

# Diptera of Fairfield

An Illustrated Species List



## Introduction

Diptera are called true flies as opposed to the many other insects with the word "fly" in their name such as butterflies, dragonflies, caddisflies, etc. Flies are arguably the most important group of invertebrates - for pollination, the decomposition of vegetative matter, faeces & carrion, etc. and much more. With over 7000 species in Britain occupying nearly every habitat and ecological niche they are valuable indicators of the health of a site.

As well as supplying a separate spreadsheet with the records. i.e. the raw data, of all diptera identified on Fairfield this informal, illustrated report provides a more accessible overview of all 125 species of diptera found so far. They are grouped under major headings, e.g. "Craneflies", although some of the names don't have an obvious vernacular equivalent (the interested reader will find lots of detail on the internet if they wish to learn more).

The surveying has been done as and when time allowed and this has nearly all been between 2015 and 2019. Fairfield was not visited in 2020, mostly because of the unusual circumstances that year, but it is hoped to continue to discover what other diptera live and/or visit the Fairfield Nature Reserve. Fairfield will undoubtedly have many times the number of species that have been identified so far.

The British diptera are divided taxonomically into more than a hundred families, some with hundreds of members and some with just a few or even one. All the species found and identified to date are grouped and listed under major headings by family and then by species. A few notes have been added on points of interest where space allowed and the illustrated species are all asterisked.

## Photographs

A selection of the species found at Fairfield is illustrated to show the diversity in the British fauna including their size variation. The smallest flies can be less than 1 millimetre while the largest can have a body size of well over 20 millimetres and some craneflies (sometimes called daddy long-legs) can have a leg-span approaching 10cm. Here, each is given a body size in millimetres but this is just a rough guide as many species can have a wide size range.

The actual size of the images when viewed will depend on the reader's computer settings and magnification so an object that everyone is familiar with, the 5 pence coin, is used to provide a comparison on each page. The largest size that could conveniently fit the images on the A4 page was 4 times actual size except for the craneflies for whom a 2 times size was used. The 5p coin is 18mm in diameter and so a fly that, in comparison, looks half that size will be about 9mm in length, and so on. For the smallest images magnify the page yourself to see more detail.

[An A4 page is 210mm in width. A 5p coin at 4 times actual size is 72mm wide (18mm x 4). Therefore, at that magnification, it occupies almost exactly a third of the page, width-wise.]

The photos have all been taken from the internet from sources that allow such use. Credits for all the photos are given at the end.

## End Note

If anyone is interested in investigating, understanding, identifying and recording diptera then visit Dipterists Forum which is the British Society for the study of flies. They have lots of information and resources on their website: <https://www.dipterists.org.uk> and on their home page can be found a very informative 5 minute, introductory video about British diptera, the Society and the contribution that anyone can make.

The best way to learn is to get out and see nature and one good way to do that is to come to some of the North Lancashire Wildlife Group's summer programme of outdoor nature walks. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. No experience is necessary. There are usually several people with knowledge of various groups - plants, moths, flies, birds, etc. - and the point of the walks is to share that knowledge with everyone. We are a friendly, inclusive group and some people simply enjoy an informative walk, some do wildlife photography and a few record the species that we find. Visit [www.nlwg.org.uk](http://www.nlwg.org.uk) for details of our programme.

Finally, you are more than welcome to contact me about all things dipterous... or on any other wildlife matter.

Rob

(Rob Zloch, [robszsz@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robszsz@yahoo.co.uk))

## Craneflies (approx. 350 British species)

Images at 2 times actual size on A4 page

### Limoniidae (223 species)

A family of small craneflies.

- Dicranomyia modesta* \*
- Dicranophragma nemorale*
- Erioconopa trivialis*
- Phylidorea ferruginea*



*Dicranomyia modesta*  
(8mm)



*Tipula luna* (15mm)

### Pediciidae (20 species)

- Tricyphona immaculata*

### Ptychopteridae (7 species)

- Ptychoptera albimana*
- Ptychoptera contaminata* \*
- Ptychoptera minuta*

### Tipulidae (87 species)

Includes the familiar large craneflies.

