

FLIES

Just a sample of the variety of flies at the farm, with a special emphasis on hoverflies, which are often overlooked but are very useful – as pollinators, and because the larvae of many species eat aphids.

Species of HOVERFLY:

Myathropa florea (female)

Seen on compost bin in April.

It can be distinguished as a female because of the gap between its eyes – on male hoverflies there is no gap. The same can be seen in other examples below.



MARMALADE HOVERFLY:

Episyrphus balteatus (male)

Found in mid May, and its larvae also found – see next pages.

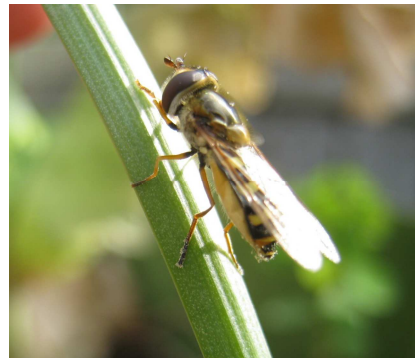
One of the most common species of hoverfly in the UK, easily identified by its alternating wide and narrow abdominal stripes.



Species of HOVERFLY:

Eupeodes species (female)

Seen around riverside flower containers in early June.

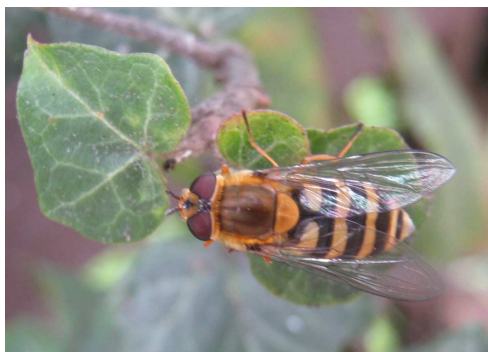


Species of HOVERFLY:

Syrphus ribesii (female)

Seen on ivy in June.

A common hoverfly; their wing vibrations can be audible. The larvae feed on aphids, and the adults eat pollen and nectar.



HOVERFLY LIFE-CYCLE

All of the following were found on the Elder trees around the farm, which were infested with aphids, which many species of hoverfly larvae feed on. These all belong to the *Syrphini* tribe of hoverflies.

All the larvae on this page were found on the Elders in the Wildlife Garden overlooking the river path.



Larva – probably *Leucozona lucorum*



Larva – species unidentified



The above larvae are probably both *Eupeodes* species, probably *E. luniger*



Larvae of the Marmalade Hoverfly, *Episyrphus balteatus*. Adult fly shown on the previous page.

Found on Elders in orchard overhanging the main entrance path:



Hoverfly eggs – species unidentified



Hoverfly larva – probably *Epistrophe eligans*

Hoverfly pupae, found on various plants around the farm:



Species unidentified. Several were found on lettuce leaves.

Species of FLESH FLY:

(Most likely to be
Sarcophaga carnaria)

On Sage sign in Herb Garden
in April.



Species of GREENBOTTLE FLIES:

Lucilia species

Seen regularly around the farm;
first photo in early June, second
in early July - the coppery colouring
of the abdomen develops with age.
The position of the eyes tells you
whether they are male or female –
the first, with a gap between the
eyes, is a female; the second, with
eyes close together, is a male.



Species of CRANE FLY:

Nephrotoma species

Seen on Lemon Verbena leaf in
Wildlife Garden in early June.

Cranefly larvae live in water, damp
earth or rotting logs, but the adults
barely eat apart from some nectar
or fluids.



**Species of OWL MIDGE /
MOTH-FLY:**

Likely to be *Pericoma fuliginosa*
or similar species

Found early June in Wildlife
Garden. Moth flies are often found
around sewage, bathrooms and
drains, where the larvae live in
sludge; adults feed in polluted
water and on flower nectar.
Adults often rest with their wings
partly or un-evenly spread.



CELERY FLY

Euleia heraclei

Seen in riverside garden plots and Dye Garden in late April.

A species of 'picture-winged' fly; the larvae are leaf-miners of celery, parsnips and other umbellifers.



ST MARK'S FLY

Bibio marci

In Wildlife Garden in early May, and pair found on trunk in late May – one on trunk and one partly under bark. The ones with large heads and eyes are males, and those with small heads and eyes are females.

They're named after St Mark's Day, 25 April, when they tend to emerge, though they only live for about a week as adults. The larvae live on rotting vegetation.



YELLOW DUNG-FLY (male)
Scathophaga stercoraria

Seen in April, May and June on plants near dung heap and riverside vegetable beds.

The larvae develop in dung, and adults prey on other flies on the dung. The male is furry and golden; the female less common and more greyish-green.

