

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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Common dainty Baccha elongata

A widespread species of woodlands, which is never numerous. This female was at Bankhead Moss in early June 2019.



Buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia albitarsis /* bulbous buttercup blacklet *Cheilosa 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

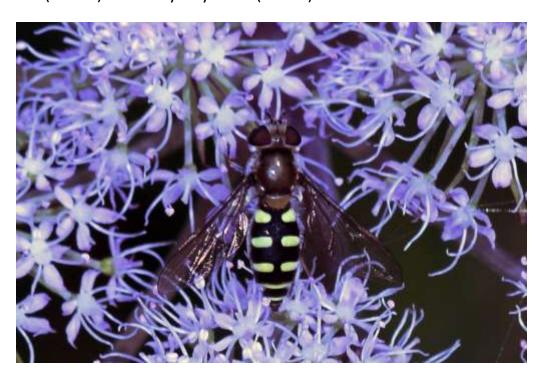
An attractive hoverfly. The female above was at Bankhead Moss in late July 2019, and the male in late May 2024.





Matt-backed halfband Melangyna compositarum

A woodland species that is most common in mid-summer. These females were at Bankhead 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 Bankhead Moss in mid-September 2018.







Common batman fly Myathropa florea

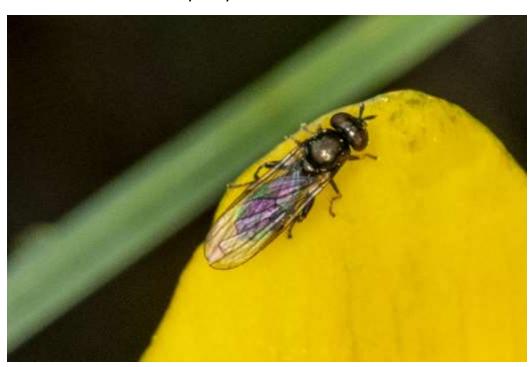
A relatively common and distinctive species. Its common name arises from the distinctive marks on its thorax. Male above, female below.





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.



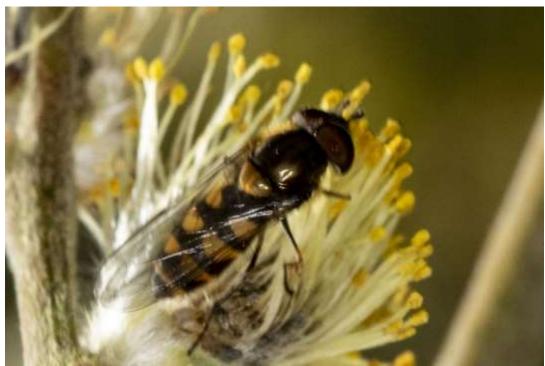






Common spotted bristleside *Parasyrphus punctulatus*

A spring species that frequently feeds on sallow 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 sedgesitter *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 pyrastri*

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 Syritta 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.

