

Sandnats Profile MGB

Mike Bloxham

At the age of 80 still active as an invertebrate ecologist.

My life was mostly spent as teacher, but when my career ended, I became a volunteer for the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. My early duties involved assisting in data entry for EcoRecord. One of the first ecological database for the area, it has proved to be a mine of valuable information for planners and local naturalists.

It was not long before I joined the Trust's Survey unit 'Landcare' as an invertebrate ecologist and completed some 20 different projects, working with a variety of organisations in the midland region.

A lifelong fascination with insects has made me familiar with many common ones. This has led me to membership of Dipterists Forum (True Flies) and the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society. I also work as a volunteer on the insect collections at Birmingham Museum Collection Centre. To me collection of specimens for reference purposes has been important and I find these extremely valuable in teaching entomology and in mentoring those starting more advanced invertebrate studies. Accounts of my research and activities have appeared in a number of publications and I have edited the Bulletin of the Sandwell Naturalists (Sandnats) for a number of years. I am greatly indebted to the many fellow entomologists and ecologists who have assisted in my life's work.

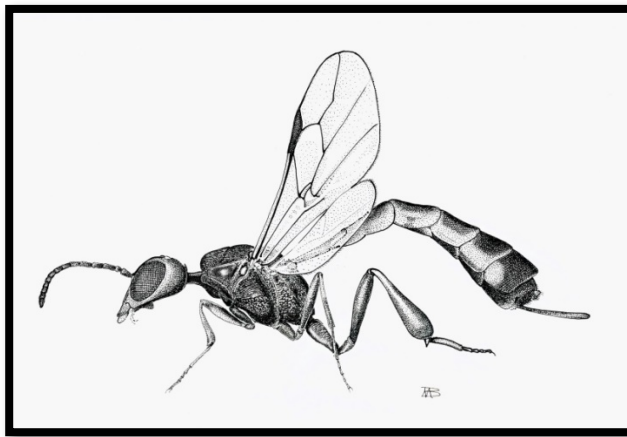
A part of my life has also been taken up with wildlife illustration and I have provided line drawings and photographs for a number of authors and editors.

Photo MGB

Pen drawing MGB



Mike at the microscope



The parasitic wasp *Gasteruption minutum*