

**Dolichopodids -
the flies with
grace, poise
and glamour**

Martin Drake



Common name

- Long-legged flies
- Semaphore flies
- My suggestion

Tip-toe flies



Sympycnus spiculatus

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Metallic, usually green

Slender body

Simple wing venation

Simple bristling



Dolichopus discifer

© Nikita Vikhrev



Poecilobothrus nobilitatus

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Other metallic green flies



Lucilia (Calliphoridae)

Chorisops (Stratiomyidae)



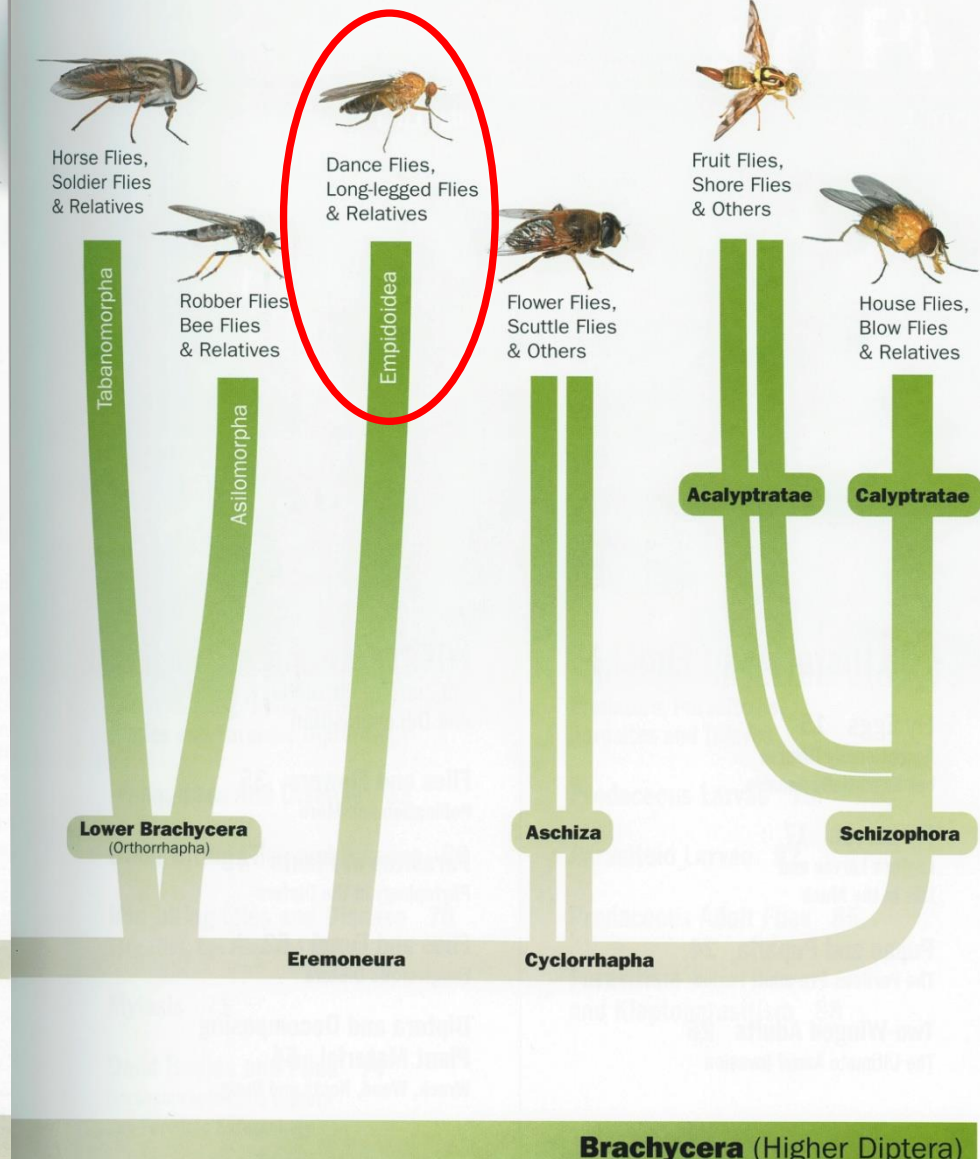
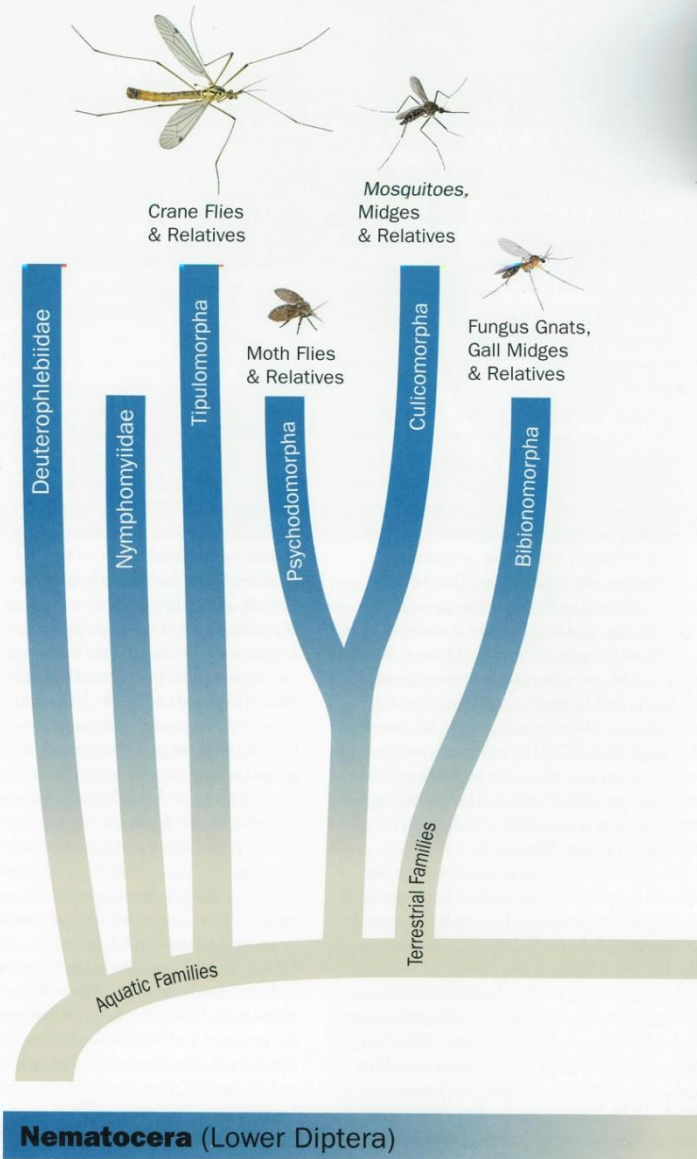
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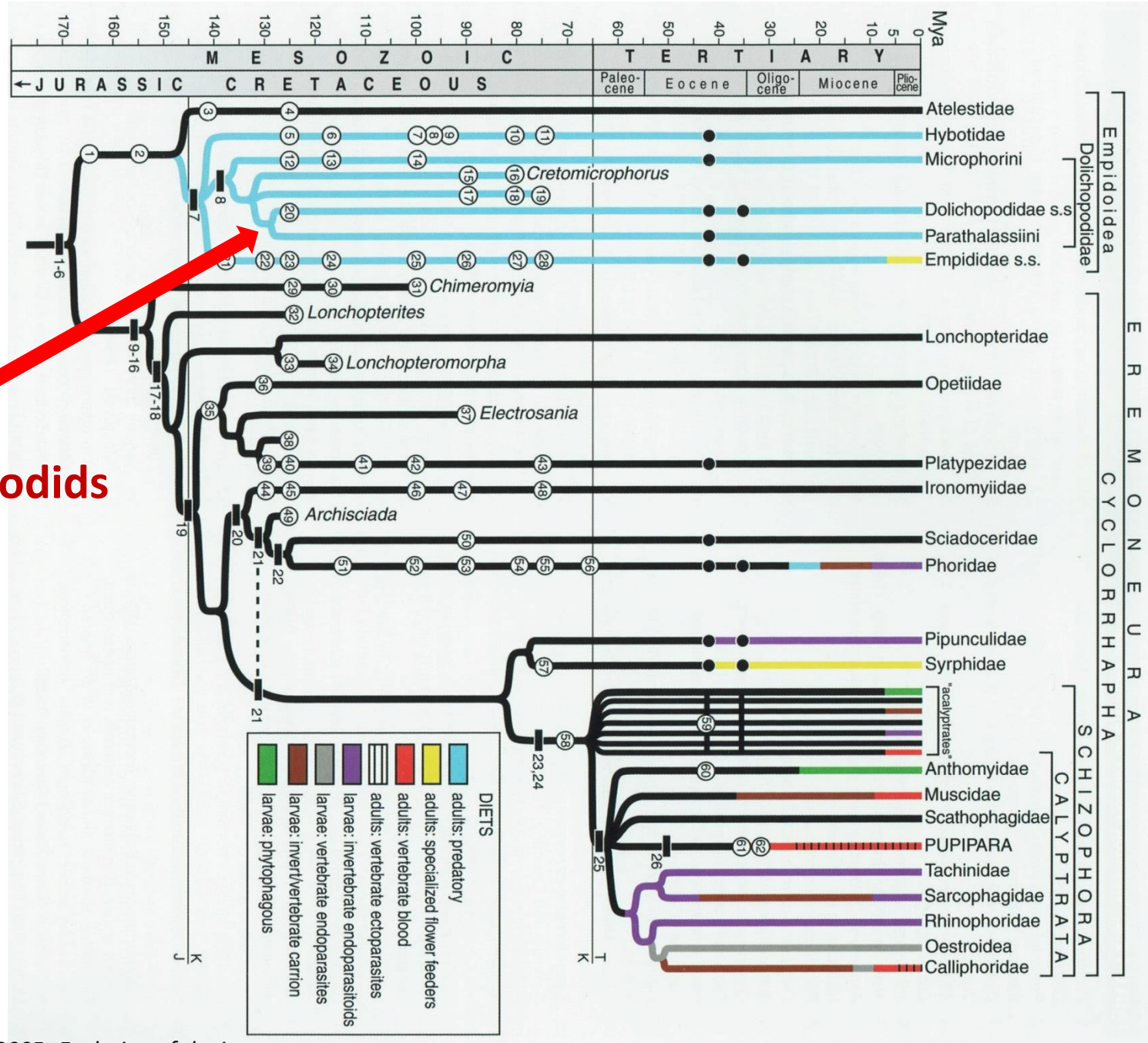
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Orthellia (Muscidae)

