

St Mark's Fly

Bibio marci

Identification:

St Mark's Fly is easily recognised by the combination of size (10mm), intensely black body, slender build, and the habit of males flying in a lazy way with long legs dangling. The sexes are quite different - females have a very small head and dark wings, males large bulging eyes and milky wings.

Distribution:

Might be expected throughout Highland. Blue - <2010, green - 2010 on.

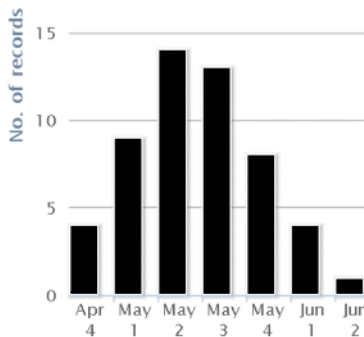
When to look for it:

It flies in a very short season, mostly in May with a few in late April and early June. Swarms of males are conspicuous on mild calm days.



St Mark's Fly *Bibio marci* pair in cop., male below.

Photo © Murdo Macdonald.

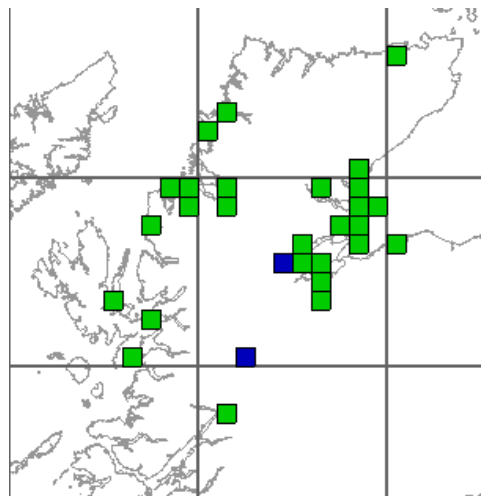


Similar species:

We have no other fly that shares the combination of size and colour.

Notes:

The fly is named after St Mark's Day, 25 April, around the time when they first appear. Later in the year, in August, look for its close cousin the Heather Fly *Bibio pomonae*.



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