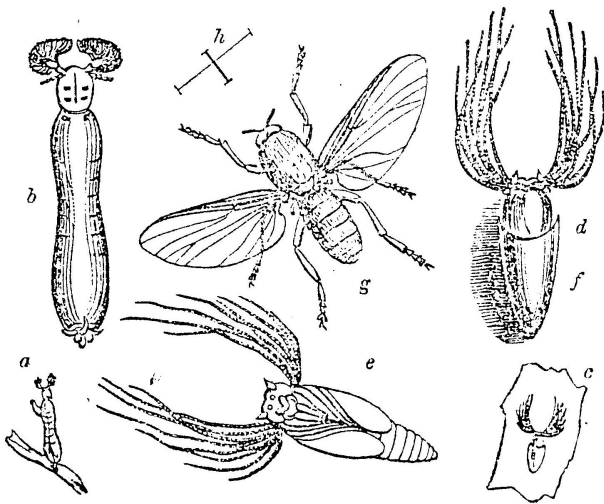

The British Simuliid Group Bulletin

Number 41

January 2014



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Cover Image:

Drawings of Simulium stages by J. O. Westwood (1848) included with an article on the watercress fly. See p 6 for details.

From the Editor

This time we have the first notice about the 6th International Simuliidae Symposium to be held in Torino, Italy on 16 to 19 September 2014. Please note these dates and begin making plans to attend and participate.

There is just time to arrange to attend The North American Blackfly Association Meeting at the University of Georgia in February 22-23, 2014.

The main feature is an appreciation of the late Zinaida Usova who did so much for student simuliidologists.

On less serious note, updates to the World List of Vernacular names are presented, together with an insight into the 'mechanic's breakfast' of the 1800s.

John Davies

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

North American Black Fly Association (NABFA) 12th Annual Meeting

Chair: John Walz; Vice Chair: Elmer Gray

Last Minute Reminder

The twelfth annual NABFA meeting is scheduled for Feb 22-23, 2014. The Georgia Center for Continuing Education on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia will be the host facility.
<http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/uga-hotel>

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.
Thanks!

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6th International Simuliidae Symposium Torino, Italy. 16-19 September 2014

Let us remind you of the approaching "6th International Simuliidae Symposium" that will be held in Torino, Italy, on 16th - 19th September 2014 and will embrace all areas of black fly research. The registration fee is 150 € for tenured participants and 110 € for students. The venue of the meeting will be the Regional Museum of Natural Sciences and the city is directly served by the airport of Torino-Caselle or can be reached with a two hour bus journey from Milano-Malpensa.

The symposium organizers will soon send some accommodation suggestions and more details to the Simuliidologist Mailing List at

www.jiscmail.ac.uk/simuliidae

Draft Programme:

Tuesday, 16th September: Arrival of participants; Welcome reception and registration

Wednesday, 17th September: Opening of the Symposium; Lecture and Poster sessions

Thursday, 18th September: Lecture and Poster sessions; Other business; Conference dinner

Friday, 19th September: Excursion

Hope to see you all in September,

Bruno Maiolini & Simone Ciadamidaro

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In honour of Zinaida Usova (1924 - 2013)

Katerina Sukhomlin
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On the 4th October 2013 Zinaida Usova, doctor of biological sciences, honorary professor at Donetsk National University, and an amazing scientist of Medical and Veterinary Entomology, passed away at age 90.



Zinaida was born on August 9, 1924 in the village Sidozero, Leningrad region, Russia. She studied in the biological department of Karelo-Finnish State

University. In 1950 she entered the Karel branch of USSR Academy of Sciences. She interned with the doctor of biological sciences, professor Aino Lutta. In 1954 she defended her candidate dissertation on the topic of «Black flies (family Simuliidae, Diptera) of the Karelo-Finnish SSR and Murmansk region».

In 1964 she obtained a doctor of biological sciences degree with her monograph «The fauna of black flies of Karel and Murmansk region (Diptera, Simuliidae)». That same year, the monograph was translated into English. For almost 60 years, the circle of her scientific interests included medical and veterinary entomology, particularly the study of bloodsucking insects and ticks as parasites and carriers of the source of illnesses in both humans and animals.

In 1965, the Biology department of the Donetsk State University was founded. Dr. Usova was the first dean, serving for 6 years, from September 1, 1965 till May 3, 1971. She was the head of the Zoology department for 17 years, from September 1, 1965 till September 23, 1982. She had been working at the university for 44 years.

In general, Dr. Usova published more than 250 scientific papers, including 6 monographs. She supervised 23 young scientists, helping them to prepare and to defend their candidate theses in biological sciences. The research of Dr. Usova and her school was a huge contribution to study of the formation of the structural organization, fauna, biology and ecology of bloodsucking blackflies as ectoparasites and carriers of the source of illnesses in both humans and animals.

This research gave a biological background to the investigation of ways to decrease the number of bloodsucking insects and how to be safe from them. The results of this research were used by the Sanitary-Epidemiological and Veterinary Services in different parts of Ukraine. Dr. Usova described 25 kinds of blackflies, 16 of them are listed as valid. As an award for her great and very important work, the blackfly *Hellichia usovae* (Golini, 1987) was named after her.