- Tipula luna* \*
- Tipula oleracea* \*
- A very common, large crane fly.



*Ptychoptera contaminata* (11mm)



*Tipula oleracea* (25mm)

## Midges, Gnats & Related Families (approx. 2500 British species)

### Bibionidae (18 species)

Images at 4 times actual size on A4 page

- Biblio johannis*
- Dilophus febrilis* (Fever fly) \*
- A very common fly. The common name is something of a misnomer as it doesn't cause fever.



*Dilophus febrilis* (5mm)

### Chaoboridae (6 species)

- Chaoborus crystallinus*

### Dixidae (Meniscus midges, 15 species)

- Dixella martinii*

### Sciaridae (Fungus gnats, 267 species)

- Sciara hemerobioides* \*



*Sciara hemerobioides*  
(5mm)

# Dagger Flies & Related Families (approx. 700 British species)

## Dolichopodidae (Long-legged flies, 308 species)

Images at 4 times actual size on A4 page

- Achalcus flavicollis*
- Argyra diaphana*
- Dolichopus nubilus*
- Dolichopus plumipes* \*
- Sympycnus pulicarius*



*Dolichopus plumipes*  
(4mm)



*Empis livida* (8mm)

## Empididae (Dagger flies, 208 species)

- Empis albohirta*
- Empis livida* \*
- Hilara longifurca*
- Hilara maura* \*

The males of most species in the large genus *Hilara* have enlarged, silk-producing tarsi on their front legs as seen in the photo. These are used to wrap an item of prey that is to be presented to the female during courtship.



*Hilara maura* (4mm)

- Hilara nigrina*
- Rhamphomyia crassirostris*

## Hybotidae (182 species)

- Platypalpus minutus*



## Soldierflies and their Allies (160 British species)

### Bombyliidae (Bee Flies, 10 species)

- Bombylius major* (Dark-edged Bee-fly) \*

This fly with its very long proboscis and dark wing edges is one that can be identified in the field. Often seen in spring at the north end of the orchard looking to lay its eggs near mining bee nest holes.



*Bombylius major* (10mm)



*Nemotelus uliginosus*  
(5mm)

### Rhagionidae (Snipe Flies, 15 species)

- Chrysopilus cristatus* (Black Snipefly) \*

### Stratiomyidae (Soldierflies, 48 species)

- Chorisops tibialis* (Dull 4-spined Legionnaire)
- Nemotelus uliginosus* (Barred Snout) \*

### Tabanidae (Horse Flies, 30 species)

- Haematopota pluvialis* (Notch-horned Cleg) \*



*Chrysopilus cristatus* (8mm)



*Haematopota pluvialis* (10mm)

# Hoverflies and Related Families (781 British species)

## Syrphidae (283 species)

*Cheilosia albitarsis*

*Cheilosia illustrata* \*

This attractive, furry bee mimic can be seen in summer on umbellifers.

*Epistrophe eligans*

*Episyrrhus balteatus* \*

The Marmalade Fly. This very common fly's distinctive markings are unmistakable. Hundreds of millions immigrate to Britain every year from North Africa and elsewhere.

*Eristalinus sepulchralis*

*Eristalis horticola*

*Eristalis nemorum*

*Eristalis pertinax*

*Eristalis tenax* \*

The Drone Fly. Often seen hovering head height defending its territory.

*Eupeodes corollae*

*Eupeodes luniger*

*Helophilus hybridus*

*Helophilus pendulus* \*

*Helophilus trivittatus*

*Lejogaster metallina*

*Leucozona lucorum*

*Melanogaster hirtella*

*Myathropa florea* \*

Can be identified by the 'Batman' symbol on its thorax - see photo.

*Neoascia podagrica*

*Neoascia tenur*

*Platycheirus albimanus*

*Platycheirus angustatus*

*Platycheirus clypeatus*

*Platycheirus peltatus*

*Scaeva pyrastris* \*

Another hoverfly migrant. One that doesn't overwinter in Britain.

