

Species Recovery Report 2023 – Green Barred Colonel *Odontomyia hydroleon*

In 2023 SRT launched a new recovery project for the Green Barred Colonel soldierfly *Odontomyia hydroleon*, one of our most threatened British species. Restricted to a calcium-rich seepage fen site in Dalby Forest in Yorkshire, the Green Barred Colonel relies on seepages of mineral water from underground to provide its incredibly unique habitat. These under-appreciated seepage habitats are often lost due to agricultural improvements, and with them a host of unusual plants and invertebrates that rely on them - making them very rare.

Most soldier flies are found in wet or damp places. They can be a range of colours from green or yellow to metallic. This bright green soldierfly is being monitored by Ian Andrews from the Dipterist Forum and the site is being carefully managed by Forestry England. The Species Recovery Trust in 2023 went out to site with partners to discuss management improvements and ways that SRT could support work in 2024 and onwards. SRT will help by increasing monitoring capacity for this species and support wider ecological studies to advise and tailor management activities. The long-term aim is to expand the habitat and eventually the species to additional sites, in order to start to recover this rare and beautiful fly.



Odontomyia hydroleon male,
credited to Ian
Andrews