

Drab Wood-soldierfly *Solva marginata* (Meigen)

Tony Simpson

On 23rd June 2023 I noticed a small fly on the inside of the conservatory window here in Eastham SO66696850 (01, 02). My first impression was that it was one of the Stratiomyidae but its wing venation was wrong. On keying it out in (Stubbs & Drake 2001), I realised it was a Xylomyid, a Drab Wood-soldierfly *Solva marginata*. This species seems to be infrequently recorded and usually associated with dead Poplar *populus spp.* where the larvae feed under the bark. The nearest big Poplar is about half a mile away but there is a small dead Black Hybrid Poplar stump in the garden only 15 yards from the house. I assume that must have been the source.



01. Drab Wood-soldierfly from Eastham 23.06.23. Tony Simpson.



01. Drab Wood-soldierfly from Eastham 23.06.23. Tony Simpson.

References

Stubbs, A. & Drake, M. 2001. *British Soldierflies and their Allies*. British Entomological Society and Natural History Society.

Images

- 01. Drab Wood-soldierfly from Eastham 23.06.23. Tony Simpson.
- 02. Drab Wood-soldierfly from Eastham 23.06.23. Tony Simpson.