



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!

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Baccha elongata

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





Buttercup cheilosia *Cheilosia albitarsis/ranunculi*

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





Primrose cheilosia *Cheilosia antiqua* /

Lady's mantle cheilosia *Cheilosia vicina*

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





Ragwort cheilosia *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.





Large spring cheilosia *Cheilosia grossa*

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





Illustrious cheilosia *Cheilosia illustrata*

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





Burdock cheilosia *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 cheilosia *Cheilosia pagana*

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



Dark-horned truffle-cheilosia *Cheilosia scutellata*

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



Chrysogaster solstitialis

A widespread species in summer, although seldom numerous.





Dimorphic bear-hoverfly *Criorhina 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.





Dasysyrphus pinastri

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





Dasysyrphus tricinctus

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





Dasysyrphus venustus

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





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.





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.





Plain-faced dronefly *Eristalis arbustorum*

A widely-distributed dronefly.



Stripe-faced dronefly *Eristalis nemorum*

A common dronefly.



Tapered dronefly *Eristalis pertinax*

A very common, large dronefly.





Stripe-eyed or common dronefly *Eristalis tenax*

A common dronefly.





Migrant hoverfly *Eupeodes corollae*

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





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.





Eupeodes luniger

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





Marsh tiger hoverfly *Helophilus hybridus*

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



The footballer or tiger hoverfly *Helophilus pendulus*

Widespread. Its common names are 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.





Elm-gall Heringia *Heringia heringi/senilis*

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.





Leucozona glaucia

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





Blotch-winged hoverfly *Leucozona lucorum*

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



Melangyna arctica

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





Melangyna cincta

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.



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.





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.



Melangyna sp

The female above and right was at Magus Muir in late July 2018. The female below is possibly *Melangyna umbellatarum*, and was at Magus Muir in late May 2019.





Melanostoma mellinum

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





Melanostoma scalare

A small species that often occurs in large numbers.





Dead head hoverfly *Myathropa florea*

A relatively common and distinctive species. Its common name arises from the distinctive marks on its thorax, which have also inspired the name 'batman hoverfly'.





Neoascia podagrica/obliqua

A tiny hoverfly that is easily overlooked.





Pipiza noctiluca/fenestrata

This female was at Magus Muir in late May 2018.



Parasyrphus punctulatus

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





White-footed hoverfly *Platycheirus albimanus*

A small, very common species.





Platycheirus manicatus

A fairly common species with a projecting face.





Platycheirus peltatus

Now considered a group of species.





Platychyris scutatus

Another species group.





Common snout-hoverfly *Rhingia campestris*

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





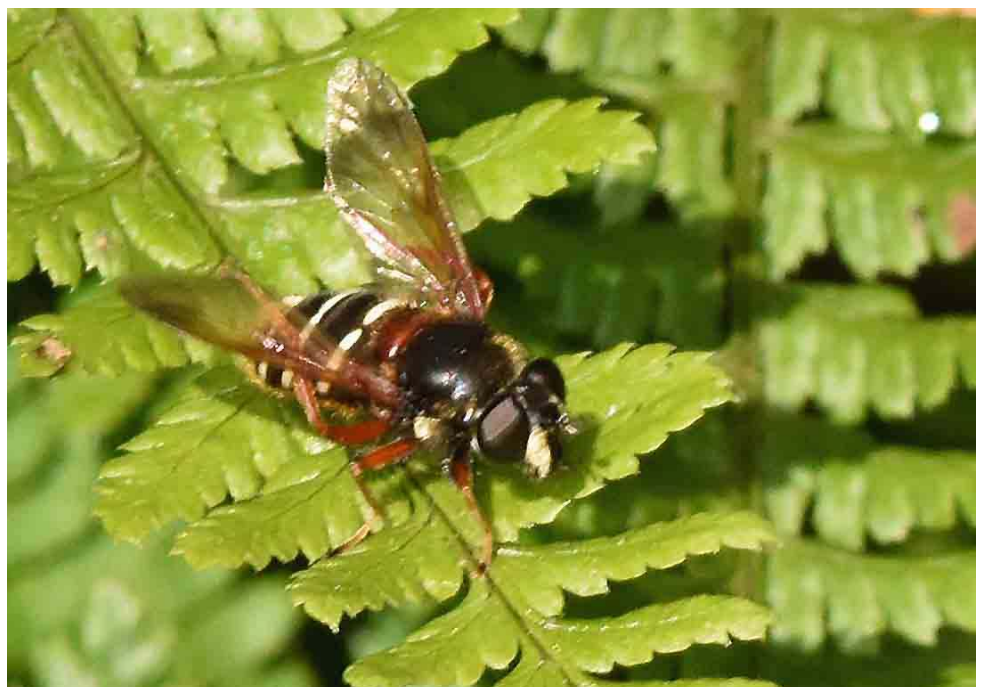
Pied or white-clubbed hoverfly *Scaeva pyrastris*

