

## **'Extinct' caddisfly found in Scotland**

A caddisfly last seen in Britain in 1881 has turned up in Scotland. The tiny insect was discovered by David Pryce, one of the co-ordinators of the Riverfly Recording Schemes. It was found beside a river in Assynt, in north west Scotland while David was undertaking field work for his PhD at the University of Stirling.

*The Pincer-tailed caddisfly (Hydroptila tigurina)* is a micro-caddisfly, measuring around 3mm, which lives in fast, stony rivers. The only other record of this species is from Ambleside, Cumbria in 1881 and it was thought that after nearly 130 years with no records, this species may be extinct in the UK.

This new record, over 350 miles north of the previous record, raises the possibility that this species may turn up in other areas.

“Many riverflies have suffered a dramatic decline in numbers in recent years. To find a species over a century after it was last recorded is fantastic news” said Buglife’s Conservation Officer for Scotland, Craig Macadam. “*Hydroptila tigurina* is only found in a handful of countries in Europe. This new record represents the first record of this species in Scotland.”

Notes:

Riverflies include Mayflies (Ephemeroptera), Caddisflies (Trichoptera) and Stoneflies (Plecoptera) - a total of 278 species in the UK.

The Riverfly Recording Schemes promote the study and recording of caddisflies, mayflies and stoneflies in the United Kingdom.

For more information on riverflies visit The Riverfly Partnership website [www.riverflies.org](http://www.riverflies.org). Buglife and The Riverfly Recording Schemes were founding members of The Riverfly Partnership which brings together anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant statutory agencies to increase our knowledge of riverfly populations and actively conserve their habitats. The Riverfly Partnership operates through the charity status of The Salmon and Trout Association.

David Pryce is undertaking a PhD research project on “Hyporheic biodiversity within the gravel-bed rivers of Scotland: a three-dimensional perspective” in the School of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Stirling. His project is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is the first organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates, and is actively engaged in saving Britain's rarest bugs, snails, bees, wasps, ants, starfish, spiders, beetles and many more fascinating creatures. For more information on Buglife's work go to: [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)