

EPHEMEROPTERA Recording Scheme

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The Ephemeroptera Recording Scheme has been set up in collaboration with the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood to encourage the recording of Ephemeroptera species throughout Britain and Ireland. The aim of the recording scheme is to investigate the distribution of all ephemeropteran species and identify any populations that are particularly under threat.

Collection, Preservation and Identification.

Larval Ephemeroptera are easy to collect. Kick sampling, the disturbance of the bed of a watercourse or waterbody, is the most efficient method in running water, whilst in standing water a net can be swept through submerged vegetation or the substrate can be disturbed and the net swept through the disturbed water. Adult Ephemeroptera can be collected by examining bankside trees and other vegetation. Alternatively, adults can be caught as they swarm near the water. For species that are attracted to light, traps designed for capturing moths can be used.

Both larvae and adults are best preserved by 70% ethyl alcohol. The specimen should be clearly marked with the location, date and grid reference where the specimen was collected together with the collectors name.

The identification of British (and Irish) Ephemeroptera is covered by two scientific publications by the Freshwater Biological Association. These taxonomic keys provide the information required to successfully identify most of the British Ephemeroptera. They also include extensive notes on their life cycles and ecology. It should be noted that there have been some recent revisions and additions to the British Ephemeroptera that are not noted in the FBA keys. The Ephemeroptera Recording Scheme can provide further information on the identification of the British Ephemeroptera and is also willing to provide limited assistance with the identification of specimens, which should be sent, preserved in 70% alcohol.

The Ephemeroptera Recording Scheme would be grateful to receive records of mayflies from throughout the British Isles. The minimum requirements for records are species name; collection date; location; ordnance survey six-figure grid reference; collector's name and identifier's name.

IDENTIFICATION KEYS

Elliott, J.M. & U.H. Humpesch (1983): A key to the Adults of the British Ephemeroptera with notes on their ecology. *Scientific Publications of the Freshwater Biological Association* No. 47, 101pp.

Elliott, J.M., U.H. Humpesch & T.T. Macan (1988): Larvae of British Ephemeroptera: a key with ecological notes. *Scientific Publications of the Freshwater Biological Association* No. 49, 145pp.

Available from: The Freshwater Biological Association, The Ferry House, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, CUMBRIA, LA22 0LP. Telephone: 015394 42468

COLLECTING EQUIPMENT

GB Nets

EFE and GB Nets, PO Box 1, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1YJ. Tel/Fax 01208 77400
Website: www.gbnets-uk.com Email: sales@gbnets-uk.com