



Hoverflies of Elmwood Golf Course

S.T. Buckland

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This shows images of the species that occur on Elmwood Golf Course that I have so far identified and photographed.

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Contents

<i>Baccha elongata</i>	4	<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>	25
<i>Cheilosia albitarsis/ranunculi</i>	5	<i>Melanostoma scalare</i>	26
<i>Cheilosia bergenstammi</i>	6	<i>Myathropa florea</i>	27
<i>Cheilosia illustrata</i>	7	<i>Neoascia podagrica/obliqua</i>	28
<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>	8	<i>Pipiza</i> sp	29
<i>Chrysogaster solstitialis</i>	9	<i>Platycheirus albimanus</i>	30
<i>Dasysyrphus albostriatus</i>	10	<i>Platycheirus manicatus</i>	31
<i>Dasysyrphus pinastri</i>	11	<i>Platycheirus scutatus</i>	32
<i>Epistrophe grossulariae</i>	12	<i>Platycheirus tarsalis</i>	33
<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	13	<i>Pyrophaena granditarsa</i>	34
<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>	14	<i>Rhingia campestris</i>	35
<i>Eristalis intricaria</i>	15	<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>	36
<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>	16	<i>Sericomyia silentis</i>	37
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	17	<i>Sphaerophoria</i> sp	38
<i>Eupeodes corollae</i>	18	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	39
<i>Eupeodes luniger</i>	19	<i>Syrphus torvus</i>	40
<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	20	<i>Volucella bombylans</i>	41
<i>Leucozona laternaria</i>	21	<i>Volucella pellucens</i>	42
<i>Leucozona lucorum</i>	22	<i>Xylota segnis</i>	43
<i>Melangyna compositarum</i>	23		
<i>Melangyna lasiophthalma</i>	24		



Common dainty *Baccha elongata*

A small and extremely slim species that likes shady locations.



Buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia albitarsis* /

Bulbous buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia ranunculi*

Two species that cannot be separated from images. This male is more likely to be *C albitarsis*, which is the more common of the two.





Ragwort blacklet *Cheilosia bergenstammi*

A fairly common species. This is a male.



Bumblebee blacklet *Cheilosia illustrata*

A common species associated with hogweed. This is a male.





Parsley blacklet *Cheilosia pagana*

A relatively common species that can be seen for much of the year. The male above has a bent wing tip. Females below have large orange antennae.





Dark-winged wrinklehead *Chrysogaster solstitialis*

A small, red-eyed hoverfly that can be quite common.





Stripe-backed brusheye *Dasysyrphus albostriatus*

A locally-distributed species. Female above and below left, male below right.





Black-spotted brusheye *Dasysyrphus pinastri*

An uncommon species which seems to have a stronghold in east Fife. Male above and female below. These were on the course in mid-May 2022.





Black-horned smoothtail *Epistrophe grossulariae*

A relatively large hoverfly that can be confused with *Syrphus* hoverflies. It is a fairly common woodland edge species. Female above, male below.





Marmalade fly *Episyrphus balteatus*

A very common species that often migrates in large numbers, and can be seen in gardens for much of the year. Male above, female below.





Eurasian drone fly *Eristalis arbustorum*

A common small drone fly. This female was near the clubhouse in mid-September 2022.





Furry drone fly *Eristalis intricaria*

A fairly common drone fly that can be numerous in some locations. This female was by the largest pool at the bottom of the course in mid-August 2022.



Tapered drone fly

Eristalis pertinax

A common drone fly that can be seen for much of the year. Female above and bottom right, male right and below.





Common drone fly *Eristalis tenax*

A common drone fly that can be seen for much of the year. Female above, males below.





Migrant aphideater *Eupeodes corollae*

A common species that sometimes arrives from across the North Sea in large numbers. Females above and below right, male below left.





Lunuled aphideater *Eupeodes luniger*

A common species that can be seen for most of the year. This is a female, bulging with eggs.



