

Antennae of female *Haematopota* (Tabanidae)



Compiled by Martin C. Harvey at February 2018.

Acknowledgments

All but one of the photos below are of specimens from the Natural History Museum collections, taken by Martin Harvey using the photo-stacking system made available by the NHM's Angela Marmont Centre for UK biodiversity – thanks to Chris Raper for his assistance with the photography. The photo of *H. subcylindrica* has been kindly provided by Steven Falk. Line drawings of the first antennal segments are from Stubbs and Drake 2014, *British soldierflies and their allies*. BENHS.

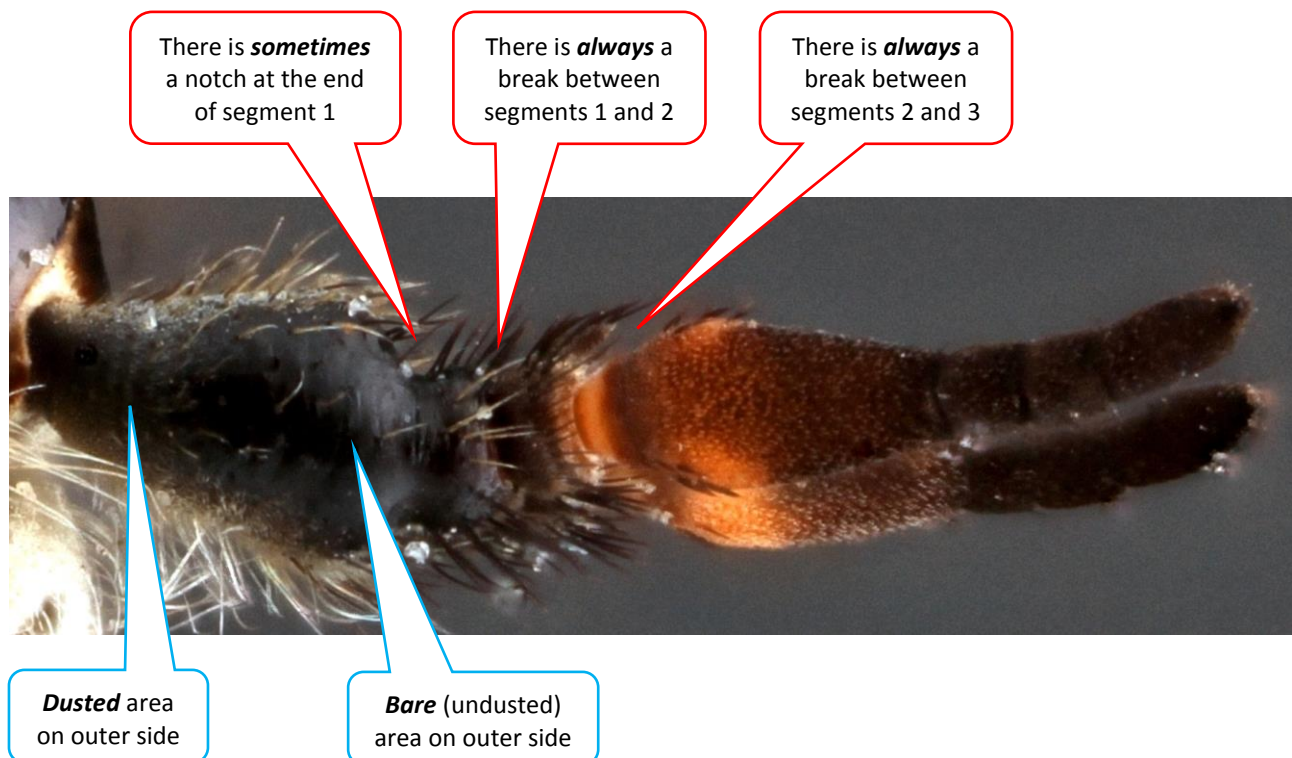
Five species of *Haematopota* horseflies are known from the UK:

- *H. bigoti*
- *H. grandis*
- *H. subcylindrica*
- *H. crassicornis*
- *H. pluvialis*

Only two of these are widespread and common inland: *H. pluvialis* and *H. crassicornis*. The others are usually found in coastal habitats (although *H. grandis* has been recently recorded in Surrey).

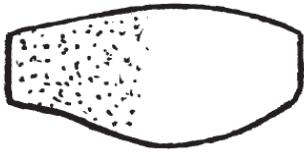
A sixth species, *H. italica*, is known from the near continent and might be found in Britain (it is another species of coastal levels and saltmarsh, and is very similar in appearance to *H. grandis*). In addition, 'species A' and 'species B' have been used to denote two individual specimens, both of females, that appear to be different to any of the known European species – further material is required to elucidate these puzzles.

The female antennae show some good characters for identification. Take care when examining the antennae for a 'notch' in the first segment – people often confuse this notch with the gap between the first and second segments. Also look out for how much greyish 'dusting' there is on the first segment.



