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Twelve flies new to Ireland and one further species confirmed as Irish from six historic demesnes (Diptera: Mycetophilidae, Sciaridae, Psychodidae, Scatopsidae, Ceratopogonidae, Dolichopodidae)

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Twelve fly species are formally added to the Irish list of Diptera, from six families: Mycetophilidae, Sciaridae, Psychodidae, Scatopsidae, Ceratopogonidae, Dolichopodidae. The sites are historic demesnes across five counties of Northern Ireland.

Keywords: Ceratopogonidae, Diptera, Dolichopodidae, historic demesnes, Mycetophilidae, Psychodidae, Scatopsidae, Sciaridae

INTRODUCTION

Specialist surveys of the invertebrates of six historic demesnes across Northern Ireland during 2006 have revealed twelve species of Diptera not currently on the Irish list and confirmed one further species as Irish. An additional species, *Hirtodrosophila confusa* Staeger (Drosophilidae), has been reported elsewhere (Alexander 2008). All specimens were collected by KNAA and all except the *Medetera* were identified by PJC. The *Medetera* was identified by D. J. Gibbs.

The majority of specimens were taken in flight interception traps (FITs) hung in or close to open-grown ancient or veteran trees, two traps at each demesne. At Caledon Park the traps were sited within the edge of the ornamental grounds adjoining the deer park. At Drenagh the traps were sited at the edges of The Misk, an area of boggy closed-canopy woodland, but adjoining grasslands with open-grown parkland trees. The other traps were within open parkland and one of the Castle Coole traps was placed actually inside a hollow old Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) tree. The traps were in place from March until October and were emptied

approximately once a month. The full trapping results will be published elsewhere in due course.

It is assumed that all of these twelve flies are previously overlooked species. The Irish Diptera list continues to increase in line with recording effort and is clearly far from complete even for long-established native species. Historic demesnes have been very neglected by recorders who tend to visit wilder places in search of their interests. However this is an oversight on their part, as many demesnes were created by enclosing existing concentrations of old trees in order to create an instant parkland landscape, and the demesne parklands could therefore be considered Ireland's old growth.

Family Mycetophilidae

All of the species of this family added here are widespread in Britain so might be expected to occur in Ireland and these records indicate that fungus gnats are still under-recorded here.

Boletina sciarina Staeger

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate (C6823), FIT in Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), May and August 2006.

TYRONE: Caledon Park (H7543), FIT in Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), May 2006.

Coelosia fusca Bezzi

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate (C6823), FIT in Hornbeam, May 2006.

FERMANAGH: Killynure, Castle Coole Demesne (H2643), FIT in hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.), September 2006.

Mycetophila autumnalis Lundström

ANTRIM: The Great Deer Park, Glenarm (D3012), FIT in oak (*Quercus* sp.), October 2006.

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate (C6823), FIT in Hornbeam, August 2006.

Zygomia pseudohumeralis Caspers

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate (C6823), FIT in Hornbeam, May 2006.

Phthinia mira (Ostroverkhova)

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate C6823, FIT in Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), male, October 2006.

Only females of the species pair *Phthinia mira* and *P. humilis* have been recorded in Ireland previously. One of us (PJC) has also found a male of *P. mira* at Ballykine Wood, Co. Mayo (M1156) on 22 September 2000 and so the finding of these males confirms the presence of the former species at least.

Family Sciaridae

The sciarid fauna of Britain and Ireland has until recently been poorly known. The first two species listed below have only recently been recorded as new to Britain by Menzel *et al.* (2006), the first being described as new to science in that paper, although both species are already known to be widespread in Britain.

Bradysia ismayi Menzel in Menzel, Smith & Chandler

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate (C6823), FIT in elder, May and June 2006.

Corynoptera furcifera Mohrig & Mamaev

TYRONE: Caledon Park (H7543), FIT in Horse-chestnut tree, July 2006.

Trichosia (Trichosia) basdeni Freeman

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate (C6823), FIT in Elder, May 2006.

Trichosia (Trichosia) glabra (Meigen)

FERMANAGH: Killynure, Castle Coole Demesne (H2643), FIT in Horse-chestnut, June 2006.

Family Psychodidae

Telmatoscopus vaillanti Withers

ANTRIM: The Great Deer Park, Glenarm (D3012), FIT in Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), June 2006.

DOWN: Castle Ward Park (J5749), at rest on trunk of live oak tree, 18 June 2006.

Family Scatopidae

Apiloscatopse picea (Meigen)

DERRY: The Misk, Drenagh Estate (C6823), FIT in Hornbeam, October 2006.

TYRONE: Caledon Park (H7543), FIT in Norway Maple, May 2006.

Family Ceratopogonidae

Forcipomyia pulchrithorax Edwards

FERMANAGH: Killynure, Castle Coole Demesne (H2643), FIT in Horse-chestnut, July 2006.

This midge develops in the granular, solidifying sap in open wounds on broad-leaved trees. It was taken in a flight interception trap set actually inside of a hollow old Horse-chestnut tree.

Family Dolichopodidae

Medetera tristis (Zetterstedt)

ANTRIM: The Great Deer Park, Glenarm (D2911 and D3015), males, 20 May 2006.

DERRY: Drenagh Estate (C6823), female, 19 May 2006.

DOWN: Castle Ward Park (J5749), male, 16 June 2006.

TYRONE: Caledon Deer Park (H7543), male and female, 17 May 2006.

The specimens examined are consistent with British specimens named as *M. tristis*, but the genitalia differ from the illustration for this species in Negrobov and Stackelberg (1972); it is thought that two species may be confounded within the name (D. J. Gibbs 2006 pers. comm.). Adults were found running over smooth areas of trunk bark on living open-grown parkland trees at four of the study sites and so this species may well be a parkland speciality in Northern Ireland. It develops in moist debris either in cavities beneath loose bark on dead areas of trunk and bough, and/or cavities (rot-holes), and/or bracket fungi.

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