Figure 1.2 The Main Subgroups of the Order Diptera



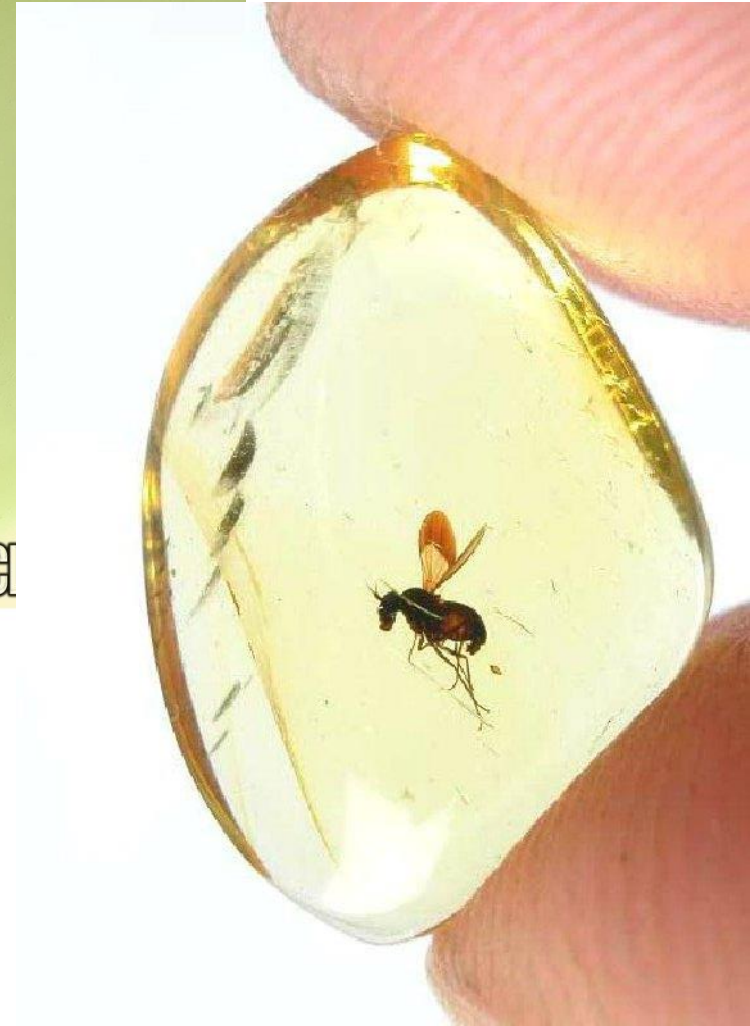
Dolichopodids



Grimaldi & Engel. 2005. *Evolution of the insects*



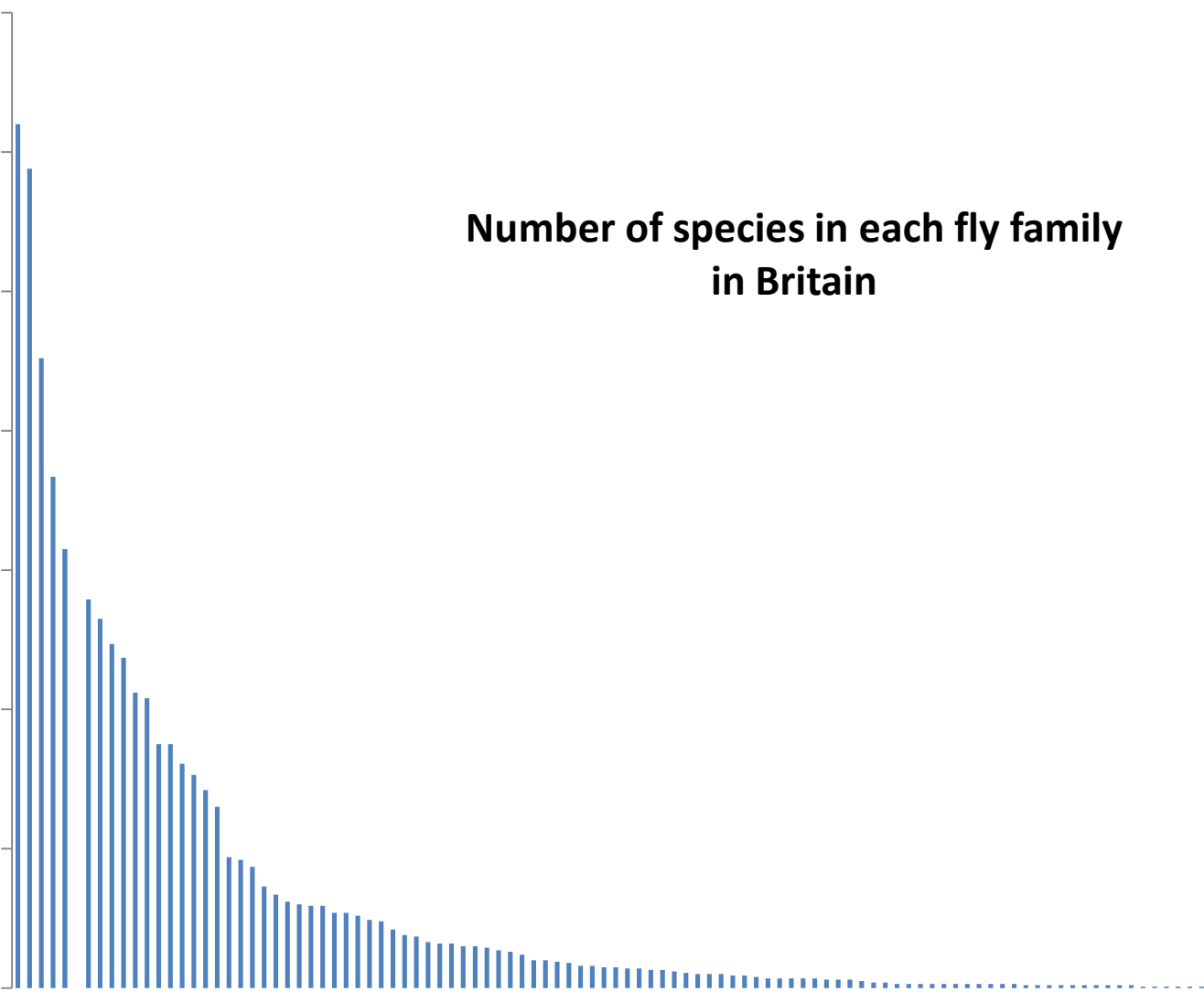
Baltic amber, Eocene – c.40-50MY



Number of species

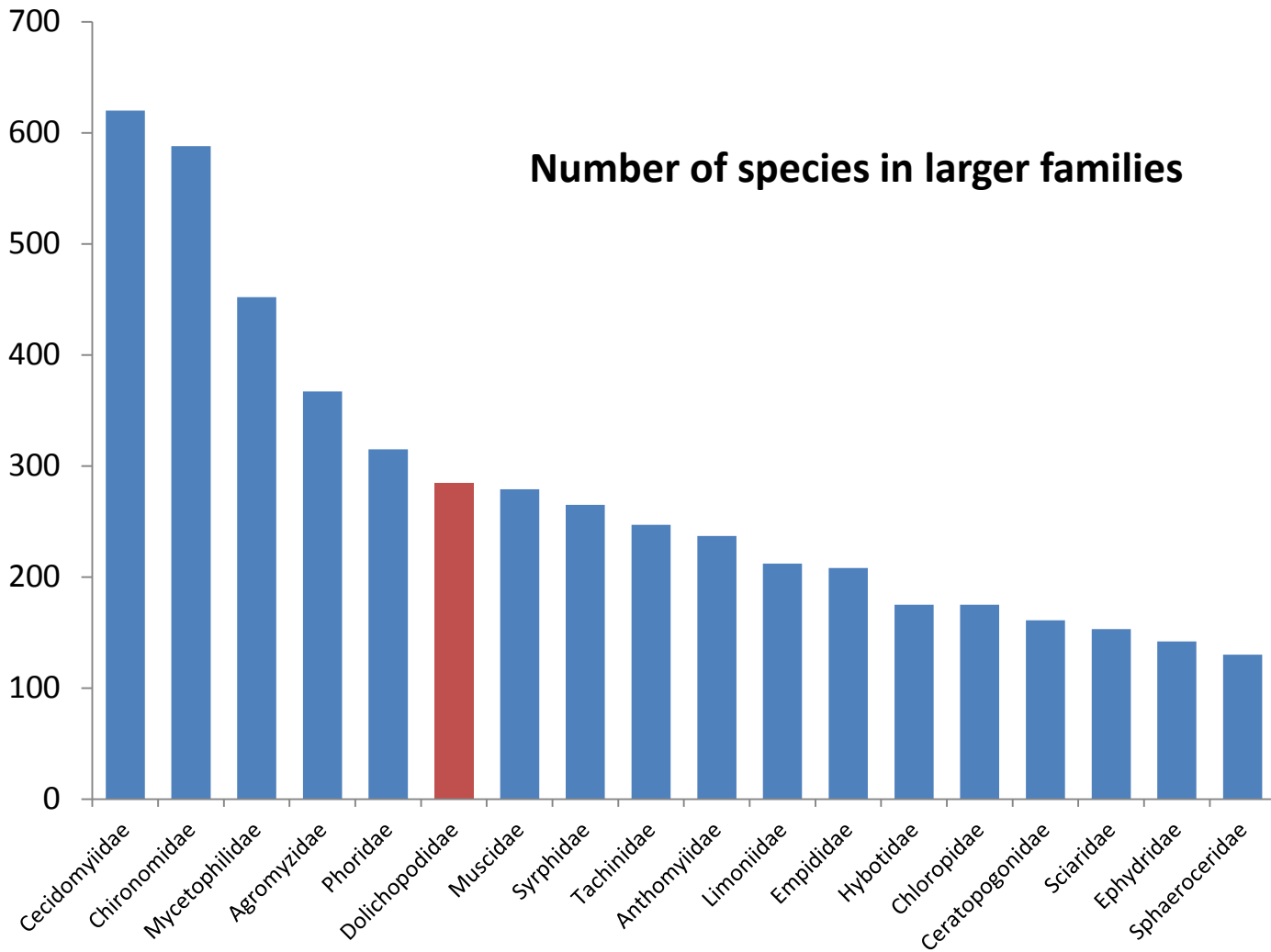
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0

