

Some Hoverfly Records from South-east Worcestershire

Terry Knight.

Between May 2017 and October 2020, Terry Knight carried out a systematic survey of hoverflies in the south-east of 'Greater Worcestershire'. The area covered comprised OS grid squares SP03, SP13, SP14 together with squares SP04, SP05 and SP15 south-east of the rivers Avon and Isbourne. Most of the records were of individuals on flowers and a note was made of the flower species. Details of the number of records for each species are given in the Table. Only one record for a species was noted in each monad (a 1km by 1km square of the OS grid).

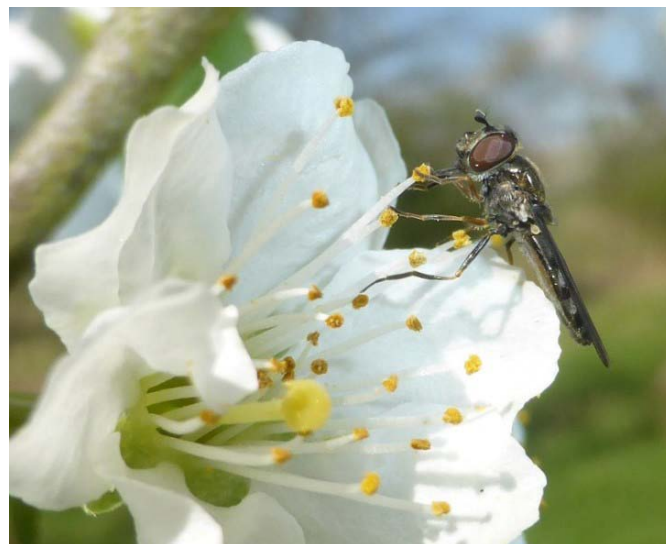
Some species could be identified in the field but those that could not were caught where possible and taken home for identification with a hand-lens or low-powered microscope. A transparent plastic tube (140mm in length and 45mm in diameter) was used for catching them. It is estimated that about 60% of individuals were caught and 40% escaped using this method. Identification of the species was based on the field guide 'Britain's Hoverflies', second edition, (Ball & Morris 2015). A few of the more difficult specimens were sent to Gary Farmer and some of these, via him, to Mick Blythe for confirmation or determination and their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

There are many rare or fairly rare species similar to more common species and the field guide does not distinguish between these but treats them as a group. Where rarer similar species may have been present the commoner species name is followed by an asterisk (*) in Table 1. Females in the genus *Sphaerophoria* are not yet separable to species and are given as '*Sphaerophoria* (aggregate)'.

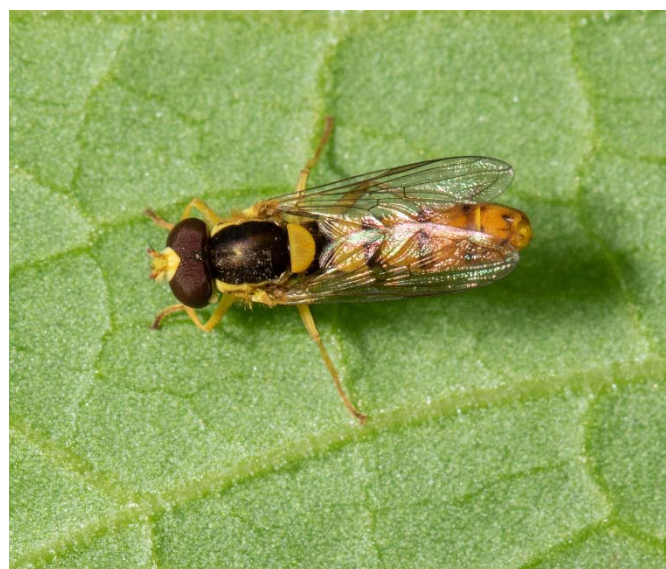


01. Female *Sphaerophoria*. Females of this genus are not reliably separable to species. Gary Farmer.

Very few hoverflies were recorded in woodland due to the difficulty of finding them and the scarcity of this habitat in the area (this will change in the future as more of the Heart of England Forest is planted and matures). Some of the smaller species (e.g. *Paragus*) are difficult to spot and will have been under-recorded. Also, some hoverflies which closely resemble other insects will not have been noticed.



