

## ***Contarinia dipsacearum* Rübsaamen, 1921, a gall midge (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) new to Ireland and its overlooked occurrence in Britain**

*Contarinia dipsacearum* Rübsaamen, 1921, is a gall midge, the larvae of which develop in the flower buds of *Knautia* and *Succisa* (Ellis 2024a). On 8 September 2024 I noticed many plants of Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis* Moench) at Murlough National Nature Reserve had slightly disfigured flower buds that remained closed even when surrounding flowers in a flower head were open. Opening some of these revealed the orange larvae of *C. dipsacearum* (Fig. 1). These were identified using the table provided in Ellis (2024b). The details of the record are as follows:

DOWN: Murlough National Nature Reserve, J39623385, 8 September 2024, coll. det. J. Dalzell.

*Contarinia dipsacearum* is not listed from Britain (Chandler 2024) but its presence in the London area was given in Niblett (1947) and this published record seems to have been overlooked (Peter Chandler pers. comm). The species is also known from Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden (Elven *et al.* 2024, GBIF 2023) but is very rarely recorded (Roskam and Carbonnelle 2015).

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**Figure 1.** Larvae of *Contarinia dipsacearum* in an opened, galled flower of *Succisa pratensis* at Murlough NNR, Co. Down, 8 September 2024. Photo: J. Dalzell.