Number of species in each fly family
in Britain



Number of species

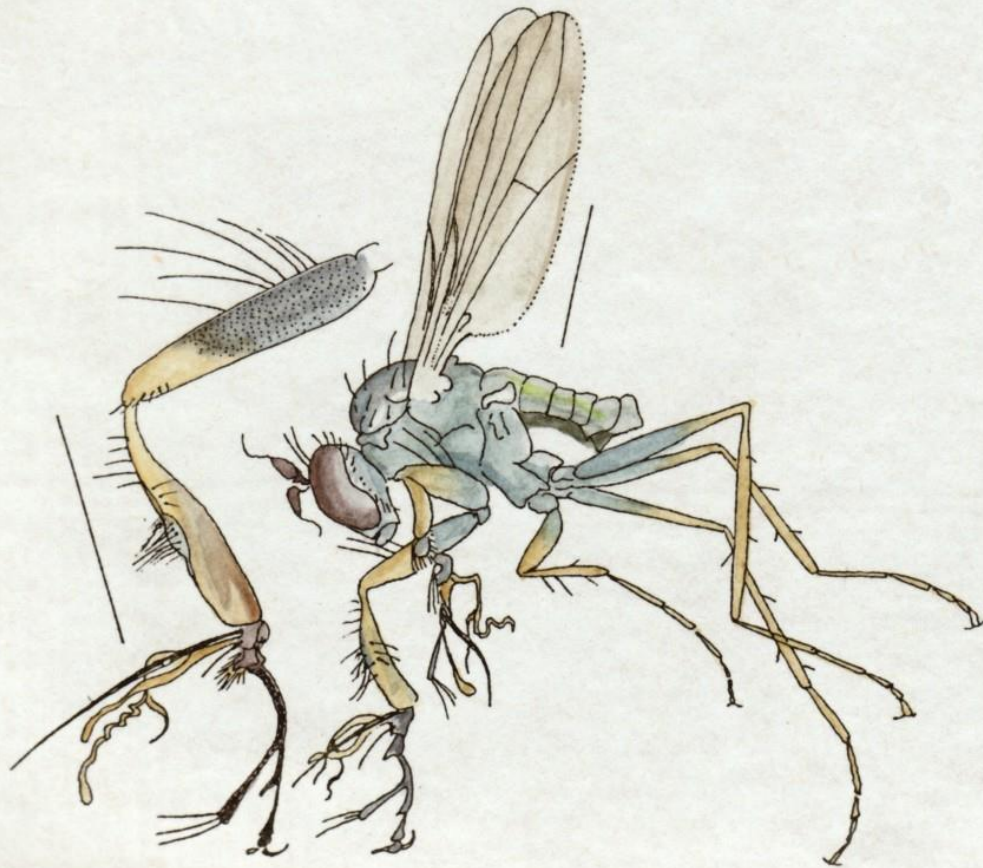
Number of species in larger families



- Worldwide 7500 species
- 300 species in Britain
- 44 genera

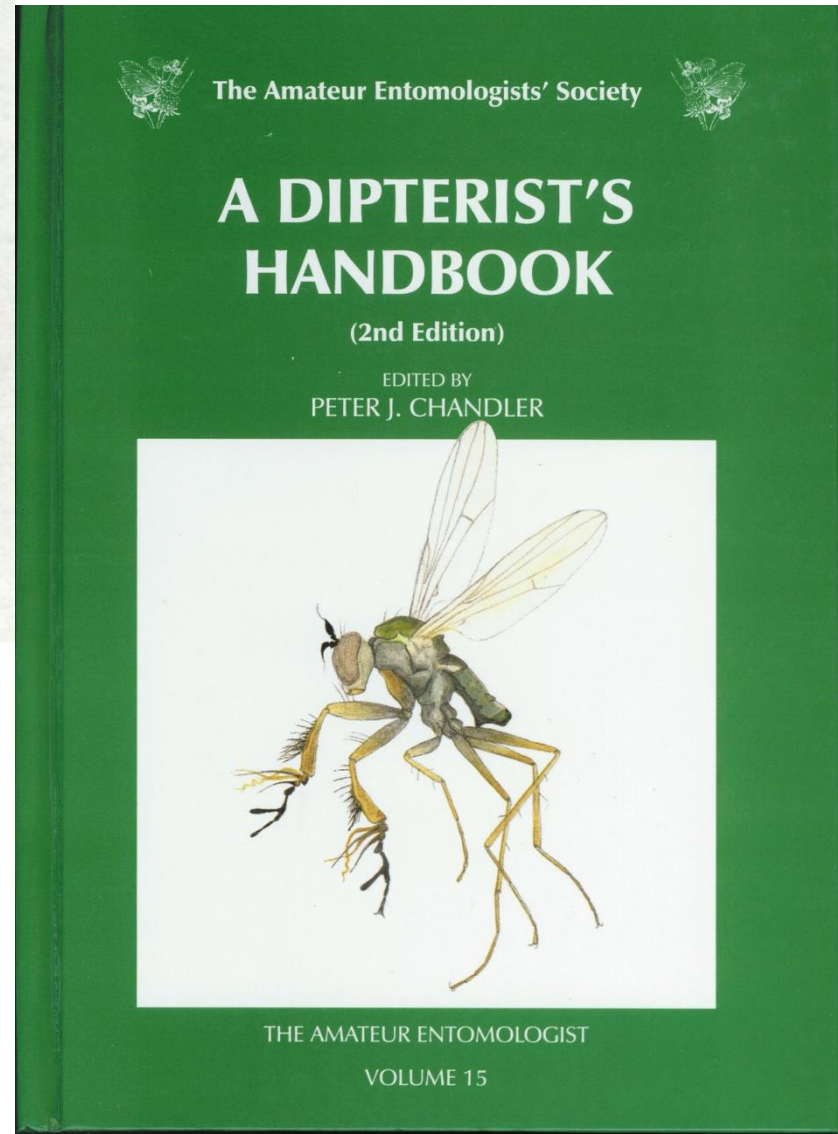
It's a man's world





Campsicnemus magius

painting by Peter Skidmore





© Lagura Diptera.info

Dolichopus popularis



Dolichopus brevipennis

painting by Dawn Painter

Neurigona quadrifasciata



© Jari Flinck Diptera.info



© Ben Hamers, Diptera.info



Sciapus platypterus

© Pristurus Diptera.info



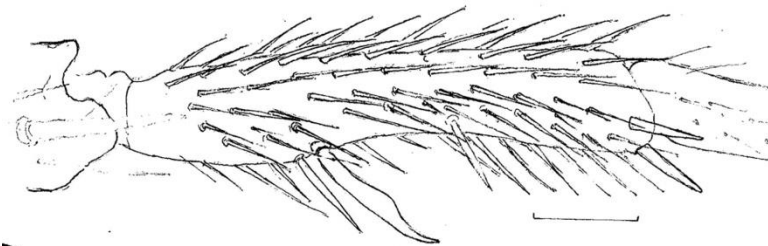
Syntormon pallipes



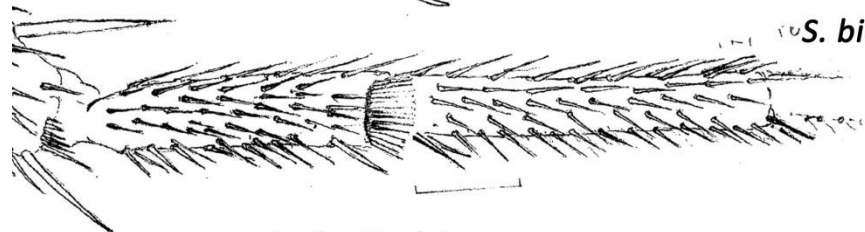
Teuchophorus spinigerellus

Syntormon

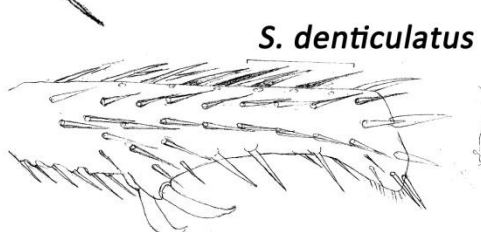
hind metatarsus



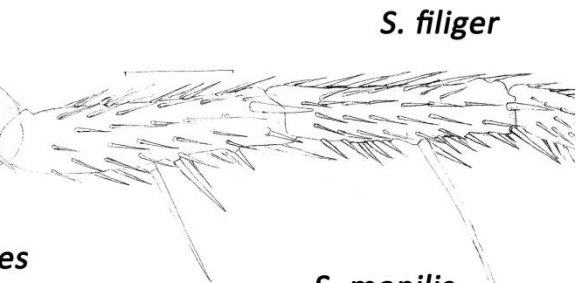
S. aulicus



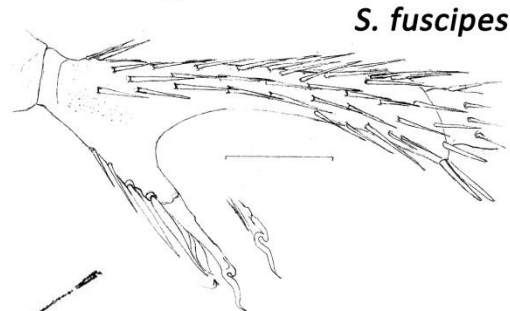