02. *Platycheirus albimanus* on plum blossom. One of several similar *Platycheirus* species recorded. Gary Farmer.



03. *Sphaerophoria taeniata*. A species increasing in abundance and range since Terry's survey. Gary Farmer.

Figures 1 to 29 give the distribution of the commoner species found in the survey area. Figure 30 shows the number of species found per monad which varied from 22 to 0. The former is square SP0746 in the Littletons which includes the recorder's garden (13 species recorded) and the latter the heavily cattle and sheep grazed square SP0840 in Broadway parish. Oddly, few species were found in more natural habitats such as nature reserves and the disused railway complex at Honeybourne. The best places to find hoverflies turned out to be weedy edges and corners of arable fields and weedy waste land. From the records in the recorder's garden it is likely that gardens in built-up areas with plenty of suitable flowers and flowering shrubs will also be places with many species of hoverflies but, obviously, other people's gardens were not included in the survey.

Key to flowers in Table 1.				
Fb Field bindweed	H Hogweed	Wc Wild carrot	Ah Autumn hawkbit	I Ivy
Bo Bristly oxtongue	Sh Smooth hawksbeard	Ps Perennial sowthistle	Ct Creeping thistle	R Ragwort
Ss Smooth sowthistle	D Dandelion	B Bramble	Hb Hedge bindweed	Pl Plum
Lb Large bindweed	Sm Scentless mayweed	Bu Buttercups	Bl Blackthorn	

Key to wildflowers in Table 1.