In the Zoology department, she mentored simuliidologists from many countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan), as well as many Ukrainian medical entomologists from the Sanitary-Epidemiological Service. She was well known among her entomologist colleagues from the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science in St. Petersburg, who invited her to create an encyclopedic collection about the family Simuliidae. Zinaida Usova scientifically cooperated closely with colleagues from Norway (J. Raastad), Finland (K. Kuuzella), Sweden (G. Carlson), Slovakia (I. Galgosh) and Russia (A.A. Sharkov, M.P. Lobkova, N. Petrova, L. A. Chubareva).

Many publications and monographs, such as: «Blood-sucking mosquitoes and blackflies of the Northern European USSR» A. A. Sharkov, M. P. Lobkova, Z.V. Usova, 1984 and «Blackflies of North Europe» (Y. Raastad, Z. Usova, K. Kuuzella).

For many years, Zinaida Usova was the constant head of the Donetsk branches of the Ukrainian Society of parasitologists and the Ukrainian Society of entomologists.

Dr Usova was presented with the following awards for her practical work and for helping young scientists: the order of "the Badge of Honour" (1967), medals: "For Valiant Labour" (1970, 1980), "Veteran of Labour" (1978), Honorary Professor at Donetsk National University (2002), an honorary symbol "for Scientific Achievements" (2007).

The life of Zinaida Usova was active, creative and varied. We will always keep her in our hearts.

An update to the World Distribution List of the vernacular or common names given to Simuliids, with a note on the watercress fly.

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With their potential for being a biting nuisance in many countries, Simuliids, particularly in the adult stage, are in many countries known by a local vernacular name. Thus it is useful to know this name when visiting or carrying out a survey in a new area.

In the Proceedings of the International Simuliidae Symposium, Berlin 2004, I published a list of about 190 local names that I had recorded during the course of my blackfly related activities using my own observations and published records together with personal information from many of my colleagues (Davies, 2006). Since then, another 17 names have come to light, which I now list in Table 2. I suggest that anyone interested should print out the tables below and insert them into their copy of the Berlin Proceedings.

A complete and up to date indexed list is available on the World Wide Web at URL: <http://blackfly.org.uk/Vernacular/vernacular1.htm>.

Obviously this list is far from complete, and I would like to invite simuliidologists to submit any names that they know of, or come across, to me for insertion in the list. Areas where information is sparse or lacking are those countries where many languages are spoken, including all of Africa (in spite of the many names already recorded), Central Europe and Asia, and what is loosely referred to as "The Far East". There is also a surprising absence of names from the North American tribes, particularly from Canada, where blackflies are and were a fearsome pest. The Indians must have referred to them in their own languages, but only two from the Cree and Naskapi tongues

have come to light. The old accounts of early trappers and settlers might be a fruitful source.

The watercress fly

The most recent name addition stems from an article in a 1848 gardening magazine by J. O. Westwood describing the aquatic forms that might be unconsciously eaten with watercress in England. The drawings accompanying the article are reproduced on the front cover of this *Bulletin*. Westwood must have included them for purely illustrative purposes as they do not appear to represent any known species (he mentions *Tipula reptans* in the Genus *Simulium*, a common "blanket term" for simuliids at that time). The name "watercress fly" appears to pre-date any other English name including the infamous "Blandford Fly".

According to an article in "The Oldie" (Thomas A. (2008), What was ... 'the mechanic's breakfast'? The Oldie, No. 237, p. 13 London.), watercress sandwiches were a favourite meal for workmen in London in the 1800s. Pre-dating the "English breakfast" of bacon, eggs, sausage etc. Its popularity led to the establishment of watercress beds in the chalk streams south of London, and at one time up to 20 tons a week were sold at Farringdon market. One wonders how much *Simulium* and other insect larvae contributed to the diet!

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to R.W.Crosskey for discovering the watercress fly name. Others who have provided names are listed in Table 1. Many thanks to all.

Table 1. Sources of information quoted in Table 2

Reference	Name
RB	Rasa Bernotiene
RAC	R.A. Cheke
AC	Aleksandra Cupina
CD	Csaba Deák
Mc C	A.W.R. Mc Crae
VS	V. Spungis

Table 2. Vernacular names of Simuliidae arranged by geographical area and country