S. bicolorellus



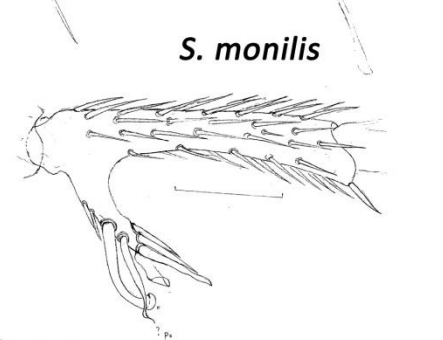
S. denticulatus



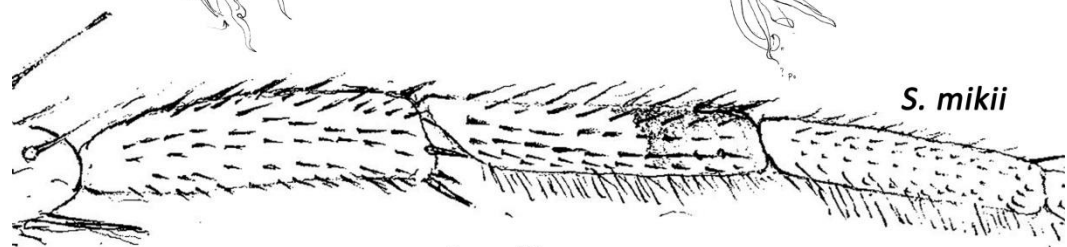
S. filiger



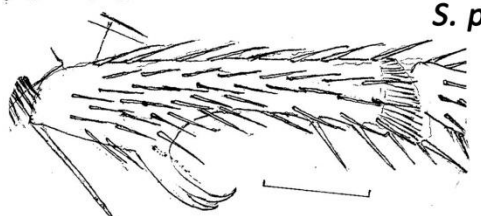
S. fuscipes



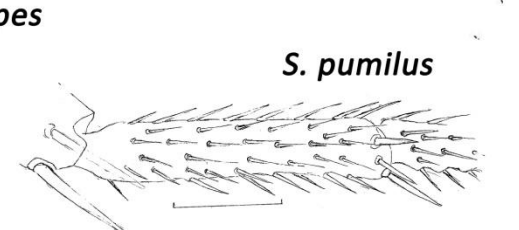
S. monilis



S. mikii



S. pallipes



S. pumilus

Syntormon pallipes



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Rhaphium caliginosum



© cosmln Diptera.info

cosmln

Argyra perplexa



Dolichopodidae: *Argyra perplexa*



Machaerium maritime

Wings



Argyra argyria





© Tony Irwin Diptera.info

Aphrosilus celtiber



© Eiran Evans





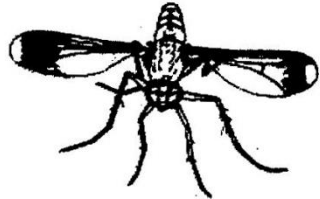
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Poecilobothrus nobilitatus



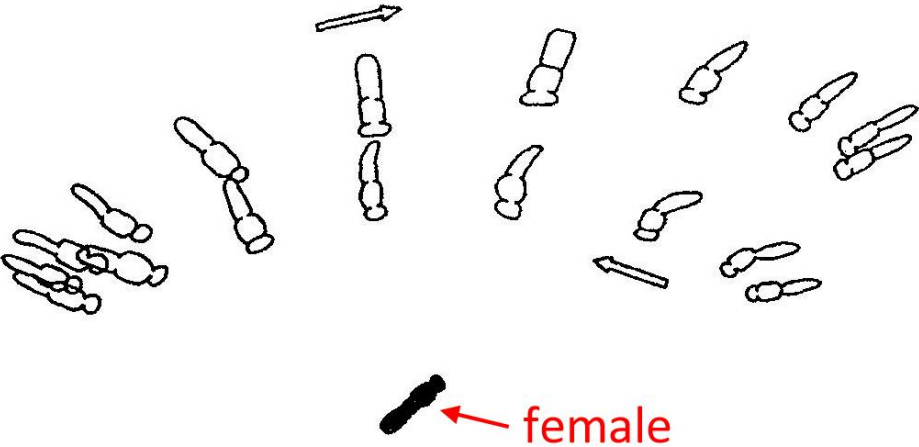
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Poecilobothrus nobilitatus courtship



