



Hoverfly News

Bristol & District
Hoverfly Group



Autumn 2007

Volucella records

Since the last newsletter with the article on *Volucella zonaria* we have been receiving a steady stream of records throughout the summer for both this species and the apparently rarer *Volucella inanis*. Both species could

be seen in the Gully, Avon Gorge in August. *V. inanis*, as well as being smaller, has a different pattern on the abdomen, with thinner black banding as can be seen in the accompanying photographs. Thank you to everyone who has been sending us records of these and other hoverfly species.



Main Photo: *Volucella inanis* on Small Scabious (Clifton Down, Bristol, August 2007). Jon Mortin

Inset: *Volucella zonaria* on Ivy (Clifton Down, Bristol). Jon Mortin

Dasysyrphus tricinctus

This hoverfly is quite distinctive but not often seen. It can be found along hedgerows and woodland margins between April and September. We currently have only seven records of this species on our database. The one shown in the photograph was spotted in Charlcombe during last year's Hedgerow Survey Project. It was the first record we know of in our area since 2000, so if you have seen one recently, please let us know!

Dasysyrphus tricinctus - Jon Mortin



Hoverflies at Pool Farm, Bishop's Sutton

Jon Mortin

One of our recorders who usually concentrates on fungi, Justin Smith, has recently been recording and photographing hoverflies where he works at Pool Farm, near Bishops Sutton. Pool Farm (Stowey Bottom Farm) is situated half a mile due NE of Bishop's Sutton at ST593604, and consists of a 4-5 acre old pig unit surrounded by native hedgerow and woodland.

With a little time on his hands at the end of the day, Justin has been recording the hoverflies he sees and has sent us records of all the species he has identified over the last two years. The 23 species he has so far recorded are as follows:

Cheilosia illustrata: Illustrated Hoverfly
Dasysyrphus pinastri
Episyrphus balteatus: Marmalade Hoverfly
Eristalis tenax: Drone Fly
Eristalis pertinax: Tapered Hoverfly
Eristalis arbustorum: Dwarf Drone Fly
Eristalis horticola

Eristalis interruptus
Eupeodes corollae
Eupeodes luniger
Helophilus pendulus
Helophilus trivittatus
Melanostoma scalare: Chequered Hoverfly.
Meliscaeva auricollis
Platycheirus albimanus: Pale Footed Hoverfly
Scaeva pyrastris: Pied Hoverfly
Scaeva selenitica
Syrirta pipiens: Thick Legged Hoverfly
Sphaerophoria scripta: Long Hoverfly
Volucella inanis
Volucella inflata
Volucella pellucens
Volucella zonaria

It is an impressive list of hoverflies. *Dasysyrphus pinastri* will be only the second record on the BRERC database and *Scaeva selenitica* will be only the third record we have.

Progress with Hoverfly Recording Pack

Bec Shackleton is making progress on the Hoverfly Recording Pack. Below is a draft for the key to the *Volucella* genus. To tell if you have a *Volucella* in front of you, look for the upper outer cross vein curving back in (1. below), away from the wing edge and that the antennae are short and feathery (2.)

The abdomen of a hoverfly is made up of 4 segments. Each of these segments is made up of a ring, the top surface of the ring, visible from above, is called the tergite (the bottom, visible when you look at the underside, is called the sternite).

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| 1 | Medium-sized, very hairy bumble bee mimic.
Not a bumble bee mimic. | <i>Volucella bombylans</i> |
| 2. | Tergite 2 large spots, coloured brown, very pale yellow or white. No spots on other tergites; abdomen black. | 2. |
| 3. | Tergite 2 spots are golden brown (rather than white or very pale yellow).
Tergite 2 with yellow or chestnut spots.
Other tergites also with colour. | 3.
4. |
| 4. | Tergite 2 spots are white or an extremely pale yellow.
Tergite 2 with dark chestnut brown spots, yellow on tergites 3 & 4. On underside, sternite 2 black.
Tergites 2, 3 and 4 with bright yellow markings.
On underside, sternite 2 yellow | <i>V. inflata</i>
<i>V. pellucens</i>
<i>V. zonaria</i>
<i>V. inanis</i> |



Key based on that in Stubbs & Falk *British Hoverflies*

Photo: *Volucella pellucens* - Creative Commons License (Wikipedia)