

**Unusual behaviour of *Chalcosyrphus eunotus* (Loew, 1873),  
Diptera, Syrphidae.**

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On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Wyre Forest I noticed several hoverflies apparently feeding on the flowering heads of Wood-Club Rush (*Scirpus sylvaticus*, L.). They were netted and identified as *Chalcosyrphus eunotus*, not a species I expected to see feeding. This is a scarce hoverfly but well recorded especially the West Midlands and Welsh Marches including the Wyre Forest. The larvae develop in partially submerged, recently fallen logs and branches in streams. Adults can be observed sunbathing on fallen wood or nearby foliage, usually in late April and May (Falk 2019). The adults are on the wing from April to June.

In his report on the ecology of *C. eunotus* in *Dipterists Digest* Andy Jukes reported; 'It is interesting that no feeding by adults has been observed, nor have any observations been found in the literature .... flies have a tendency to fly straight up into the canopy. This could be a defensive "flight response" to predators or more likely the flies are feeding in the canopy on tree flowers or aphid honeydew.' (Jukes 2010)

It would appear that I may have observed some form of feeding on pollen or nectar as it seems unlikely the flies were just resting on the plant as they appeared to be active. It would be interesting to see if this behaviour can be observed again and more careful notes taken to confirm this behaviour.

**Reference.**

Jukes, A. 2010 *Chalcosyrphus eunotus* (Loew, 1873) (Diptera, Syrphidae): its status, distribution, ecology and conservation. *Dipterists Digest* 17.  
Falk, S. 2019. Steven Falk Flickr Collections available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/albums/72157629249015498/>