

***Ferdinandea ruficornis* (Fabricius) (Diptera, Syrphidae)
new to Scotland**

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Summary

A second *Ferdinandea* species, *F. ruficornis* (Fabricius), is reported from Scotland for the first time. This is regarded as a rare or even endangered hoverfly in different parts of Europe.

In the Palaearctic region, six species of the genus *Ferdinandea* Rondani, 1844 are known (Peck 1988), but only four species have verified taxonomic status (Speight 2011). Speight and Sarthou (2011) provided a key to these four species, which incorporated information from Ricarte *et al.* (2010).

In the British Isles, only *Ferdinandea cuprea* (Scopoli, 1763) and *Ferdinandea ruficornis* (Fabricius, 1775) are known. Both appear to have distributions centred on southern England, although *F. cuprea* is fairly common in Wales and has a scattered distribution throughout Scotland. *Ferdinandea ruficornis*, however, is only known from southern England and a single Welsh locality; the most northerly record is an outlier in North Yorkshire (Ball *et al.* 2011).

On 8 August 2011, a field trip to Rowardennan, the University of Glasgow Field Station on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond, followed the 6th International Symposium on Syrphidae at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow. A male *Ferdinandea* was collected by J. Quinto from a *Ligustrum* flower near the car park of the field station. The specimen, which has been deposited in the collections of National Museums Scotland, was rather smaller than usual for *F. cuprea*. The specimen was dissected and compared with Iberian specimens of *F. ruficornis* and keyed out using Ricarte *et al.* (2010). The Rowardennan specimen had a dark orange antennal arista, distiphallus with very elongate hook-like ventral lobe and abdomen blackish in overall appearance; tergites II and III had black hairs posteriorly, as had a British male of *F. ruficornis* from Worcestershire, England (Ricarte *et al.* 2010).

The specimen of *F. ruficornis* was found about 300km further north than the previous most northerly record in North Yorkshire (Ball *et al.* 2011). The habitat surrounding Rowardennan is composed mainly of oaks (*Quercus*), spruce (*Picea*) and pine (*Pinus*). Sap runs on *Quercus* are a known development site for *F. ruficornis* (Ricarte *et al.* 2010, Speight 2011). The date the specimen was collected at Rowardennan is within the known adult flight period (Speight 2011).

In mainland Europe, *F. ruficornis* seems to be the rarest species in the genus. In the Iberian Peninsula, the species is rarely recorded (Ricarte *et al.* 2010) and, in the Netherlands, it has become very rare since 1950 (Reemer *et al.* 2009); also, in Denmark, it is categorised as

regionally extinct (Den danske rødliste 2004). Hence, it is encouraging to discover a new locality for this species, but whether the record detailed here represents an isolated individual or a breeding population in the Loch Lomond area is unclear. Possibly, it is under recorded in northern England and Scotland and, given the encouragement of the record presented here, further targeted searching for this enigmatic species is clearly required.

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