

***Cheilosia caerulescens* (Meigen, 1822). Diptera, Syrphidae. New to Worcestershire.**

John Bingham.

On 22nd June 2019 I noticed a black *Cheilosia* hoverfly in my garden, its appearance looked unusual so I collected the specimen for identification not really thinking it was anything much different. *Cheilosia* are not the easiest group to identify and I must admit I do tend to ignore them somewhat for the more colourful or interesting Syrphid species.

After several attempts the specimen failed to key out in *British Hoverflies* (Stubbs & Falk 2002) book despite having really obvious dark wing markings (01). Checking in *Britain's Hoverflies* (Ball & Morris) I soon realised it must be *C. caerulescens*, a recent introduction first noted in 2006, it had a limited distribution around Surrey but was spreading fast across the country.

The larvae feed on Houseleek *Sempervivum* spp. and produce mines in the leaves. Just to be certain of the identification I sent an image to Steven Falk who kindly confirmed it. How widespread is the species in Worcestershire? The hoverfly despite being black has a very obvious wing cloud making it quite easy to identify with a bit of care, so look in your gardens.



01. *Cheilosia caerulescens* specimen John Bingham

References.

- Ball, S. and Morris, R. 2015. *Britain's Hoverflies: A Field Guide*. WILDguides. Princeton University Press.
Stubbs, A. E. & Falk, S. J. 2002. *British Hoverflies*. British Entomological and Natural History Society.

Image

01. *Cheilosia caerulescens* specimen John Bingham