Tiger marsh fly *Helophilus pendulus*

A common species of damp habitats. It is sometimes called the footballer because of the stripes on its thorax. This is a female.





Dark-saddled hoary *Leucozona laternaria*

Not a common species in Fife. The female (above) was alongside the second fairway, and the male (below) was by the 3rd fairway, both in early July 2022.





Blotch-winged whitebelt *Leucozona lucorum*

A pretty hoverfly that is quite common. Female above, male below.





Matt-backed halfband *Melangyna compositarum*

This is a male and has deeper yellow markings than normal.





Spring halfband *Melangyna lasiophthalma*

An early-season species that feeds mostly on willow catkins. The female (above and bottom right) was on willow at the edge of the third fairway in mid-April 2022, and the male was nearby on gorse.





Variable duskyface *Melanostoma mellinum*

Very similar to the next species, but appreciably less common. Male above, females below.





Long-winged duskyface *Melanostoma scalare*

A small species that often occurs in large numbers. It can be seen from early spring to late autumn. Male above, female below.





Common batman fly *Myathropa florea*

A fairly common hoverfly, the common name is because of the pattern on its thorax.





Smudge-veined fen fly *Neoascia podagrica* /

Butterbur fen fly *Neoascia obliqua*

A tiny hoverfly. These females are probably *Neoascia podagrica*, which is more common than *Neoascia obliqua*. The two species cannot usually be separated from a photo.





Pipiza sp

A small hoverfly. Most species of this genus cannot be identified from photos. None of them are common. This one was on the path near the 16th fairway on 18 May 2022.



Grey-spotted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus albimanus*

This is another small species that often occurs in large numbers, and which can be seen from early spring to late autumn. Female above, male below.





Dull-backed sedge-sitter *Platycheirus manicatus*

A fairly common species. These are males.





Many-tufted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus scutatus*

A fairly common small hoverfly. It is now thought to be a complex of species, which are indistinguishable from photos. This is a female.





Shiny-backed sedgesitter *Platycheirus tarsalis*

Not a common species in Fife. These females (above and below left) and male were on the course in mid-May 2022.





Hornhand sedgesitter *Pyrophaena granditarsa*

A distinctive hoverfly, occurring in small numbers in wet habitats. This female was by the largest pool at the bottom of the course in mid-August 2022.





Common snout fly *Rhingia campestris*

This species can usually be found where there are large patches of white dead nettle or red campion.



White-bowed smoothwing *Scaeva pyrastris*

A large hoverfly that often arrives off the North Sea as a migrant.





Yellow-barred pond fly *Sericomyia silentis*

A large hoverfly that occurs mostly in boggy habitats. This female was feeding on ivy by the clubhouse in mid-October 2022.





Sphaerophoria sp

The male above is a 'short-bodied' *Sphaerophoria*, possibly *Sphaerophoria interruptus*, but this cannot be determined from a photo. Females (below) cannot be identified to species, even if dissected.





Common flower fly *Syrphus ribesii*

There are three very similar species of *Syrphus*. These females can only be identified as *ribesii* because the femur of its hind legs is mostly yellow. Contrast this with the next species, where it is mostly black. The males are indistinguishable unless the tiny eye hairs of *torvus* can be seen.





Hairy-eyed flower fly *Syrphus torvus*

There are three very similar species of *Syrphus*. These females can only be identified as *torvus* because tiny hairs are visible in the images below. (The larger specks on the eyes are just pollen grains.)





Bumblebee plumehorn *Volucella bombylans*

A bumblebee mimic, with several colour forms, mimicking different species of bumblebee. This female mimics the white-tailed bumblebee, and was by the largest pool at the bottom of the course in late June 2022.



Pied plumehorn *Volucella pellucens*

A large hoverfly whose larvae live in wasp and bee nests. Male above, female below.





Orange-belted leafwalker *Xylota segnis*

The most common *Xylota* species. It can often be seen on leaves in a bramble patch.