

The Palaearctic species of *Neoalticomerus* Hendel (Diptera, Odiniidae)

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Summary

A study of the Palaearctic species of *Neoalticomerus* Hendel, 1903 showed that *N. formosus* (Loew, 1844) was a complex and resulted in recognition of two new species, *N. fabricius* sp. n. and *N. mongolicus* sp. n.

Introduction

As part of an evaluation of the Palaearctic Odiniidae, the authors have been studying the morphology of the principal genera with a view to better understanding the relationships of these extraordinary flies. In the course of dissecting material to prepare illustrations we discovered that *Neoalticomerus* Hendel, 1903, hitherto thought to be represented in Europe by only one species, *N. formosus* (Loew, 1844) is in reality a complex. In addition to *N. formosus* we have thus far identified two new species from material available to us, one from Europe and the other from Mongolia. The two new species are here described and a key with figures to separate these three species is provided.

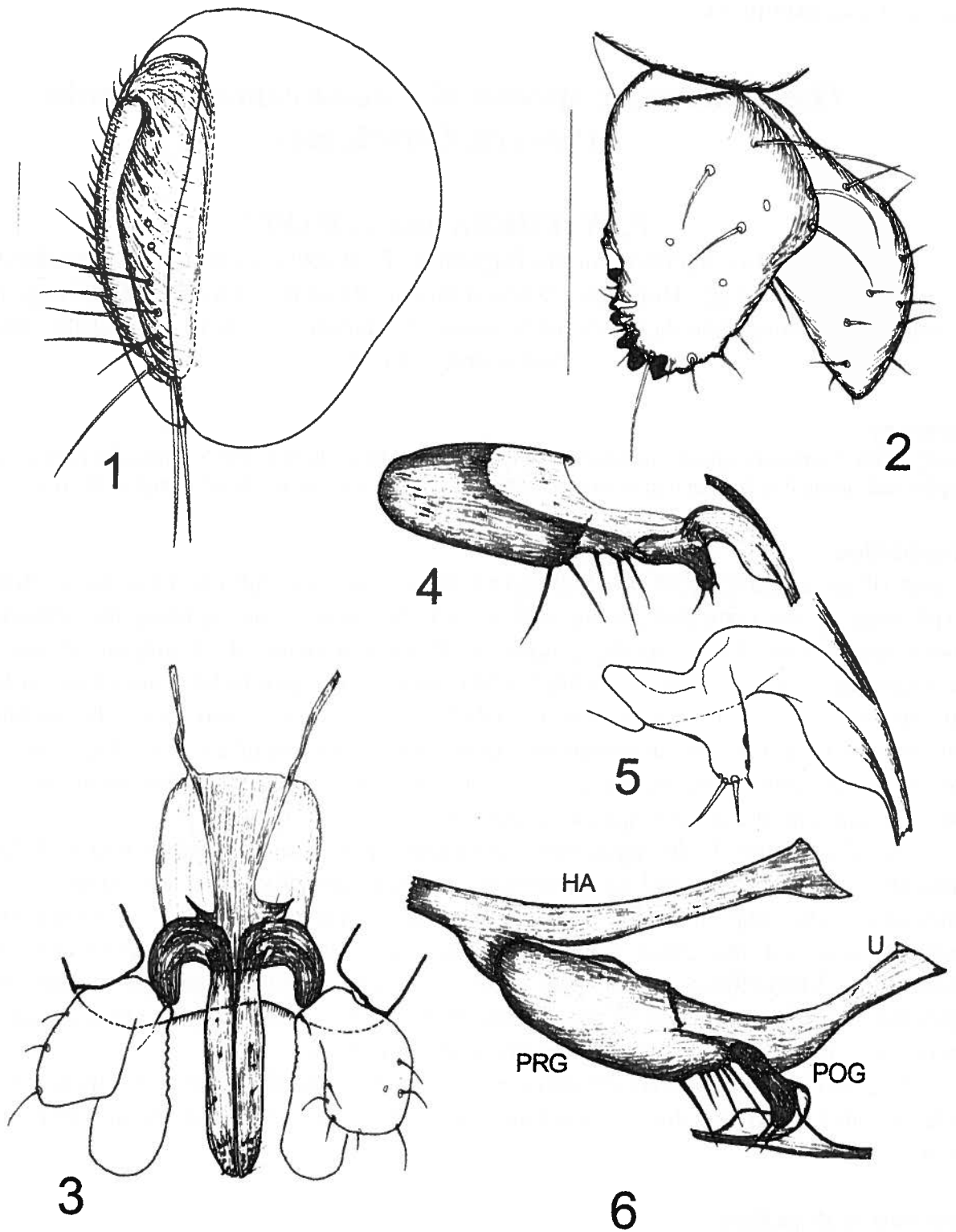
Neoalticomerus is distinguished from other Palaearctic odiniid genera as follows: four dorsocentral setae (1+3) and anepisternum setulose dorsally, with occasional strong setae posteriorly; hind legs normally formed, not excessively thickened or shortened, dorsal preapical setae on the tibiae well-developed. In *Odinia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 and *Turanodinia* Stackelberg, 1944, the hind legs are markedly shortened and thickened, especially in males, there are 4 postsutural dorsocentral setae and the anepisternum is bare. The dorsal preapical setae on the tibiae are well-developed.

The larval habits of *Neoalticomerus* are unknown; adults seem to be attracted to similar media to *Odinia* and specimens from both genera have been found in alcohol traps suspended in trees.