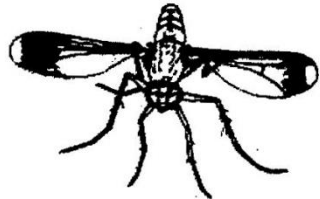
Lunau 1996

Slow Flight

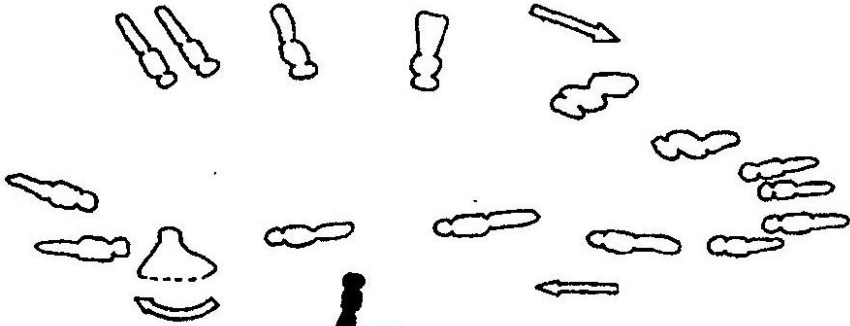


Land 1993

Poecilobothrus nobilitatus courtship



Fast Flight

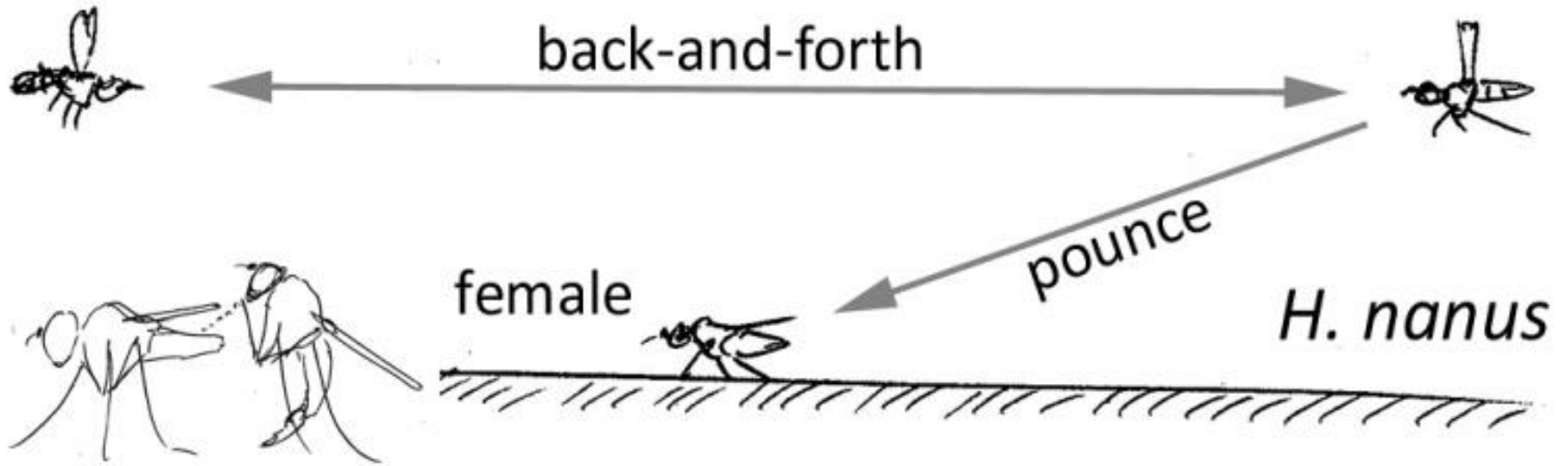


female

flip



Hercostomus germanus



Hercostomus nanus



Hercostomus germanus

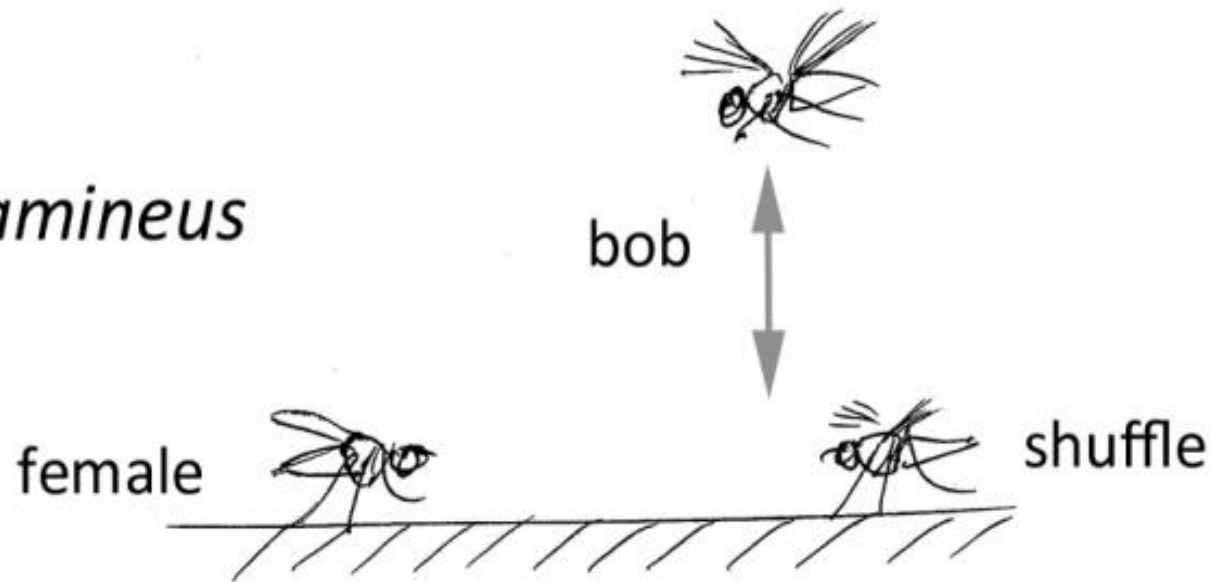
The cover features a dark, almost black background. At the top center, a hoverfly is shown in flight, its wings spread and its body angled downwards. Below it, the title "BRITISH HOVERFLIES" is printed in a white, serif font. In the lower half of the cover, a large, vibrant pink flower with many small, tubular blossoms is in focus. A hoverfly is perched on the flower, its head buried in the center. The authors' names, "ALAN E. STUBBS" and "STEVEN J. FALK", are printed in white at the bottom left and right respectively.

