

**AN ACCOUNT OF
BRITISH
FLIES (DIPTERA)**

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An account of British flies (Diptera) by Fred. V. Theobald

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FRED. V. THEOBALD

**AN ACCOUNT OF
BRITISH
FLIES (DIPTERA)**

AN ACCOUNT
OF
LIBRARY OF
W. H. LANGRISH
BRITISH FLIES
(*DIPTERA*).

✓ BY
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P R E F A C E .

THE reason I undertook to publish this book was the almost total absence of any treatise in English upon this much-neglected order of insects. I have dealt with most of the species indigenous to the British Isles, and with many points of general interest relating to the order of "Flies," also with the characteristics of families and genera, and, where possible, with the life histories of the various groups, especially of those that are injurious to our crops and farm stock.

The only English work published on this subject is Walker's "Insecta Britannica Diptera," which is now out of print. It was written more than fifty years ago, and naturally contains much that is quite out of date and inconsistent with the knowledge of the present day.

It is hoped that this account may in some way fill up this gap in entomological literature. The author trusts he will be pardoned for the many discrepancies that may have crept in, owing in many instances to his imperfect knowledge of the languages in which most of the literature on this subject is written. For those who wish to go more fully into the subject, the larger works of Meigen ("Zweiflügelige Insecten"), Macquart ("Diptères exotique"), and Schiner ("Fauna Austriaca"), together with the numerous papers, articles, and pamphlets enumerated at the end of each family, may be consulted.

In a small work of this kind it is impossible to give a detailed description of all the species recorded as British. I have therefore chosen those about which there seems no doubt, and have omitted many mentioned by Walker as being doubtful. The

families treated of in this volume are the most difficult and least understood of any, and are in a most unsatisfactory state with regard to their systematic arrangement and identification. It is hoped that this account may spur younger workers on to establish new and important facts, so that inaccuracies may be corrected which naturally will be found in it, and new discoveries made.

I have to express my thanks to numerous entomologists for kindly help, and for lending specimens to be figured, especially to Miss Ormerod for the loan of blocks from her "Manual of Injurious Insects."

FRED. V. THEOBALD.

CAMBRIDGE, 1892.

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