



Hoverflies of Bankhead Moss

S.T. Buckland

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These are the hoverfly species of Bankhead Moss that I have so far identified and photographed. I would like to thank the remarkable support given by Roger Morris and colleagues through the UK Hoverflies Facebook page. Any remaining errors of identification are mine alone!

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Contents

<i>Baccha elongata</i>	4	<i>Eupeodes corollae</i>	26	<i>Parasyrphus punctulatus</i>	44
<i>Cheilosia albitarsis/ranunculi</i>	5	<i>Eupeodes latifasciatus</i>	27	<i>Platycheirus albimanus</i>	45
<i>Cheilosia bergenstammi</i>	6	<i>Eupeodes luniger</i>	28	<i>Platycheirus clypeatus</i>	46
<i>Cheilosia grossa</i>	7	<i>Eurimyia lineata</i>	29	<i>Platycheirus manicatus</i>	47
<i>Cheilosia illustrata</i>	8	<i>Helophilus hybridus</i>	30	<i>Platycheirus peltatus</i>	48
<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>	9	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	31	<i>Pyrophaena granditarsa</i>	49
<i>Cheilosia proxima</i>	10	<i>Lejogaster metallina</i>	32	<i>Pyrophaena rosarum</i>	50
<i>Cheilosia scutellata</i>	11	<i>Leucozona glaucia</i>	33	<i>Rhingia campestris</i>	51
<i>Cheilosia variabilis</i>	12	<i>Leucozona laternaria</i>	34	<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>	52
<i>Chrysogaster solstitialis</i>	13	<i>Leucozona lucorum</i>	35	<i>Sericomyia silentis</i>	53
<i>Chrysotoxum arcuatum</i>	14	<i>Melangyna compositarum</i>	36	<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>	54
<i>Dasysyrphus albostriatus</i>	15	<i>Melanogaster hirtella</i>	37	<i>Sphaerophoria sp.</i>	55
<i>Dasysyrphus pinastri</i>	16	<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>	38	<i>Syrpitta pipiens</i>	56
<i>Dasysyrphus venustus</i>	17	<i>Melanostoma scalare</i>	39	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	57
<i>Epistrophe grossulariae</i>	18	<i>Meliscaeva cinctella</i>	40	<i>Syrphus torvus</i>	58
<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	19	<i>Myathropa florea</i>	41	<i>Syrphus vitripennis</i>	59
<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>	20	<i>Neoascia meticulosa</i>	42	<i>Xylota segnis</i>	60
<i>Eristalis horticola</i>	21	<i>Neoascia tenur</i>	43		
<i>Eristalis intricaria</i>	22				
<i>Eristalis nemorum</i>	23				
<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>	24				
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	25				



Common dainty *Baccha elongata*

A widespread species of woodlands, which is never numerous. This female was at Bank-head Moss in early June 2019.



Buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia albitarsis* /

bulbous buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia ranunculi*

Widespread. Identified as one of these two species by the paler segments above the black front feet. Male above and below right, female below left.





Ragwort blacklet *Cheilosia bergenstammi*

Widespread. Female above, male below.





Greater spring blacklet *Cheilosia grossa*

A locally-distributed spring species. They readily land on a hand or head, making them easy to photograph! These were on the Moss in late March 2025 and 2026.





Bumblebee blacklet *Cheilosia illustrata*

Widespread, often seen on hogweed flowers, as here. These are both males.





Parsley blacklet *Cheilosia pagana*

A fairly common species. The females (above and below left) are readily identifiable from other *Cheilosia* by their large antennae.





Dull-bellied blacklet *Cheilosia proxima*

A common species that cannot usually be identified with certainty from images, so the identity is not certain for this male.





Bolete blacklet *Cheilosia scutellata*

Uncommon in Scotland. This female was at Bankhead Moss in early September 2019.



Figwort blacklet *Cheilosia variabilis*

A species of damp woodland. These males were at Bankhead Moss in May 2024.