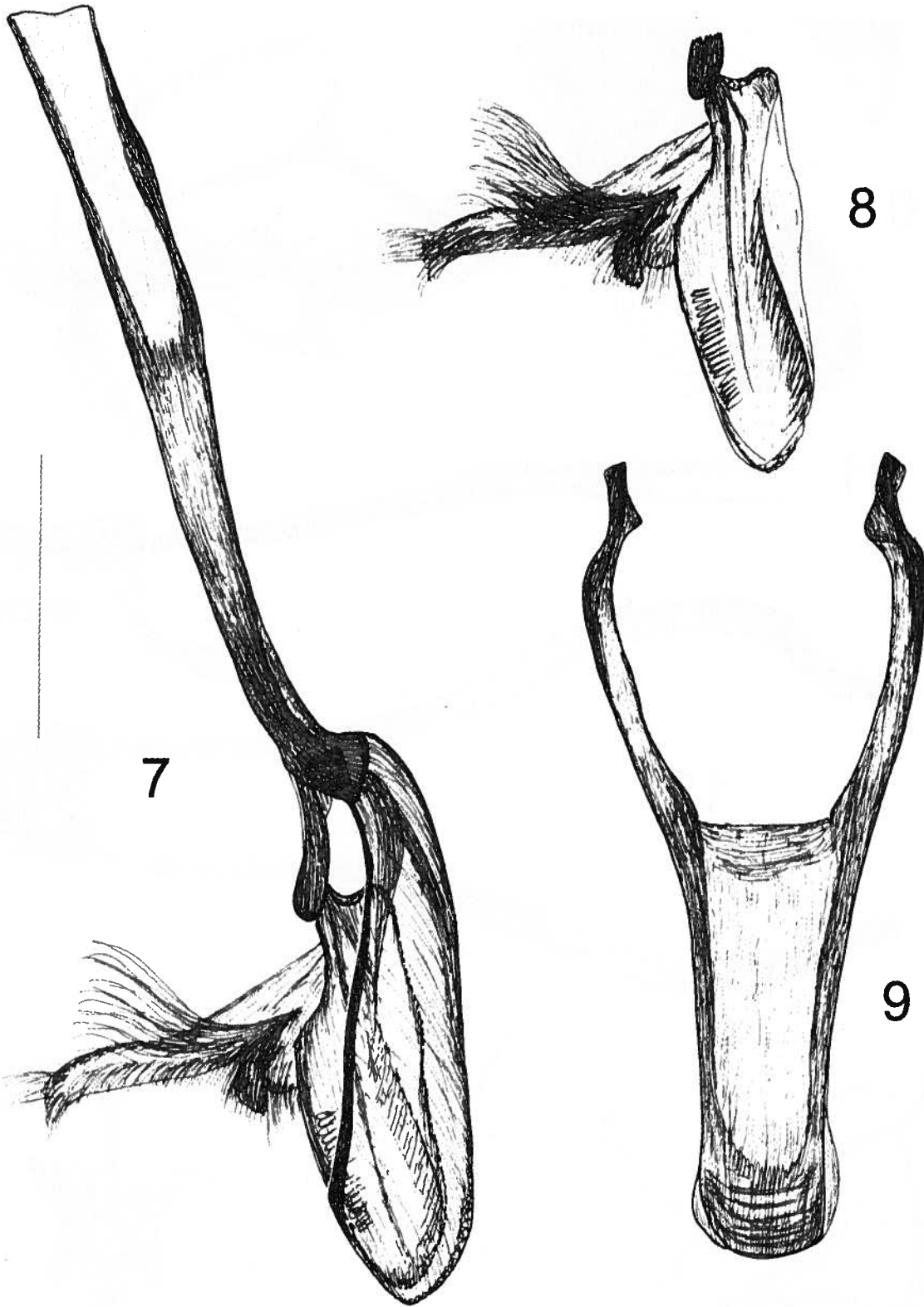
Materials and methods

For studies on genitalia the whole abdomen of the male specimens was removed. After removal, the abdomens were softened by immersion in hot water and treated in c. 10 % sodium hydroxide (freshly made every time), washed in lukewarm water and neutralised in lactic acid for some minutes, washed in water again and studied (depicted), or preserved in plastic microvials with glycerol.

