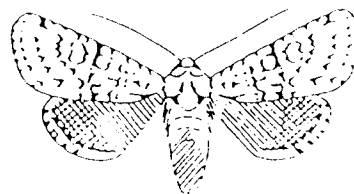


The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

Founded 1995

President/Treasurer: Steve Moon
Records Secretary: Dave Gilmore
Field Meetings Sec/Newsletter Editor: Mike Powell



Dichonia aprilina

NEWSLETTER NO. 12 - AUGUST 1997

FIELD MEETING JULY 19TH

19 members and guests attended the meeting at Pant-y-Sais Reserve. 3 MV lights were run from just before 10.00 until just after midnight, one near the car park and two on the boardwalk.

Of the 67 species recorded the highlights were Fen Wainscot, the first known vice-county record, Narrow-winged Pug, Round-winged Muslin, Silky and Southern Wainscots, Suspected, Haworths Minor, Scarce Burnished Brass and Marsh Oblique-barred.

The full list of species recorded is attached.

FORTHCOMING FIELD MEETING, SATURDAY, 16TH AUGUST 1997 KENFIG POOL NNR

Our next field meeting takes place this Saturday at Kenfig Pool NNR and is a joint meeting with the British Entomological & Natural History Society.

Meet at the Reserve Centre car park at 8.00 p.m.

It is likely that several traps will be running over a fairly wide area in order to catch as many different species as possible in different habitats. The reed bed area is one key area that will be targeted.

NOTES ON THE SILKY WAVE ON GOWER, 1997

On 29th June 1997 a small colony of the Silky Wave *Idaea dilutaria* was discovered by the authors on a south-facing limestone cliff on the Gower Peninsula. This diminutive geometrid is a Red Data Book (RDB) species and is known from only two other extant colonies; at the Great Orme, Caernarvonshire and at Durdham Down near Bristol (Skinner, 1984).

Subsequent to the discovery of the Gower colony, several visits have been made by a number of observers resulting in a total of 89 recorded sightings. The maximum count made at any one time was that of 52 moths on 11th July (Sarah & Steve Walmsley and Andrew & Leslie Turney). The last sighting, to date, was 24th July when 4 worn specimens were noted. All counts and dates shown in figure 1 were made during daylight hours. The exception was 24th July when a singleton was attracted to a Robinson MV trap set up in suitable habitat in the centre of the colony. It is noteworthy that immediately prior to running the trap, 4 moths were seen within 20m of the trap, yet only 1 came to light, approximately one hour after dusk. However, there was a moderate breeze during this visit and it is possible that on a calmer

night, larger numbers may be attracted to light. The best time to observe the species appears to be during daylight hours as the moth is easily disturbed and netted, seemingly at any time of day.

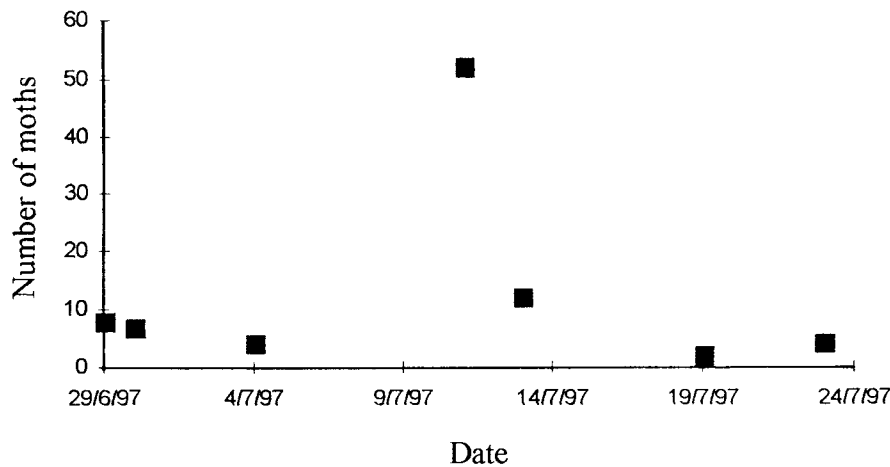


Figure 1. Dates and counts of the Silky Wave on the Gower Peninsula 1997.

