malloch Society is a federation of Scottish based entomologists devoted to the study of Diptera and named in honour of the Scottish dipterist, John Russell Malloch (1875–1963) who pioneered the study of Diptera in many parts of the world.

On 10.vi.1989 we swept several examples of the crane-fly *Molophilus lackschewitzianus* Alexander from the side of a track in the Upper Nethan Gorge, Lanarkshire (NS 8044) in which runs a tributary of the River Clyde. This species is new to Scotland. It was introduced to the British List by Stubbs & Chandler (1973, *Proc. Brit. ent. Nat. hist. Soc.* 6: 18–19) on the basis of one Irish and three English localities. Since then it is recorded from over twelve 10 km squares, the majority being wet clay woods in the Wealden counties of south east England (Stubbs, *in litt.*). From these records correlated habitat factors appear to be clay soils, often calcareous, in damp woodlands with streams. Upper Nethan Gorge is calcareous overlain by boulder clay and therefore confirms the important factors for the occurrence of this species.

On the same day we took a single female of the very striking hoverfly, *Brachypalpoides lenta* (Meigen) feeding at *Crataegus* blossom. The site, Fiddlers Gill (NS 8447), is a wooded gorge similar to Upper Nethan Gorge. This somewhat scarce species, probably breeding in wet decaying wood, is more common in southern areas of the British Isles (Stubbs, A.E. & Falk, S., 1983, *British Hoverflies*, BENHS).

B. lenta was apparently recorded in Scotland for the first time by Crowson *et al.* (1966, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 102: 70–72) from a similarly wooded gorge in Ayrshire. More recently Bryan (1987, *Ent. Rec. J. Var.* 99: 127) records it from the Isle of Mull. Among material of this species in the National Museums of Scotland is a single specimen from Scotland collected by F.J. Ramsay on 7.vii.1946 at Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, now part of Strathclyde Region. The only other Scottish captures known to us are two specimens from Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire (R. Lyszkowski pers. comm.). Apart from the Mull record (which perhaps requires confirmation given the similarity between *B. lenta* and the more common *Xylota segnis* (L.)) it appears that *B. lenta* is surviving in wooded gorges in the central belt of Scotland. The late Sir Arthur Duncan, who collected hoverflies for many years in Dumfriesshire in the south of Scotland and whose insect collection is in the National Museums of Scotland, did not capture *B. lenta* although he did take three *Criorhina* species which are often associated with *B. lenta* as scarce woodland hoverflies. Thus *B. lenta* appears to exist in relatively isolated populations in Scotland. — E.G. HANCOCK, Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, G3 8AG & G.E. ROTHERAY, Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF: October 13th, 1989.

Records of Stenocranus species (Hem., Delphacidae) in England. — Although *Stenocranus minutus* (F.) is a common planthopper with a widespread distribution in England, other members of the genus are more localised. *S. fuscovittatus* (Stål) is the rarest, having been recorded only from nine 10 km squares in southern England, from Devon eastwards to Sussex, and northwards to the brecklands of Norfolk.

On 26th March 1982 I collected two individuals of this species by sweeping in the main bog at Hothfield Common (TQ 9645), north west of Ashford, Kent. On 7th May of the following year I returned with my colleague, Mr Don Jenner, and we located two further specimens in the same area, providing strong evidence that it is a resident breeding species in the county. A search for this species at nearby Gibbon's Brook was unsuccessful.

On 2nd October 1983 I visited Chippenham Fen (TL 6469) in the company of Ian McLean where I swept individuals of *S. fuscovittatus*, *S. minutus* and *S. major* (Kirschbaum). The last named species was found in among stands of its foodplant *Phalaris arundinacea* L. — JOHN S. BADMIN, Coppice Place, Perry Wood, Selling, nr Faversham, Kent ME13 9RP: December 20th, 1989.

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