BRITISH
HOVERFLIES

ALAN E. STUBBS

STEVEN J. FALK

C. gramineus



Chrysotus gramineus



Chrysotus laesus

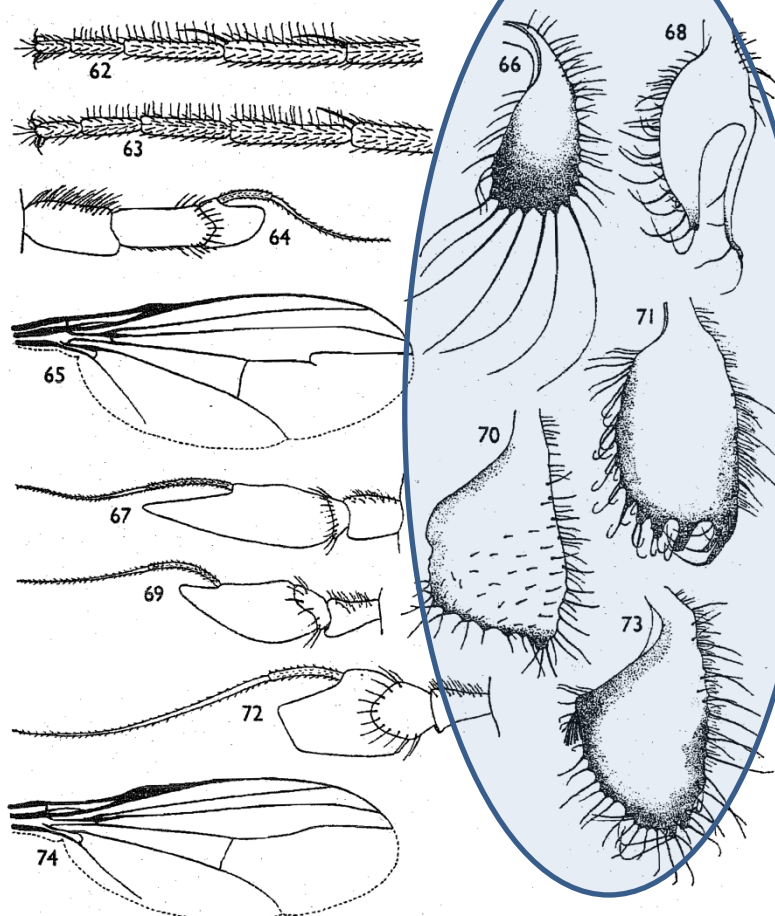




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DOLICHOPUS MALES

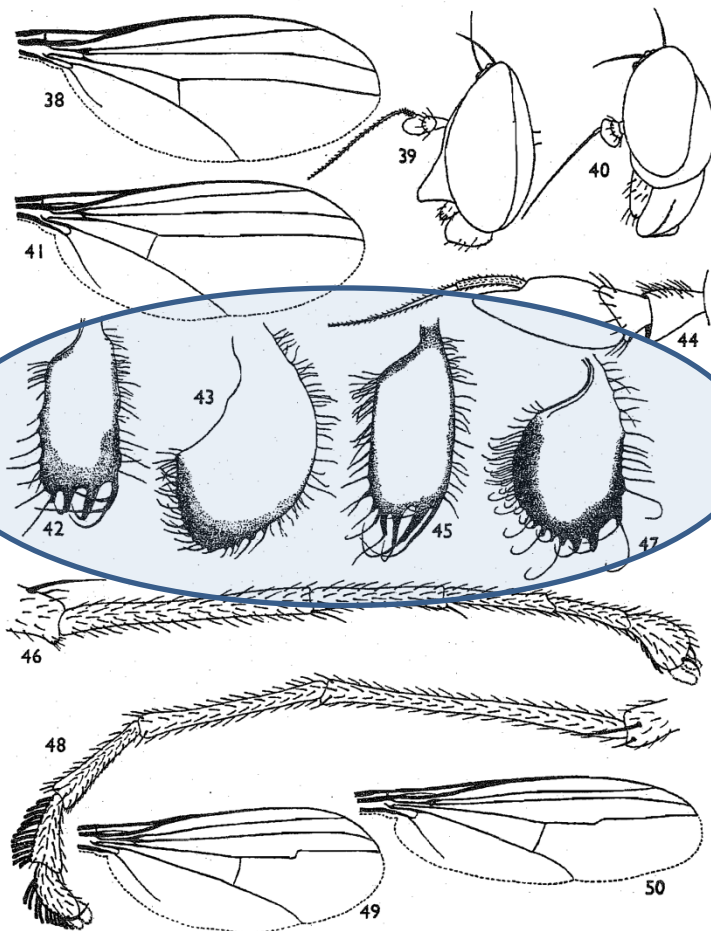
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Figs 62-74. *Dolichopus* ♂. 62-63, L. front tarsi. 62, *festivus* Hal. 63, *trivialis* Hal. 64, 67, 69, 72, Antennae. 64, *latipennis* Fall. 67, *longicornis* Stann. 69, *acuticornis* Wied. 72, *agilis* Mg. 65, 74, Wings. 65, *nitidus* Fall. 74, *acuticornis* Wied. 66, 68, 70-71, 73, Genital lamellae. 66, *nitidus* Fall. 68, *strigipes* Verr. 70, *nubilus* Mg. 71, *caligatus* Wahlb. 73, *andalusiacus* Strob.

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IX (5). DIPTERA



Figs 38-50. 38, 41, ♀ wings. 38, *Teucophorus signatus* Zett. 41, *Chrysotus gramineus* Fall. 39-40, ♀ heads. 39, *Telmaturgus tumidulus* Radd. 40, *Diaphorus oculatus* Fall. 42-50, *Dolichopus* ♂. 42-43, 45, 47, Genital lamellae. 42, *phaeopus* Hal. 43, *atripes* Mg. 45, *nigripes* Fall. 47, *melanopus* Mg. 44, Antenna of *planitarsis* Fall. 46, 48, L. front tarsi. 46, *melanopus* Mg. 48, *plumitarsis* Fall. 49-50, Wings. 49, *migrans* Zett. 50, *discifer* Stann.





Systemus scholtzi

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Neurigona pallida

© blowave Diptera.info



Medetera flavipes

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Hydrophorus oceanus

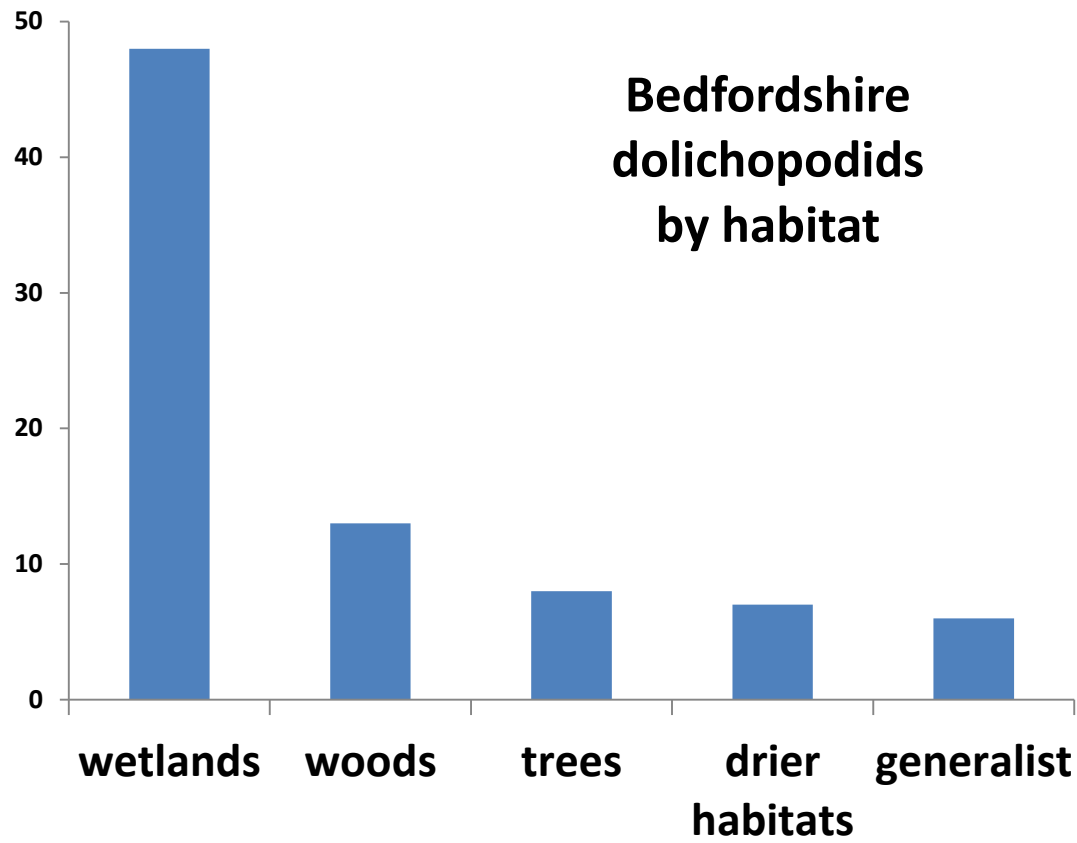
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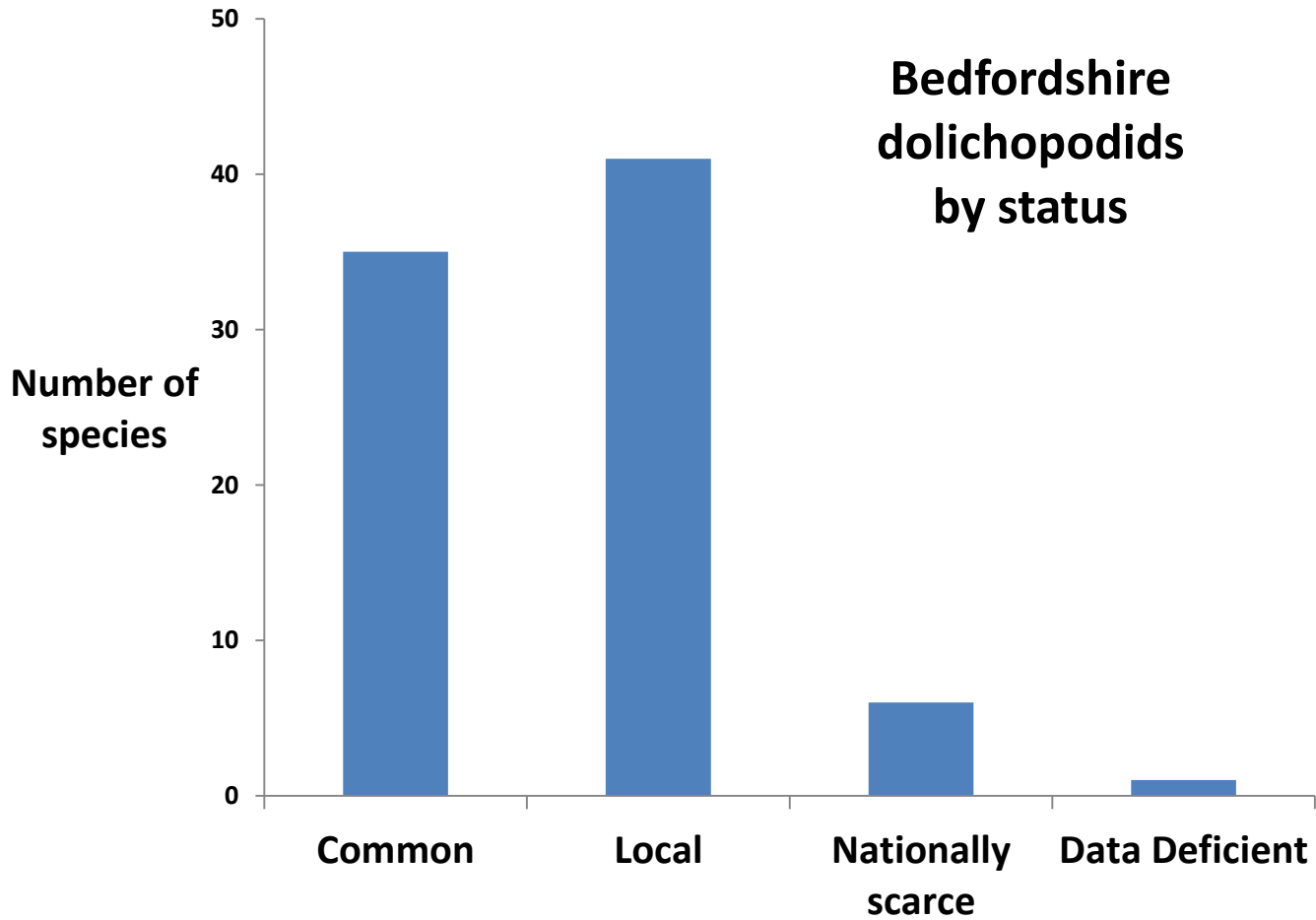
Campsicnemus magius

