



**Figure 3b.** Numbers of species per 10km square. The maximum number of species is 177 in SY89



**Figure 3c.** Modelled species richness using Frescalo [i].

The resulting modelled species-richness map seems to be highly plausible, demonstrating the importance of the southern woodland belt and showing how perceived weak areas on dot maps are likely to look if recorder effort was constant across the country. Areas of likely low richness are as expected: the Fens of eastern England, parts of central and north Wales, The Pennines and high ground in the Lake District, the southern uplands of Scotland and much of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The immense richness of southern England illustrates just how significant demand for new building land in the south-east could be for hoverflies and, as likely as not, much of the rest of Britain's biodiversity.

[i] Frescalo is a computer program that estimates species richness and time trends when recording effort is uneven.

## ***Melanostoma mellarium* (Meigen, 1822): one step forward in resolving *Melanostoma* identification issues**

Martin C. D. Speight  
speightm@gmail.com

The truism that even the longest march begins with but a single step may have been first used in relation to human endeavour far removed from the naming of hoverflies. But it does seem somewhat appropriate when considering the advance represented by the reinstatement of the species *Melanostoma mellarium*. It's no secret that *Melanostoma* is a bit of a dog's dinner, taxonomically, with either polymorphic species or unrecognised taxa tending to complicate the naming of specimens, even from quite mundane localities. And *Melanostoma*, of one sort or another, can turn up almost everywhere in this part of Europe, from March to October!

