

Rhagio strigosus Meigen
1804

female collected 3/9/23
near Princes Risborough,
Bucks by Sue Taylor



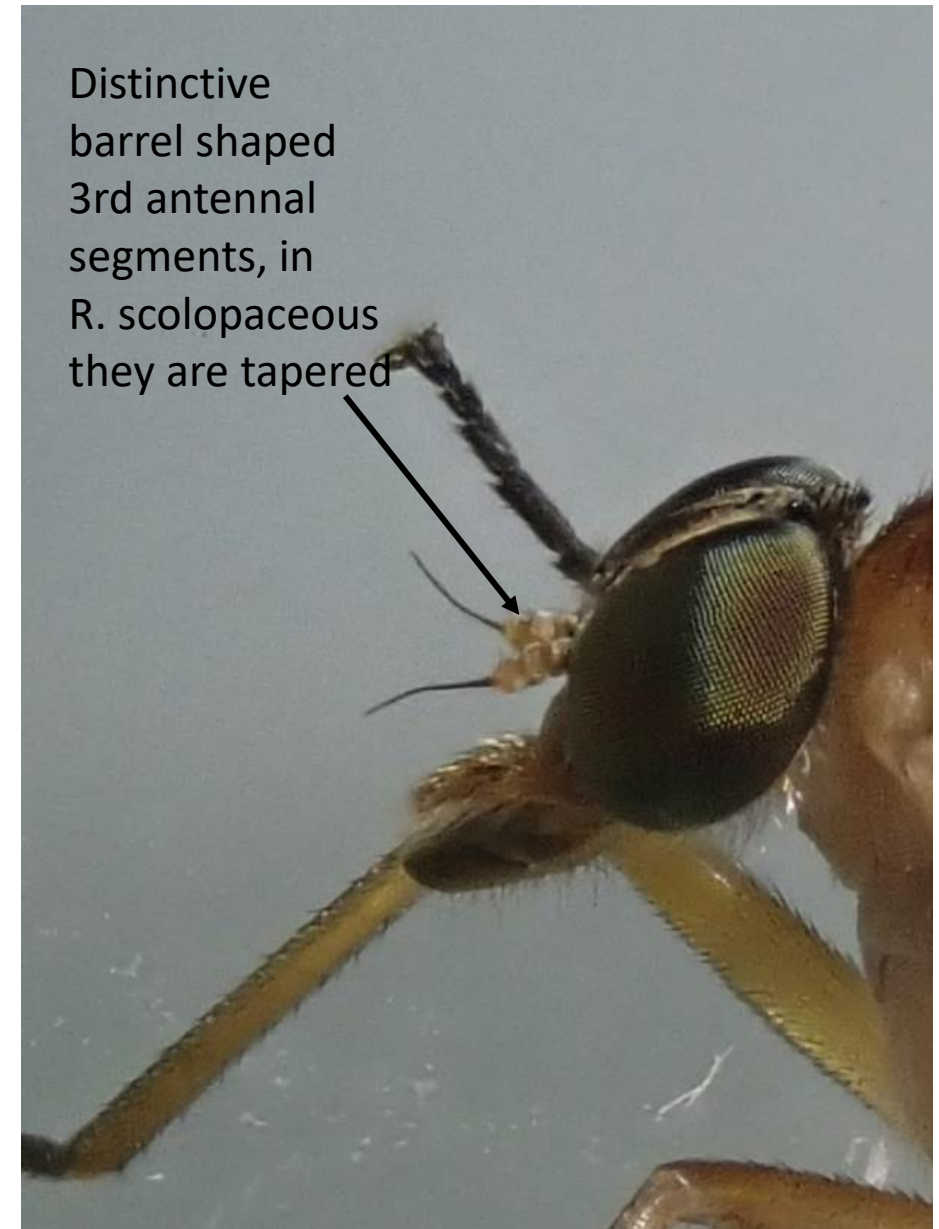
Rhagio strigosus

On 3rd Sept 23 I was surveying a private site in Buckinghamshire with Colin Hart and Nick Bowles in the hope of finding good *Oxyptilus* habitat.

As Nick approached me with a potted fly to identify, my eyes lit up. I wasn't interested in the carefully collected hoverfly, instead I captured the snipe fly that was sitting on his shirt. It was a bit late in the year for *Rhagio scolopaceus* and it didn't look quite right so I took it to identify.

Keying it out I came to *Rhagio strigosus* and was able to get further confirmation from the Soldierflies and Allies Recording scheme page on 'the downlooker' snipeflies, *Rhagio scolopaceus* and *Rhagio strigosus*'.

Martin Harvey was also able to confirm my ID from photos, in particular the distinctive antennae.



This is the very first Buckinghamshire Record and possibly the first UK record since 2019. Previously it was known from Chalk habitats in Surrey, Berks and Oxon. The species is listed as Vulnerable/Nationally rare

Interestingly it is known for alighting on people, in this case a red shirt.

With permission of the landowner the live specimen was sent to the Darwin Tree of Life project, a good example of how a single specimen can contribute to records, scientific research and encourage the landowner to continue managing his land sympathetically for invertebrates.

