

FIRST RECORDS OF *CORYNONEURA LOBATA* EDWARDS, 1924 AND *MICROPSECTRA LINDROTHI* GOETGHEBUER, 1931 IN COUNTY KILDARE AND OF *CRICOTOPUS SYLVESTRIS* (FABRICIUS, 1794) IN HYDROMETRIC AREA 8, IRELAND (INSECTA: DIPTERA, CHIRONOMIDAE)

Declan A. Murray

Emeritus Associate Professor, Freshwater Biodiversity Ecology and Fisheries Research Group, School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland.

e-mail: <declan.murray@ucd.ie>

(Address for correspondence: *Meadesbrook, Ashbourne, Co. Meath, A84 K727, Ireland*)

Abstract

In Ireland, two species of Chironomidae (Insecta, Diptera), *Corynoneura lobata* Edwards, 1924 (Subfamily Orthocladiinae) and *Micropsectra lindrothi* Goetghebuer, 1931 (Subfamily Chironominae, Tribe Tanytarsini) are reported as new in County Kildare and the first record of *Cricotopus (Isocladius) sylvestris* (Fabricius 1794) is reported from Hydrometric Area 8.

Key words: Chironomidae, Diptera, distribution, Ireland.

Introduction

As of May 2025 the author's personal database has almost 23,000 entries for 545 species level taxa of Chironomidae in Ireland - 522 identified as named species and 23 taxa entries as distinct pupal morphotypes. Recent collections of Chironomidae (Diptera) yielded new distribution data for three species. *Cricotopus (Isocladius) sylvestris* (Fabricius 1794), already known from County Meath in Hydrometric Area (HA) 7 (Murray *et al.*, 2014), is reported as new in HA 8. (see <www.epa.ie> for details of HAs in Ireland). *Corynoneura lobata* Edwards, 1924 and *Micropsectra lindrothi* Goetghebuer, 1931, already on record in HA9, are reported for the first time from County Kildare.

In County Meath, some 214 species are documented from 65 locations in HAs 6, 7 and 8. Until 2018, there were 85 species documented in HA8 (Murray *et al.*, 2018). A further five species were subsequently added by Murray (2023). The new record presented here brings to 91 the number of species thus far known from HA8.

Records of 69 species of Chironomidae were reported from 12 locations in County Kildare (Murray *et al.*, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018) and a further two were reported by Murray (2023). A recent collection of pupal exuviae in HA9 at Leixlip, County Kildare, yielded two species that are first records for the County, thereby increasing to 73 the total species number for County Kildare. Both species are already documented from HA9 in County Dublin (Murray *et al.*, 2014, 2015).

New records

Subfamily ORTHOCLADIINAE

Cricotopus (Isocladius) sylvestris (Fabricius 1794)

NEW FOR HA8

MEATH: HA8 - Rainwater bucket in yard, Meadesbrook, Ashbourne (O040594), 8 May 2025, pupal exuviae and adult male. This species is widely distributed in Ireland and is now on record from 110 locations. Larvae of *C. sylvestris* are tolerant of many forms of pollution (Wilson and Ruse, 2005) and have been reported from a variety of habitats

Corynoneura lobata Edwards, 1924

NEW FOR KILDARE

KILDARE: HA9 – Rainwater filled plastic tank, Glen Easton Wood, Leixlip, County Kildare (N987365), 6 May 2025, pupal exuviae, leg. Orlagh Murray.

Eleven species of *Corynoneura* are known from Ireland. With the finding of *C. lobata* in Leixlip, this species is now known from 21 locations in Ireland in Counties Clare, Derry, Donegal, Dublin, Kerry, Kildare, Mayo and Meath.

Subfamily CHIRONOMINAE Tribe Chironomini

Micropsectra lindrothi Goetghebuer, 1931

NEW FOR KILDARE

KILDARE: HA9 - Rainwater filled plastic tank, Glen Easton Wood, Leixlip, County Kildare (N987365), 6 May 2025, pupal exuviae, leg. Orlagh Murray.

Thirteen species of *Micropsectra* are documented from Ireland (Murray *et al.*, 2018) and *M. lindrothi* has now been recorded at 61 locations including this new record at Leixlip. It has been found at three locations in HA9 in County Dublin (Murray and Ashe, 2017).

Acknowledgement

Pupal exuviae on which new records for County Kildare are based were collected for the author by his granddaughter Orlagh Murray.

References

- Murray, D. A. (2023) Recent records of Chironomidae (Insecta: Diptera) in Ireland from Counties Dublin, Kildare and Meath and a brief numerical update of the Irish Checklist. *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* **46**: 109-123.
- Murray, D. A. and Ashe, P. J. (2017) Additions to the known distribution of Chironomidae (Insecta: Diptera) in Ireland - results from recent and past collections. *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* **41**: 112-129.
- Murray, D. A., Langton, P. H., O'Connor, J. P. and Ashe, P. (2013) Distribution records of Irish Chironomidae (Diptera): Part 1 - Buchonomyiinae, Podonominae, Tanypodinae, Telmatogetoninae, Diamesinae and Prodiamesinae. *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* **37**: 208-336.

- Murray, D. A., Langton, P. H., O'Connor, J. P. and Ashe, P. (2014) Distribution records of Irish Chironomidae (Diptera): Part 2 - Orthocladiinae. *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* **38**: 61-246.
- Murray, D. A., Langton, P. H., O'Connor, J. P. and Ashe, P. (2015) Distribution records of Irish Chironomidae (Diptera): Part 3 - Chironominae *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* **39**: 7-192.
- Murray, D. A., O'Connor, J. P. and Ashe P. J. (2018) Chironomidae (Diptera) of Ireland – a review, checklist and their distribution in Europe. *Occasional Publication of the Irish Biogeographical Society* **Number 12** published in association with University College Dublin and the Environmental Protection Agency. 404pp.
- Wilson, R. S. and Ruse, L. P. (2005) A guide to the identification of genera of chironomid pupal exuviae occurring in Britain and Ireland (including common genera from northern Europe) and their use in monitoring lotic and lentic waters. *Freshwater Biological Association, Special Publication* **13**: 1-176.