Dark-winged wrinklehead *Chrysogaster solstitialis*

A widespread species in summer, although seldom numerous. These are both females.





Little meadow fly *Chrysotoxum arcuatum*

Sparsely distributed in Fife. These were at Bankhead Moss. Female above, male below. The male has green eyes, which is not normal for this species.





Stripe-backed brusheye *Dasysyrphus albostriatus*

A relatively scarce woodland species. This female was at Bankhead Moss in mid-August 2025.





Black-spotted brusheye *Dasysyrphus pinastri*

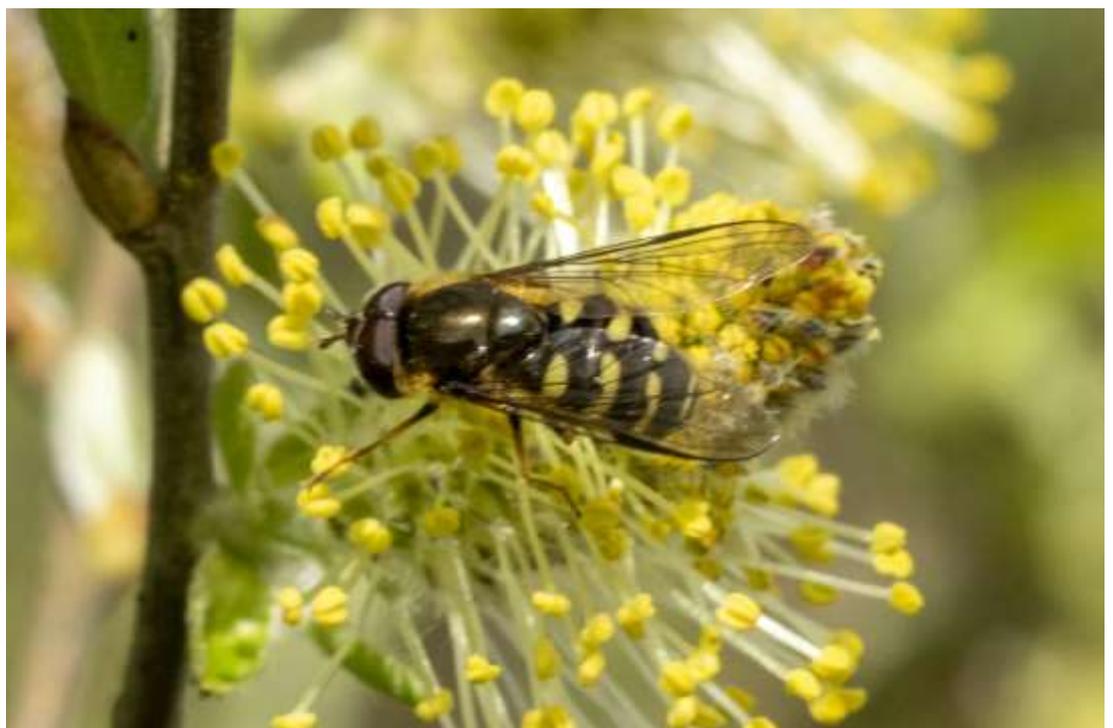
A scarce species of mixed and coniferous woodland. These females were at Bankhead Moss in late May 2024 (above) and late May 2025.





Broad-barred brusheye *Dasysyrphus venustus*

A species of lowland woodland. This male was at Bankhead Moss in early May 2024.





Black-horned smoothtail *Epistrophe grossulariae*

A common summer species.





Marmalade hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*

Very common. One of the first hoverflies to appear in spring, and a common migrant in summer.





Eurasian drone fly *Eristalis arbustorum*

A widely-distributed drone fly. Male above, females below.





Stripe-winged drone fly *Eristalis horticola*

Another widely-distributed drone fly. These are a male (above) and a female, recorded in late July 2019.





