

British Entomological & Natural History Society (BENHS):

Training Workshops for 2019-2020 for beginner to improvers to the more experienced.

One of BENHS key roles is to support individuals that record, study, monitor and protect the UK's biodiversity, through its educational outreach ID Workshops. Get help to improve your identification and wildlife skills. Access our UK Biodiversity reference collections of specimens and the Natural History Societies libraries to identify your natural history finds and sightings.

Develop your natural history skills and entomological interests with the help of our experienced workshop identification trainers, facilities and resources at either:

Key: Location where the workshop will be taking place:

DP = Dinton Pastures Country Park (Reading)

British Entomological & Natural History Society, Pelham-Clinton Building, Dinton Pastures Country Park, Davis Street, Reading, Berkshire RG10 0TH

NHM = Natural History Museum (London)

Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London SW7 5BD

For all weekend workshops booking your place early is recommended as **workshop places are limited** to **20 people maximum** and is essential to reserve a stereo microscope and a bench space in the Library or Collections rooms. When possible, please bring your own copies of identification keys and any specimens that you have in the groups concerned for verification or identification.

It would help trainers to plan their workshop if you were to provide some basic information when you book a place on a workshop. Please consider indicating your level of expertise with the group, how long you have been studying the group and in which region(s) and habitat(s) you do your recording/collecting, also whether you intend to bring any of your own material for verification or identification. Please ensure that suitable clothing and footwear are worn for outdoor fieldwork.

There is no prerequisite for attendees to have attended one of our previous courses and all are **free of charge** to attend for either BENHS members or Non-members of the society. So please feel free to bring along any colleagues or friends that you think would be interested. Details of the Training Workshop Days offered can be found via the BENHS website www.benhs.org.uk (All we ask is that people book in advance by emailing me at lings24@btinternet.com and letting me know there wish to attend so I can reserve a microscope and desk).

To take part on any workshop please contact:

BENHS Indoor Meetings Secretary and Training Workshop Co-ordinator:

Mr Stephen Lings, BENHS Indoor Meetings Secretary:

Email: lings24@btinternet.com or call M: 07854 793681 to book your place.

DPWkShp1 - Sat 9th Nov: Wasps, counting to three - 3 sub-marginals and a long petiole

Trainer: Mike Edwards. Come and learn to identify the genus of wasps *Mimesa*. The aim of the workshop is to increase confidence in these small wasps ranging in length from 4 to 15mm which are all distinctly with a long petiole. This workshop will provide an opportunity to get more familiar with the identification features, using microscopes and specimens for close-up examination, as well as providing an introduction to how to find and record these wasps.

DPWkShp2 - Sat 16th & Sun 17th Nov: True Flies (Diptera) identification workshop to family level

Trainers: John and Barbara Ismay. This special two day workshop is taught by two very experienced dipterists who are happy to share their passion for these insects and provide an opportunity to learn how to identify these fascinating creatures to family level. Did you know that they enable beetles to break down compost and that many are important pollinators? They also have very interesting behaviour. During this weekend you will learn to recognise the main characters needed to identify flies to family level or some even further. You will see how to collect them and will learn how to build up a collection. We will talk about their major habitats and get to know some of their amazing natural history. They provide all major ecosystem services, but are too often forgotten. You will receive a draft key and we will discuss some of the available identification keys and which families are suitable for beginners or are more challenging. Suitable for ages: from 10 years onwards and for all abilities.

NHMWkShp3 - Sat 23rd Nov: An introduction to Nocturnal Ichneumonidae

Trainers: Gavin Broad and Mike Fitton. This workshop will provide an introduction to the natural history of nocturnal ichneumonids (both braconids and ichneumonids). The aim of the workshop is to increase confidence in this parasitoid wasp families identification, and introduces the subfamilies of the large hymenopteran family, Braconidae. With over 1,300 British species in 28 subfamilies, braconids are frequently collected, especially as parasitoids of Lepidopteran larvae. We will introduce the subfamilies, with keys, and point to the most useful species-level keys.

