

Shieldbug Fly

Phasia hemiptera

Identification:

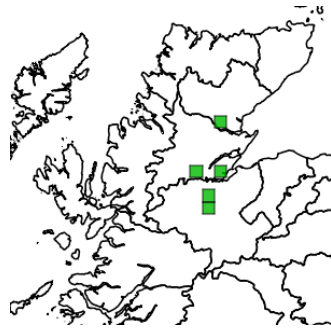
Unlike most Tachinid flies, *Phasia* is not particularly bristly, and can be passed over as a hoverfly. The male (pictured) is very easy to identify - squat, robust, large-eyed, and notably with broad, curved, dark-patterned wings. Females are rather less distinctive, though they have a conspicuous thorn-like ovipositor. Record only males unless confirmed by a specialist.



Shieldbug Fly *Phasia hemiptera*.
[Photo](#) © Richard Bartz

Distribution:

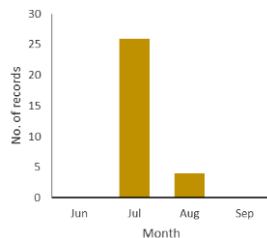
The first Highland records were in 2005, so we still know little about its status. It may have followed a potential host, the Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*, which seems to have spread north since the late 1990s. It might be expected anywhere in Highland where hosts occur.



The distribution of records of the Shieldbug Fly in the HBRG database.

When to look for it:

Records are all between 7 July and 7 August, a very short season. It is usually seen nectaring on Hogweed and other umbellifers.



Similar species:

The male cannot be confused with any other Highland species.

Notes:

The larva is parasitic on various shieldbugs. Any records of these are welcome, and can be identified with [this resource](#).