



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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31/March/2025

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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 at the end of March 2025.





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.





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.





Black-spotted brusheye *Dasysyrphus pinastri*

A scarce species of mixed and coniferous woodland. This female was at Bankhead Moss in late May 2024.





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, female 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.





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. These females were at Bankhead Moss in July and August 2024.





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 in early June 2019. Male and female above, male below left and female 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 sedgesitter *Platycheirus albimanus*

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





Common sedge-sitter *Platycheirus clypeatus*

A common species of wetlands.





White-spotted sedgesitter *Platycheirus peltatus*

Now considered a group of species. These are females.





Hornhand sedgesitter *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 sedgesitter *Pyrophaena rosarum*

A locally-distributed species of marshes and wet woodland with lush vegetation. This male above was at Bankhead Moss in early July 2024.



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.

