

***Phasia hemiptera* (Fabricius, 1794), *Phasia obesa* (Fabricius, 1798) and *Phasia pusilla* (Meigen, 1824).
Diptera, Tachinidae. A trio of Tachinid Flies.**

John Bingham

Most naturalists are aware of *Phasia hemiptera* a large and distinctive Tachinid fly that parasitises Heteropteran bugs such as *Palomena prasina* and *Pentatoma rufipes*. This species is sexually dimorphic; the males have brightly patterned iridescent curved wings, the females are less often noticed and are smaller with clearer wings and orange hair patches on the sides of the thorax. This season I noticed two other smaller species of *Phasia* that previously I had been missing or ignoring. *P. obesa* with a stripy thorax and uses *Neottiglossa pusilla* as its host and *P. pusilla* uses Lygaeidae bugs as hosts. Both have large eyes and distinctive triangle-shaped wings. Perhaps it was a good year for them as I even found all three species in my garden having failed to notice the two smaller species before.

A fourth species *P. barbifrons* (Girschner, 1887) was not noticed until the late 1990's but does occur locally. It is difficult to separate from *P. pusilla* but has hairs between the eye margin and the row of parafrenal bristles. (Clemons 2001). No doubt I have also overlooked this species locally.



01. *Phasia hemiptera* – male. John Bingham.



02. *Phasia hemiptera* – female. John Bingham.



03. *Phasia obesa*. John Bingham.



04. *Phasia pusilla*. John Bingham.

References

Clemons, L. (2001) *Phasia (Phasia) barbifrons* (Girschner, 1887) (Diptera, Tachinidae) a possibly overlooked species new to Britain. *Dipterists Digest* (Second series) 8 (1): 3-5.

Images

- 01. *Phasia hemiptera* – male. John Bingham.
- 02. *Phasia hemiptera* – female. John Bingham.
- 03. *Phasia obesa*. John Bingham.
- 04. *Phasia pusilla*. John Bingham.