



In this issue...

1. [Coordinator's intro](#)
2. [RP Conference for coordinators and tutors](#)
3. [Online data repository](#)
4. [RP hubs](#)
5. [2014 ARMI training](#)
6. [Procloeon bifidum on the River Barle](#)
7. [Contact us](#)

(click the links above to go straight to the full article)

Coordinator's intro



I have been in post for a little over five months now and I am thoroughly enjoying it, thank you all for the great welcome and continued support which I have received. Since April I have attended and delivered ARMI workshops around the country and it has been a great pleasure to meet so many local volunteers, coordinators, tutors and statutory body Riverfly contacts. Your commitment and passion towards conserving and protecting our rivers is simply incredible and it is essential that the Riverfly Partnership, through the ARMI and other initiatives, continues to play a key role in ensuring that our collective efforts deliver results for our rivers and freshwater ecosystems. I hope you enjoy this edition of the RP newsletter and, as always, I welcome any feedback.

RP Conference for coordinators and tutors

Thanks to all of those who have booked to attend the RP Conference for coordinators and tutors, on Wednesday 19th November in the Flett Theatre, Natural History Museum, London. I know I have a few RSVPs still to acknowledge, my sincere apologies for the delay but I will confirm those places by the end of September. For any of you who have not yet contacted me, there are still limited places available so please contact me (ben@riverflies.org) ASAP because booking is essential and your place is only secured upon my receiving confirmation.



The conference will consist of five morning presentations followed by afternoon breakout sessions, feedback and discussion. Please see the draft format below for more details.

DRAFT FORMAT FOR CONFERENCE

Speakers:

- Cyril Bennett**, Centre for Riverfly Conservation - Biological Fingerprinting & species level invertebrate monitoring
Thomas Miles, Freshwater Biological Association - How to use the RP online database
Charlie Bell, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust - How to set up an ARMI Hub
Allen Beechey, Chilterns Chalk Streams Project
Rob Rees, Environment Agency – Riverfly Plus
Ben Fitch, ARMI Coordinator – ARMI coordination progress report

Timings:

- 09.30-10.00 Refreshments*
10.30-13.00 Presentations and questions
13.00-14.00 Lunch** and refreshments**
14.00-15.00 Breakout Sessions
15.00-16.00 Feedback and discussion

*refreshments will be provided in the morning and during the lunch period

** lunch is not provided, please bring your own packed lunch or use one of the onsite cafes

Please note that travel, accommodation and subsistence costs cannot be refunded by RP

Online data repository

RP's online ARMI data repository went live in July. Since then I have been activating accounts and inputting ARMI site details. Thanks for your response to my email sent on the 23rd July which launched the database. I am working to get every active site into the database so that all ARMI monitors will be able to enter monthly records from April 2015. I

ask that you bear with me during this time because I have to enter various details for each site and I can only do so one ARMI group at a time. The feedback I have received so far is very positive and I am confident that the database will greatly enhance the ARMI, particularly for volunteers and coordinators. Tom Miles, on behalf of the Freshwater Biological Association, created the system for RP and he will be speaking about it at the conference in November. If you have not yet sent me your group's ARMI site details, or if you have any database questions, please contact me ben@riverflies.org so that I can help.

Record ID: 570

Cased caddisfly (Cased caddisfly)  B 20	Caseless caddisfly (Caseless caddisfly)  A 7	Ephemeroidea (Mayfly)  A 3	Ephemeroidea (Blue-winged olive)  B 30
Heptageniidae (Flat-bodied up-wings)  Abundance Optional Quantity	Baetidae (Olives)  B 50	Stoneflies (Stoneflies)  A 3	Gammarus (Freshwater shrimp)  C

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RP hubs

There are now 20 active RP hubs across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; with 5 of those becoming established in 2014. Over the coming winter RP will be furthering its hub development strategy with additions to include an enhanced RP tutor accreditation process and better, dedicated online information and training resources. There are already plans to develop hubs in Norfolk and Exmoor in 2015 which will help to provide locally based RP accredited tutors, expert support for ARMI groups and volunteers, and funding assistance across those areas. If you are interested in setting up an ARMI hub in your area please visit www.riverflies.org for details or email Ben Fitch, ben@riverflies.org.

2014 ARMI training

ARMI training has been a great success in 2014 with 52 ARMI workshops being booked. Of those, 48 have already been delivered, there has been 1 cancellation and a further 3 will be delivered shortly. According to my information, 6 support days have been booked this year with the last of those to be delivered this week; however, I am sure this does not accurately reflect the total number of support days. Please can I urge ARMI coordinators and tutors to confirm details of all 2014 support days with me ASAP? Support days are vital in retaining volunteer motivation, and, increasing identification skills. Ideally every ARMI workshop participant should be offered a support day after twelve months.

To find out more please contact Ben Fitch as detailed at the end of the newsletter.



***Procloeon bifidum* on the River Barle**

During August, Ueli Zellweger found a previously unseen invertebrate whilst ARMI sampling. He contacted RP and the image (right) was posted on Twitter for identification. Buglife Conservation Director and Riverfly Recording Schemes Coordinator, Craig Macadam, identified the species as *Procloeon bifidum*, a new record for the River Barle. Riverfly Recording Schemes are affiliated to the Riverfly Partnership and promote the study of mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies through collecting and publishing records of almost 300 species. For more information on the Riverfly Recording Schemes contact Craig Macadam via email craig.macadam@buglife.org.uk



Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information about the articles in this issue or if you would like to contribute something to the next issue please contact Ben Fitch: **Ben Fitch, Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative Coordinator, The Riverfly Partnership, c/o Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 1EF, Mobile: 0771 4487 209, Tel: 0117 2303 505, Email: ben@riverflies.org, Skype: amicoordinator**
For more information about the Riverfly Partnership and ARMI visit:

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