Region	Country	Area	Name	Language	Species	Reference
Africa	Ghana		mukotia	Twi	general mb	RAC
Africa	Ghana		evoe	Ewe	general mb	RAC
Africa	Ghana		kobi-kobi	Ga	general mb	RAC
Africa	Malawi	Thyolo	Tholo fly or Tea fly	English	S. damnosum s.l.	
Africa	Uganda	E. Busoga, Kyagwe, Bugerere	nzi mbwa	Swahili	S. damnosum s.l.	McC
Hungary			püposzányogok	Hungarian		CD
Hungary			eseszék	Hungarian		
Brit. Isles	England, Oxfordshire		Stonesfield stinger	English	S. posticatum	44
	England, Oxfordshire		Woodstock fly	English	S. posticatum	44
	Central England		Watercress fly [an]	English	Simuliids [an]	9, 51
Serbia	Novi Sad		klintonka #s, -e#p [aj]	Serbian	S. erythrocephalum	40 AC
Serbia	Novi Sad		natovka #s, -e#p [aj]	Serbian	S. erythrocephalum	40 AC
Serbia	Golubatz		Golubatz Fly #s	English	S. colimbascense	9
Norway	Southern	Drangedal	Atlasmücke -n#p [al]	German	Tipula Sericea ¹ (Simulium sp.)	45
Latvia			knisliis #s, -h, #p	Latvian	Simuliids	RB, VS
Lithuania			mashalas #s, -ai #p	Lithuanian	Sumuliids	RB
Lithuania	South		muscle #s, -es #p	Lithuanian	S. maculatum	RB

Table 3. Reference to published works quoted in Table 2.

- 9 CROSSKEY, R. W. (1990): The Natural History of Blackflies. J. Wiley pp 711; Chichester. p. 1
- 40 CUPINA, A. I. et al. (2004): British. Simuliid. Group Bulletin 23 ; London. and personal communication.
- 44 MCCRAE, A. W.R. & HILL, N. (1944): British Simuliid Group Bulletin. 3: 24; Liverpool
- 45 FABRICIUS, O. (1784): Schriften der Berlinischen Gesellschaft naturforschender Freund 5: 254-259; Berlin.
- 46 HARGREAVES, H. (1925): Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended 31 December 1924. Govt. Printer Entebbe, Uganda, p 25.
- 51 WESTWOOD J.O. (1848) The Watercress Fly. The Gardener's Chronicle (13), an = Contributed by R.W.Crosskey. Species likely to inhabit chalk springs in S, England are: S. costatum, S. trifasciatum (S. ornatum s.l.), S. augustipes, or some members of Eusimulium.

THE BRITISH SIMULIID GROUP

The British Simuliid Group (BSG) is an informal assemblage of scientists of any discipline, from many countries, who have an interest in the Simuliidae. The group's members include entomologists, parasitologists, environmentalists, ecologists and medics, with interests in ecology, bionomics, taxonomy, cytotaxonomy, disease transmission, freshwater biology etc. Our aim is to assemble as diverse a group as possible in order to encourage a wide interchange of ideas and information.

At present the BSG has about 130 recorded members in the UK, Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. Membership is FREE - there are no restrictions. If you are not already a member of the BSG and you wish your interest to be known, all you have to do is send your name and postal and e-mail addresses to the editor at jaybeedee@gmail.com. Annual meetings have been held at different locations in the UK since 1978. Abstracts of papers presented are published in our *Bulletin* which is now available for downloading from the internet.

The Group also runs an electronic news list with the name "Simuliidae" which is now on JISCMail. To join "Simuliidae" send the following command as one line of text in an e-mail message without subject heading- join Simuliidae your-firstname lastname to: jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk. The Simuliidae list owner is the Editor of the Bulletin. Current and back numbers of the *Bulletin* can be viewed on the World Wide Web at URL:

<http://www.blackfly.org.uk>.

Inquiries about the Group and its activities should be made to John Davies: address on the back cover and e-mail: jaybeedee@gmail.com

Notes for Contributors

To avoid copy-typing, the editor (address above) would prefer to receive contributions on disc or by e-mail, or typewritten. Details as follows:-

1. Via conventional mail on CDROM or IBM PC formatted 720Kb or 1.4Mb 3.5 inch diskettes, as unmodified word processor files (most common DOS or Windows word processor formats are acceptable) or as RTF, PDF, ASCII or DOS text files (We usually have to change pagination and heading format, anyway). Mark the disc with the format, word processor name and file name(s). Complicated tables and figures can be accepted as separate graphics files (not OLE embedded, please!) but we may ask for a hard copy as a check that all detail has been retained. Remember that figures should have legends and small detail drawn large enough to be visible when reduced to 100mm by 70mm. Diskettes will be returned on request.
2. By electronic mail via the Internet. Send your file in MSWord .DOC or .DOCX or in .RTF or .PDF format or as an ASCII file (also known as DOS or txt File), and e-mail it either as part of the message or preferably as an attachment to: jaybeedee@gmail.com

If neither of the above methods are available, then post to me printed copy on A4 paper (210x297 mm), single spaced, ready for scanning. Heading styles as in the Bulletin. Format for References is flexible. Please refer to the Bulletin for the form appropriate to your article. Scientific Communications should quote the full title and journal name, but Notes and Abstracts may optionally omit titles and show only the abbreviated journal name.

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Content covers papers presented at the Group's Annual Meeting, which is usually held in September, short research notes, notices and accounts of meetings, and articles of anecdotal or general interest that would not normally be found in international journals. Geographical cover is world-wide, and is not restricted to the British Isles. Reports of research carried out by graduates, young scientists and newcomers to the subject are particularly encouraged. It is an ideal medium for offering new ideas and stimulating discussion because of the very short interval between acceptance and publication.

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