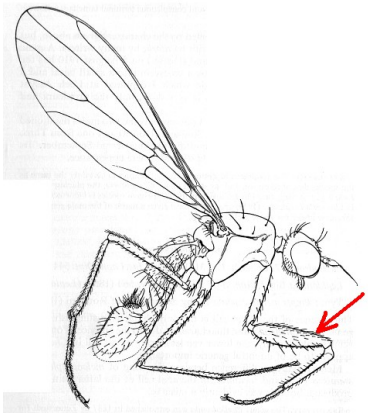
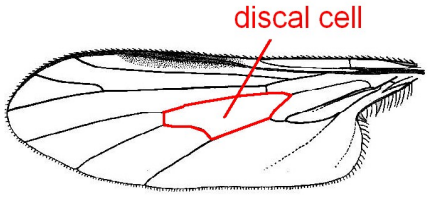
Family Empididae

Key to genus adapted from Collin (1960)

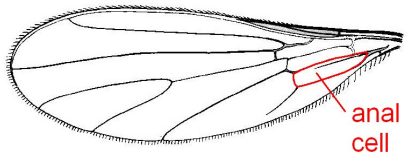
1 No discal cell. Front legs elongated, adapted for catching prey, with the coxa almost as long as the femur and tibia. 2



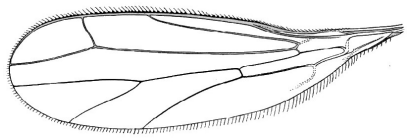
Discal cell present. Legs adapted as above or not. 3



2 Anal cell present. .... Genus ***Phyllodromia***
One UK species ***Phyllodromia melanocephala*** which is widespread and locally common

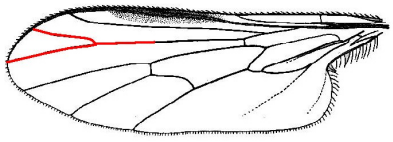


Anal cell absent. .... Genus ***Hemerodromia***

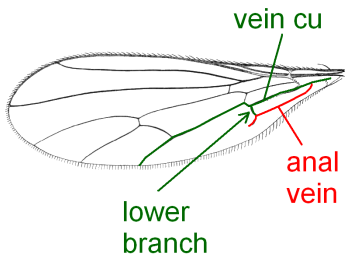


3 Vein r_{4+5} not forked. 4

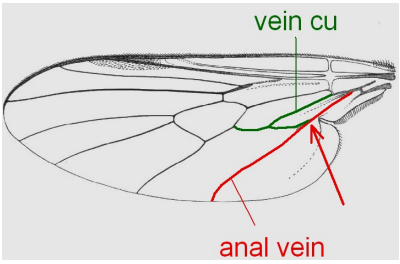
Vein r_{4+5} forked. 6



4 Lower branch of vein cu short and joining the anal vein at an angle of more or less 90°. Proboscis short or directed obliquely forwards. 5



Lower branch of vein cu longer and curving back towards the base of the wing to join the anal vein at an angle much greater than 90°. Proboscis long or very long, directed downwards. .... Genus ***Rhamphomyia***

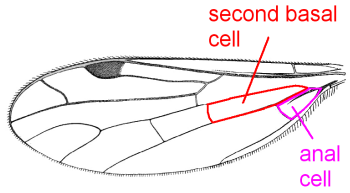


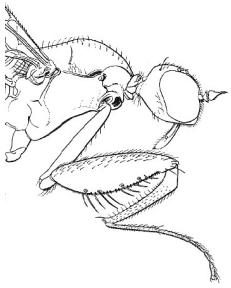
5 Front legs very different from the other legs, adapted for grabbing prey. .... Genus ***Chelipoda***

Front legs not significantly different from the other legs. .... Genus ***Heleodromia***

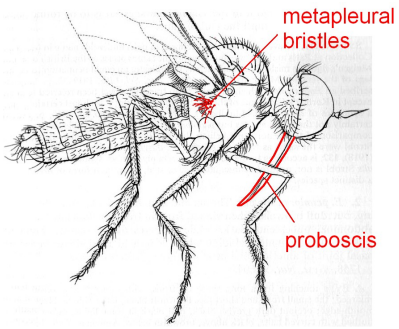
6 Anal cell as long or nearly as long as second basal cell, never only half as long. 7