DPWkShp4 - Sat 7th Dec: An introduction to Leafhoppers and allied groups

Trainers: Alan Stewart and Tristan Bantock. This workshop will provide an introduction to the natural history of leafhoppers, planthoppers, froghoppers and treehoppers (Auchenorrhyncha). The aim of the workshop is to increase confidence in recording this group of insects. After a short presentation on the main diagnostic characters used to identify these insects, participants will be able to work through their own material or specimens made available on the day and have their identifications verified. There will be plenty of opportunities for discussion of general issues relating to the study and recording of these insects.

For further information on these groups see <http://www.ledra.co.uk> and <http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/>

BENHS Workshops 2020

NHMWkShp5 - Sat 4th Jan: An introduction to Terrestrial Heteroptera to Family Level

Trainers: Tristan Bantock and Jim Flanagan. This workshop will provide attendees with an introduction to the natural history of these true bugs - Shield bugs and allied species. The aim of the workshop is to increase confidence in identification of members of the families commonly encountered such as shieldbugs and plantbugs and particularly those that are easy to identify in the field. Please bring your own hand lens if you have one, but microscopes will be available to use. There will be collections of specimens to examine and some identification keys to try out, please also feel free to bring your own specimens to the workshop.

NHMWkShp6 - Sat 1st Feb: Wasps, counting to three - 3 sub-marginals and a short petiole

Trainer: Mike Edwards. Come and learn to identify the genus of wasps *Cerceris*. The aim of this workshop is to increase your confidence in these wasps from the family Crabronidae which are all distinctly with a short petiole. This workshop will provide an opportunity to get more familiar with the identification features to look for, using microscopes and specimens for close-up examination, as well as providing an introduction to how to find and record these wasps.

DPWkShp7 - Sat 15th Feb: An introduction to Soldierflies and allies

Trainers: Martin Harvey and Alex Dye. Soldierflies and allies (including robberflies, bee-flies, horseflies and others) include some of our largest and most colourful insects. Some are easy to find whereas others require dedicated searching, but these flies are within reach of anyone with an interest in insects. This workshop will provide an opportunity to get more familiar with the identification features, using microscopes and specimens, as well as providing an introduction to how to find and record these flies.

DPWkShp8 - Sat 22nd Feb: Introduction to 'Rove Beetles' Staphylinidae

Trainers: Roger Booth and Peter Hodge. The workshop gives an introduction to this family of beetles for those just starting to look at Staphylinidae. The morning session concentrates on separating subfamilies then in the afternoon goes on to tackle the identification of some of the more difficult groups. Although Rove Beetles are generally considered difficult to identify, this series of workshops has enabled many coleopterists to tackle them for the first time and with new RES Handbooks published by the late Derek Lott there is a growing interest in recording these beetles in Britain and Ireland.

NHMWkShp9 - Sat 7th Mar: An introduction to Leaf Beetles (Chrysomelidae)

Trainers: Peter Hodge and Roger Booth. This workshop will provide an introduction to the natural history of the fourth biggest group of beetles found in Britain. The aim of the workshop is to increase confidence in these striking and numerous beautiful beetles' identification. We will begin with an illustrated talk on leaf beetles followed by a practical identification session of specimens. These beetles are ecologically important and valuable for habitat assessment. Please feel free to bring your own specimens to the workshop.

DPWkShp10 - Sat 21st Mar: Introduction to 'Craneflies' (Tipulidae) identification

Trainer: Pete Boardman. This workshop will provide attendees with an introduction to the natural history of craneflies or daddy long-legs. The aim of the workshop is to increase confidence in their identification, ecology and curation of specimens. Resources: The most up to date identification keys are downloadable as PDFs from 'The catalogue of the craneflies of the world' website; <http://ccw.naturalis.nl/> They are within the literature section and referenced Stubbs, A.E. & Kramer, J - 2016a - 2016k. Please download these and bring them along if you can. Please bring any specimens you have that you'd like to look at of your own though don't worry if you don't have any, I will bring a stock that is ok to poke and prod.