*Sphaerophoria scripta* \*



*Cheilosia illustrata* (10mm)



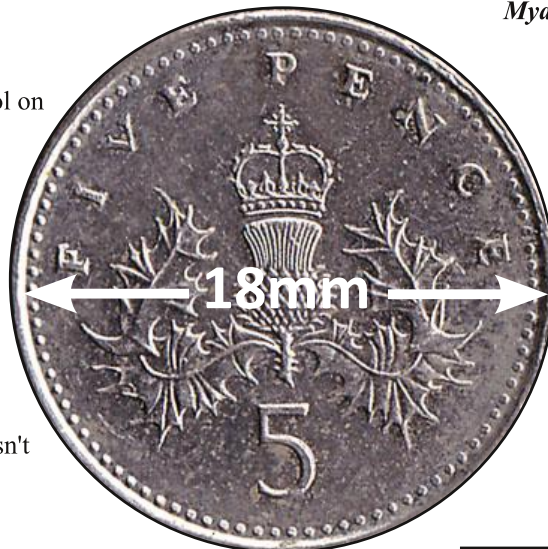
*Episyrrhus balteatus* (8mm)



*Eristalis tenax* (13mm)



*Myathropa florea* (12mm)



Images at 4 times actual size on A4 page



*Sphaerophoria scripta* (9mm)

## Lonchopteridae (7 species)

*Lonchoptera bifurcata* \*

*Lonchoptera lutea*



*Lonchoptera bifurcata* (2mm)



*Helophilus pendulus* (10mm)



*Scaeva pyrastris* (11mm)

**Acalypterates (approx. 1600 British species)**

**Campichoetidae (2 species)**

*Campichoeta obscuripennis* \*

Images at 4 times actual size on A4 page

**Chloropidae (Grass flies, 178 species)**

*Oscinella nitidissima*



*Campichoeta obscuripennis*  
(2mm)



*Dryomyza anilis* (8mm)

**Drosophilidae (Fruit flies, 65 species)**

*Scaptomyza pallida*

*Lordiphosa andalusiaca* \*



*Lordiphosa andalusiaca*  
(2mm)

**Dryomyzidae (3 species)**

*Dryomyza anilis* \*

**Lauxaniidae (56 species)**

*Minettia inusta*

*Tricholauxania praeusta* \*



*Tricholauxania praeusta*  
(3mm)



*Imantimyia albisetia* (7mm)

**Opomyzidae (16 species)**

*Geomyza tripunctata* \*

*Opomyza germinationis*

*Opomyza petrei*

**Pallopteridae (13 species)**

*Palloptera scutellata*



*Geomyza tripunctata*  
(3mm)

**Psilidae (27 species)**

*Imantimyia albisetia* \*

**Sciomyzidae (Snail-killing flies, 72 species)**

*Renocera pallida*

*Tetanocera ferruginea* \*

*Tetanocera hyalipennis*



*Sepsis fulgens*  
(3mm)

**Sepsidae (29 species)**

*Sepsis* species are distinctive with a spot on each wing, the ant-like waist and wing-waving as they walk.

*Sepsis cynipsea*

*Sepsis flavimana*

*Sepsis fulgens* \*

*Sepsis orthocnemis*

*Sepsis punctum*

*Themira annulipes*

**Sphaeroceridae (143 species)**

*Crumomyia fimetaria* \*

*Lotophila atra*

*Leptocera nigra*

*Leptocera fontinalis*

*Spelobia talparum*



*Crumomyia fimetaria*  
(3mm)

**Tephritidae (Picture-wing flies, 77 species)**

*Acanthiophilus helianthi*

*Chaetostomella cylindrica* \*

*Tephritis neesii*



*Chaetostomella cylindrica*  
(3mm)



*Tetanocera ferruginea* (7mm)