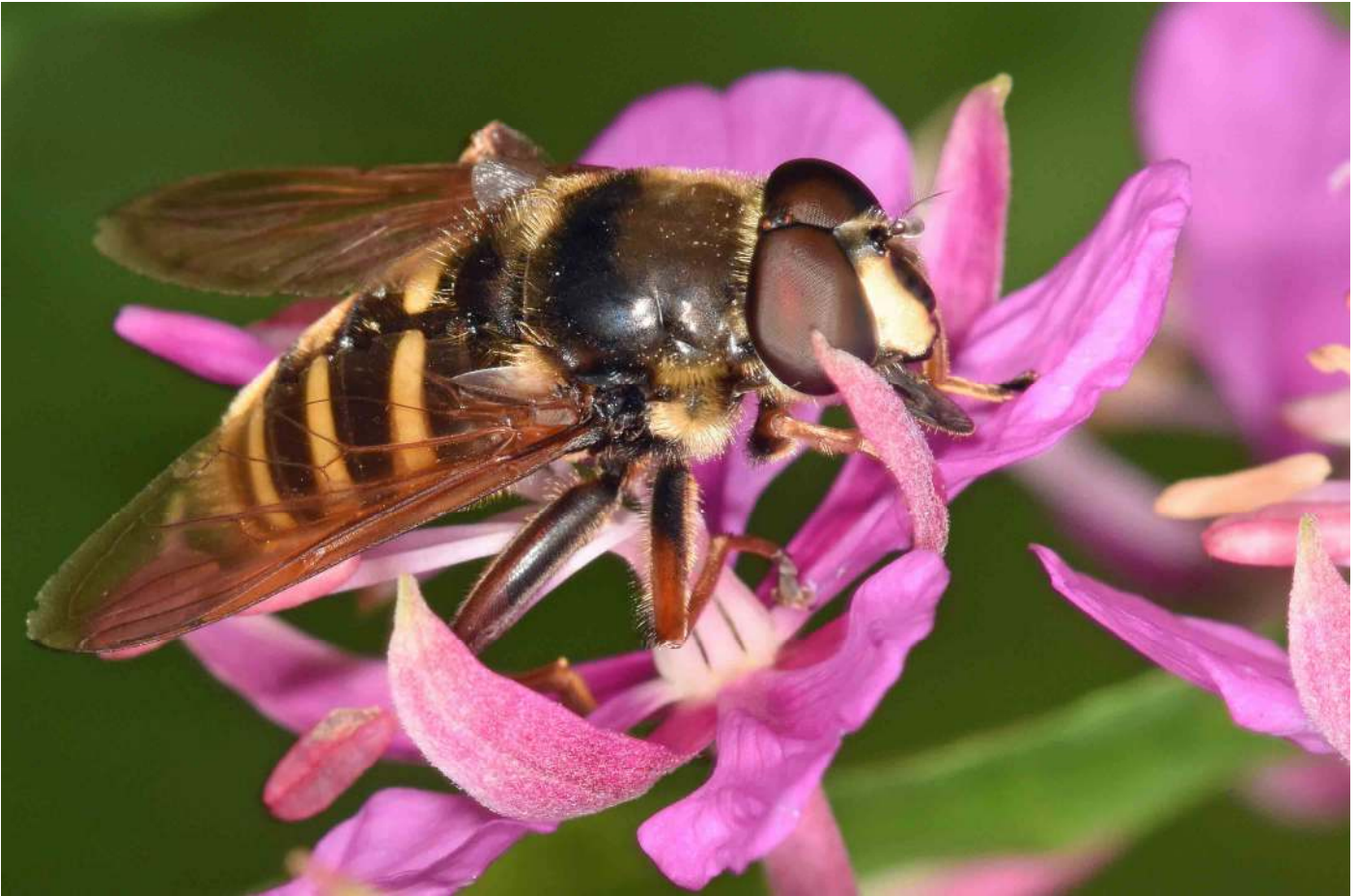
A large hoverfly that occurs widely, usually in small numbers. This female was at Magus Muir in July 2018.



Sericomyia lappona

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





Bog hoverfly *Sericomyia silentis*

A large hoverfly, common in boggy locations. This 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.





Syritta pipiens

A common but very small hoverfly.





Humming syrphus *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 syrphus *Syrphus torvus*

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



Large pied hoverfly *Volucella pellucens*

A large species that occurs in small numbers in woodlands and hedgerows.



Orange-belted hoverfly *Xylota segnis*

Widespread in small numbers in open woodland.





Golden-tailed hoverfly *Xylota sylvarum*

A species of deciduous woodland, scarce in Scotland. This female was at Magus Muir in July 2018, which becomes the third location in Fife where the species has been recorded.