Furry drone fly

Eristalis intricaria

Less widespread than the other species of drone fly shown here, but it can be abundant where it occurs. A male below right, while the others are females.





Stripe-faced drone fly *Eristalis nemorum*

A common drone fly. This female was at Bankhead Moss in late July 2019.





Tapered drone fly *Eristalis pertinax*

A large and widespread drone fly. Female above, male below. The images show clearly the yellow feet that help to identify this species.





Common drone fly *Eristalis tenax*

A large and common drone fly. Male above, female below.





Migrant aphideater *Eupeodes corollae*

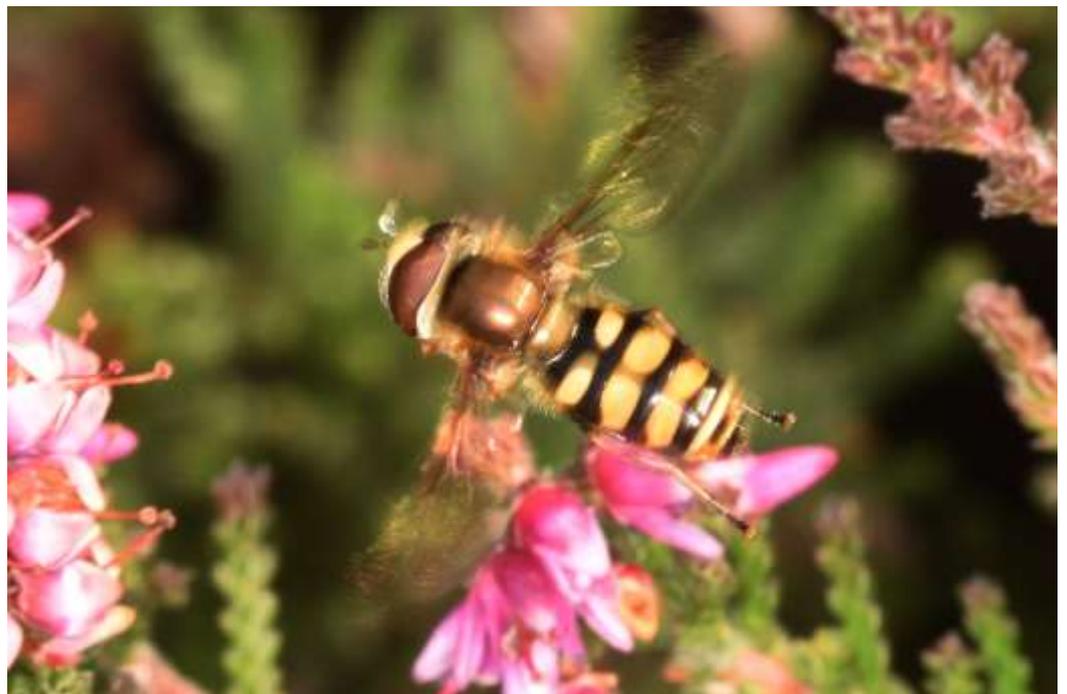
A common small hoverfly that often migrates in large numbers. Male above, female below.