Worcestershire Record | Number 48 (2020-21) | Worcestershire Recorders

Ref	Species	No. of monads	Monads (All SP - - -)	Number recorded on various flowers																		
				Fb	Bo	R	I	H	Sh	D	Sm	Wc	Ps	B	Bu	Ah	Ct	Hb	Bl	Ss	Lb	Pl
NOTE: species marked * highlights the possibility of similar rare species - see text.				(see key)																		
BACCHINI																						
1	<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>	47	(see figure 1)	15	8	2	1	3	1	1						2	1	2	1	1		
2	<i>Melanostoma scalare</i>	28	(see figure 2)	7	4		3	1	2	3		1	1	1								
3	<i>Platycheirus albimanus*</i>	43	(see figure 3)	8	3	2	2	2	5	4		1	1	1	2		1			2		2
4	<i>Platycheirus manicatus</i>	9	(see figure 4)	3	1	1						1			1							1
5	<i>Platycheirus tarsilis</i>	1	0742										1									
6	<i>Platycheirus peltatus*</i>	11	(see figure 5)	3	1	2				1	1				1							1
7	<i>Platycheirus scutatus*</i>	20	(see figure 6)	1	2	2		2	4				3		1	2						
8	<i>Platycheirus angustatus/clypeatus*</i>	17	(see figure 7)	4	5	1	1			1	1	2										1
PARAGINI																						
9	<i>Paragus haemorrhous</i>	2	0442, 0942				1	1														
SYRPHINI																						
10	<i>Chrysotoxum bicinctum</i>	6	0444, 0640, 0646, 0745, 0849, 1446	1								1	3		1							
11	<i>Xanthogramma pedissequuum</i>	8	(see figure 8)	2									2									
12	<i>Sphaerophoria</i> (aggregate)	81	(see figure 9)	16	12	12		3	7	1	8		2		2	2	1	1				
13	<i>Sphaerophoria rueppellii</i>	2	0546, 0849		1						1											
14	<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>	45	(see figure 10)	9	7	9		1	3	2	3	1			3	2					1	
15	<i>Sphaerophoria taeniata</i>	3	0746, 0747, 1045													1						
16	<i>Leucozona lucorum</i>	1	0745																			
17	<i>Leucozona glaucia</i>	1	0935																			
18	<i>Dasyrphus albostrigatus</i>	9	(see figure 11)		5						1	1										
19	<i>Dasyrphus venustus*</i>	1	1038																			
20	<i>Scaeva selenitica</i>	1	1147		1																	
21	<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>	11	(see figure 12)	2		1				1												
22	<i>Eupeodes luniger*</i>	23	(see figure 13)	7	4	2	2			1	1										1	
23	<i>Eupeodes corollae*</i>	13	(see figure 14)	5	2					1	1	1					1					
24	<i>Eupeodes latifasciatus</i>	8	(see figure 15)	4	1											1						
25	<i>Melangyna compositarum/labiatarum</i>	4	0342, 0648, 0738, 1236				1	3														
26	<i>Melangyna umbellatarum</i>	2	0342, 0537					1				1										
27	<i>Meliscaeva cinctella</i>	1	0935																			
28	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	92	(see figure 16)	14	9	4	4	2	1	6	2	1	3	7	1		1	2			1	2
29	<i>Epistrophe grossulariae</i>	11	(see figure 17)	2	2		3	2	1													
30	<i>Parasyrphus punctulatus</i>	1	1036																			