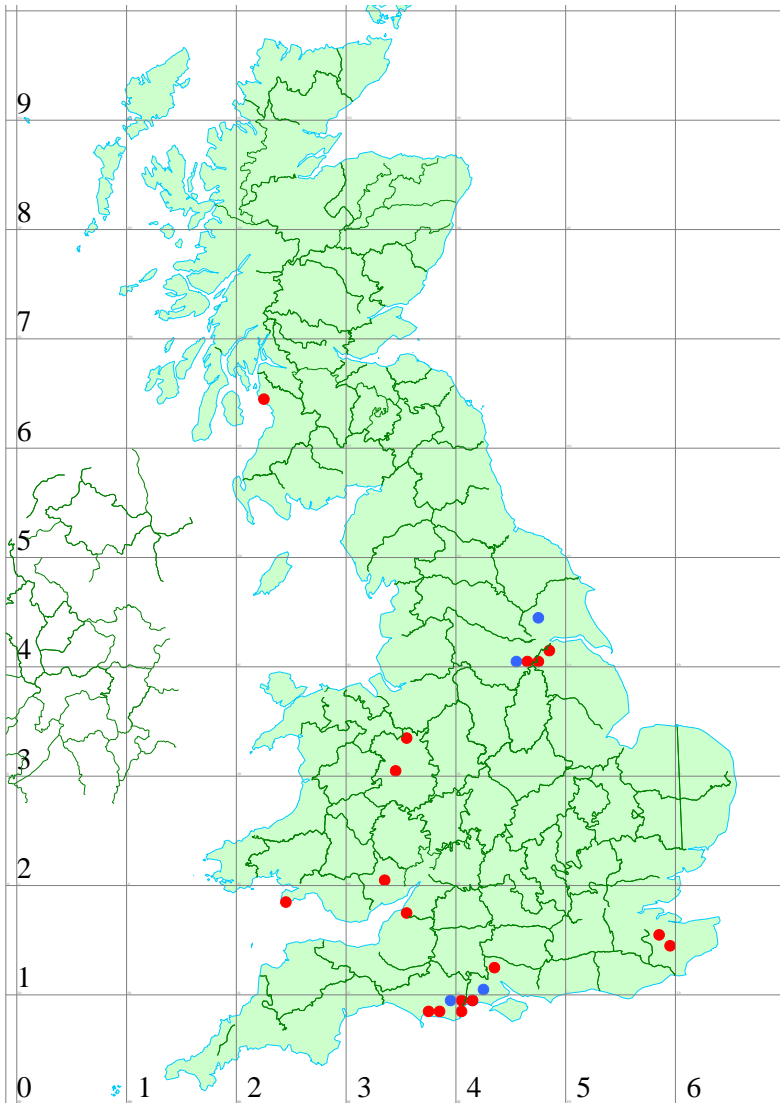
© Andrew Cunningham



**Number of
species
out of 83 species
recorded**







Sciapus zonatulus

Data Deficient, Nationally Rare

Nationally Scarce

Chrysotus cupreus

Medetera ambigua

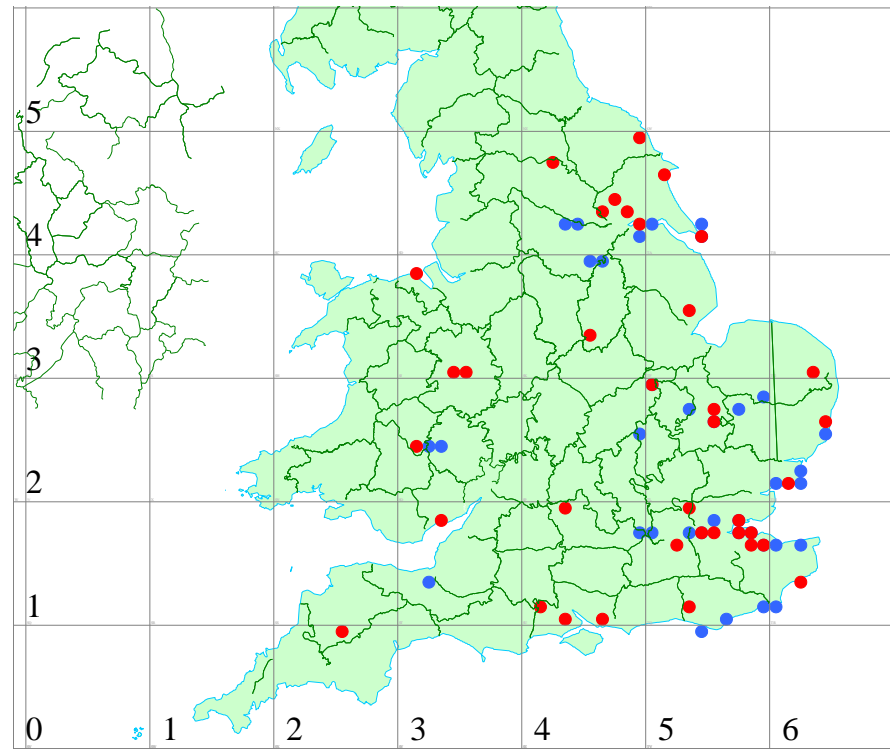
Rhaphium antennatum

Rhaphium fasciatum

Syntormon fuscipes

Syntormon macula

Rhaphium caliginosum

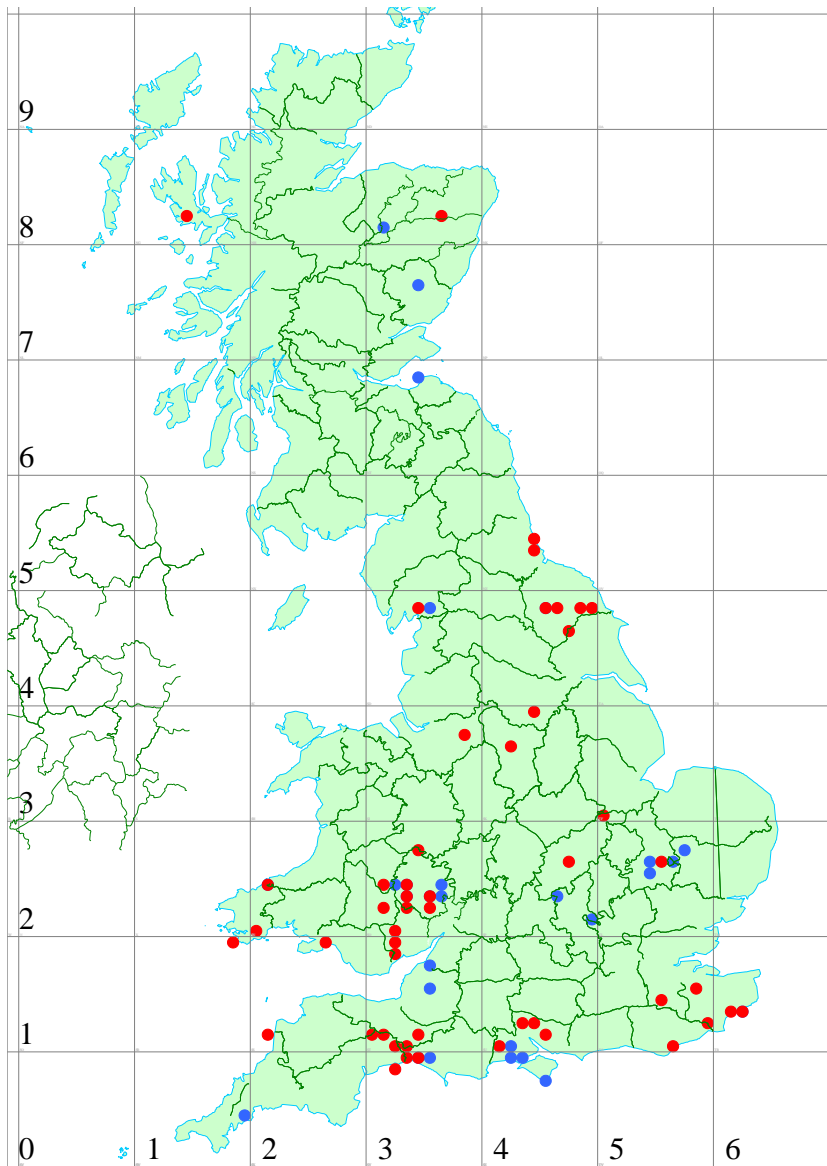


Rhaphium antennatum Carlier: Mâle, tête et antennes.

(c) EcoNum, U.S.T.L.

