



Hoverflies of Cambo Gardens

S.T. Buckland

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This shows those species of hoverfly at Cambo Gardens that I have been able to identify and photograph. I'm grateful to Callum Halstead and Elise Methven for their enthusiasm and support.

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Bumblebee blacklet *Cheilosia illustrata*

Common in summer, usually on hogweed flowers.





Bolete blacklet *Cheilosia scutellata*

A relatively scarce species in Fife, occurring mostly in woodland where boletes grow. The male above was at Cambo in mid-August 2025, and the female below in early September 2025.





Stripe-backed brusheye *Dasysyrphus albostriatus*

A sparsely-distributed species of woodlands. These are females.





Yellow-girdled brusheye *Dasysyrphus tricinctus*

A sparsely-distributed species of woodlands and gardens. This female was by the pond at Cambo in mid-August 2025.





Black-horned smoothtail *Epistrophe grossulariae*

A widespread species that is seldom numerous. These are females.





Marmalade hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*

This species occurs through most of the year, and is often abundant in late spring and summer, enhanced by large migrations from southern Europe. This is a familiar hoverfly with gardeners. Female above, male below.





Eurasian drone fly *Eristalis arbustorum*

A common species of open habitats, occurring mostly in summer. These are males.





Tapered drone fly *Eristalis pertinax*

A common hoverfly across a variety of habitats from March to November. Male above and below left, female below right.





Common drone fly *Eristalis tenax*

A common hoverfly through much of the year and across a variety of habitats. Female above, male below.





Lunuled aphideater *Eupeodes luniger*

A common species through much of the year and across a range of habitats.





Tiger marsh fly *Helophilus pendulus*

A very common species of wet habitats. This is a female.





Matt-backed halfband *Melangyna compositarum*

A relatively scarce species, usually found along woodland edges. The adults usually feed on white umbellifers.



Long-winged duskyface *Melanostoma scalare*

Common and often abundant from April to September. Female above and below left, male below right.





Spotted thintail *Meliscaeva auricollis*

A widespread species, but it is seldom numerous. These are males.





Common batman fly *Myathropa florea*

A common species, especially in or near broad-leaved woodland. These are females.





Grey-spotted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus albimanus*

A very common small species.



Dull-backed sedge-sitter *Platycheirus manicatus*

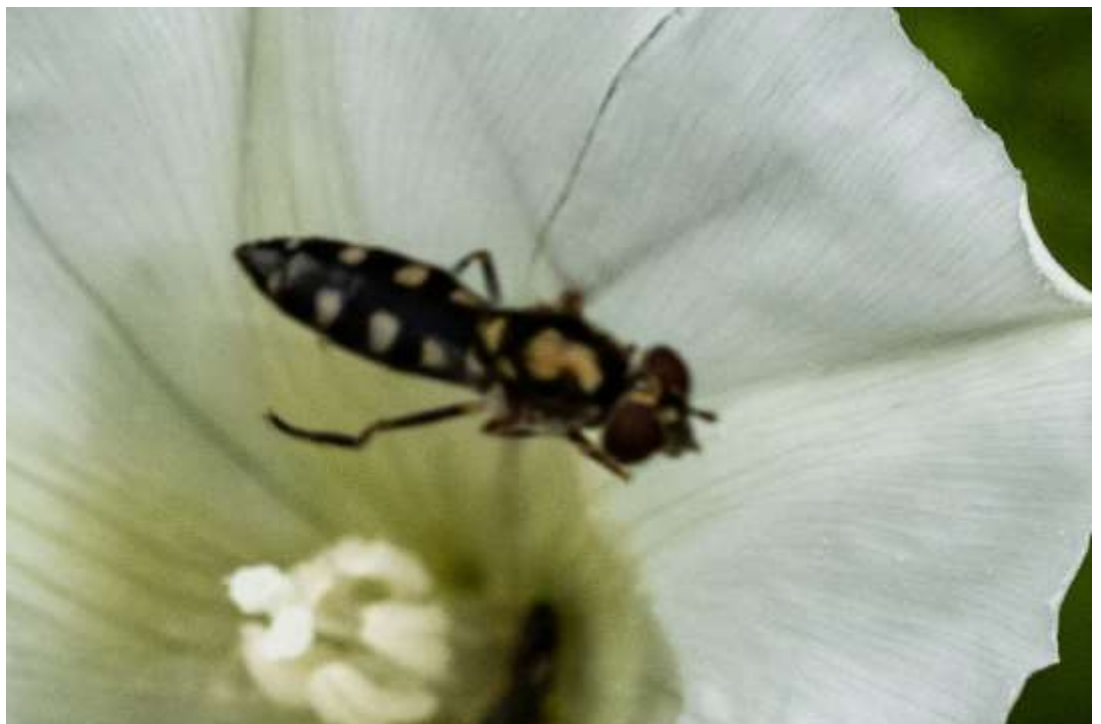
Widespread in open habitats, often seen on flowers. Its protruding mouth is distinctive. Male above and below right, female below left.