Broad-banded aphideater *Eupeodes latifasciatus*

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





Lunuled aphideater *Eupeodes luniger*

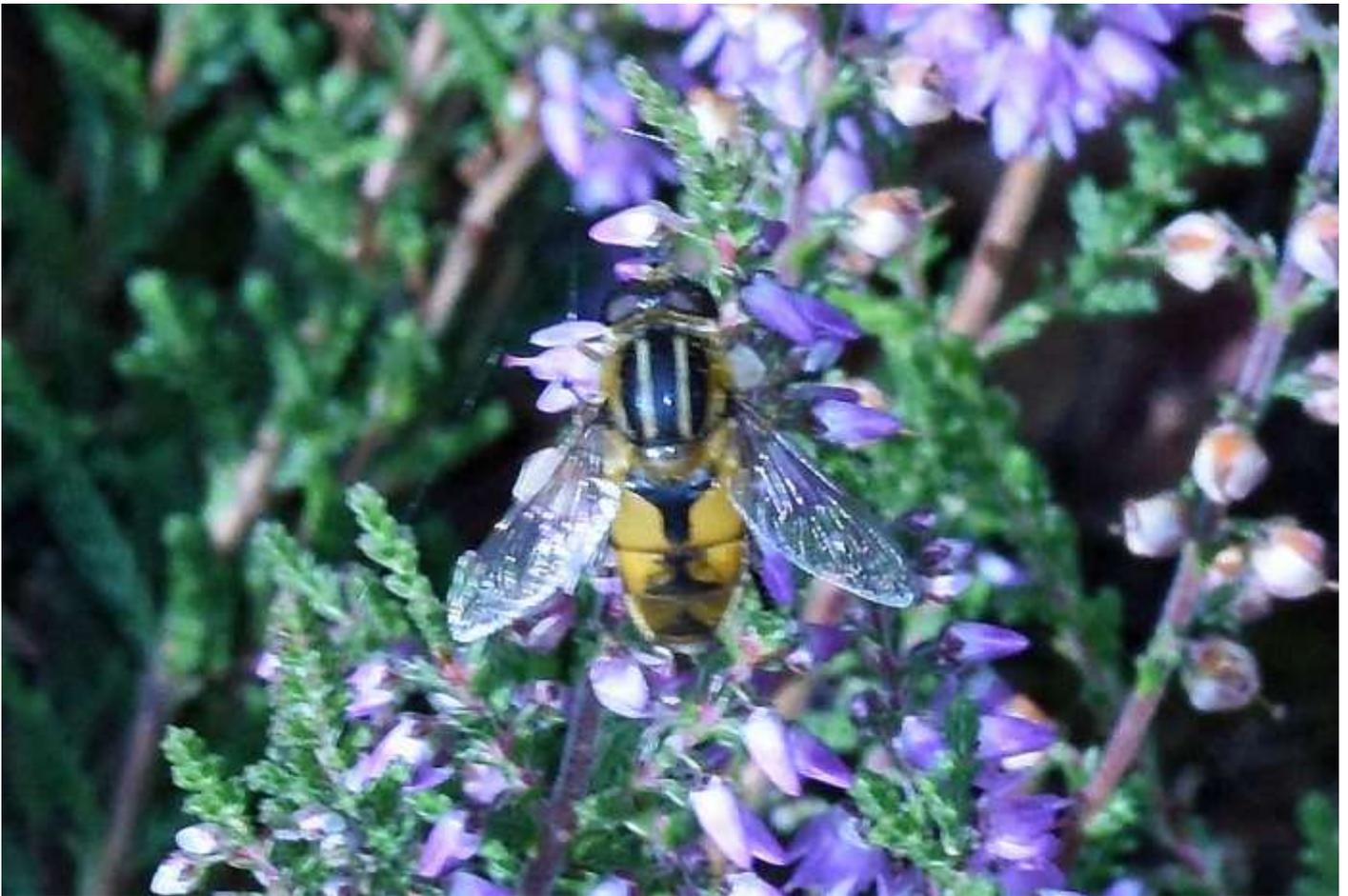
A common species, though seldom numerous. It occurs in a range of habitats.



Snouted duck fly *Eurimyia lineata*

A species of wetlands. This male was by the boardwalk at Bankhead Moss in early June 2019.





Woolly-tailed marsh fly *Helophilus hybridus*

Appreciably less common than the next species. This male (above) and female were at Bankhead Moss in early September 2019.





Tiger marsh fly *Helophilus pendulus*

A widespread species of wet habitats. Female above, male below.





Green shimmer *Lejogaster metallina*

A scarce species of marshes, bogs and wet grassland. This female was at Bankhead Moss in mid-May 2024.





Pale-saddled hoary *Leucozona glaucia*

A species that is locally distributed in Fife, but it can be plentiful in the right habitat. These females were at Bankhead Moss in July 2024.