Rhaphium antennatum

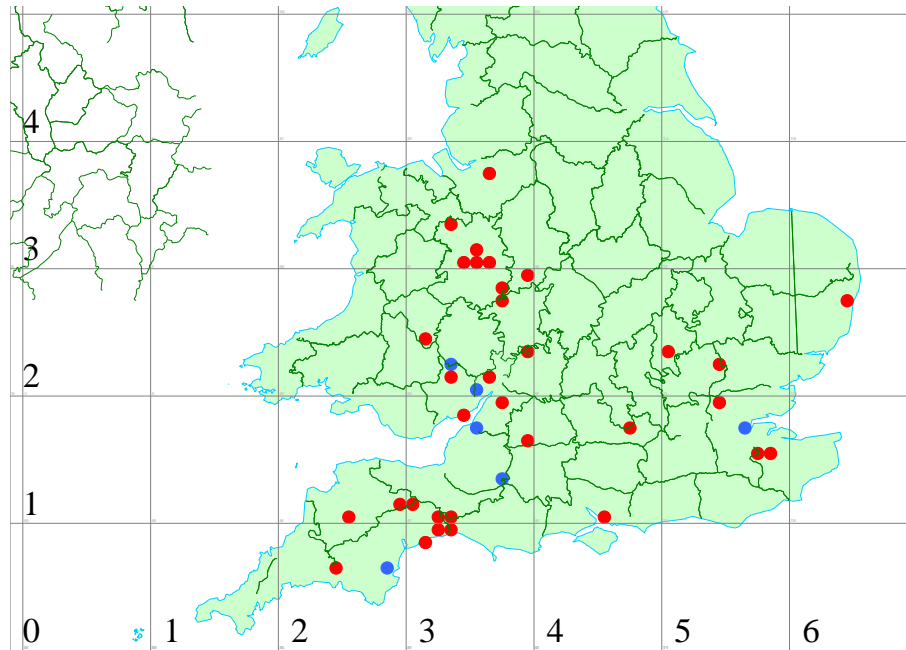
Nationally Scarce



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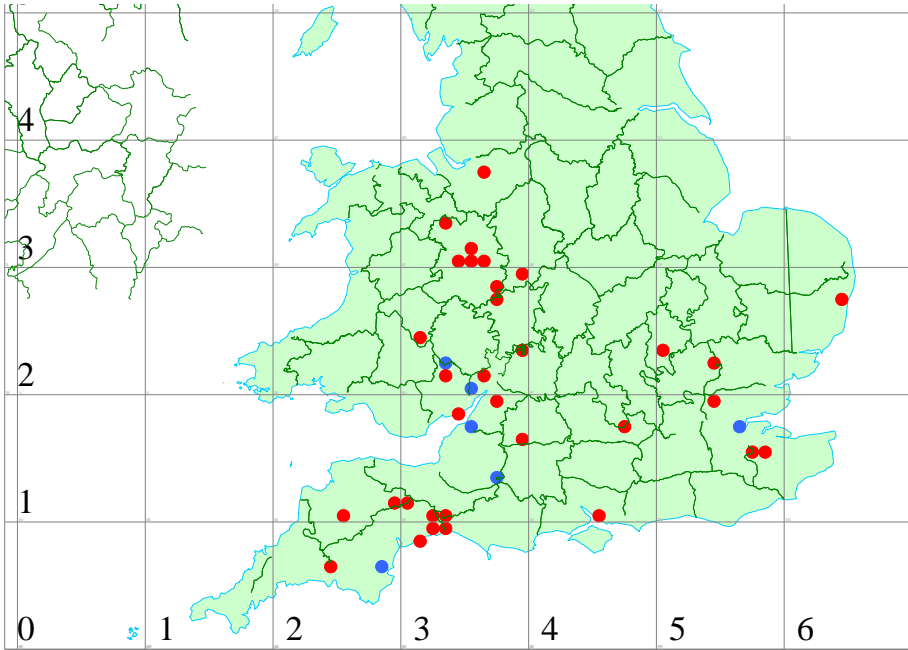
Syntormon fuscipes

Nationally Scarce



Syntormon macula

Nationally Scarce

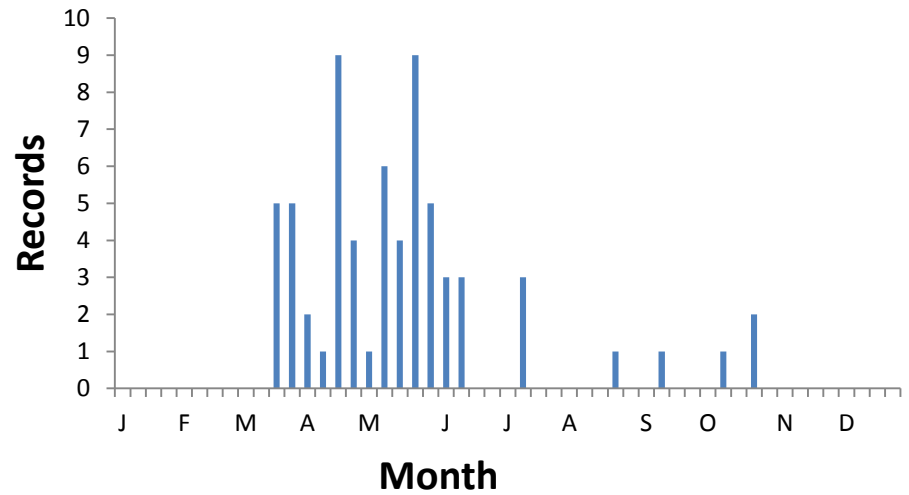


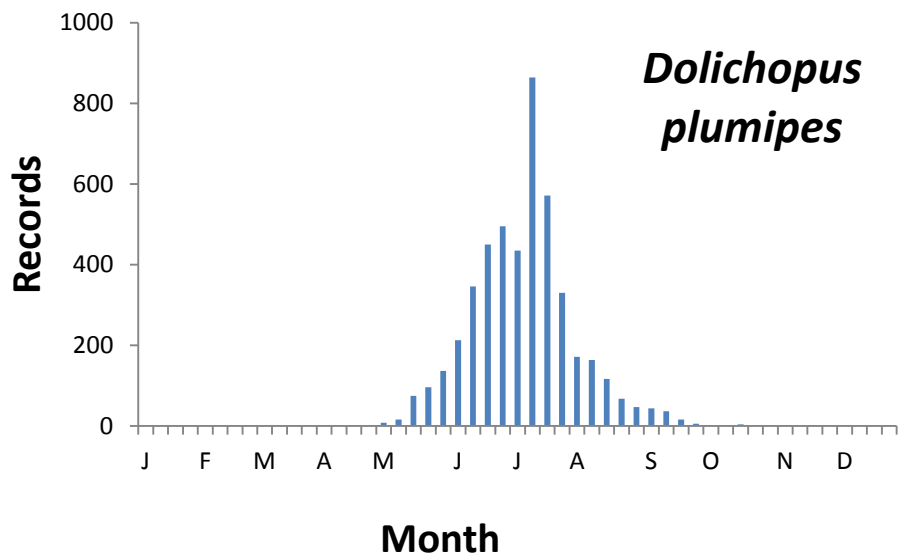
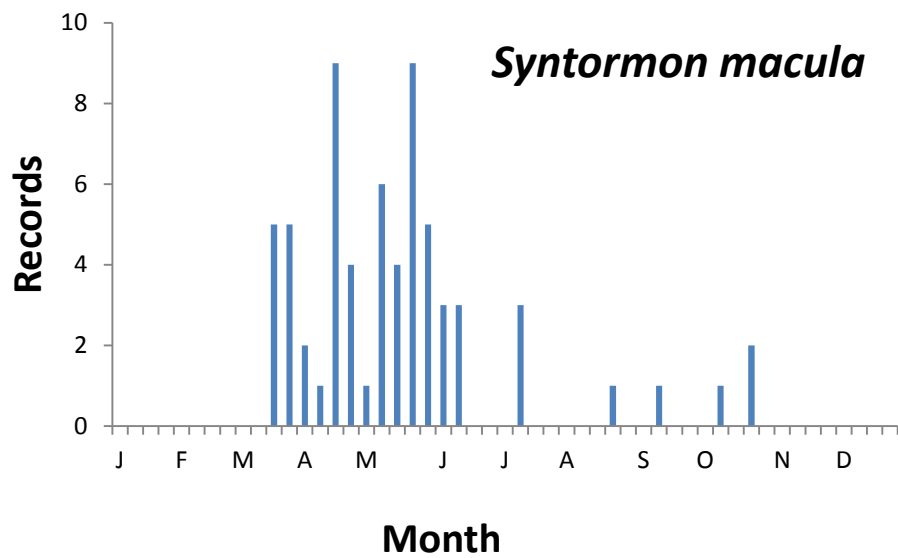
Syntormon macula

Nationally Scarce



Syntormon macula





final thoughts

- Pretty
- Easily observable and fascinating behaviour
- Lots to learn about Bedfordshire's fauna