

***Myolepta dubia* (Fabricius, 1805) Diptera: Syrphidae.**  
**A new hoverfly for Worcestershire. A significant range extension.**

Bob Kemp

The nationally scarce *Myolepta dubia* and the critically endangered *Myolepta potens* are the only representatives of the genus found in the British Isles. They are readily separated from other hoverflies by having broad, yellow margins to abdominal segments 1 and 2, and occasionally segment 3. The shape and extent of the abdominal, mid-dorsal, black stripe is useful when separating the two species but this can be difficult to see in the field on account of the wings covering the abdomen. Vouchers should be taken for critical examination. *M. potens* has only been recorded, in recent times, from the Forest of Dean and Moccas Park National Nature Reserve, Herefordshire.

It was with some considerable interest when, on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, I noticed a single female settled on a Dog Rose flower growing in the car park at Trench Wood Nature Reserve.(SO929587). After securing the fly Shropshire Dipterist, Nigel Jones was contacted by phone there and then by my colleagues, Keith Fowler and Jim Cresswell and he was able to confirm the identification (01. 02).



01. *Myolepta dubia* Trench Wood 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Bob Kemp.



02. *Myolepta dubia* Trench Wood 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Bob Kemp.

In 2017 *M. dubia* was recorded for the first time in the county when adults were collected in an emergence trap at a wet rot hole at Shrawley Wood by Mick Blythe. (H. Green, *pers.comm.*)

*Myolepta dubia* is scarce, to date only recorded from south and south-east of England (O3), extending as far west as Somerset. It favours well-wooded areas with old trees (often Oak, Beech, Horse Chestnut and Ash). The larvae live in rot holes. It is not exclusive to ancient woodland, however, having been recorded also in East Anglian fen and chalk pit habitats.

The presence of this species at both Shrawley and Trench Woods is a significant leap in range extension and it would be well worth looking for elsewhere. The insect's flight period extends from late May to September, peaking during late June through July. Confusion with species of *Cheilosia* and *Chrysogaster* may mean the species are overlooked.



03. *Myolepta dubia* National distribution map. Ball & Morris 2000

**References.**

Ball, S.G. & Morris, R. K. A. 2000. *Provisional Atlas of British Hoverflies. (Diptera, Syrphidae).* Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Biological Records Centre, Huntingdon  
 Stubbs, A & Falk, S, 2002. *British Hoverflies.* Second edition. British Entomological and Natural History Society.

**Images**

- 01. *Myolepta dubia* Trench Wood 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Bob Kemp.
- 02. *Myolepta dubia* Trench Wood 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Bob Kemp.
- 03. *Myolepta dubia* National distribution map. Ball & Morris 2000