Dark-saddled hoary *Leucozona laternaria*

An attractive but uncommon hoverfly. The females below were at Bankhead Moss in July and August 2024, while the male above was there in early July 2025.





Blotch-winged whitebelt *Leucozona lucorum*

An attractive hoverfly. The female above was at Bankhead Moss in late July 2019, and the male in late May 2024.





Matt-backed halfband *Melangyna compositarum*

A woodland species that is most common in mid-summer. These females were at Bank-head Moss in late July 2019 (below) and early July 2024 (above).





Common wrinklehead

Melanogaster hirtella

Small very black hoverflies. Although a locally-distributed species, they are sometimes quite numerous at Bankhead Moss. Male and female above, male below left and females right and below right.





Variable duskyface *Melanostoma mellinum*

Very similar to, but appreciably less common than, *Melanostoma scalare*. The above male was at Bankhead Moss in mid-May 2024, while the female below came to a moth trap in early May 2024.





Long-winged duskyface *Melanostoma scalare*

A very common small hoverfly. Female above, male below.





Banded thintail *Meliscaeva cinctella*

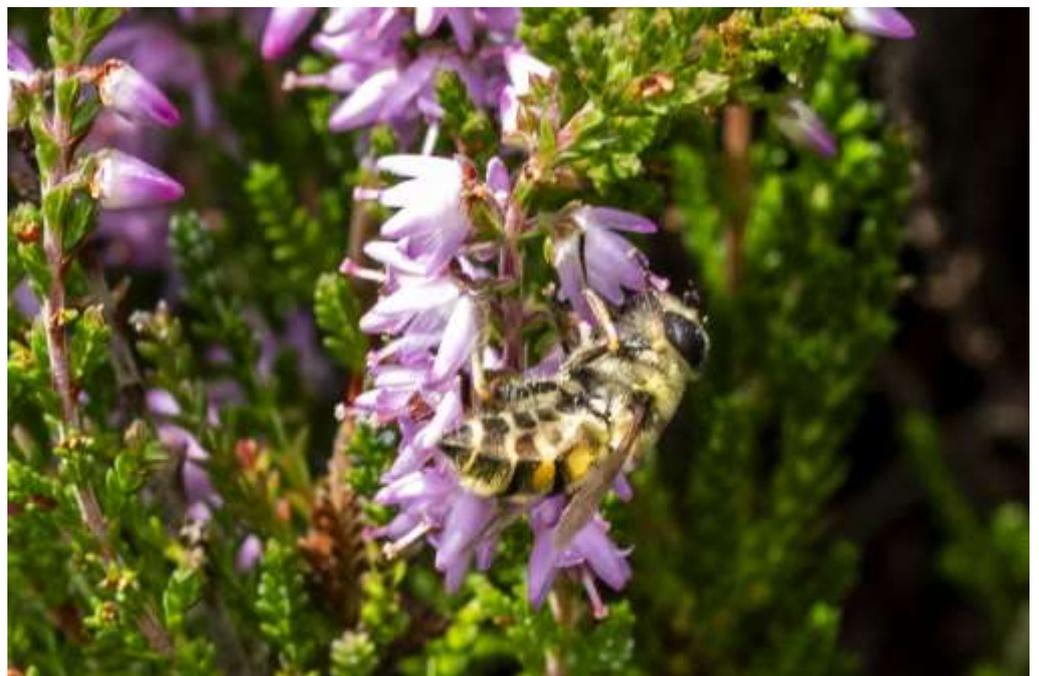
Rather local in distribution, but can be common where it occurs. This female was at Bank-head Moss in mid-September 2018.





Common batman fly *Myathropa florea*

A relatively common and distinctive species. Its common name arises from the distinctive marks on its thorax. Male above, female below.





Yellow-kneed fen fly *Neoascia meticulosa*

One of several similar, tiny species. The female above was at Bankhead Moss in early June 2019, while the female below was there in early May 2024.





