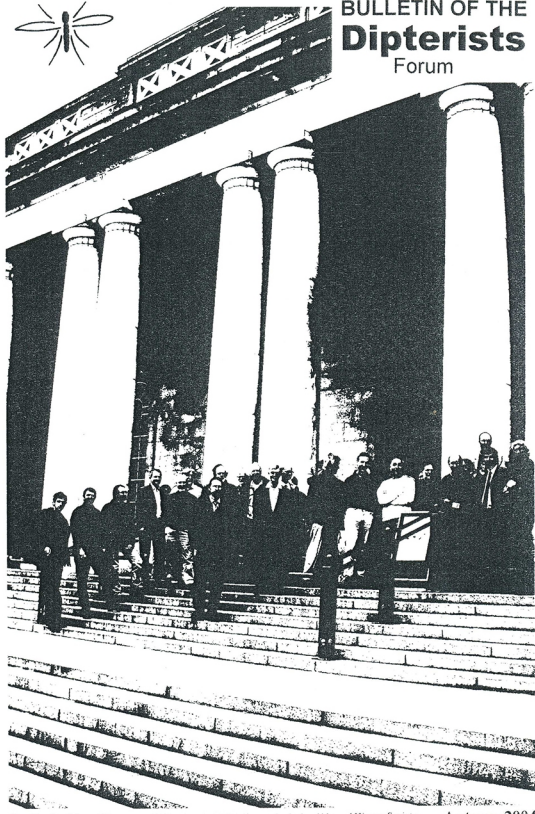




BULLETIN OF THE  
**Dipterists**  
Forum



**Bulletin No. 58**

Affiliated to the British Entomological and Natural History Society

**Autumn 2004**



**Dipterists  
Forum**



**ISSN 1358-5029**

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In the last issue of this newsletter I commented on the apparent dearth of hoverflies during the very dry summer of 2003, having experienced several day-long field meetings in seemingly ideal conditions with scarcely anything of note to record at the end of them. Some of my fellow hoverfly enthusiasts in Gloucestershire seem however to have had a much more successful season than I did, working mainly in the west of the county. I was obviously not alone though in having a disappointing season; several people have reported similarly unproductive summers via the exchanges of emails in the hoverfly e-group. Let us all hope that the year ahead brings better rewards.

Copy for **Hoverfly Newsletter No. 38** (which is expected to be issued in August 2004) should be sent to me: **David Iliff, Green Willows, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HN**, Email [davidiliff@talk21.com](mailto:davidiliff@talk21.com) to reach me by 20 June.

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Bradlaugh Fields occupies the site of an abandoned golf course in a distinctly urban situation. The area is surrounded by housing and the location further reinforces the view that this hoverfly tends to be synanthropic.

Gavin Boyd has been kind enough to examine the specimen and confirm its identity.

## **ERISTALIS PERTINAX NEW FOR THE FAROE ISLANDS**

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The only species of the genus *Eristalis* found and common on the Faroe Islands are *Eristalis abusivus*, *E. arbustorum* and *E. intricarius*. *E. tenax* has been caught only once on the islands.

On 6 August 2003 I was in the capital Tórshavn, which I usually visit once or twice a month. Normally I keep an eye on the insects, and this time I spotted unknown hoverflies all over the town. I counted at least 100+ and caught approximately 10 specimens. On my return back to Nólsoy I determined them to be of the species *Eristalis pertinax* – later confirmed by Tore R. Nielsen, Sandnes, Norway. In August and September *E. pertinax* was the most common "big" hoverfly in Tórshavn!

The island Nólsoy is located 6 km east of Tórshavn, and here I spotted the first *E. pertinax* on 22 August 2003. But on the very next day, I saw 10+ in the few wild roses which grow in a small area in the village.

The average temperature (measured in Kollafjørður north of Tórshavn) was 10.4 degrees in June, July and August from 1988 till 2001. In 2002 the average temperature was 11.6 degrees, and in the summer of 2003 the average temperature rose to 12.8 degrees, meaning that the average temperature has been 2.4 degrees higher than it was in 2001.

In the coming spring it will be interesting to see whether *E. pertinax* has survived the winter on the Faroe Islands.