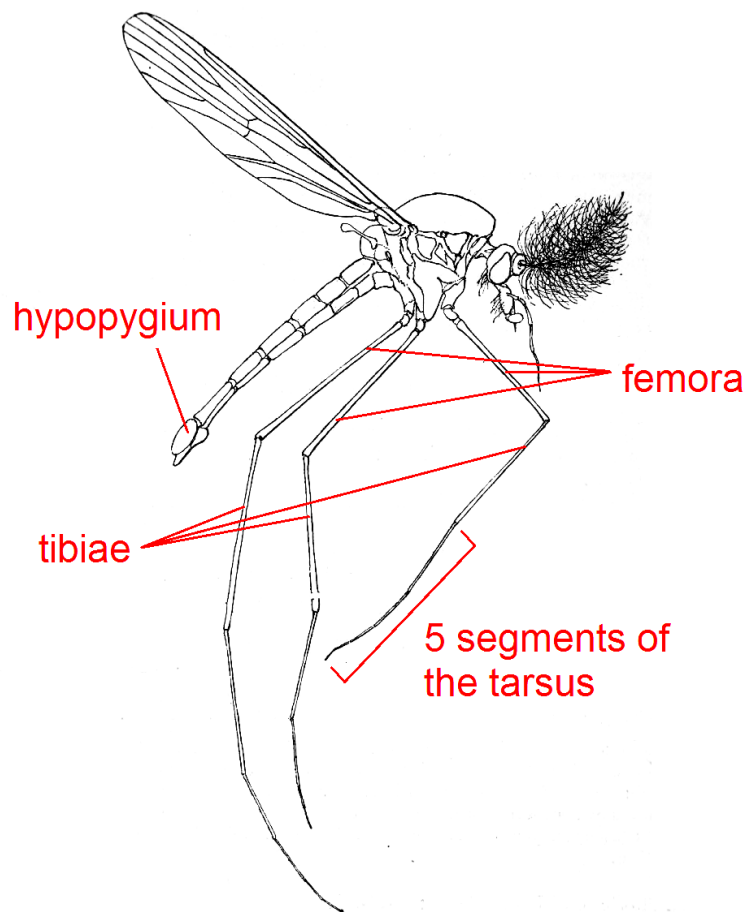


Family Chaoboridae

adapted from Freeman (1950) by Mike Hackston

Reference: Freeman P., in Coe, Freeman & Mattingly, Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Volume 9, Part 2 (1950) Tipulidae to Chironomidae. Published by the Royal Entomological Society.



Checklist

- Chaoborus*** Lichtenstein, 1800
crystallinus (De Geer, 1776)
flavicans (Meigen, 1830)
obscuripes (van der Wulp, 1859)
pallidus (Fabricius, 1794)
Mochlonyx Loew, 1844
fuliginosus (Felt, 1905)
velutinus (Ruthe, 1831)



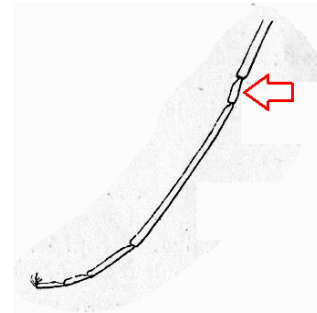
Family Chaoboridae

Key to British species

adapted from Freeman (1950) by Mike Hackston

- 1 First segment of the tarsus short, about a quarter of the length of the strongly lengthened second segment; claws with two teeth, a basal short one and a very long one placed centrally. Genus *Mochlonyx*.

.....[2](#)



- First segment of the tarsus elongate, nearly or quite twice as long as second segment; claws small, simple. Genus *Chaoborus*.[3](#)

2 Hairs at the bases of the first two segments of the tarsus whitish. Legs relatively thicker, largely pale but with the femora usually conspicuously dark towards the tip. Thorax relatively paler, not appearing striped when viewed from the front. Male hypopygium shorter. Larger species, wing length 4.5-5 mm.

..... ***Mochlonyx velutinus*** Ruthe

Common in woods in spring. Termed *M culiciformis* DeGeer, 1776 in Freeman (1950).

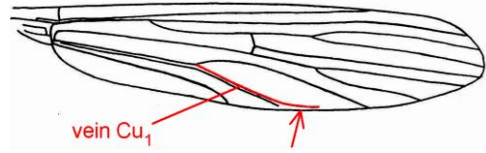
All segments of the tarsus with dark hair right to the base. Legs relatively thinner, the femora uniform in colour, not darkened towards the tip. Thorax relatively darker, appearing indistinctly striped when viewed from the front. Male hypopygium longer. Smaller species, wing length 3.5-4 mm.

..... ***Mochlonyx fuliginosus*** Felt

Yorkshire, Cumbria, Kerry. Termed *M martinii* Edwards, 1930 in Freeman (1950).



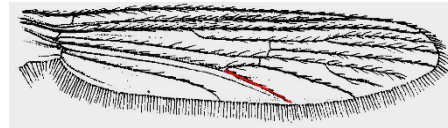
- 3 Femora and tibiae with many dark rings. Pulvilli absent. Vein Cu_1 with a hairy extension near the tip parallel to the hind margin. Wing length 3.5-4.5 mm. Subgenus *Peusomyia*.



..... ***Chaoborus (Peusomyia) pallidus*** Fabricius

Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Shropshire, Hampshire.

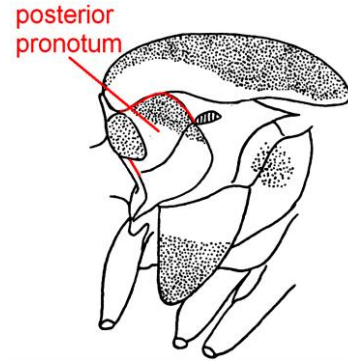
Legs unbanded. Pulvilli present. Vein Cu_1 running straight to the hind margin of the wing. Subgenus *Chaoborus*.[4](#)



- 4 Abdomen uniformly dark, unbanded. Posterior pronotum blackish on upper half, yellowish on lower half. Femora always uniform in colour, not darkened towards the tip. Last segment of male antenna two-thirds the length of the second to last. Wing length 3.5-5 mm.

..... ***Chaoborus (Chaoborus) crystallinus***

Common and generally distributed.



Abdomen banded on at least some of the segments. If pronotum dark on upper half then the femora are dark towards the tip.5

- 5 Posterior pronotum as in *crystallinus*. Femora blackish towards the tip. Male antennae as *crystallinus*. Wing length 4.5-5 mm.
..... ***Chaoborus (Chaoborus) obscuripes*** Van der Wulp
Buckinghamshire, Glamorgan. Scotland. Very rarely collected.

Posterior pronotum either entirely pale or indistinctly brown or darker on lower half. Femora uniform in colour. Last segment of male antenna as long as the second to last. Wing length 3.5-4.5 mm.
..... ***Chaoborus flavicans*** Meigen
Common and generally distributed. Most of the pale specimens will be found to belong here.