Black-kneed fen fly

Neoascia tenur

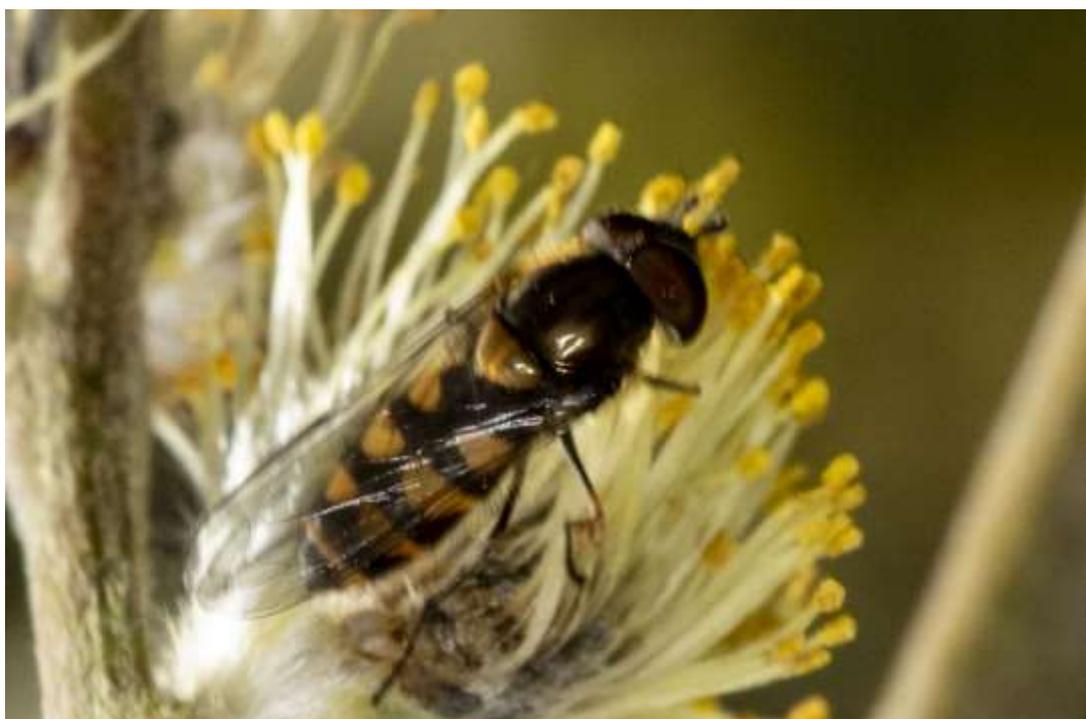
Another tiny hoverfly. Large numbers occur at Bankhead Moss in May.





Common spotted bristleside *Parasyrphus punctulatus*

A spring species that frequently feeds on willow catkins. This male was at Bankhead Moss in late April 2024.





Grey-spotted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus albimanus*

A small, very common species. The above female is swollen with eggs. Another female below left, and a male below right.





Common sedgesitter *Platycheirus clypeatus*

A common species of wetlands. Female above and below right, male below left.





Dull-backed sedgesitter *Platycheirus manicatus*

A common species in grassy areas. These are females.





White-spotted sedgesitter *Platycheirus peltatus*

Now considered a group of species. These are females.





Hornhand sedge-sitter *Pyrophaena granditarsa*

This attractive hoverfly is locally distributed. The male above was at Bankhead Moss in early August 2019, the male below left was there in mid-August 2024, and the female below right was there in mid-September 2018.





Fourspot sedge-sitter *Pyrophaena rosarum*

A locally-distributed species of marshes and wet woodland with lush vegetation. The male above was at Bankhead Moss in early July 2024, and the male below left and female below right were there in July 2025.