NHMWkShp11 - Sat 4th Apr: Introduction to Weevils (Curculionidae) identification

Trainer: Mark Gurney. This workshop will help you recognise the main groups and teach you how to identify some of the more common species. This workshop will provide an opportunity to get more familiar with one of the largest beetle groups, who have a reputation for being difficult. We will demystify these endearing insects and learn about identification features, using microscopes and specimens for close-up examination, as well as providing an introduction to how to find and record these beetles in the field.

DPWkShp12 - Sat 18th Apr: An introduction to Sawfly identification

Trainers: Andrew Halstead and John Grearson. This workshop is an introduction to the identification of adult Sawflies (Hymenoptera Symphyta). The workshop over the day will deal with identification to genus level and to the most conspicuous and easily identifiable species. Keys to families will be used on the day and you are welcome to bring along any specimens that you would like to work on or need help with.

There are two Symphyta Groups for you to get more help or information:
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sawfly/info> and
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408749309504332>

DPWkShp13 - Sat 25th Apr: 'Nature Sketching' or observational field drawing

Trainers: Stephen Lings and John Walters. This workshop will help you celebrate the natural world through the tradition of observational drawing. Capturing the essence of the seasons in a series of drawing exercises you will explore, line, colour, tone and mark making with a range of exciting materials. Come away with a visual feast of sketches recording the invertebrates of the moment, as well as creating a book of sketches. This workshop is suitable for all abilities from the aspiring artist to those with more experience and wanting to improve their field observational skills.

NHMWkShp14 - Sat 2nd May: Introduction to Ichneumonidae and general surgery

Trainers: Gavin Broad and Mike Fitton. This workshop gives you an introduction to this parasitoid wasp family within the order Hymenoptera. Unlike other parasites, parasitoids kill their hosts and are important pest controllers and one of the most diverse and species rich groups of insects. There is also the opportunity to bring along any ichneumonid specimens that you have tried to identify and would like help in confirming. The workshop covers day and nocturnal species of this parasitoid wasp family and following recent work on species complexes, and answering any ichneumonid problems, as far as we are able.

DPWkShp15 - Sat 16th May: Introduction to Yponomeutidae Micro Moth identification

Trainer: Ian Sims. Come and learn to identify this family of small ermine moths (Yponomeutidae). A variable family of 24, most start as leaf miners but several then live communally in silk webs, often in vast numbers and completely defoliating trees and hedges. Moth identification is an ideal 'next step' from butterfly identification and a great way to take your first steps into the world of entomology. This workshop will provide an opportunity to get more familiar with the identification features, using microscopes and specimens for close-up examination, as well as providing an introduction to how to find and record these moths in the field.

DPWkShp16 - Sat 6th Jun: An introduction to Spiders (Araneae) identification

Trainer: Peter Smithers. The workshop is aimed at both those who have attended previously and at any beginners who would like to discover more about this fascinating group of invertebrates. The workshop will begin with a field session at the on-site nature reserve where a range of field techniques will be explored and the spiders collected will then be identified to family or species back inside using the microscopes to identify species down to species level. Anyone wishing to bring their own spiders along to identify are welcome to do so and a range of pre-prepared specimens of common families will be available to any beginners or those wishing to revise with them.

DPWkShp17 - Sat 13th Jun: Introduction to social and cuckoo bumblebee identification

Trainer: Stephen Lings. This workshop takes a look into the life and identification of these much loved, but undervalued pollinators. Discover how to identify some of the common bumble species found across the UK. The workshop comprises fieldwork in the morning followed by an indoor workshop in the afternoon. Bumblebees are an essential part of the British spring and summer yet many species are in steep decline. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of why conserving these species is so important and what individuals can do to help ensure their diversity and abundance once again. Please bring hand lens if you have one.

We look forward to welcoming you and helping you develop your entomological and natural history skills at one of these workshops on the day.

Best Wishes

Stephen Lings
Field Naturalist/Artist

Lanternist/Indoor Meetings Secretary
British Entomological & Natural History Society (BENHS)

Habitat Conservation Officer/Conservation Committee
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