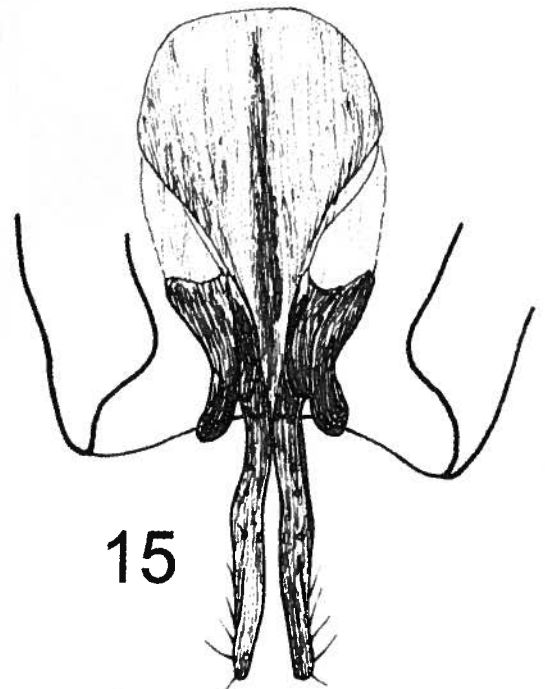
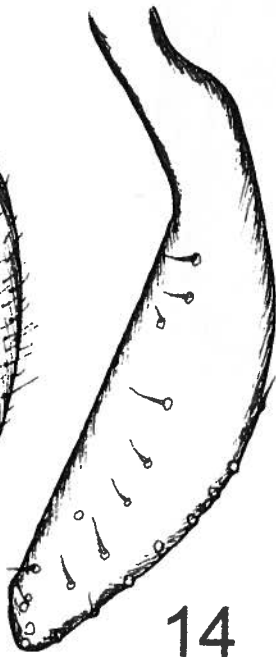
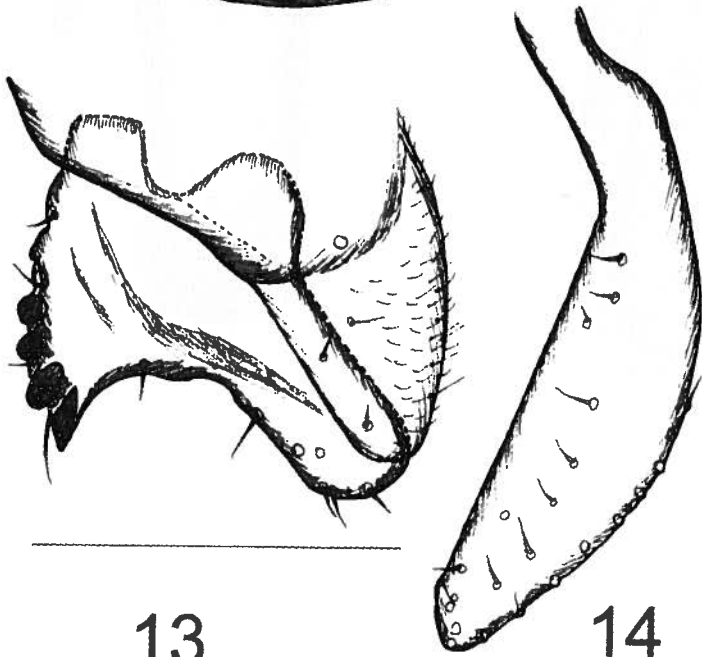
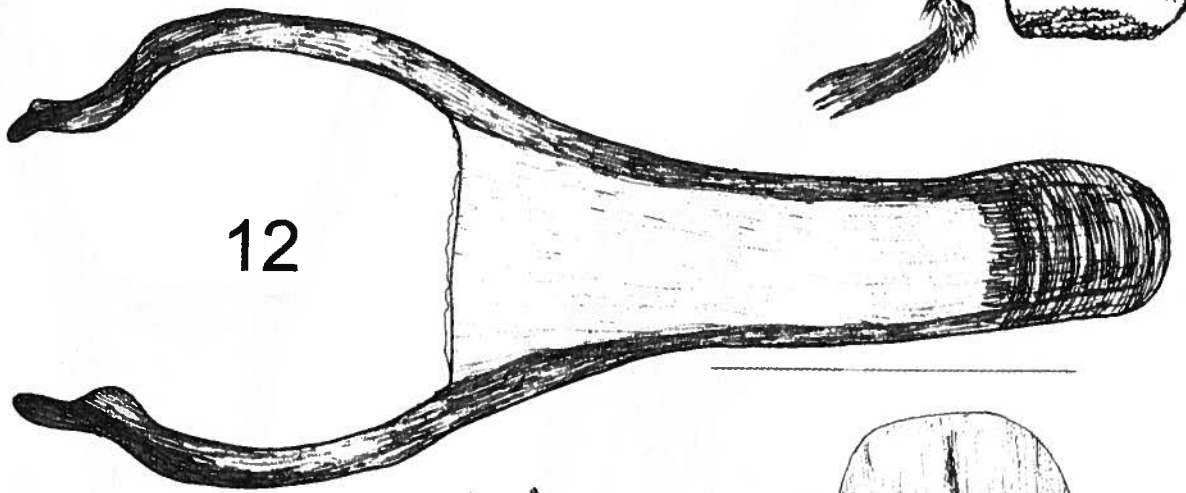
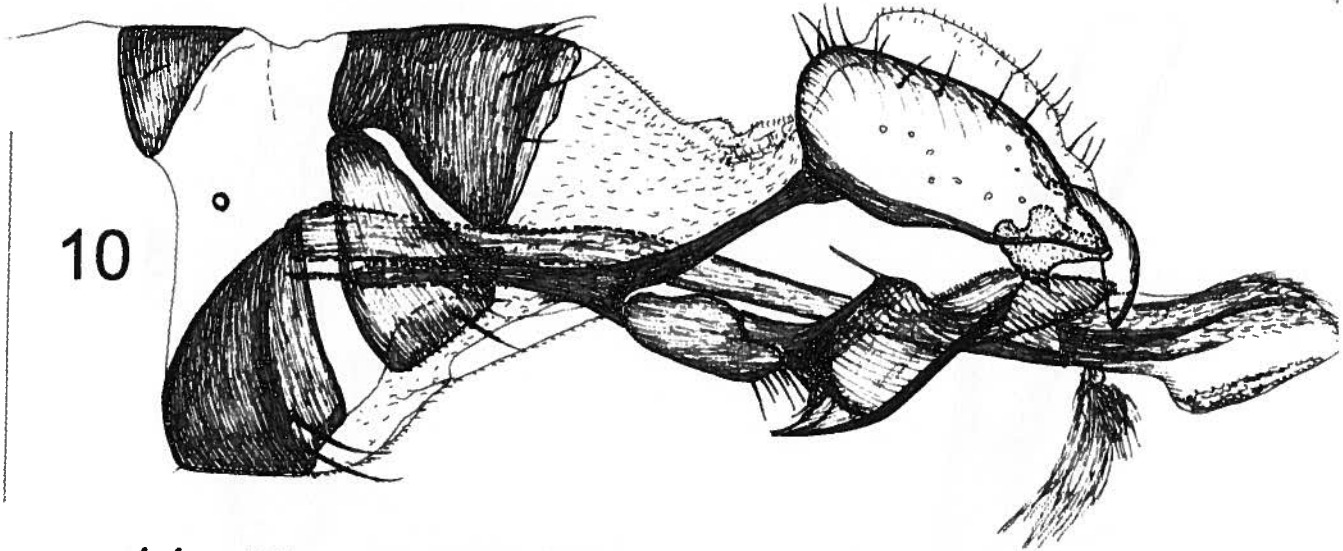
The postabdomen and genitalia were detached from the rest of the abdomen. Postabdominal and genital parts were studied and figures were made under a normal 1cm² cover glass put over glycerol on a slightly hollowed microscope slide. The preparations were placed under an Olympus SZ-ST stereomicroscope, usually at 100 x magnification; figures were made using an Olympus BX40 microscope with an Olympus U-DA device. Most of the figures were made at a 333 or 667 x magnification.