The counts shown in figure 1, made principally by flushing moths from dwarf scrub and herbs, are all incomplete in that only sections of the colony were walked at any one time. Clearly the 1997 population will have been much larger than the figures given here indicate and it is planned that in future years a monitoring strategy can be implemented to estimate the total population size.

The extent of the colony appears to be limited as moths have so far only been recorded along circa 600m of cliff scree despite extensive searches to the east and west of the site. Habitat to the west is similar in species composition, with plenty of Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium* (the larval food plant) and Hoary Rock-rose *H. canum*, but the physiognomy of the vegetation is very different. Heavy grazing there has produced a very short vegetation structure with much bare earth and little leaf litter. To the east the soils are generally thinner and despite only minimal grazing a similar predominance of short vegetation and bare earth occurs. The eastern area and a significant area within the boundary of the colony (where no moths were observed) also showed signs of burning the previous season.

The characters of the site where the moth occurred, although not examined in detail, yet show a much more varied vegetation structure with a mosaic of calcicole and calcifuge plant species. The adult moths appeared to prefer 'hollows' in the gorse, where limestone outcrops held mature stands of *Helianthemum spp.* which had a well developed litter layer. With reference to Waring (1995) it is suspected that this is where larvae may also be found and plans to search for larvae at the appropriate time of year have been made.

There is a strong likelihood that other colonies may also be present on Gower and observers are recommended to target any well-drained, south-facing limestone escarpments where light grazing or modest burning has maintained a mosaic of dwarf scrub with mature patches of Rock-rose.

The discovery of the Silky Wave has been quite timely in that it has only very recently been accepted onto the 'Middle List' of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (Adrian Fowles pers. comm.). This will hopefully lead, not just to an increase in attention paid to this species, but will also help to promote the work being carried out by the GMRG within the county.

Barry & Sandra Stewart

References:

Skinner, B. (1984) Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles, Viking.

Waring, P. (1995) Moth Report, British Wildlife, 5, 257-258.

CRYMLYN BOG NNR, 1997

Following Martin Whites article on the Bog in newsletter No. 10, Kevin Dupe brings us up to date with the following article.

Last year Crymlyn Bog NNR was trapped over the season by Martin White and Kevin Dupe producing a list of over 250 species including 6 NBs and 20 local species. This was achieved using just Heath Actinic traps. This year we have been using two MV lights run from the visitor centre. One light is situated at the back of the building facing Kilvey Hill's Chestnut woods and a small area of Sessile Oak. There is also an open area of Alder, Buckthorn, Gorse, Birch and Bracken. The other light is at the front facing the Bog itself.

This year we have been assisted by Rob Taylor without who's help it would be nearly impossible to deal with the catch from both lights. In just 3 nights trapping we have turned up a further 35 species for Crymlyn Bog. The highlights have been Red-necked Footman in their hundreds, Scarce Burnished Brass and Scarce Silver-lines all on 9th July. The Scarce Burnished Brass turned up in the trap facing the woods whilst the Scarce Silver-lines appeared in the trap facing the bog !!

Last year Kevin found a Goat Moth larva that was kept over the Winter. It pupated in the Spring and a male hatched out on 1st July. Kevin, Martin and Rob took it back to Crymlyn Bog to be released at the same Sallow (becoming known at the Goat Moth tree) from which it had come. As Kevin reached to put it onto a branch he knocked off a very large female resting only 8 inches from where the male was to be placed. Coincidence or what ! She was picked up and placed next to the male but was too disturbed and flew off in a powerful direct flight.

One of the most interesting discoveries was during a guided walk on International Bog Day, 27th July. Martin's partner Heulwen, pointed out a moth on the footpath to Kevin who caught it in a box. He immediately identified it as a Wainscot but one he was unfamiliar with. Martin was able to identify it as the county's second Fen Wainscot following hot on the heels of the first found at Pant-y-Sais on 19th July. What teamwork.

