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British hoverflies. An illustrated identification guide

Author(s) : [Stubbs, A. E.](#) ; [Falk, S. J.](#)

Book : [British hoverflies. An illustrated identification guide.](#) 1983 pp.253 [+13] pp

Abstract : Although entitled an identification guide, this book on the British hoverflies covers more than that and includes chapters on observing and photographing (with particular reference to flowers, courtship, egg-laying, migration, flight periods, the enemies of adults (mainly bird and insect predators and fungal pathogens), mimicry, syrphids and their allies (including their predacious and pollinating behaviour and the possibility of using European species of *Cheilosia* for the biological control of weed thistles in Canada), population studies and ecological studies), collecting, habitats and seasons,

and distinctive features and structure. Keys to the various taxa (down to the recognised and some subspecific forms) are provided. Successive chapters devoted to accounts of the species in the 3 tribes (Syrphinae, Milesiinae and Microdontinae); these include information on their abundance, distribution, habits. It is reported that very few syrphids are pests: *Merodon equestris* (*Merodon tuberculatus* Rond. and *E. strigatus* (Fall.) cause damage to the bulbs of ornamental gardens, and *C. antiqua* (Mg.) has been recorded as a pest of *Primula*. A particularly valuable and attractive feature of this publication is the series of coloured illustrations of adults, with emphasis on their distinguishing features.

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