Figs 1-6. *Neoalticomeres* species, male genitalia. 1-5, *N. formosus* (Loew, 1844): 1, epandrium and cerci, sublateral view; 2, surstylus, in true lateral view; 3, subepandrial sclerite with the ventral pair of processes and contours of surstyli, anterior (inner) view; 4, pre- and postgonite in an intermediate state between "in" and "out" positions, lateral view; 5, postgonite, in higher magnification. 6, *N. fabricius* sp. n., fork of hypandrium and gonopodal complex in the "out" position, lateral view (HA: hypandrium, prg: pregonite, pog: postgonite, U: U-shaped sclerite of postgonites). Scales: 0.2mm for Figs 1, 3-4 and 6; 0.1mm for Figs 2 and 5.



Figs 7-9. *Nealticomerus formosus* (Loew, 1844), male genitalia. 7, phallic complex and phallapodeme, lateral view; 8, phallus, lateral view; 9, hypandrium, ventral view. Scale: 0.2mm for all.



In odiniids the key point is to make preparations in sodium hydroxide and not in potassium hydroxide, which destroys membranes. Most of the studies on dipterous genitalia neglect membranous structures, which play an important role in the functional mechanism of the genitalia. Genital terminology follows that of Sinclair (2000).

Neoalticomerus Hendel, 1903

Type species: *Milichia formosa* Loew, 1844: 328.

Description of preabdomen and terminalia.

Preabdomen of 5 normal segments, tergites 1 and 2 fused on a very short sublateral-dorsal section (at 2 places) only. Sternite 1 rather large, as broad as sternite 3, sternite 2 very short (transverse) but darker (more melanised) than sternite 1, which covers it ventrally.

Tergite 6 small, dorsal in position, the ventral and partly lateral sclerite below it (sternite 6 or ?sternite 6+7, cf. Papp 1998: fig. 18.7) large and not divided, with 2 strong setae laterally. Spiracle 7 free in the membrane, not far from spiracle 6. There are two other sclerites, touching each other only basally between the large ventral sclerite and epandrium. If Papp's interpretation (for *Odinia* species) was correct, then these are equivalent to the united TS7+8 of *Odinia* species. In *Odinia* sternite 6 is in the form of a very short dark semicircle, which joins sclerite(s) of segment 7 laterally only, where spiracle 7 is situated (spiracle 7 is free in *Neoalticomerus* (Fig. 10)). In *Odinia* sternite and tergite 7 are laterally fused, their fusion forming a thickened rod. Interpretation of the sclerites of segments 7 and 8 is not clear to us.

Epandrium spherical or much higher than long. Anal opening very large (comparatively small in *Odinia*). Anterior margin of epandrium normal but its rim is broadly involuted in *Odinia*. Cerci (Figs 1, 17) large, mostly membranous with several longer setae particularly long ventrally. Membrane between posterior margin of postabdomen and anterior margin of epandrium very strong and extremely long (extendable): up to 0.4mm (in comparison it is only 0.1mm in *Odinia czernyi* Collin, 1952, a larger bodied species). While in the "out" position the body cavity (with gut, covered at least by a thin membrane) of the parts posterior to hypandrial fork is restricted to a thin dorsal layer under membrane and dorsal wall of epandrium down to anus. Apical part of phallapodeme and at least central part of hypandrium inside the body cavity, although a large "hole" is formed posterior to the ventral and lateral sternite 6 (?6+7).

Hypandrium joins epandrium very high in a dorsal position and is joined to a strong pre-epandrial membrane (Fig. 10). Hypandrium connected not only to epandrium but also to subepandrial sclerite, this connection being formed by a pair of largely membranous ribbons in *Neoalticomerus*, whereas in *Odinia* this connection is broad with the subepandrial sclerite narrow but large, almost as high as epandrium. Medial part of hypandrium comparatively longer and its arms are broader than in *Odinia* species. In major contrast to *Odinia* species, subepandrial sclerite of *Neoalticomerus* has a pair of large well-sclerotised ventral processes (Figs 3, 10, 13, 19).

Figs 10-15. *Neoalticomerus fabricius* sp. n., male genitalia. 10, postabdomen and genitalia in the "out" position, lateral view; 11, phallus and phallapodeme of another specimen; 12, hypandrium, ventral view; 13, surstylus and ventral process of epandrium, in true lateral view; 14, ventral process of subepandrial sclerite, lateral view; 15, subepandrial sclerite with the ventral pair of processes, anterior (inner) view. Scales: 0.4mm for Figs 10-11, 0.2mm for Figs 12 and 15, 0.1mm for Figs 13-14.

