

Accidental or “meant” mentoring – the art of paying it forward

Training & mentoring – the learning pathway

Pete Boardman – Natural England Field Unit

Natural England Field Unit



- 47 staff in total, 11 full time National (2016) with the remainder part time within Area responsibilities

An unexpected outcome in Birmingham

What is mentoring?



Mentoring: the activity of supporting and advising someone with less experience to help them develop in their work

- Mentoring comes in two forms;
- Deliberate or explicit (“meant”) mentoring; achieved by training and support
- Accidental or implicit mentoring; achieved by inspiration and quite often, bloody immaculate timing

- Quite importantly both strands of mentoring are as equally valid!
- Mentoring, however achieved, in biological recording is the ultimate act of kindness, a true example of “paying it forward”



A history lesson for young people

The next three slides are of people who
were fundamental in my own development
over a period 1995 – 2005





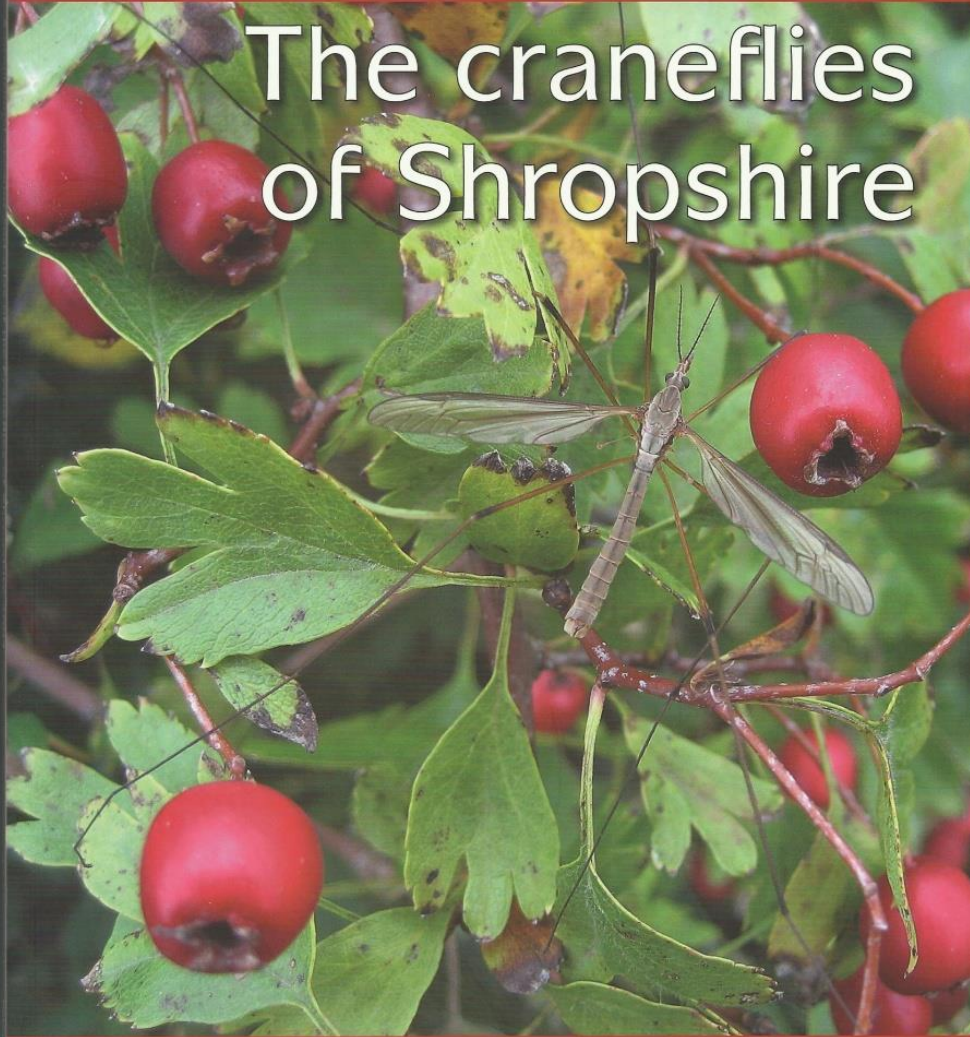




- Following on from my first encounter with *Idioptera linnei* started to look at other species within the same habitat.
- Lack of reference material led to me publishing articles so I could reference at least my own articles about the species as none existed!
- Conceived MSc dissertation project to look at *Idioptera* genera within the UK. (submitted 2005)

