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Rearing of *Tephrochlamys flavipes* (Zetterstedt, 1838) (Diptera, Heleomyzidae) from fungus in Britain

– As part of a wider investigation of terrestrial invertebrates in the medieval ancient pasture oak woodland, Hamilton High Parks SSSI (NGR: NS7353), a fallen beefsteak fungus, *Fistulina hepatica* (Schaeff.) Withering (1792) was bagged and brought off site on 1 December 2016. As it was both wet from rain and senescent the fruiting body quickly liquified and a mass of brachyceran larvae became evident. From 16 February 2017 adult flies began to emerge which proved to be *Tephrochlamys flavipes* (Zett.). In addition to this event one of us (KNAA) has unpublished records of this fly bred from *Fistulina* including Melbury Park, Dorset (ST5705), 20 November 2008 and 11 August 2009; Donington Park, Leicestershire (SK4126), 11 November 2009; Shorne Woods, Kent (TQ6870), 27 September 2011; Pipershill Common, Worcestershire (SO9565), 10 October 2007 and also from Hamilton High Parks on 15 August 2010. A record of *T. flavipes* reared from a different bracket fungus, *Polyporus squamosus* (Huds.) Quélet (1886) was obtained also at Melbury Park in 2008. DH reared *T. flavipes* from a single puparium from a large bracket fungus that had fallen from an ash tree at Hermitage of Braid, Edinburgh (NT2570), 7 May 1995 (adult emerged 13 May 1995) but this record is less convincing as larvae were not seen.

Records for *T. flavipes* associated with fungi exist in the literature but not from Britain. *T. flavipes* was bred by Hackman and Meinander (1979. Diptera feeding as larvae on macrofungi in Finland. *Annales Zoologica Fennici* **16**, 50-83) and Séguy (1934. Diptères (Brachycères) (Muscidae Acalypterae et Scathophagidae). *Faune de France* **28**, 1-832). In a wide-ranging study of flies in fungi in Britain, P.A. Buxton (1960. British Diptera associated with fungi. III. Flies of all families reared from about 150 species of fungi. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **96**, 61-94) obtained only *Tephrochlamys tarsalis* (Zett.) and *T. rufiventris* (Meigen) from fungi. *T. tarsalis* was also bred by I. Eisfelder (1956. Die häufigsten Pilzbewohner. *Zeitschrift für Pilzkunde* **22**(4), 108-117) from macrofungi in Germany and by J. Roháček and J. Ševčík (2013. Diptera associated with sporocarps of *Meripilus giganteus* in an urban habitat. *Central European Journal of Biology* **8**(2), 143-167) from *Meripilus giganteus* in the Czech Republic. *T. rufiventris*

was bred from fungi by A. Dely-Draskovits and M. Babos (1993. Flies (Diptera) in macrofungi species in Hungary. *Folia Entomologica Hungarica* **27**, 29-41).

Other substrates from which *T. flavipes* has been bred show it to be commonly found in birds' nests. The Basden Collection in the National Museums of Scotland contains many specimens from a range of birds' nests. Basden published little of his own data but J.E. Collin (1943. The British species of Helomyzidae (Diptera). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **79**, 234-251) refers to *T. flavipes* bred from old birds' nests, which is based on Basden's work. All Basden's data are given in G.E. Rotheray (1991. E.B. Basden's collection of Diptera from bird and mammal runs, burrows and droppings. *National Museums of Scotland Information Series* No **3**, 1-46). E. Hicks (1959. *Check-list and bibliography on the occurrence of insects in birds' nests*. The Iowa State College Press. 681pp.) gives other references to breeding of *T. flavipes* from birds' nests. P. Skidmore (2010. Dung. In: *A Dipterist's Handbook* 2nd Edition. P.J Chandler Ed.). *The Amateur Entomologist* **15**, 157-165) has it from rodent dung (locality not given) and W. Hackman (1963. Studies on the dipterous fauna in burrows of voles (*Microtus*, *Clethrionomys*) in Finland. *Acta Zoologica Fennica* **102**, 1-64) reared *T. flavipes* from mouse droppings. There are references in the literature to *T. flavipes* attracted to carrion but we have yet to track down a definite breeding record from carrion – **E. GEOFFREY HANCOCK**, Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, **DAVID HORSFIELD**, National Museums Collection Centre, 242 West Granton Road, Edinburgh, EH5 1JA and **KEITH N.A. ALEXANDER**, 59 Sweetbrier Lane, Heavitree, Exeter, EX1 3AQ