31	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	35	(see figure 18)	3	7	1	1	4	2	3		5		1		1		3	1			
32	<i>Syrphus vitripennis*</i>	2	0646, 0738									1										
CHEILOSINI																						
33	<i>Cheilosia illustrata</i>	1	0338															1				
34	<i>Cheilosia vulpina</i>	1	0646										1									
35	<i>Cheilosia pagana*</i>	21	(see figure 19)		5	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1		2					1		
36	<i>Cheilosia scutellata*</i>	4	0442, 0940		2										2							
37	<i>Cheilosia impressa</i>	2	0340, 0936						2													
38	<i>Cheilosia proxima*</i>	8	(see figure 20)						3	1	3											
39	<i>Cheilosia albitarsis</i>	1	0745													1						
40	<i>Portevinia maculata</i>	1	1036																			
41	<i>Rhingia campestris</i>	33	(see figure 21)	9	1	4	1	1									1	6			1	
CHRYSOGASTRINI																						
42	<i>Neosascia podagrica*</i>	12	(see figure 22)	1				1	2		1	1	1	1	1							
43	<i>Melanogaster hirtella</i>	1	0748															1				
ERISTALINI																						
44	<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>	33	(see figure 23)		5		10	1							1	1	1		7			3
45	<i>Eristalis arbustorum*</i>	33	(see figure 24)				12	6	7		1	2										
46	<i>Eristalis nemorum</i>	4	0039, 0138, 0942, 1037				1	1	1													
47	<i>Eristalis horticultura</i>	2	0746, 1037					2														
48	<i>Eristalis intricaria</i>	2	0746, 0747					1														
49	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	69	(see figure 25)		13	17	11	3	3	1		5	2					2				
50	<i>Myathropa florum</i>	16	(see figure 26)				1	5	3			1						1				
51	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	29	(see figure 27)	2	5	2	5		3	1		1	1					1				
MERODONTINI																						
52	<i>Eumerus fimeralis/strigatus</i>	4	0342, 0438, 0746, 1047	1		1																
PIPIZINI																						
53	<i>Pipiza austriaca</i>	1	0747									1										
54	<i>Pipiza noctiluca</i>	1	0946															1				
55	<i>Pipizella viduata</i>	1	0444									1										
VOLUCCELLINI																						
56	<i>Volucella bombylans</i>	1	0647															1				
57	<i>Volucella pellucens</i>	3	0643, 1046, 1236						1													
58	<i>Volucella inanis</i>	6	(see figure 28)					1							1			1				
59	<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	2	0746, 0843						3													
XYLOTINI																						
60	<i>Syrirta pipiens</i>	48	(see figure 29)	4	3	5	6	6	2	1	7	1	1	2		1	1				1	
61	<i>Xylota segnis</i>	1	0846																			1
	Sum	880		Sum	123	109	87	69	55	39	31	28	26	26	20	19	16	15	14	10	8	5

Table 1. Some hoverfly records from south-east Worcestershire May 2017 – October 2020. For wildflowers see key below.

Figures 1 – 29. Hoverfly species recorded by Terry Knight in south-east Worcestershire between May 2017 and October 2020.

