

**LEICESTERSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

*THE HOVERFLIES (DIPTERA, SYRPHIDAE)  
OF SOME WOODLANDS IN LEICESTERSHIRE*

*by*

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**THE HOVERFLIES (DIPTERA; SYRPHIDAE) OF SOME WOODLANDS  
IN LEICESTERSHIRE**

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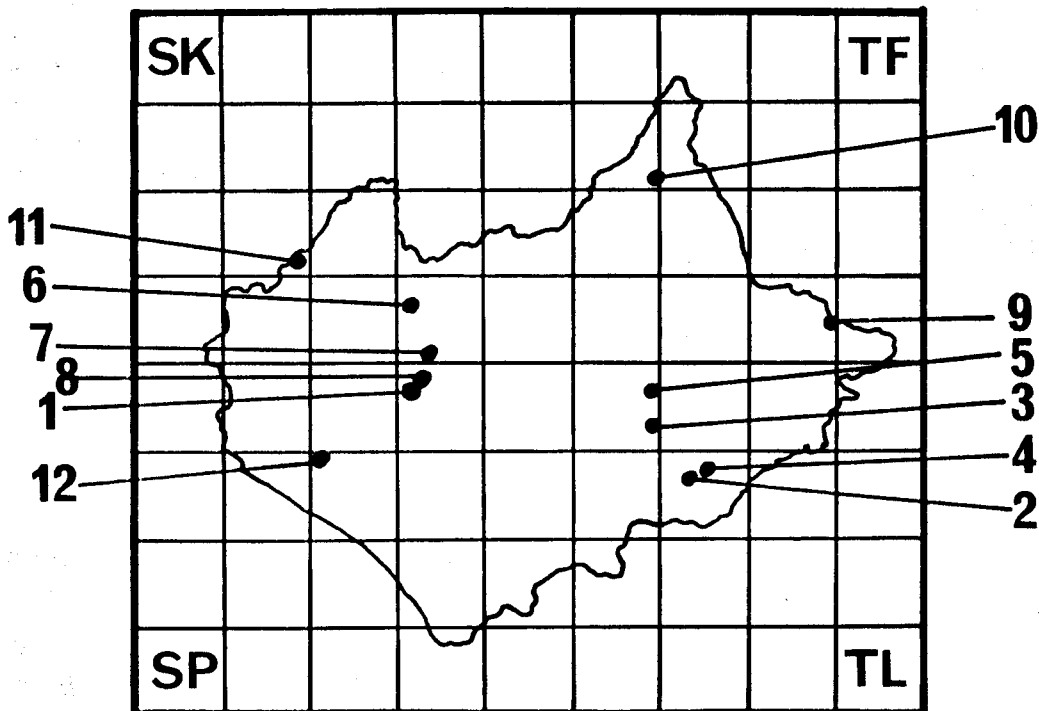
**INTRODUCTION**

The survey of County hoverflies is still in its infancy and a review of the progress made so far may be useful in guiding further work in the next few years.

One effective way of dividing the County for a discussion of the distribution of insect populations is to use as a basis the major habitat types described by Messenger in "The Flora of Rutland" (Messenger, 1971). The nine major habitat types are:

1. cultivated land;
2. marginal habitats;
3. woodland and scrub;
4. grasslands;
5. heathlands;
6. marsh;
7. waste, disturbed ground and quarries (ruderal habitats)
8. walls, rocks and buildings (saxicole habitats)
9. aquatic habitats.

*Figure 1. Location of woodlands surveyed.*



The intention here is to focus on those species found in woodland localities. The classification of the survey sites listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 is not controversial although each locality has other habitats present within its boundaries. The moist rides in Owston Wood are, perhaps, more typical of marsh or grassland habitats. Aquatic habitats, such as streams and rot-holes, are also commonly found within the boundaries of the woods listed below. There are well-established trees growing at Narborough Bog and at Ulverscroft but records from both these localities have been omitted from this summary. The report covers the period from 1982 to 1988.

Table 1. Woodland sites surveyed.

Wood	Grid ref.	Dates visited
1. Martinshaw	SK 5106	27/7
2. Great Merrible	SP 8396	16/4, 9/6
3. Launde Big	SK 7803	20/4, 18/5, 1/6
4. Stoke Dry	SP 8497	16/4, 9/5
5. Owston	SK 7906	4/4, 11/4, 30/4, 19/5, 4/7, 15/8
6. The Outwoods	SK 5116	8/4
7. Swithland	SK 5311	16/4, 24/4
8. Sheet Hedges	SK 5208	16/5
9. Pickworth	SK 9814	30/5
10. Stathern	SK 7831	5/5, 29/5
11. Spring	SK 3722	12/5
12. Ambion	SP 4099	13/4

#### SURVEY RESULTS

Table 2 lists the species of hoverflies identified at each site. Perhaps the most striking feature of the lists is its paucity. Wharncliffe Wood, near Sheffield, thanks to the constant attention of Austin Brakenbury, has yielded 105 species of hoverfly (Whiteley, 1987). Therefore, it seems not unlikely that similar lists are present in the Leicestershire woodlands waiting to be recorded.