Surstylus single but bilobed (Figs 2, 13, 16), bearing several specific characters. In one species of *Neoalticomerus* (*N. fabricius*) there is a lateral epandrial lobe, which covers a part of surstylus laterally. All these seem to represent a plesiomorphic state compared to that of *Odinia* species, where 2 pairs of surstyli are present and they are almost completely covered laterally by the epandrial lobe.

Phallic complex composed of a very long, rod-like phallapodeme, whose posterior end is bifid: a pair of very short but broad dorsal apices and a rather long ventral fork. This double structure also plays a key role in the mechanism that articulates the phallus when taking up a copulatory position. The phallus consists of two parts: a well formed dorsal basiphallus (setulose on dorsal half) and a tripartite distiphallus, which mainly consists of long hair-like setulae (? very thin tubules). If there are parameres in *Neoalticomerus* (and in other odiniids) at all, then they are represented by the more sclerotised lateral walls of the basiphallus. We suspect that no parts of the phallus would function as an intromittent organ.

A peculiar and characteristic part of the genital complex is what we have termed the phallic hood. Its main component is a pair of extremely flexible rods that join to the most distal part of postgonite (Fig. 21) at one end, and to the dorsal structure of the phallapodeme apex. The large part of the hood is a membranous, rather elastic structure with minute setulae positioned obliquely to linear encrustations. A part of it becomes caudal to the rods when in the “out” position (Fig. 10). The pair of extremely flexible rods plays a key role in the copulatory process: in an intermediate phase the distal part of each rod is U-shaped. There are conspicuous changes also in the form of the posterior parts of the postgonite, including the “paramere” of Papp, e.g. Papp (1998: p. 235), compare our Fig. 21 with Figs 4-5, and 6, 10. In *Odinia* the phallic hood is short, with the posterior margin almost straight.

Gonopodal complex of an intricate form, particularly the postgonites. Pregonites rather convex laterally connected posteriorly through a sclerite (U-shaped in ventral view), which also joins through a membrane to the posterior end of hypandrium (Fig. 20). We consider this sclerite to be a phallic guide (cf. Sinclair 2000: 61). Postgonite composed of a more or less digitiform process and a flexible part connecting to the phallic hood (more precisely: to its rods). There is an additional U-shaped sclerite over the caudal part of pregonite and postgonite, which forms the anterior margin of the hood; this is not a complete sclerite in *Odinia*, but there is an equivalent thickening of the membrane.

The mechanism to extend into the “out” position before copulation is different in *Neoalticomerus* and in *Odinia*. In *Neoalticomerus* the movement of the genital parts is largely caudal (see Fig. 10). In *Odinia* the movement is partially caudal but the anterior apex of the phallapodeme moves dorsally at the same time (the gut must be ventral here while circumflexing).

***Neoalticomerus formosus* (Loew, 1844)**

(Figs 1-5, 7-9)

Type locality: POLAND “Pozen” [Poznań,].

Junior subjective synonym: *Milichia pulchra* Zetterstedt, 1848: 2724. Type locality: Gusum Ostrogothia, Sweden.

Material studied: AUSTRIA: 1 male (HNHM): “Theresian ulc[?]ros Karta” – Coll. Pokorný – “*Neoalticom. formosus* Lw.” det. Soós; 8 males 8 females (HNHM): Austria inf. Stadlau – “Stadlau 7.V.[18]88” – “*Milichia formosa* Lw.” – *Neoalticom. formosus* Lw.” det Soós. FINLAND: Loviisa Harmaakallio, 22.VI.2009, Malaise trap (leg. J. Flinck). FRANCE: Ain, Marais de Lavours, wine trap in *Populus* tree, 27.VI-20.VII.2001, leg. V. Marengo ; Loiret,

Forêt de Montargis, alcohol trap, 18.VII-17.VIII.2000. HUNGARY (all HNHM): 1 male: Kiskunsági N. P., Fülöpháza, homokbuckás [sand dunes], Malaise csapda [trap], 24.V.1970, leg. Papp L., 3 males: Budapest, Pestszentlőrinc, Péterhalmi-erdő, leg. L. Papp, nyárfa sebeiről [on wounds of a *Populus* tree]/nyárfák kicsorgó nedvén [on outflowing sap of poplar trees]/fehér nyár kicsorgó nedvén [on outflowing sap of a white poplar tree (*Populus alba*)], 10-13.V.1997/24.V.1998/26.VI.1994. 1 male, 2 females: Hortobágy N. P., Újszentmargita – Margitai erdő, lámpára, nádasnál/tölgyfa kicsorgó nedvéről/Malaise csapda [trap], 29.V.1974/8-11.VI.1976, leg. Mahunka S. et Vásárhelyi /Draskovits. 1 female: Martonvásár, arvideserta, 22.IV.1959, leg. Jermy. 1 female [damaged, without head]: Budapest Kertész [on the reverse side of the label] “907.VI.25.” – “*Neoalticomerus formosus* Lw.” det. Becker – “*Neoalticomerus formosus* Lw.” det. Soós.

Note. Two other specimens were examined, both loaned from the collections of the Zoological Museum in Berlin. Both are labelled with a series of small labels as follows: a white printed label “coll. H. Loew”; a red printed label “Paratype”, a white handwritten label “im Tausch (= in exchange) 14.XII.26”, a white handwritten label “*Neoalticomerus formosus* Lw. Det. Mart. Hering” and a white printed label “Zool. Mus. Berlin”. One of the two specimens is labelled additionally with a handwritten label, indicating male: it is in fact a female. The male has the genitalia dissected by PW and placed in a plastic vial below the specimen. It is not known who pinned paratype labels on these specimens and we are not certain whether these specimens are syntypes. In the absence of further data it is impossible to say where these specimens originated.

