



Hoverflies of
Magus Muir
(Bishop's Wood)

S.T. Buckland

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This shows images of the species that occur in Bishop's Wood that I have so far identified and photographed. Most of these images were taken along the path that starts at the south end of the car park. I would like to thank the remarkable support given by Roger Morris, Joan Childs and Ian Andrews through the UK Hoverflies Facebook page. Any remaining errors of identification are mine alone!

Steve Buckland

steve@st-andrews.ac.uk

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Common dainty *Baccha elongata*

A small species of woodland. This female was at a patch of wild strawberries at Magus Muir.





Buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia albitarsis* /

bulbous buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia ranunculi*

Widespread. Identified by the paler segments above the black front feet. Male above and female below.





Primrose blacklet *Cheilosia antiqua* /

Lady's mantle blacklet *Cheilosia vicina*

It is likely that these males are primrose blacklets, whose larvae feed in the stems of primrose. They were numerous at Magus Muir in May 2018.





Ragwort blacklet *Cheilosia bergenstammi*

This is a widespread but not easily identified species. The males above and below right show the distinctive face outline. The female below left was at a patch of wild strawberries.





Greater spring blacklet *Cheilosia grossa*

An under-recorded early-season species. These females were at Magus Muir in late March and April 2019.





Bumblebee blacklet *Cheilosia illustrata*

A common species in mid-summer, often occurring on hogweed flowers.





Yellow-winged blacklet *Cheilosia impressa*

This female was at Magus Muir in late May 2017. The orange-yellow base to the wings of the female and the all-black legs are distinctive. It is largely a southern species, with only a scattering of records in Scotland. This is the second record for Fife, the first being in 2008.



Parsley blacklet *Cheilosia pagana*

A relatively common species. This male was on wild strawberry flowers.



Bolete blacklet *Cheilosia scutellata*

Uncommon in Scotland. This female was at Magus Muir in late July 2018.



Dark-winged wrinklehead *Chrysogaster solstitialis*

A widespread species in summer, although seldom numerous.





Stripe-backed brusheye *Dasysyrphus albostriatus*

Not common in Fife. This male was at Magus Muir in late August 2019.





Black-spotted brusheye *Dasysyrphus pinastri*

Not a common species, and very similar to *D venustus*.





Yellow-girdled brusheye *Dasysyrphus tricinctus*

Occurs in small numbers. These females were at Magus Muir in May 2018.





Broad-barred brusheye *Dasysyrphus venustus*

A species group. They are more common than the previous two species. Male above and below left, female below right.





Pale-knobbed lucent *Didea fasciata*

A scarce and mostly southern woodland hoverfly. The female above and below left was at Magus Muir at the end of August and the female below right in mid-July 2018.





Dark-knobbed lucent *Didea intermedia*

Very similar to the previous species, but mostly northern. This male was at Magus Muir near the car park on 17 June 2019. It is the second record for Fife; the first was at Tentsmuir in 1982.





Black-horned smoothtail *Epistrophe grossulariae*

A fairly widespread species in small numbers.





Marmalade hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*

The familiar marmalade fly often seen in gardens, and sometimes present in very large numbers.





Eurasian drone fly *Eristalis arbustorum*

A widely-distributed drone fly.





Stripe-winged drone fly *Eristalis horticola*

Another widely-distributed drone fly, easily identified by the stripes in its wings.



Stripe-faced drone fly *Eristalis nemorum*

A common drone fly.



Tapered drone fly *Eristalis pertinax*

A very common, large drone fly.





Common drone fly *Eristalis tenax*

A large, common drone fly.





Migrant aphideater *Eupeodes corollae*

A common small hoverfly that often migrates in large numbers. Female above, male below.





Broad-banded aphideater *Eupeodes latifasciatus*

A relatively uncommon species that can be difficult to spot amongst more common *Eupeodes corollae*. This male was at Magus Muir in late July 2018.





Lunuled aphideater *Eupeodes luniger*

A widespread species, larger than *Eupeodes corollae*. These females show the distinctive inverted 'Y' marking between the eyes.





Ringed beech fly *Fagisyrphus cinctus*

A woodland and mostly southern species. This male was at Magus Muir in mid-July 2018. The only previous record for Fife was in 1937.



Woolly-tailed marsh fly *Helophilus hybridus*

Appreciably less common than the next species. This female was at Magus Muir in late May 2018.



Tiger marsh fly *Helophilus pendulus*

Widespread. Its common name is because of the stripes on its thorax. Males are easy to identify for most hoverfly species because the eyes touch, but that is not the case for species of this genus. The above can be identified as a male by eye shape and markings on the abdomen. Female below.