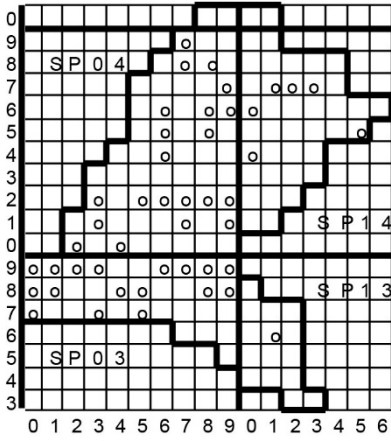


Fig. 1 *Melanostoma mellinum*

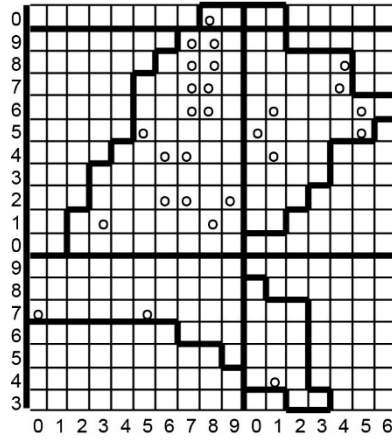


Fig. 2 *Melanostoma scalare*

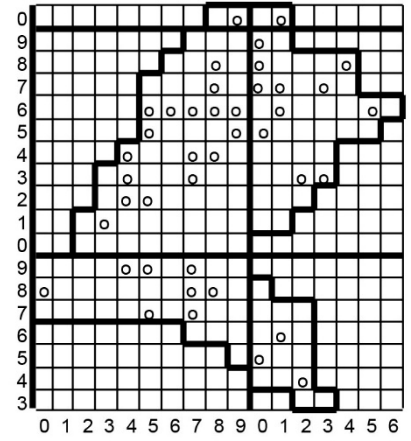


Fig. 3 *Platycheirus albimanus**

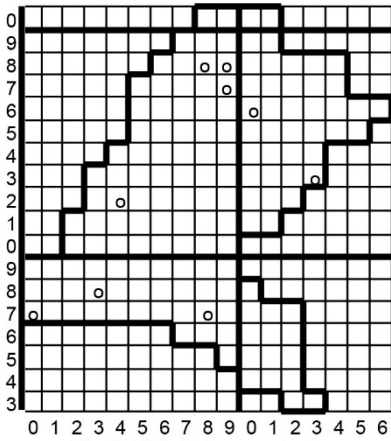


Fig. 4 *Platycheirus manicatus*

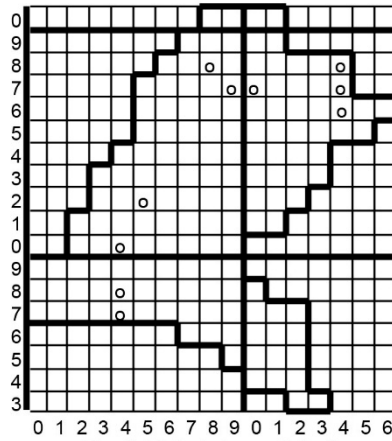


Fig. 5 *Platycheirus peltatus**

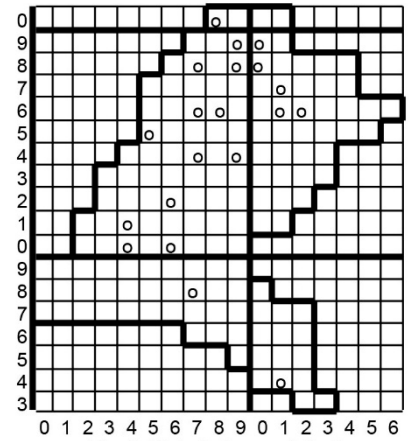


Fig. 6 *Platycheirus scutatus**

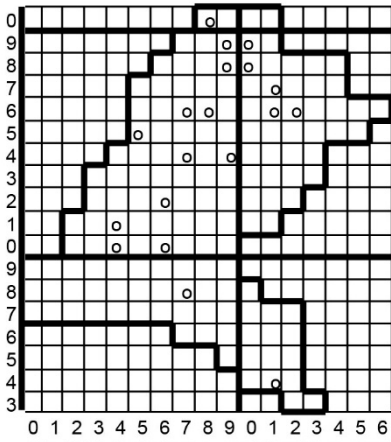


Fig. 7 *Platycheirus angustatus/clypeatus**

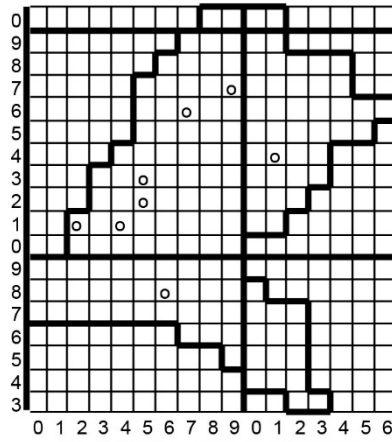


Fig. 8 *Xanthogramma pedissequum*

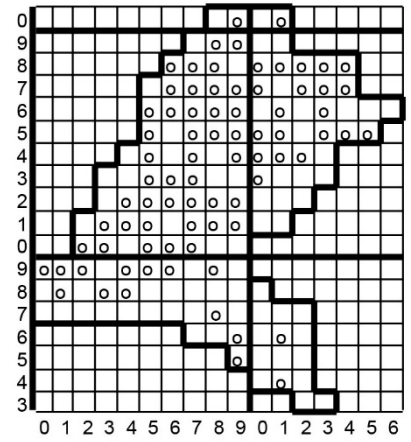


Fig. 9 *Sphaerophoria* (aggregate)