Description (based on the “paratypes” and specimens in the HNHM). Body length 2.85-3.96mm, wing length 2.67-3.85mm, wing width 1.25-1.60mm.

No setulae present between posterior fronto-orbital and outer vertical setae. Frontal triangle longer, extending beyond the mid frons. White part of prefrons (“facial plate”) wider than its dark part. Palpal setae thorn-like.

Mesonotum without intra-alar stripes.

Male epandrium semiglobular: short but less high (Fig. 1). No ventral lobe covering surstyli. Cercal setae somewhat shorter (Fig. 1) than in *N. mongolicus* sp. n. Both lobes of the surstylus broader in lateral view (Fig. 2) than those of *N. mongolicus*. Hypandrium less broad (Fig. 9). Laminar dorsal part of subepandrial sclerite not large, its ventral process longer and even broader in anterior or posterior view (Fig. 3). Lateral (setose) process of postgonite broad-based (Figs 4-5) with two medium-long setae and one short seta.

Distribution

Recorded in Europe from Finland, Sweden and Poland to France and Italy and from the northern and central parts of European Russia, as well as from East Siberia, from the Far East (Vladivostok) (Hennig 1938, Krivosheina 1981, 1984) and also from Mongolia (Papp 1977, see also below). In Hungary it was formerly known from Martonvásár, Budapest, Csévharaszt and the Hortobágy N.P. (Újszentmargita) (Papp 1978).

***Neoalticomerus fabricius* sp. n.**

(Figs 6, 10-15)

Holotype male: FRANCE: Drôme, Montauban-sur-Ouvèze, aerial trap, VII.98, leg. J. Clary. In collection Musée des Confluences, Lyon. Genitalia dissected and mounted in DMHF on punched card with coverslip.

Paratypes: 1 male: FRANCE: Ain, Marais de Lavours, wine trap in *Populus* tree, 27.V.20.VII.2001, leg. V. Marengo, in collection P. Withers; 1 male: HUNGARY [Somogy megye Tarany, 9.VI.1982. [no further data] (HNHM); 3 males: Budapest, Pestszentlőrinc Péterhalmi-erdő [forest], May 2009, leg. L. Papp, tölgyfa sebén [on a wound of an oak (*Quercus*) tree]/erdei tisztások [forest clearings]/tölgyes [oak forest], 9-10./9./23. [days c labels]; 1 female: ibid., szilfák sebeiről [on wounds of *Ulmus* trees], 4.V.1997.

Description. Body length 2.42-3.57mm, wing length 2.60-3.78mm, wing width 1.10-1.53mm.

White part of prefrons not wider than its dark part. Frontal triangle reaching only to middle of frons. Palpal setae somewhat less strong than in *N. formosus*. Mesonotum with distinct pair of intra-alar stripes.

Male epandrium short and high with a ventro-caudal process, which partly covers surstylus laterally (Figs 10, 13). Phallus and phallapodeme as in Fig. 11. Medial part of hypandrium relatively longer in comparison to its fork (Fig. 12). Lateral (setose) process of postgonite not broad-based (Figs 6, 10), with two medium-long apical setae.

Etymology: the new species is named in honour of Fabrice Darinot, reserve manager of the Marais de Lavours, and is a noun in apposition.

Distribution

Pestszentlőrinc is a suburb of Budapest (its XVIIIth District), and Péterhalmi-erdő is a locality where both the Hungarian species of *Neoalticomeres* have been captured; they have also both been taken in wine traps for collecting Coleoptera operated in the wooded margin of marshland in France.

***Neoalticomeres mongolicus* sp. n.**

(Figs 16-21)

Holotype male: MONGOLIA: Central aimak, ca 30km O von Somon Nalajch, 1530 m, Dr. Z. Kaszab, 1966 – Nr. 522, 14.VI.1966 – “*Neoalticomeres formosus* Lw. ♂, det. L. Papp 1976” ; abdomen with genitalia in a plastic microvial with glycerol, in HNHM.