A provisional account and atlas of

The craneflies of Shropshire



Peter Boardman

Managed three projects at FSC from 2006 – 2014; Biodiversity Training Project (HLF-funded), Biodiversity Fellows (Defra-funded) and Invertebrate Challenge (HLF-funded) – these all included a lot of planned mentoring – particularly Invertebrate Challenge



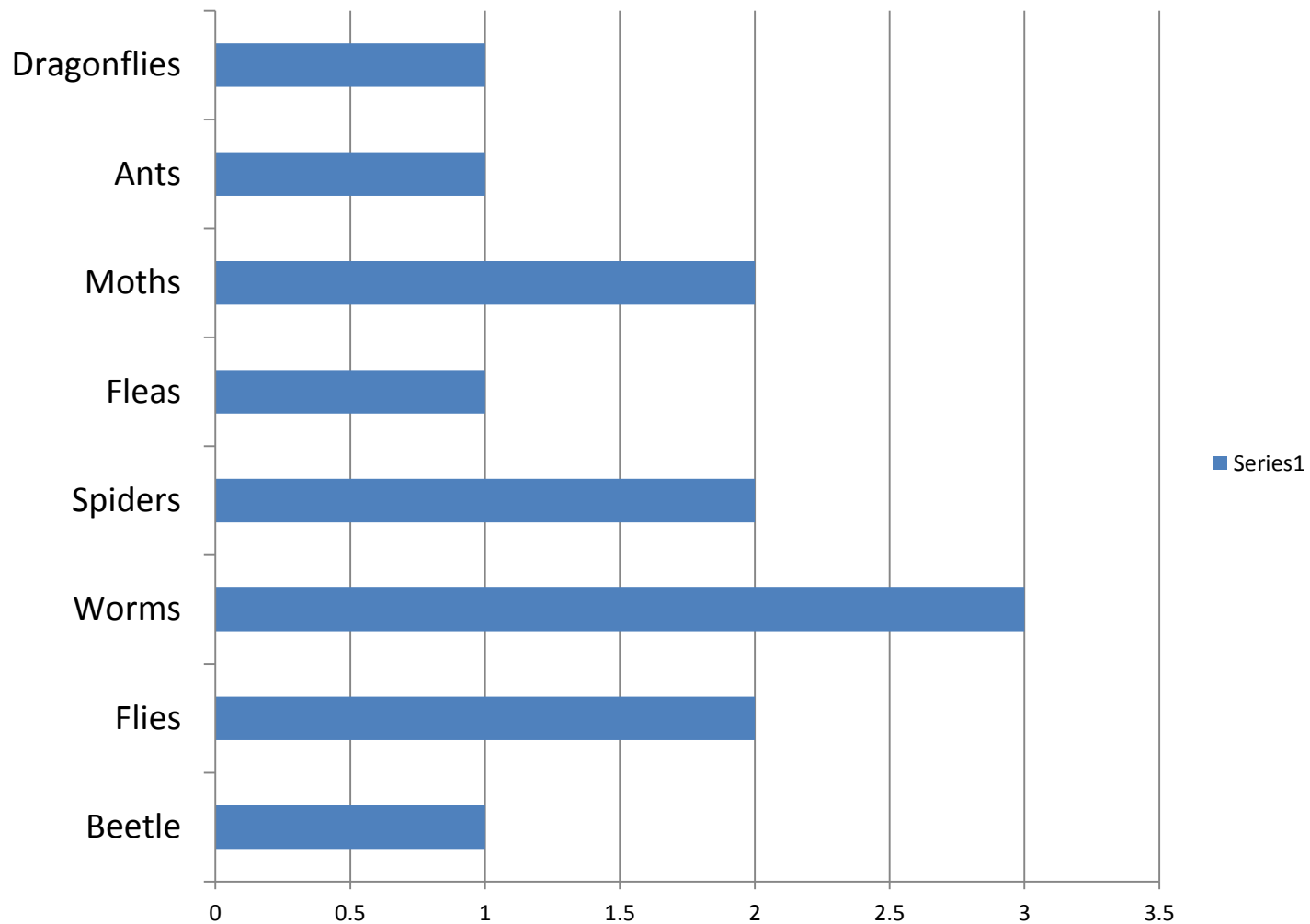






When asked about the best bit of the slug event an attendee remarked –

“Definitely learning to tell the difference between *Arion ater* and *Arion rufus* by poking them with a lollypop stick and seeing which one dances”



Invertebrate Usage in Radiohead songs

A provisional atlas of the shieldbugs and allies of Shropshire

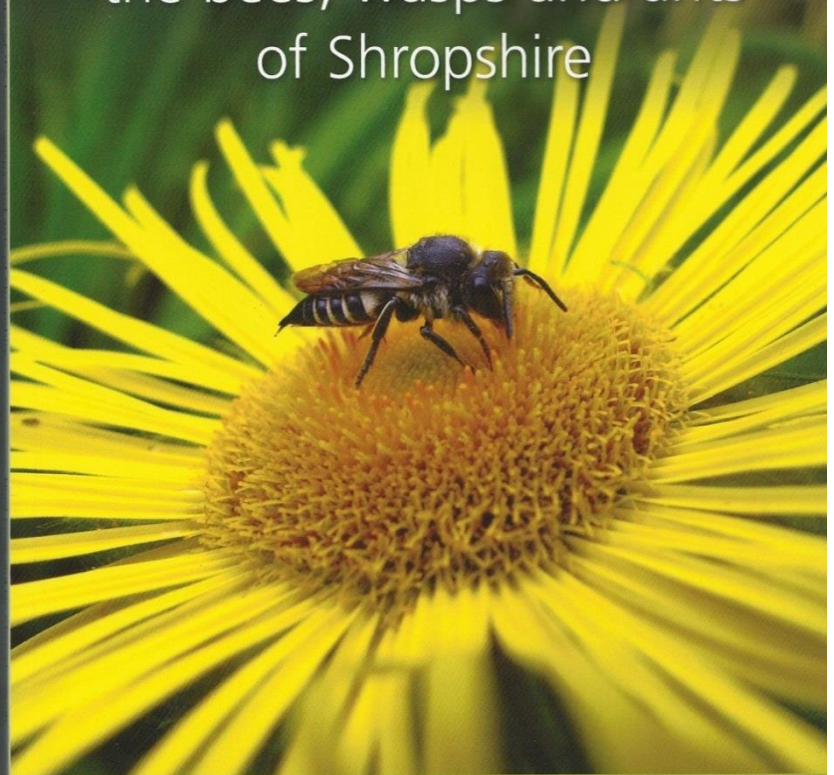


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UNDERSTANDING TO ALL

Pete Boardman
(editor)



A provisional atlas of the bees, wasps and ants of Shropshire



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Nigel Jones and
Ian Cheeseborough



The smaller moths of Shropshire

Their status, distribution
and ecology



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Godfrey Blunt



Shropshire Craneflies

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Pete Boardman



- Hand in hand with training and mentoring comes;
- Support – 1-2-1, peer, academic etc
- Social scene – provide opportunities for people to mix, to talk, to share, to feel as a group
- Opportunity to grow – provide links to other things happening, regional to national etc

Have you been mentored? Is there someone that influenced your journey? Look them up and thank them! Then pay it forward.





