



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.

Steve Buckland

steve@st-andrews.ac.uk

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Bumblebee blacklet *Cheilosia illustrata*

Common in summer, usually on hogweed flowers. These are females.





Dull-bellied blacklet *Cheilosia proxima*

This female is probably of this species, but there are rarer species that cannot be ruled out from these images. Its larvae feed in thistles.





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.





Dark-winged wrinklehead *Chrysogaster solstitialis*

Often seen on white umbellifers, usually in or near damp woodland. This is a female.





Stripe-backed brusheye *Dasysyrphus albostriatus*

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





Black-spotted brusheye *Dasysyrphus pinastri*

A scarce species of woodland. This female was in the walled garden in early July 2026.





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.





Broad-barred brusheye *Dasysyrphus venustus*

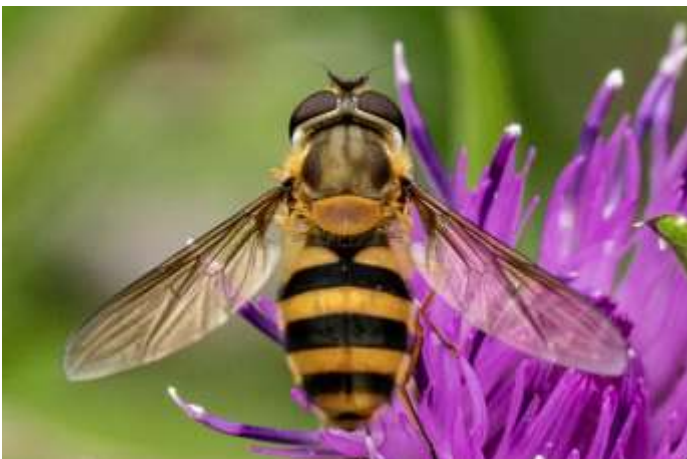
This 'species' is now thought to be a complex of very similar species. It occurs mostly in broadleaved woodland, generally in small numbers. This female was at Cambo in late May 2026.





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.





Furry drone fly *Eristalis intricaria*

A species of wet and marshy habitats, which also wanders into dryer habitats to feed. This male was nectaring on grape hyacinths in the garden in early April 2026.





Furry drone fly *Eristalis nemorum*

A common drone fly of open habitats. This is a male.





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 and below left, male below right.





Lesser roundface *Eumerus funeralis* /
onion roundface *Eumerus strigatus*

These are probably *E funeralis*, which is usually found in parks and gardens, and has been recorded in Fife, although the two species cannot usually be separated from photos of live flies. Its larvae feed in daffodil bulbs. *E strigatus* usually occurs among farm crops such as onions.





Migrant aphideater

Eupeodes corollae

A common species of open habitats, and sometimes abundant, due to the arrival of large numbers of migrants.





Lunuled aphideater

Eupeodes luniger

A common species through much of the year and across a range of habitats. Females above and right, males below.





Tiger marsh fly

Helophilus pendulus

A very common species of wet habitats. Females above and below, male on the right.





Dark-saddled hoary *Leucozona laternaria*

This species is relatively scarce in Fife. Like this female, adults are usually seen on flowers of common hogweed. Larvae also occur mostly on this plant, where they feed on aphids.





Matt-backed halfband *Melangyna compositarum*

A relatively scarce species, usually found along woodland edges. The adults usually feed on white umbellifers, and the female below right appears to be laying eggs on a dead hog-weed flower. Males above and below left.





Long-winged duskyface

Melanostoma scalare

Common and often abundant from April to September. Females above and below left, males right and below right.





Spotted thintail *Meliscaeva auricollis*

A widespread species, but it is seldom numerous. Males above and below right, female below left.





Narcissus bulb fly *Merodon equestris*

A variable species that is relatively common in gardens and parks. The species was probably imported to the UK with flower bulbs.





Common batman fly

Myathropa florea

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





Grey-spotted sedgesitter

Platycheirus albimanus

A very common small species. Females above and right, males below.