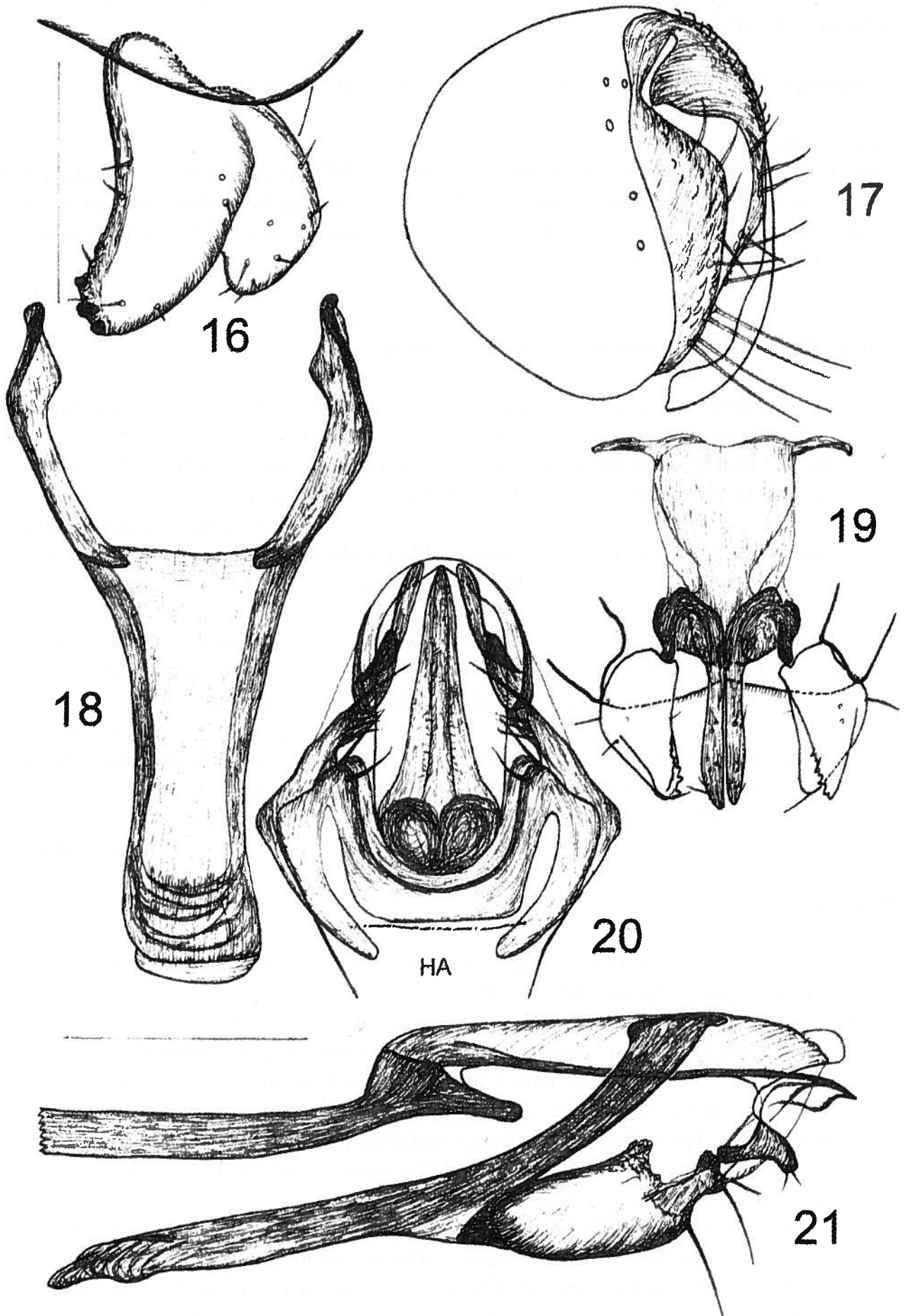
Description. Body length 3.16mm, wing length 3.40mm, wing width 1.32mm.

Head as in *N. formosus*; frontal setae broken off in the Holotype.

Mesonotum without intra-alar stripes. Dark lateral spots on tergites 4 and 5 not confluent. Sternite 6 very broad.

Male epandrium short and less high compared to the other species (Fig. 17), without posterior ventral lobes. Hypandrium broader (Fig. 18) than in *N. formosus*. Cercal setae slightly longer (Fig. 17) than in *N. formosus*.

Figs 16-21. *Neoalticomeres mongolicus* sp. n., male holotype, genitalia. 16, surstylus, in true lateral view; 17, epandrium and cerci, sublateral view; 18, hypandrium, ventral view; 19, subepandrial sclerite with the ventral pair of processes and contours of surstyli, anterior (inner) view; 20, phallic complex, pre and postgonites, ventral view in the “in” state (HA: cranial margin of phallic guide, hypandrium joins here); 21, hypandrium, pre- and postgonites, phallic hood with proximal half of phallapodeme in the “in” position, lateral view (phallus omitted). Scales: 0.2mm for Figs 17-21, 0.1mm for Fig. 16.



Lobes of the surstylus less broad in lateral view (Fig. 16). Laminar part of subepandrial process not large, dorsal connections to hypandrium seem slightly stronger, ventral process

shorter and narrower in anterior or caudal view (Fig. 19). Lateral (setose) process of postgonite broad-based (Fig. 21).

Etymology: the name relates to the country of origin and is an adjective.

Distribution

This specimen was actually misidentified by Papp (1977) as *N. formosus*. Though it is close to it, *N. mongolicus* is a distinct species. We cannot tell anything about the specimen(s) from Vladivostok mentioned above under *N. formosus*; these will need to be re-evaluated in the light of the current situation.

Key to the Palaearctic species of *Neoalticomerus*

1. Mesonotum with a distinct pair of intra-alar stripes. Male epandrium short and high with a ventro-caudal process which partly covers the surstylus laterally (Figs 10, 13). Medial part of hypandrium longer when compared to its fork (Fig. 12). Lateral (setose) process of postgonite not broad-based (Figs 6, 10). Europe
Neoalticomerus fabricius sp. n.
- Mesonotum without intra-alar stripes. Male epandrium short but less high (Figs 1, 17). Lateral (setose) process of postgonite broad-based (Figs 4-5, 21)
2. Lobes of surstylus broad in lateral view (Fig. 2). Hypandrium less broad (Fig. 9). Ventral process of subepandrial sclerite longer and even broader in anterior or caudal view (Fig. 3). Cercal setae somewhat shorter (Fig. 1). Europe
N. formosus (Loew)
- Lobes of the surstylus less broad in lateral view (Fig. 16). Hypandrium broader (Fig. 18). Ventral process of subepandrial sclerite shorter and narrower in anterior or caudal view (Fig. 19). Cercal setae slightly longer (Fig. 17). Mongolia
N. mongolicus sp. n.

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Dipterists Day Exhibits 2011

- compiled by Editor from exhibitors' notes

Apart from exhibits that also appeared at the Exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society, notes were received for the following exhibits.