The new "Flora of Leicestershire" (Primavesi & Evans, 1988) indicates that there are examples of ancient woodland in the county which have been in continuous existence since 1600. Where then are the species listed in Table 3 which may reasonably be expected to occur in Leicestershire? Perhaps they will be found in 1989?

But to look on the positive side - a number of woodland species new to Jenny Owen's county list (Owen, 1979) have been found. These include:

*Leucozona laternaria*  
*Platycheirus tarsalis*  
*Cheilosia variabilis*

*Portevinia maculata*  
*Xylota tarda*  
*Chalcosyrphus nemorum*

Table 2. Hoverflies at some Leicestershire woodlands.

Species	Woodland site											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Baccha</i> spp.	+				+						+	
<i>Dasysyrphus</i>												
<i>albostriatus</i>					+							
<i>lunulatus</i>										+		
<i>tricinctus</i>						+				+	+	
<i>Epistrophe</i>												
<i>eligans</i>					+				+	+		
<i>grossulariae</i>	+											
<i>Episyrphus</i>												
<i>balteatus</i>	+				+							
<i>Leucozona</i>												
<i>laternaria</i>	+											
<i>lucorum</i>	+				+				+	+		
<i>Melangyna</i>												
<i>cincta</i>							+					
<i>lasiophthalma</i>		+			+					+		
<i>Melanstoma</i>												
<i>mellinum</i>		+	+		+			+		+		
<i>scalare</i>					+	+	+	+				
<i>Meliscaeva</i>												
<i>cinctella</i>						+	+					
<i>Metasyrphus</i>												
<i>latifasciatus</i>											+	
<i>latilunulatus</i>											+	
<i>Parasyrphus</i>												
<i>punctulatus</i>									+			
<i>Platycheirus</i>												
<i>albimanus</i>		+			+		+	+		+		
<i>scutatus</i>					+	+				+	+	
<i>tarsalis</i>			+		+					+	+	
<i>Syrphus</i>												
<i>ribesii</i>					+		+			+		
<i>vitripennis</i>	+	+		+	+	+						
<i>Cheilosia</i>												
<i>albitarsis</i>											+	
<i>antiqua</i>					+							
<i>fraterna</i>											+	
<i>illustrata</i>	+				+						+	
<i>impressa</i>									+			
<i>intonsa</i>						+					+	
<i>mutabilis</i>			+									
<i>nebulosa</i>											+	
<i>pagana</i>		+	+		+					+	+	+
<i>variabilis</i>						+		+	+	+		
<i>Chrysogaster</i>												
<i>hirtella</i>											+	
<i>solstitialis</i>	+	+			+							
<i>Criorhina</i>												
<i>berberina</i>								+	+			
<i>floccosa</i>										+		

Table 2 contd.

Species	Woodland site											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Eristalis</i>												
<i>arbustorum</i>	+				+					+		
<i>horticola</i>	+				+							
<i>intricarius</i>	+			+	+					+		
<i>nemorum</i>	+				+				+	+		
<i>pertinax</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Ferdinandea</i>												
<i>cuprea</i>										+		
<i>Helophilus</i>												
<i>pendulus</i>	+				+	+			+			
<i>Merodon</i>												
<i>equestris</i>	+											
<i>Myathropa</i>												
<i>florea</i>	+				+					+		
<i>Neoascia</i>												
<i>podagrica</i>					+	+						
<i>Portevinia</i>												
<i>maculata</i>				+								
<i>Rhingia</i>												
<i>campestris</i>				+	+	+		+	+	+	+	
<i>Syritta</i>												
<i>pipiens</i>	+		+		+				+	+		
<i>Volucella</i>												
<i>bombylans</i>					+					+		
<i>pellucens</i>	+				+							
<i>Xylota</i>												
<i>segnis</i>	+	+			+	+			+	+		
<i>sylvarum</i>	+				+							
<i>tarda</i>	+											
<i>Chalcosyrphus</i>												
<i>nemorum</i>											+	

Table 3. Some hoverfly species not recorded in the present report but which may reasonably be expected to occur in Leicestershire woodlands.

Species	Nearest site	Flight period
<i>Brachopa scutellaris</i>	nr. Huddersfield	June
<i>Brachypalpoides lenta</i>	Wharncliffe wood	June - July
<i>Brachypalpus lapthiformis</i>	Wharncliffe wood	May
<i>Callicera aenea</i>	Derbyshire	July - August
<i>Criorhina asilica</i>	Wharncliffe wood	July
<i>Xylota coeruleiventris</i>	Wharncliffe wood	June - August
<i>Xylota florum</i>	Derbyshire	July
<i>Xylota xanthocnema</i>	Doncaster	June

Species have been recorded from several new sites but many more remain to be visited. Hopefully, the gaps will be gradually filled in to provide us with a useful data base so that reliable comparative studies can be carried out. It is hoped to publish a provisional atlas of Leicestershire hoverflies in September 1989. Any county records would be gratefully received.

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