First antennal segment without notch

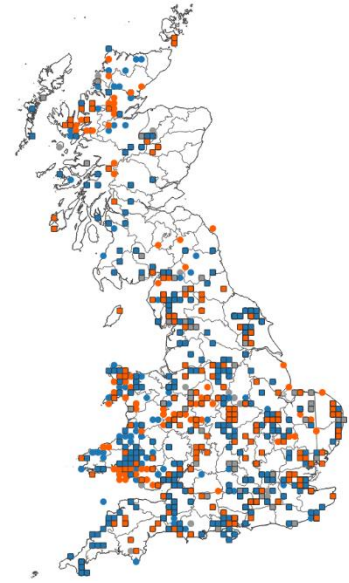
***H. crassicornis* (Black-horned Cleg)**



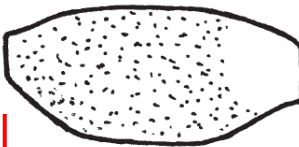
Uplands, lowland grazing levels, open habitats; widespread, more frequent in north
Mid May–early Sep, peak late Jun & Jul



3rd segment usually dark or slightly orange at base

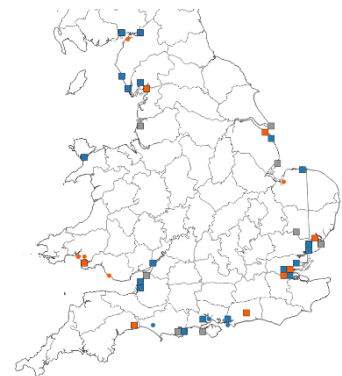


***H. bigoti* (Big-spotted Cleg)**

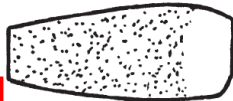


Can be slightly notched / constricted

Coastal marshes; more frequent in south
Early Jul– Aug, peak Jul
• GB threat: Least Concern
• GB rarity: Nationally Scarce



***H. subcylindrica* (Levels Cleg)**



Grazing levels on east and south coasts (first recorded 1987)
Late Jun–late Jul
• GB rarity: Nationally Rare

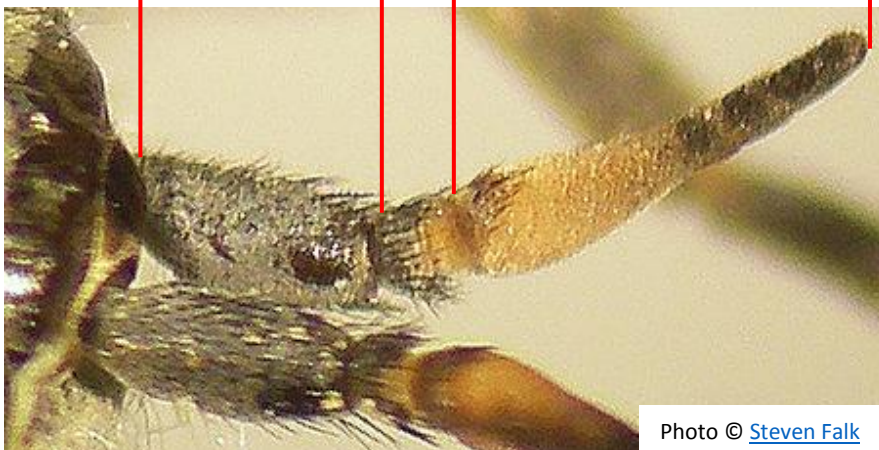
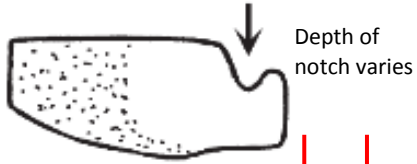


Photo © [Steven Falk](#)

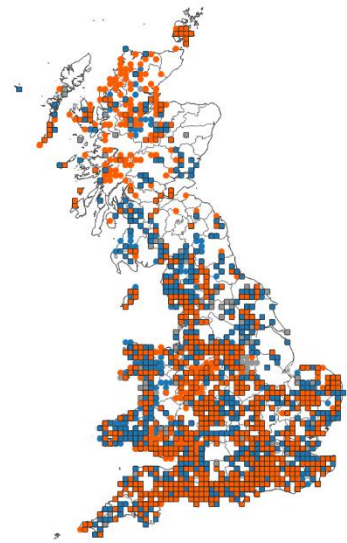


First antennal segment with notch

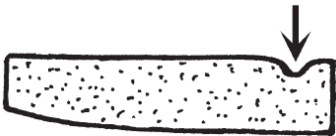
H. pluvialis (Notch-horned Cleg)



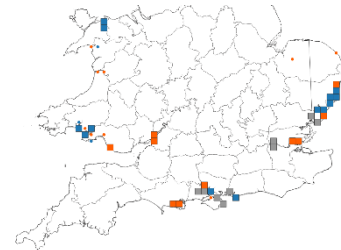
Widespread in many habitats
May–Oct



H. grandis (Long-horned Cleg)



Saltmarsh, adjacent carr; mainly coastal,
mostly south-east plus Wales, Surrey
Late Jun–Aug
• GB rarity: Nationally Scarce



H. italica (Italian Cleg) has not yet been found in Britain but is very similar to *H. grandis* and could occur in similar habitats. It has a shallower notch and the abdomen has fewer spots – a specimen is needed to confirm any suspected records.