DRAKE, C.M. – *Dolichopus laticola* and *D. nigripes* (Dolichopodidae) in Norfolk fens. These two *Dolichopus* are listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. They are almost confined to the Norfolk fens. A survey in 2010 showed that the more widespread *D. laticola* Verrall had relatively low habitat preference, being found in most fen vegetation types but slightly less often in managed sedge beds (*Cladium mariscus*), whereas *D. nigripes* Fallén was more often found on open tracks and grassy areas. Both were scarce in carr woodland. An ordination of larger species of dolichopodids caught in 2010 samples from six fens showed that both BAP *Dolichopus* were found with other fen-associated species, of which specimens of *D. picipes* Meigen, *Gymnopternus assimilis* (Staeger), *G. blankaartensis* Pollet, *Argyra elongata* (Zetterstedt) and *Thrypticus smaragdinus* Gerstäcker were exhibited. A distribution map of both species in fens in Norfolk, based on surveys undertaken in the last few years, showed that *D. laticola* was moderately widespread in the catchments of the River Bure and River Ant, and with outlying records from the Ormesby Broad area. *Dolichopus nigripes* was found not only in its known location in the Bure fens but also in two fens along the River Ant. This work was partly funded by DEFRA through a grant to Hymettus.

GRAYSON, A. – Some local and uncommon hoverflies (Syrphidae) collected in Beadale Wood, Wrelton during 2011.

Beadale Wood is a small privately-owned coppiced woodland (SE7786) immediately north of the village of Wrelton in V.C. 62 (North East Yorkshire). Gaps in the canopy allow a rich ground flora, and aided by its topography, parts of Beadale Wood are warmer and more

sheltered than most similar woodlands. It is mainly deciduous, predominantly sycamore and ash, which are often rotting and moss-covered around their bases. There is evidence of charcoal-burning and quarrying in many areas of the wood, and the recent history of management has generally been by coppicing. Diptera are fairly numerous in Beadale Wood, particularly Syrphidae, so this family was made the focus of an entomological study during 2011. The exhibitor thanked Mrs Nicky Blyth for permission to collect invertebrates in Beadale Wood.

The exhibit consisted of 10 species [12 specimens], representing some of the most local and uncommon hoverflies taken at Beadale Wood during 2011. All four British *Criorhina* species were taken on several occasions. The following were notably numerous: *Cheilosia pubera*, *Criorhina ranunculi* and *Ferdinandea cuprea*. Notes and span of date during which each species was taken are given in brackets.

Brachyopa scutellaris Robineau-Desvoidy, ♂, 23.iv.2011 [4♂ were taken on 23.iv.2011]; *Brachypalpoides lentus* (Meigen), ♂, 5.vi.2011; *Cheilosia griseiventris* Loew, ♀, 23.iv.2011; *Cheilosia pubera* (Zetterstedt), ♂, 17.iv.2011 [apparently the most numerous *Cheilosia* between 16.iv and 10.v.2011]; *Criorhina asilica* (Fallén), ♂, 29.iv.2011 [2♂ were taken on 29.iv.2011]; *Criorhina berberina* (Fabricius), ♂, 23.iv.2011, ♂, 25.iv.2011; *Criorhina floccosa* (Meigen), ♂, 23.iv.2011 [♂ also taken on 29.iv.2011]; *Criorhina ranunculi* (Panzer), ♂, 17.iv.2011, ♂, 25.iv.2011 [recorded on all 6 visits made to Beadale Wood between 16.iv. and 29.iv.2011]; *Ferdinandea cuprea* (Scopoli), ♀, 5.vi.2011 [numerous between 17.iv and 20.vi.2011]; *Xylota florum* (Fabricius), ♂, 14.vii.2011.

IKIN, H. and WOODWARD, S. – An exhibit on the Grace Dieu wildlife survey, Loughborough Naturalists' Club fieldwork project that aims to record all animal and plant groups. The survey area, located in Leicestershire between Loughborough and Coalville, has a remarkable diversity of habitats: Grace Dieu Priory ruins and fishpond, ancient woodland with both swampy and rocky areas, a stream that tumbles through a ravine, disused limestone quarries, moorland with sphagnum swamps and a disused railway viaduct. So far 245 species of Diptera had been identified. The exhibitors were confident of identifications of hoverflies and craneflies (thanks to help from Stuart Ball, Roger Morris and John Kramer) and help was sought for identification of the other families. The display included a box of specimens still to be confirmed and named, with which assistance was offered during the day.

After nearly four years of searching, the total of all species recorded from the site was approaching 3000 species in a wide range of groups, including many new county records; few other sites in the county had received this kind of attention. A full report was to be published by Loughborough Naturalists' Club.

STUBBS, A.E. – Seven miscellaneous species of uncommon Diptera found in 2011: *Geranomyia unicolor* Haliday (Limoniidae), 1♂, 6.vii.2011, Bantham, South Devon, a marine upper tidal species of rocky coasts; *Keroplatus testaceus* Dalman (Keroplataidae), 1♂, 8.viii.2011, Rowardennan, Loch Lomond, becoming more widespread in Scotland; *Odontomyia ornata* (Meigen) (Stratiomyidae), 1♀, 19.v.2011, Woodwalton Fen, Cambridgeshire, the first record from the Great Fen region; *Scaeva* species, cf. *S. dignota* Rondani (Syrphidae), 1♀, 12.vi.2011, Broadway, Peterborough, the identity of this species has yet to be firmly established but the specimen differs from *S. selenitica* in having a flat frons of which 1♀ was exhibited for comparison; *Acanthiophilus helianthi* (Rossi) (Tephritidae), 1♀, 5.vii.2011, Andrew's Wood NR, S. Devon; *Hirtodrosophila trivittata* (Strobl) (Drosophilidae), 9.x.2011, Slindon Wood, W. Sussex, a recent addition to the British list that is becoming widespread in southern England; *Catharosia pygmaea* (Fallén), 1♂, Southorpe Paddock NR, near Peterborough, V.C. 32, another recent arrival in Britain.