Anal cell only about half the length of second basal cell. Front legs very different from the other legs, adapted for grasping prey with the coxa elongated and the femora enlarged. ..... Genus ***Chelifera***



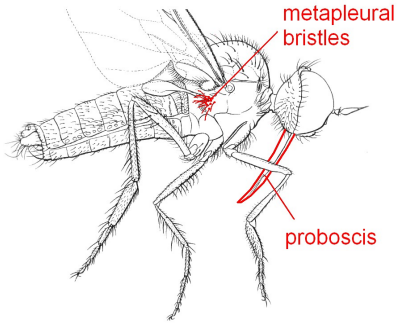


7 Proboscis long, often very long, directed downwards, forwards or slightly backwards. 8



Proboscis short. 9

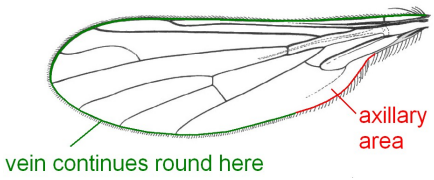
8 Bristles present on the metapleura. Proboscis pointing downwards or slightly backwards; palps not easily visible as they are more or less parallel to the lower surface of the head. .... Genus ***Empis***



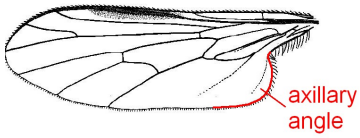
No bristles on the metapleura. Proboscis projecting forwards with the palps projecting alongside. .... Genus ***Iteaphila***

One British species ***Iteaphila arundela***. See Shamshev & Sinclair (2009) for further details. Thanks to Bradley Sinclair for his clarification in this couplet

9 Axillary angle of wing little developed and the continuation of the costa around the hind margin of the wing is distinct. 10

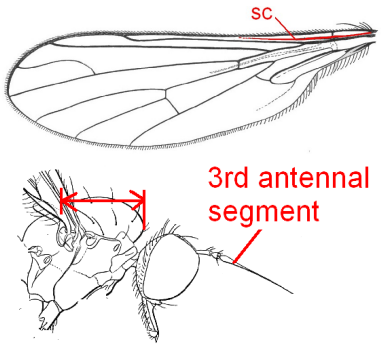


Axillary angle of wing developed. 15

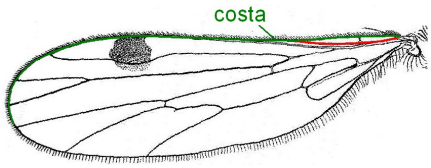


10 Vein sc not reaching costa; antennae with an extraordinarily long tapering third antennal segment which is as long as the top of the thorax measured as shown. .... Genus ***Trichopeza***

Only one British species, ***Trichopeza longicornis***, a widely distributed species, 4.5-5.5 mm. long.

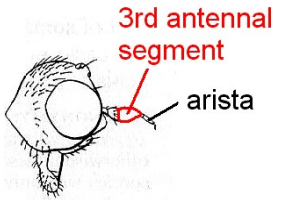


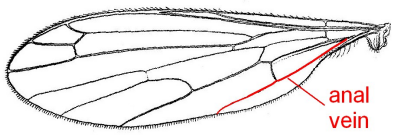
Vein sc reaching costa; antennae normal. 11



11 Arista shorter than third antennal segment; anal vein long, continued to wing-margin. .... Genus ***Dryodromia***

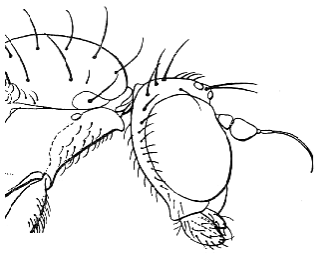
Only one British species ***Dryodromia testacea*** Rondani, a small (3 mm.) rather rare species.



