

***Palloptera laetabilis* Loew (Diptera, Pallopteridae) re-found in Britain and new to Scotland, and other scarce flies from east Scotland in 2015**

In 2015, between 29 July and 6 August, I was subcontracted (in my Buglife Entomologist role) by Caledonian Conservation Ltd to survey Diptera at a series of Scottish sites for Scottish Natural Heritage as part of their ongoing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) site condition monitoring programme. Whilst much of Scotland was being drenched, we enjoyed mostly dry and sunny weather at such classic sites as Morrich More (NH826845), Ross & Cromarty, Culbin Sands (NH960622) and Findhorn Bay (NJ033642), Moray, plus two ancient broad-leaved woods, Methven Wood (NO052266), Perthshire and Den of Airlie (NO292522), Angus. The last site, visited on 6 August, was the only one affected by poor weather. Heavy overnight rain and a very damp misty morning made sweeping of this steep-sided oak wood challenging. But by lunchtime, the weather had turned sunny and small patches of flowering *Angelica* and sunlit foliage allowed some recording of insects and a list of 107 Diptera species was made.

Sweeping of these *Angelica* flowerheads produced a female *Palloptera* that was clearly not one of the common species and was soon recognised as *P. laetabilis* Loew, 1873, which has unique wing markings within the British fauna (see Fig. 1). This is a remarkable find, apparently the first in Britain since 1907 and the first ever in Scotland. Only four earlier sites are given in Falk, S.J., Ismay, J.W. and Chandler, P.J. 2016. A provisional assessment of the status of Acalyptratae flies in the UK. *Natural England Commissioned Reports*. Number 217: Wormsley Park, Oxfordshire (1907); Stoke Wood (1905) and Shobdon Marsh (1904), Herefordshire; and a record from Cambridgeshire (1905), suggested there to be from Grantchester, but actually found by Francis Jenkinson in his garden in Cambridge on 25 June 1905 (Perry, I. 2007. Francis John Henry Jenkinson, his life and legacy. *Dipterists Digest (Second Series)* 14, 49-73).



Fig. 1. Female of *Palloptera laetabilis* Loew from Den of Airlie, 6 August 2015.

Falk *et al.* (*op. cit.*) graded it as Data Deficient, and given the relatively poor level of recording of the many similar woods in this part of Scotland, this seems appropriate.

Further flies from the project with current or proposed conservation statuses included:

- Bellardia pubicornis* (Zetterstedt, 1838) (Calliphoridae) – Morrich More dunes, 31 July and 2 August
- Botanophila sonchi* (Hardy, 1872) (Anthomyiidae) – Culbin Sands (the Bar), 4 August
- Calliphora loewi* Enderlein, 1903 (Calliphoridae) – Methven Wood, 29 July
- Chamaemyia fasciata* (Loew, 1858) (Chamaemyiidae) – Morrich More (dunes), 31 July
- Coenosia karli* Pont, 2001 (Muscidae) – Morrich More, 1 and 2 August; Culbin Sands (the Bar and saltmarsh areas), 3 and 4 August
- Coenosia minutalis* (Zetterstedt, 1860) (Muscidae) – Culbin Sands (saltmarsh), 3 August
- Helina intermedia* (Villeneuve, 1899) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (dunes), 31 July and 2 August
- Helina protuberans* (Zetterstedt, 1845) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (dunes), 31 July
- Limnospila albifrons* (Zetterstedt, 1849) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (saltmarsh), 2 August; Culbin Sands (the Bar), 4 August; Findhorn Bay, 5 August
- Lispocephala rubricornis* (Zetterstedt, 1849) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (saltmarsh), 2 August; Culbin Sands, 3 August
- Lispocephala verna* (Fabricius, 1794) (Muscidae) – Findhorn Bay, 5 August
- Muscidideicus praetextatus* (Haliday, 1855) (Dolichopodidae) – Morrich More, 1 August; Findhorn Bay, 5 August
- Mydaea deserta* (Zetterstedt, 1845) (Muscidae) – Methven Wood 30 July; Den of Airlie, 6 August
- Sapromyza opaca* Becker, 1895 (Lauxaniidae) – Culbin Sands (the Bar), 4 August
- Spilogona baltica* (Ringdahl, 1918) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (dunes), 31 July and 1 August
- Spilogona biseriata* (Stein, 1916) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (saltmarsh), 2 August; Culbin Sands (dunes), 3 August
- Spilogona trianguligera* (Zetterstedt, 1838) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (saltmarsh), 2 August; Culbin Sands (the Bar and saltmarsh areas), 3 and 4 August
- Spilogona veterrima* (Zetterstedt, 1845) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (saltmarsh), 2 August
- Tetanocera phyllophora* Melander, 1920 (Sciomyzidae) – Methven Wood, 29 July
- Tetanops myopinus* Fallén, 1820 (Ulidiidae) – Morrich More (dunes), 1 August; Culbin Sands (dunes), 3 August
- Thricops sudeticus* (Schnabl, 1888) (Muscidae) – Methven Wood, 29 July
- Tipula laetabilis* Zetterstedt, 1838 (Tipulidae) – Methven Wood, 29 July; Den of Airlie, 6 August
- Tipula nodicornis* Meigen, 1818 (Tipulidae) – Culbin Sands (dunes), 3 August
- Villeneuveia aestuum* (Villeneuve, 1902) (Muscidae) – Morrich More (dunes and saltmarsh), 1 and 2 August (saltmarsh)

All records (flies and other invertebrate groups) from the project are published at full resolution on the NBN Atlas, and Scottish Natural Heritage will publish a report in the near future: Cathrine, C., Norris, G., Falk, S., Gleed-Owen, C., Currie, N. and Gillen, C. (in press.). Site Condition Monitoring of invertebrate assemblage features at six designated sites in Scotland 2015–16. *Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report*.

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