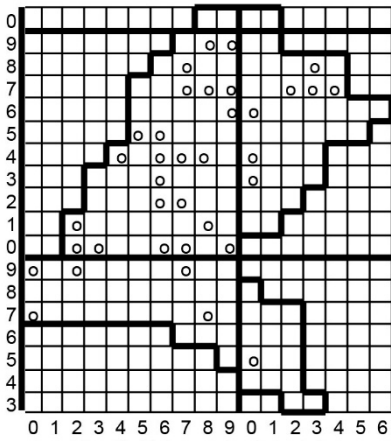


Fig. 10 *Sphaerophoria scripta*

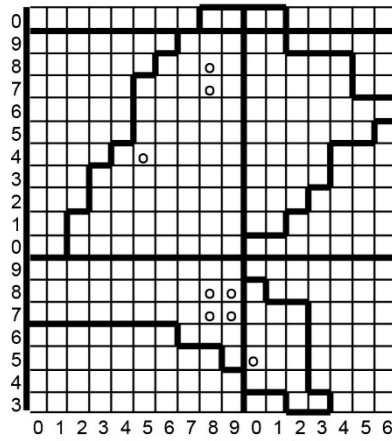


Fig. 11 *Dasysyrphus albostrigatus*

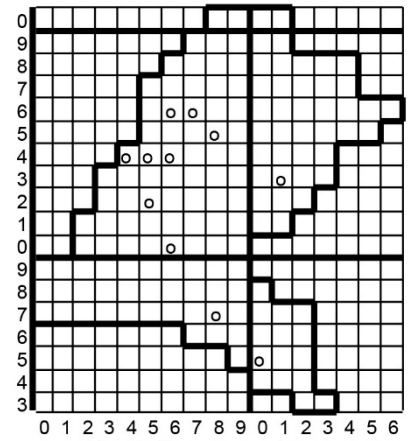


Fig. 12 *Scaeva pyrastris*

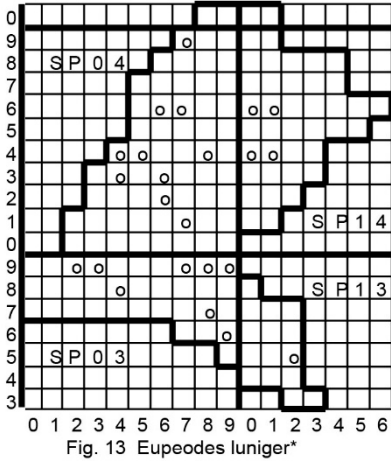


Fig. 13 *Eupeodes luniger**

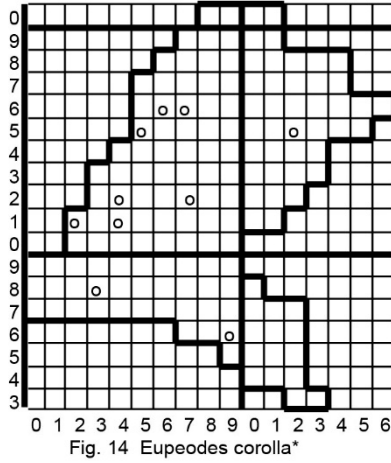


Fig. 14 *Eupeodes corolla**

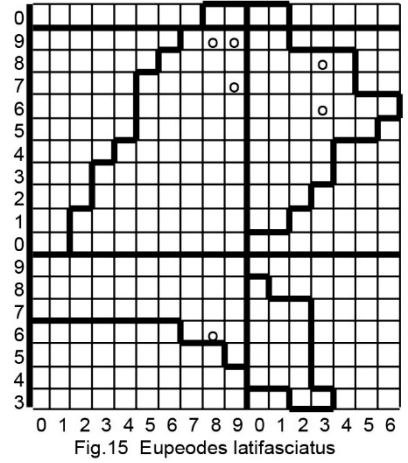


Fig. 15 *Eupeodes latifasciatus*

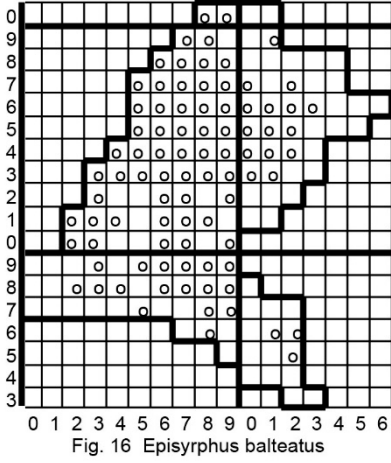


Fig. 16 *Episyrphus balteatus*

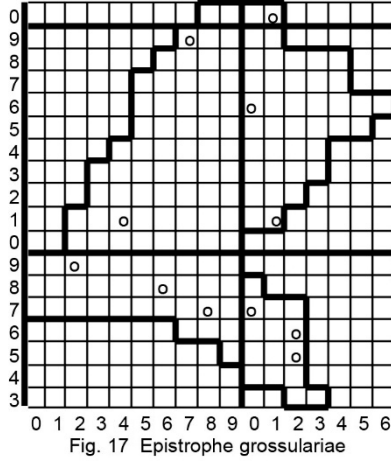


Fig. 17 *Epistrophe grossulariae*

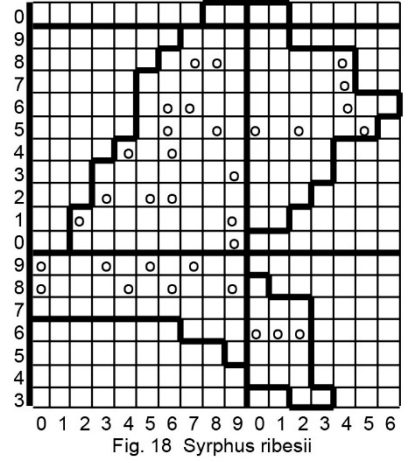


Fig. 18 *Syrphus ribesii*

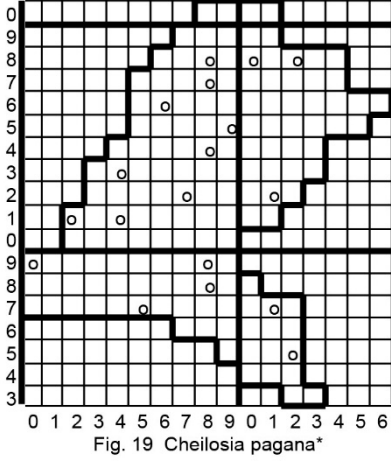


Fig. 19 *Cheilosia pagana**

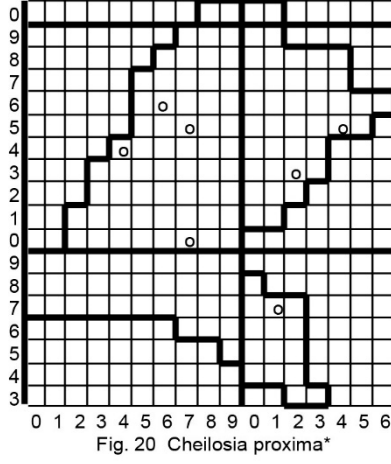