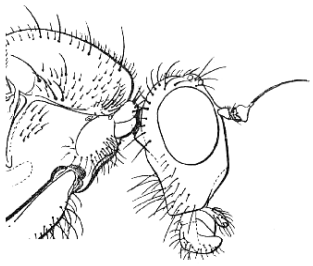


Arista much longer than third antennal segment; anal vein very short. 12

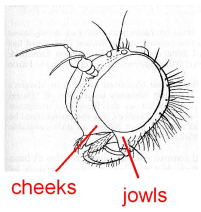
12 Neck connecting thorax to head very high up on the back of the head, practically level with upper margin of eyes; wings brown with more or less distinct transparent spots. .... Genus ***Dolichocephala***



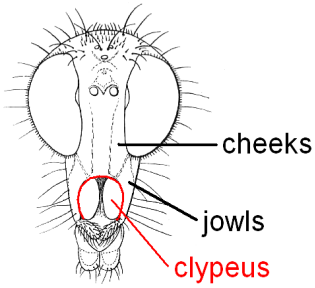
Neck attached at about the middle of the back of the head; wings with at most only the cross-veins clouded. 13



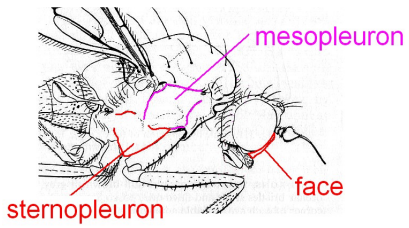
13 No distinct clypeus and the cheeks separated from the jowls by a suture (i.e. there is a gap between the cheeks and the jowls so that the bottom of the eyes more or less touches the mouth margin. 14



Clypeus distinct; cheeks and jowls without a suture between them. ..... Genus ***Wiedemannia***

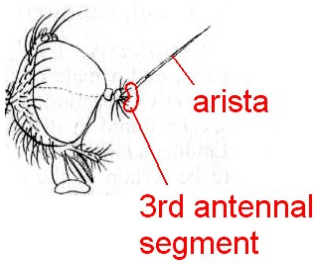


14 Wings with no trace of a costal stigma. A few pale hairs on hind margin of mesopleura, none on sternopleura. Face bare. .... Genus ***Clinocera***



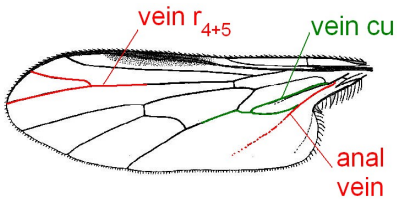
Wings with a more or less distinct stigma just beyond end of subcostal vein. No supra-alar bristle and no hairs on mesopleura and sternopleura. Face with 3-4 fine pale hairs on each side. .... Genus ***Kowarzia***

15 Antennae with a short kidney-shaped third segment, bearing a very long, apparently dorsal, arista. .... Genus ***Gloma***
One species in the UK, ***Gloma fuscipennis***, which is uncommon but widely distributed.

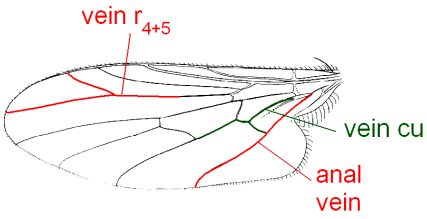


Antennae with arista not longer than the conically tapering third segment. 16

16 Fork of vein r_{4+5} not very acute at the *extreme* base; that part of vein cu closing the anal cell curved back towards the base of the wing to join the anal vein at an angle much greater than 90º. .... Genus ***Hilara***

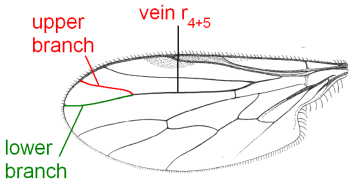


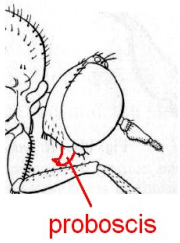
Fork of vein r_{4+5} acute at base; vein closing anal cell only slightly curving back towards the base of the wing and joining anal vein at an angle of very little more than 90º. 17



17 Upper branch of the fork of vein r_{4+5} very little shorter than the lower branch; antennae as shown; proboscis pointing downwards. .... Genus ***Ragas***

One UK species ***Ragas unica***, which is uncommon but the records are widely scattered.





Upper branch of fork of vein r_{4+5} much shorter than the lower branch; antennae with a more oval third segment and a shorter arista; proboscis pointing forwards. .... Genus ***Hormopeza***

One UK species ***Hormopeza obliterata*** which is rare.