Dull-backed sedge-sitter *Platycheirus manicatus*

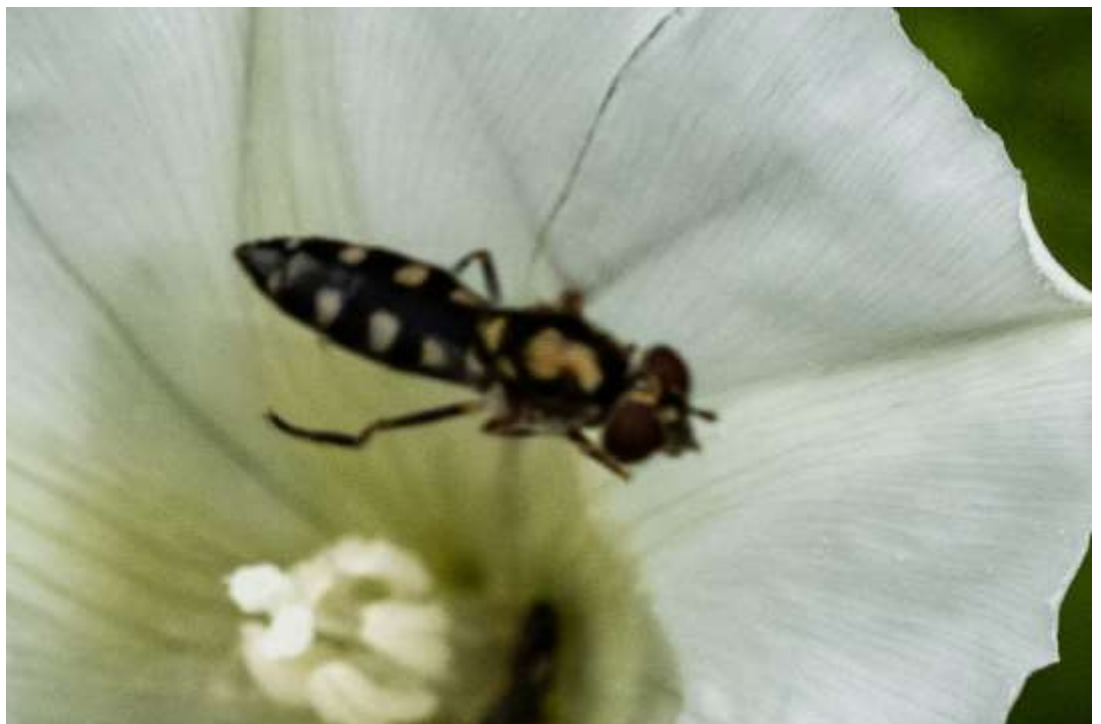
Widespread in open habitats, often seen on flowers. Its protruding mouth is distinctive. Male above and below right, female below left.





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*

These females belong to the 'scutatus group' of species, and is probably *Platycheirus scutatus*, which is the most common member of the group in Scotland.





Spotted garlic eater *Portevinia maculata*

A locally-distributed species, associated with large patches of ramsons. These males were recorded at Cambo in late May 2026.





Stripe-backed glimmer *Riponnensia splendens*

A scarce species in Scotland. This male was in the walled garden in late July 2026.





White-bowed smoothwing *Scaeva pyrastris*

A large species that is quite common, with numbers being enhanced by migrants from Europe. Female above, male below.





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. The female above was at Cambo in mid-August 2025, and the female below in mid-September 2026.





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 *Syrirta pipiens*

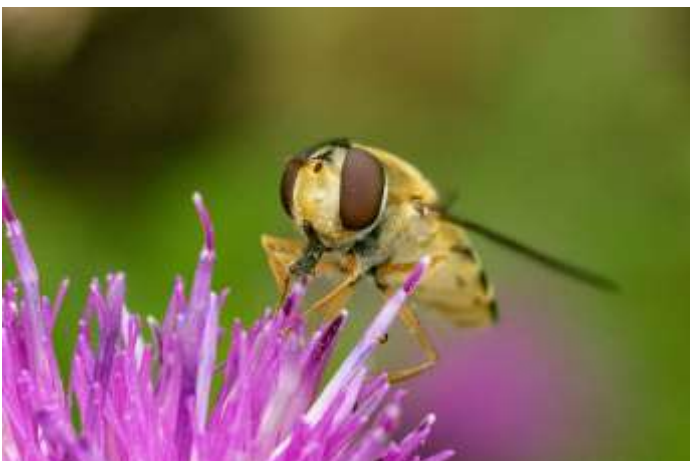
A common summer species in a range of habitats. Migrants often arrive from across the North Sea. Female above, male below.





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.





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.





Black-thighed flower fly *Syrphus vitripennis*

A difficult species to identify from photos. These females have pale yellow front tarsi and the hind femur is yellow-tipped with no black hairs, sufficient to confirm their identity.





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.





Golden-tailed leafwalker *Xylota sylvarum*

A scarce woodland species in Fife. This female was by the burn just north of the walled garden.

