

A Pictorial Guide to
the Picture Wing Flies
of Britain and Ireland

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Introduction

The picture wing flies (Diptera: Pallopteridae, Platystomatidae & Ulidiidae) are principally identified from their wing patterns which give most species a distinctive appearance. This makes them ideal for a pictorial guide.

The species are presented in alphabetical order within their (alphabetically ordered) families.

Equipment Used

The photographs are of anaesthetised or freshly-killed picture-wing flies, posed on a glass microscope slide. Most were taken with a Canon 600D or 700D dSLR and Canon MP-E65 macro lens.

Canon Macro Twin Lite MT-24EX electronic flash was used for illumination. The specimens were surrounded by a diffuser cut from the base of a polystyrene foam drinking cup to provide even illumination. The backgrounds are light grey card.

Wings were photographed on a microscope slide against a white background with gentle shading provided by a paper tube. Some were mounted in fluid under a coverslip, but most were just in air.

The images are “stacked” to attain the necessary depth of field without compromising resolution. In this technique multiple photos are taken at different levels, and then digitally combined (“stacked”) using special software: in the present case Zerene Stacker (<http://zerenesystems.com/cms/stacker>). Camera motion and shutter control was automated with a Cognisys StackShot rail (<https://www.cognisys-inc.com/products/stackshot/stackshot.php>).

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful for all the help and encouragement I received in my early days of stacking from Rik Littlefield, the author of Zerene Stacker.

Pallopteridae: *Eurygnathomyia bicolor*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera ambusta*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera laetabilis*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Paloptera modesta*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera muliebris*



Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view



Displaying

Wing

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera quinquemaculata*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera saltuum*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera scutellata*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera trimacula*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera umbellatarum*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera usta*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Pallopteridae: *Palloptera ustulata*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Platystomatidae: *Platystoma seminationis*

Dorsal view



Lateral view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Platystomatidae: *Rivellia syngenesiae*



Dorsal view



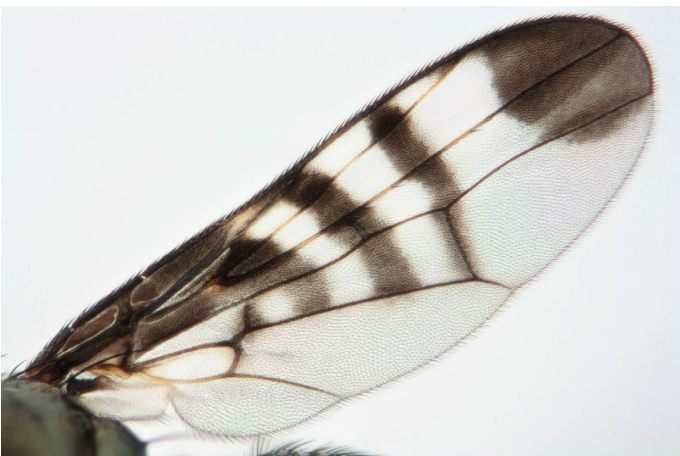
Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Ceroxys urticae*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Dorycera graminum*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Herina frondescens*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Herina lacustris*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Herina lugubris*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Herina nigrina*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Herina oscillans*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Herina paludum*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Herina palustris*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Homalocephala albitarsis*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Uliidiidae: *Homalocephala bipunctata*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Melieria cana*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Melieria crassipennis*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Melieria omissa*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Melieria picta*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Myennis octopunctata*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Otites guttata*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Uliidiidae: *Physiphora demandata*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Seioptera vibrans*



Dorsal view



Head and thorax - dorsal view



Lateral view



Head and thorax - lateral view



Wing



Face

Ulidiidae: *Tetanops myopinus*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face

Ulidiidae: *Ulidia erythropthalma*

Dorsal view

Head and thorax - dorsal view

Lateral view

Head and thorax - lateral view

Wing

Face