

## **A study of Diptera at Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington during 2009.**

Although an up-to-date study of the Lepidoptera population at YAM had been commenced in 2007 no attempt had been made to record the presence of other life-forms. At the beginning of 2009 Roy Crossley, a local expert, expressed an interest in helping us with a study of Diptera on the site.

Diptera (two-winged) are classed as "True Flies", an immense order of insects containing over 100,000 known species world wide. The hind wings have been reduced to small pin-shaped bodies known as halteres which act as gyroscopes and help to maintain stability and balance in flight.

As with moths, the word fly conjures up distaste with many people, however the order contains many colourful and harmless species and are well worth our interest.

The examples shown here are House Fly, Greenbottle , Crane-fly, and two Hover-flies.



Roy completed his 2009 survey over 17 visits and his results are attached in the following file. I have an image of him walking purposefully around the site with his net sampling the insect life whilst I set up the moth-traps. I hope to join him for at least the odd afternoons walk during 2010 as I, like most of our visitors, have little knowledge of the subject.