# Calypterates (1063 British species)

## Anthomyiidae (246 species)

- Hydrophoria ruralis*
- Hylemya vagans*
- Hylemya variata*
- Paradelia intersecta*
- Pegomya bicolor*

## Calliphoridae (30 species)

- Calliphora vicina*
- Lucilia caesar* \*  
Most common of the 7 Greenbottle species.
- Lucilia sericata*
- Melinda viridicyanea*

## Fanniidae (61 species)

- Fannia lustrator* \*
- Fannia serena*
- Fannia similis*

## Muscidae (293 species)

- Coenosia tigrina* \*
- Eudasyphora cyanella*
- Graphomya maculata* \*
- Helina impuncta*
- Helina setiventris*
- Hydrotaea cyrtoneurina*
- Hydrotaea militaris*
- Mesembrina meridiana* \*  
The Noon Fly, easily identified in the field.
- Morellia aenescens*
- Morellia hortorum*
- Muscina levida*
- Mydaea urbana*
- Neomyia cornicina*
- Neomyia viridescens*
- Phaonia incana*
- Phaonia tuguriorum*
- Pseudocoenosia solitaria*
- Stomoxys calcitrans* \*  
Biting fly with rigid, piercing proboscis.

## Polleniidae (Cluster flies, 8 species)

- Pollenia angustigena*
- Pollenia pediculata*

## Sarcophagidae (Flesh flies, 63 species)

- Brachicoma devia*

## Scathophagidae (Dung flies, 55 species)

- Cordilura albipes*
- Scathophaga spurca*
- Scathophaga stercoraria* \*  
The common Yellow Dung Fly, sometimes seen in large numbers on cow pats.

Images at 4 times actual size on A4 page



*Fannia lustrator* (7mm)



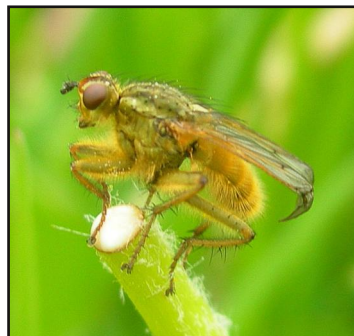
*Lucilia caesar* (7mm)



*Graphomya maculata* (8mm)



*Coenosia tigrina* (6mm)



*Scathophaga stercoraria* (7mm)



*Stomoxys calcitrans* (6mm)



*Mesembrina meridiana* (12mm)

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### ***Tipula oleracea***

Tipula oleracea, Koollangpootmug, Saxifraga-Ab H Baas, CC BY-NC-SA

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[Mosquitos/Tipula%20oleracea/index.html#Tipula%2520oleracea%25205%252C%2520Koollangpootmug%252C%2520Saxifraga-Ab%2520H%2520Baas.jpg](http://www.freenatureimages.eu/Animals/Diptera%2C%20Vliegen-Muggen%2C%20Flies-Mosquitos/Tipula%20oleracea/index.html#Tipula%2520oleracea%25205%252C%2520Koollangpootmug%252C%2520Saxifraga-Ab%2520H%2520Baas.jpg)

### ***Tipula luna***

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### ***Dilophus febrilis***

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### ***Bombylius major***

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***Chrysopilus cristatus***

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***Cheilosia illustrata***

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***Episyrphus balteatus***

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***Eristalis tenax***

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***Helophilus pendulus***

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***Myathropa florea***

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***Scaeva pyrastris***

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***Sphaerophoria scripta***

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***Lonchoptera bifurcata***

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***Campichoeta obscuripennis***

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***Tricholauxania praeusta***

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***Geomyza tripunctata***

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***Tetanocera ferruginea***

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***Sepsis fulgens***

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***Crumomyia fimetaria***

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***Chaetostomella cylindrica***

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***Lucilia caesar***

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***Fannia lustrator***

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***Coenosia tigrina***

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***Graphomya maculata***

Graphomya maculata (Muscidae sp.) female, Elst (Gld), the Netherlands, Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication

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***Mesembrina meridiana***

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***Stomoxys calcitrans***

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***Scathophaga stercoraria***

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