Common snout fly *Rhingia campestris*

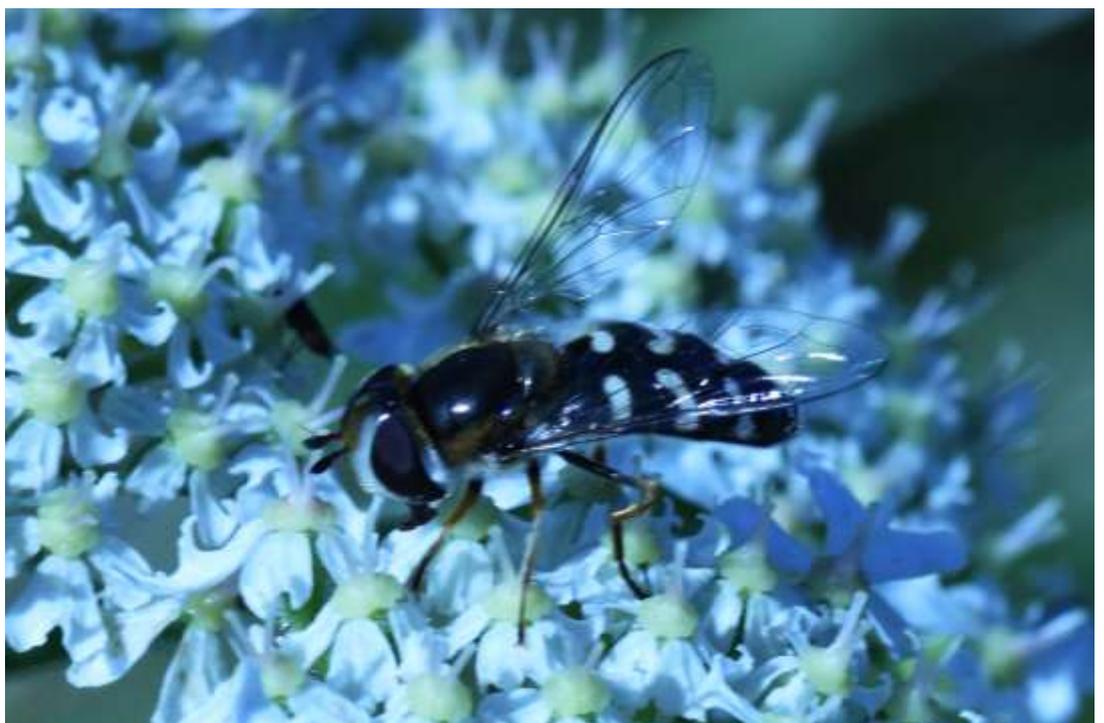
A stubby hoverfly with a distinct snout.





White-bowed smoothwing *Scaeva pyrastris*

A large hoverfly that occurs widely, usually in small numbers. It is a common migrant.





Yellow-barred pond fly *Sericomyia silentis*

A large hoverfly, common in boggy locations. Female above, male below.





Common globetail *Sphaerophoria scripta*

This male is identified by its long body, which extends well beyond its wingtips when the wings are closed as below.





Sphaerophoria sp.

Female *Sphaerophoria* cannot be identified to species. This male is a 'short-bodied' *Sphaerophoria*, which cannot normally be identified to species from a photo.



Common compost fly *Syrirta pipiens*

A tiny but common hoverfly, which often arrives as a migrant from across the North Sea. These are two males and a female (bottom right).





Common flower fly *Syrphus ribesii*

Very common, but difficult to distinguish from other *Syrphus* species. These are females, which can be identified by the extent of yellow on the hind leg.





Hairy-eyed flower fly *Syrphus torvus*

Very common, but difficult to distinguish from other *Syrphus* species. The tiny hairs on the eye of these (female above, male below) identify them.





Black-thighed flower fly *Syrphus vitripennis*

Common, but difficult to distinguish from *Syrphus torvus*. The apparent lack of hairs on the eye of this female suggests this species.





Orange-belted leafwalker *Xylota segnis*

Widespread in small numbers in open woodland.