Fig. 20 *Cheilosia proxima**

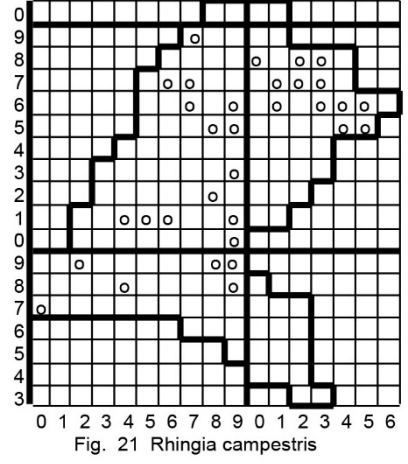


Fig. 21 *Rhingia campestris*

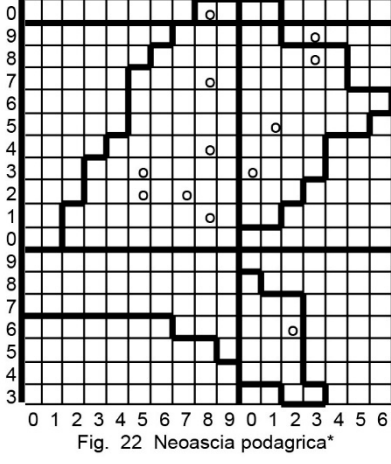


Fig. 22 *Neoascia podagrica**

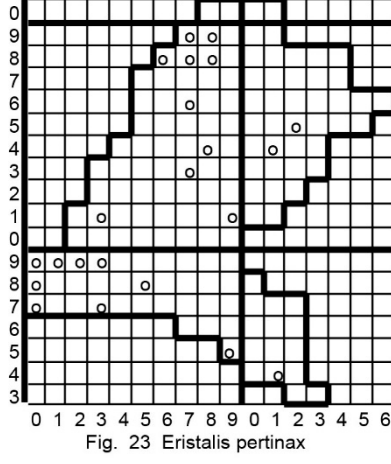


Fig. 23 *Eristalis pertinax*

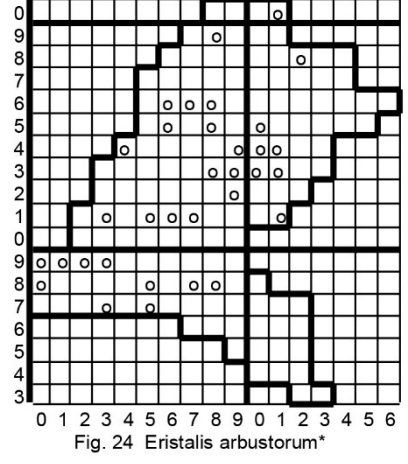


Fig. 24 *Eristalis arbustorum**

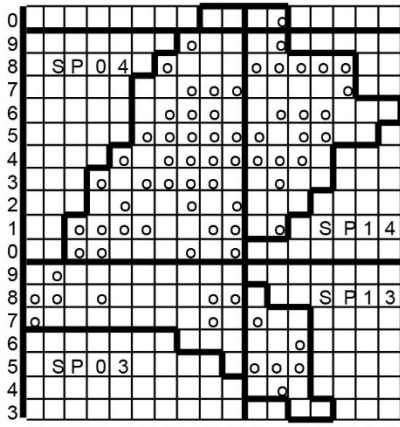


Fig. 25 *Eristalis tenax*

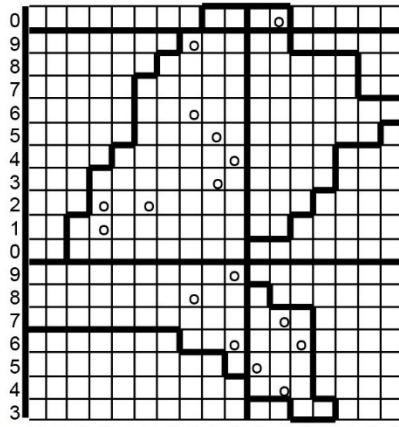


Fig. 26 *Myathropa florea*

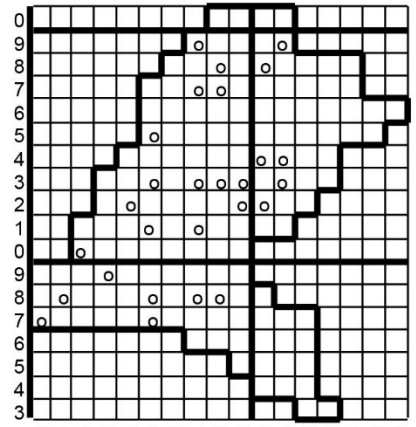


Fig. 27 *Helophilus pendulus*

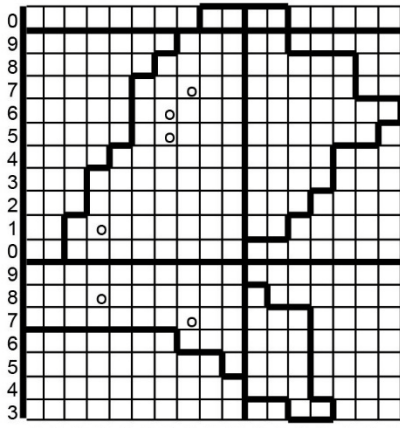


Fig. 28 *Volucella inanis*

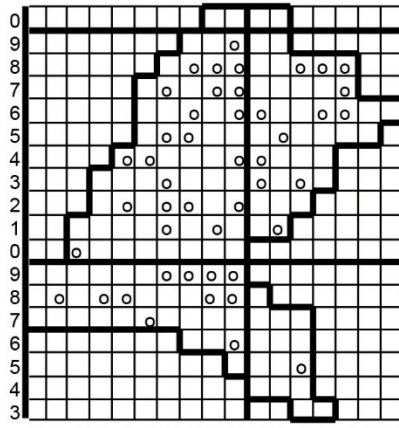


Fig. 29 *Syrritta pipiens*

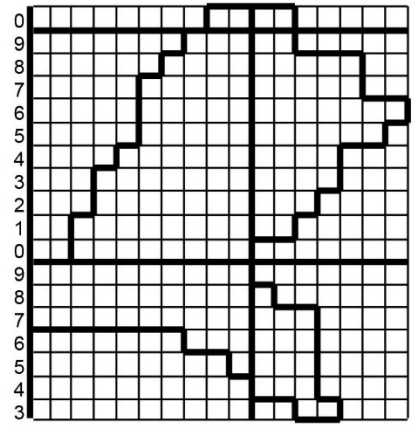


Figure 30

Fig. 30. Number of hoverfly species recorded per monad (1km x 1km) from May 2017 to October 2020.

Reference

Ball, S. & Morris, R. 2015. *Britain's Hoverflies, A field guide* (second edition). Princeton University Press, Woodstock.

Table

Table 1 (& key). Some hoverfly records from south-east Worcestershire May 2017 – October 2020.

Figures

Fig 1 – 29. Hoverfly species recorded by Terry Knight in south-east Worcestershire between May 2017 and October 2020.
 Fig. 30. Number of hoverfly species recorded per monad (1km x 1km) from May 2017 to October 2020.

Images

- 01. Female *Sphaerophoria*. Females of this genus are not reliably separable to species. Gary Farmer
- 02. *Platycheirus albimanus* on plum blossom. One of several similar *Platycheirus* species recorded. Gary Farmer.
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