



Hoverflies of Carphin

S.T. Buckland

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This shows those species of hoverfly on Carphin Farm that I have been able to identify and photograph.

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Buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia albitarsis* /

Bulbous buttercup blacklet *Cheilosia ranunculi*

These two species cannot be separated reliably from photos. *Cheilosia albitarsis* is common, and this female is likely to belong to that species.



Ragwort blacklet *Cheilosia bergenstammi*

Common in late spring and again in late summer.



Greater spring blacklet

Cheilosia grossa

An early spring species that is patchily-distributed in Fife. Female on the right; the others are males.





Bumblebee blacklet *Cheilosia illustrata*

Common in summer, usually on hogweed flowers.





Parsley blacklet *Cheilosia pagana*

Common from spring until autumn. Often seen in spring on yellow flowers such as celandine and dandelion. Male above, female below.





Dark-winged wrinklehead *Chrysogaster solstitialis*

A small, red-eyed hoverfly. Occurs widely, but seldom numerous. These are males.





Little meadow fly *Chrysotoxum arcuatum*

A species that can occur in quite large numbers in suitable habitat such as around Black Craig, but which is absent from most of Fife. These are males.





Spring smoothtail *Epistrophe eligans*

A spring species that is not common in Fife.



Black-horned smoothtail *Epistrophe grossulariae*

A widespread species that is seldom numerous. Female above, male below.





Marmalade hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*

This species occurs through most of the year, and is often abundant in late spring and summer, enhanced by large migrations from southern Europe. This is a familiar hoverfly with gardeners.





Eurasian drone fly *Eristalis arbustorum*

A common species of open habitats, occurring mostly in summer.



Stripe-winged drone fly *Eristalis horticola*

A common species, mostly in or near wet habitats.





Stripe-faced drone fly *Eristalis nemorum*

A widespread species. Males will hover above a female, as above, sometimes with four or five males stacked vertically.





Tapered drone fly *Eristalis pertinax*

A common hoverfly across a variety of habitats from March at November. Males above and below right, female below left.





Common drone fly *Eristalis tenax*

A common species especially in late summer and autumn. Female above, male below.





Migrant aphideater *Eupeodes corollae*

A common species that can be very numerous in summer, with populations enhanced by large numbers of migrants.



Tiger marsh fly *Helophilus pendulus*

A very common species of wet habitats. These are males.





Pale-saddled hoary *Leucozona glaucia*

A fairly widespread summer species that is declining rapidly.



Blotch-winged whitebelt *Leucozona lucorum*

A widespread species of late spring and summer, but never numerous.





Common wrinklehead *Melanogaster hirtella*

A species that can be overlooked amongst large numbers of *Cheilosia*. The above female is definitely of this species. The one below is probably of the same species, but could be *Melanogaster aerea*.





Variable duskyface *Melanostoma mellinum*

Widespread in open grassy habitats, but not as numerous as *Melanostoma scalare*. This is a male.





Long-winged duskyface *Melanostoma scalare*

Common and often abundant from April to September. Females above and below right, male below left.





Banded thintail *Meliscaeva cinctella*

A widespread species, but not often encountered in or around the Howe of Fife. These are females.





Common batman fly *Myathropa florea*

A common species, especially in or near broad-leaved woodland.



Black-kneed fen fly *Neoascia tenur*

A widespread species that can be abundant in wet habitats.



Grey-spotted sedge-sitter *Platycheirus albimanus*

A common and often abundant small hoverfly, occurring from March to November. Male above, females below.





Dull-backed sedge-sitter *Platycheirus manicatus*

Widespread in open habitats, often seen on flowers. Its protruding mouth is distinctive. These are females.





Common snout fly *Rhingia campestris*

A common species, mostly in late spring and again in late summer.





Stripe-backed glimmer *Riponnensia splendens*

An attractive but locally-distributed species. This male was at Carphin in late June 2021.





Common compost fly *Syrirta pipiens*

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





Common flower fly *Syrphus ribesii*

There are three common species of this genus that are difficult or impossible to separate from photos. Female common flower flies can be identified from the all-yellow femur of the hind leg, as can be seen in the above photo.



Hairy-eyed flower fly *Syrphus ribesii*

As its common name suggests, this species can be identified if tiny hairs are visible on the eyes.



Pied plumehorn *Volucella pellucens*

A large hoverfly that is common in summer. Its larvae feed on detritus in wasp nests.





Orange-belted leafwalker *Xylota segnis*

A common species usually seen perched or moving fast on leaves. It occurs mostly in or near woodland.