Dark-haired smoothleg *Heringia heringi* /

Long-horned smoothleg *Heringia similis*

Two tiny species that cannot be separated from a photograph, although the more likely is *H heringi*. It has only very rarely been recorded in Scotland. This female was at Magus Muir on 7 June 2019.





Pale-saddled hoary *Leucozona glaucia*

A localised hoverfly that can be common in suitable habitat. Female above, male below.





Blotch-winged whitebelt *Leucozona lucorum*

An attractive hoverfly that can often be seen at Magus Muir.



Dimorphic bumblefly *Matsumyia berberina*

Almost at the northern limit of its UK range in Fife. The female (above) is the usual form, and male (below) is the all-buff form. Both were at Magus Muir in late May 2018. There have only been three previous records for Fife, the last being in 1980.





Alder halfband *Melangyna arctica*

A rare woodland species. This male was east of the road at Magus Muir on 13 May 2019.





Matt-backed halfband *Melangyna compositarum*

A woodland species that is most common in mid-summer.





Spring halfband *Melangyna lasiophthalma*

An early-season species. The female (above) was at Magus Muir in April 2019, while the male (below) was there in mid-March 2019.





Black halfband *Melangyna quadrimaculata*

An early-season species that is not often recorded. This female was sunning itself on winter heliotrope leaves east of the road at Magus Muir on 20 March 2019, and is the first record for Fife.



Shiny-backed halfband *Melangyna umbellatarum*

This female was at Magus Muir in late May 2019.





Common wrinklehead *Melanogaster hirtella* /
dark wrinklehead *Melanogaster aerosa*

Small, very black hoverflies. This female was near the car park in mid-June 2019.



Variable duskyface *Melanostoma mellinum*

Very similar to, but appreciably less common than, *Melanostoma scalare*. This male was at Magus Muir in July 2018.





Long-winged duskyface *Melanostoma scalare*

A small species that often occurs in large numbers.





Spotted thintail *Meliscaeva auricollis*

Can be locally common. This female was near the car park in mid-June 2019.



Common batman fly *Myathropa florea*

A relatively common and distinctive species.





Smudge-veined fen fly *Neoascia podagrica* /
Butterbur fen fly *Neoascia obliqua*

A tiny hoverfly that is easily overlooked.





Pipiza sp

This female was at Magus Muir in late May 2018.



Common spotted bristleside *Parasyrphus punctulatus*

An early-season species. This male was east of the road at Magus Muir, sunning itself on winter heliotrope leaves.





Grey-spotted sedgesitter *Platycheirus albimanus*

A small, very common species.





Dull-backed sedge-sitter *Platycheirus manicatus*

A fairly common species with a projecting face.





White-spotted sedgesitter *Platycheirus peltatus*

Now considered a group of species.





Many-tufted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus scutatus*

Another species group.





Common snout fly *Rhingia campestris*

A stubby hoverfly with a distinct snout. It can occur in large numbers at Magus Muir.





White-bowed smoothwing *Scaeva pyrastris*

A large hoverfly that occurs widely, usually in small numbers. This female was at Magus Muir in July 2018.



White-barred pond fly *Sericomyia lappona*

A large, distinctive hoverfly. This female was at Magus Muir in June 2018, and is the fourth record for Fife.





Yellow-barred pond fly *Sericomyia silentis*

A large hoverfly, common in boggy locations. The male (above) was near the car park at Magus Muir. The female (below) was to the east of the car park.





Sphaerophoria sp

Female *Sphaerophoria* cannot be identified to species. The male (above) is a 'short-bodied' *Sphaerophoria*; only males of the long-bodied hoverfly *Sphaerophoria scripta* can be easily identified to species from a photo. These were at Magus Muir in August 2018.





Common compost fly *Syrirta pipiens*

A common but very small hoverfly.





Common flower fly *Syrphus ribesii*

Very common, but difficult to distinguish from other *Syrphus* species. Females can be identified by their all-yellow hind femur—the upper part of the leg.



Hairy-eyed flower fly *Syrphus torvus*

Very common, but difficult to distinguish from other *Syrphus* species. The hairs just visible on the eyes of this female identify it.



Black-thighed flower fly *Syrphus vitripennis*

Very common, but cannot be identified with certainty from photos. The pattern of yellow and black on the hind leg of this female identifies it as *S vitripennis* or *S torvus*, and the apparent absence of hairs on the eye indicate that it is more likely to be *S vitripennis*.



Pied plumehorn *Volucella pellucens*

A large species that occurs in small numbers in woodlands and hedgerows. Its larvae live in wasp or bee nests.



Orange-belted leafwalker *Xylota segnis*

Widespread in small numbers in open woodland.





Golden-tailed leafwalker *Xylota sylvarum*

A species of deciduous woodland, scarce in Scotland. This female was at Magus Muir in July 2019.

