

Yellow Splinter Group

Scottish Yellow Splinter (*Lipsothrix ecullata*), Northern Yellow Splinter (*L. errans*), Southern Yellow Splinter (*L. nervosa*) and Scarce Yellow Splinter (*L. nobilis ex. nigristigma*)

Areas and status: The Scottish yellow splinter has been recorded from c 15 sites in/near to the Scottish Highlands. The southern yellow splinter is locally distributed in S England, East Anglia and the southern Midlands; it is also found in S Wales and is rare in Scotland. The scarce yellow splinter is 'widespread' and is known from 20-34 sites (figures vary) in north Welsh borders, south Lancashire, Shropshire and Cumbria.

Woodland type: Wet Woodland

Preferred habitat niches: Wet woodland/wetlands, Dead wood (e.g. damp, rotting wood, water-filled rot hollows and woody debris in water courses). The northern yellow splinter occurs in upland Oak (*Quercus* spp) woodland, the southern yellow splinter occurs in seepages in woodlands and lowland fens. The larvae of the northern and the scarce yellow splinters occur in saturated, rotten wood in shaded streams. The Scottish yellow splinter occurs in wet seepages in woodlands, but not acid conditions; its larvae occur on soft, well decayed wood.

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Drainage resulting in lower water tables in wet woodlands and loss of seepage habitats
- Loss of dead wood due to over tidiness in woodlands – these 4 craneflies require a continuity of supply of dead wood
- Concerns about flooding resulting in the removal of dead wood from woodland water courses

Potential habitat management solutions:	
<i>Prescription</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Manage veteran/mature trees	Retain dying, moribund and mature trees growing in areas of wet woodlands to ensure a continuity of supply of dead wood
Drainage	In wet woodlands which have recently dried out/are in the process of drying out, block ditches and culverts to raise water tables. Allow large woody debris to accumulate in springs, streams, ditches and other watercourses.
Dead wood	Retain dead wood in wet woodlands; standing trees/branches which are dead and will fall on damp ground, seepages, banks of woodland water courses and into rivers/streams (to ensure a continuity of supply of dead wood). Increase availability by felling and/or killing low numbers of trees/shrubs (average 1-3 trees/ha/yr). Cut side branches and allow to fall to the ground, and/or kill side branches and allow them to fall eventually. If needed transport pieces of dead wood to the areas of wet woodland and place them in and beside seepages, streams etc