NAMES
Ameletus inopinatus

DESCRIPTION
A. Inopinatus is found in upland streams above 300m and some highland lochs. They spend most of their life as nymphs, scavenging decaying material. As fast swimmers they can dart out to collect organic matter flowing downstream. There is one generation per year, overwintering as nymphs and emerge as adults between May and early August. Like other mayflies they have only a brief adult life of just a few hours after developing wings and taking to the air. Males can be seen swarming over the water in the afternoon. Mayflies are important in ecosystems since they are a major prey item for several bird species while they swarm as adults. This is the only relict arctic-alpine species in the UK meaning that it is adapted to life in cold clean water and its range is decreasing as water temperatures rise.

DISTRIBUTION MAP

THREATS
Rising water temperatures due to climate change. By 2050 it is likely to only survive in the Cairngorms since it is retreating to higher altitudes as temperatures rise.

ACTION REQUIRED
1. Action on climate change
2. Protection of suitable water bodies

FURTHER READING
http://www.ephemeroptera.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/2675/

Balallan House
Allan Park
Stirling
FK8 2QG
Tel: 01786 447504
info@buglife.org.uk
www.buglife.org.uk