White-spotted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus peltatus*

This female belongs to the '*peltatus* group' of species, and is probably *Platycheirus peltatus*, which is by far the most common member of the group in Scotland.





Many tufted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus scutatus*

This female belongs to the '*scutatus* group' of species, and is probably *Platycheirus scutatus*, which is the most common member of the group in Scotland.



White-bowed smoothwing *Scaeva pyrastris*

A large species that is quite common, with numbers being enhanced by migrants from Europe. This is a male.





Yellow-bowed smoothwing *Scaeva selenitica*

A large species that is scarce in Fife. Female above, male below.





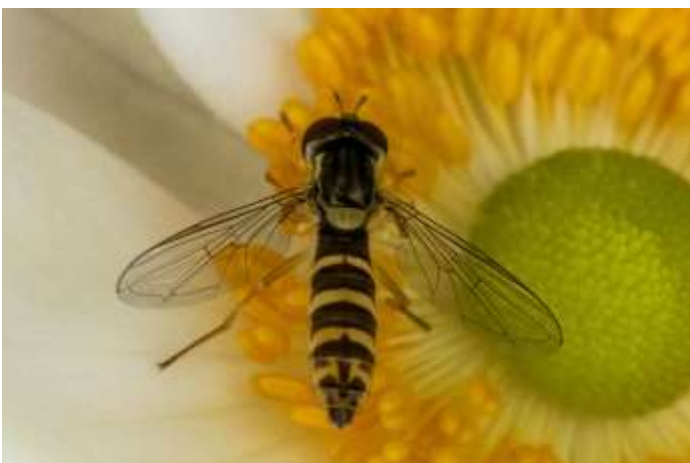
Yellow-barred pond fly *Sericomyia silentis*

Occurs mostly in fen, mire or bog habitats, but also in other wet habitats. This one was at Cambo in mid-August 2025.



Common globetail *Sphaerophoria scripta*

This species is becoming more common in Fife. The males above and below right are definitely *S scripta*. Females cannot be identified from photos, but the one below left is probably of this species.





Common compost fly *Syritta pipiens*

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





Common flower fly *Syrphus ribesii*

There are three common species of this genus that are difficult or impossible to separate from photos. Female common flower flies can be identified from the all-yellow femur of the hind leg, as can be seen in these photos. The one bottom left came to a moth light trap in early October.





Hairy-eyed flower fly *Syrphus torvus*

As its common name suggests, this species can be identified if tiny hairs are visible on the eyes, as is the case for these females.





Pied plumehorn *Volucella pellucens*

A large hoverfly that is common in summer. Its larvae feed on detritus in wasp nests.





Hornet plumehorn *Volucella zonaria*

This hornet mimic is a recent arrival in Scotland. This female was at Cambo in mid-August 2025, staying into September, and is the first confirmed UK record north of Edinburgh. Its larvae live in hornet nests or nests of social wasps.





Orange-belted leafwalker *Xylota segnis*

A common species usually seen perched or moving fast on leaves. It occurs mostly in or near woodland.