Over 300 species have now been recorded at Crymlyn and with regular trapping every 2 weeks should be over 350 by the end of this year.

OVER THE BORDER

On 12th July Stefan Golaszewski, Dave Gilmore, John Martin and Mike Powell visited Gelli Rhyd Farm near Llangenny, Breconshire with 69 macro and 20 micro species being recorded. The highlights were Cloaked Carpet, Narrow-winged Pug, Dingy Shell, Small Elephant Hawkmoth, Muslin Footman, Triple-spotted Clay, Slender Brindle and Scarce Silver Y. The site has never been sprayed with chemicals and apparently contains the largest stand of Black Poplars (all males) in Wales.

NEW FOR GLAMORGAN, GREY MOUNTAIN CARPET *Entephria caesiata* D & S

On 15th June, Jeff Williams caught Grey Mountain Carpet in his Heath Trap at St. Gwynno Forest, Llanwonno. Less than 3 weeks later on 4th July whilst netting in daylight on Merthyr Common at Twynau Gywnion, Dave Gilmore also caught this species. These records constitute the first and second vice-county records of this upland species although it occurs locally in Monmouthshire. As the food plant is heather and bilberry further records from the north of the county seem highly likely.

FLATHOLM PROJECT

News has recently reached us that trapping started on the island in June. Using a Heath Trap situated in the garden of the farmhouse, a number of interesting species have already been recorded, notably Crescent Striped, Marbled Coronet, Light Brocade, Vines Rustic and Rufous Minor.

News of a visit over the weekend of 8th/9th August using two MV lights will appear in the next newsletter.

FIELD MEETINGS OUTSIDE GLAMORGAN

Bristol and District Moth Group and Gloucestershire Moth Recorders
Wetmoor Gos. Wildlife Trust NR, Nr. Wickwar, ST 746878,
29th August, 8.00 p.m.

From the minor road between Wickwar and Hawkesbury, take the track which passes Lower Woods Lodge.Park on the grass verge next to the Lodge.

A joint meeting of both groups.

Somerset Moth Group
Priddy Mineries Somerset Wildlife Trust NR, ST 547515,
16th August, 7.30 p.m.

For details phone Keith Brown on 01963 32763

RECENT REPORTS, JULY 1997

As usual Barry and Sandra Stewart have been busy during the month and recorded the following:-

Mewslade; Grass Eggar (1st)

Mansfield; Woundwort Pearl (17th), Blomers Rivulet (17th), Crescent Dart (13th), Brown Scallop (9th), Peacock Moth (17th), Sharp Angled Peacock (9th), Lilac Beauty (9th), Rosy Footman (13th), Triple spotted Clay (9th, 13th, 17th), Coronet (2nd, 9th)

Pen-y-Waun; Woundwort Pearl (22nd), Double Line (11th, 22nd), Marsh Oblique-barred (3rd), Scarce Burnished Brass (11th), Slender Brindle (22nd), Map-winged Swift (4th), Five-spot Burnet (5th, 19th), Plain Wave (11th), Wood carpet (5th), Small Seraphim (4th), Small Engrailed (11th), Rosy Footman (22nd), Triple Spotted Clay (4th, 11th, 22nd), Light Brocade (11th), Striped Wainscot (4th, 11th), Double Kidney (22nd), Scarce Silver-lines (11th, 22nd), Beautiful Carpet (11th)

Blackhills; Double Line (6th, 8th), Slender Brindle (8th), Wood Carpet (6th), Peacock Moth (6th), Sharp-angled Peacock (6th), Rosy Footman (6th), Triple Spotted Clay (6th, 8th) Striped Wainscot (6th), Coronet (6th)

Penyrheol; Double Line (8th), Scarce Burnished Brass (21st), Ling Pug (12th, 21st), Rosy Footman (12th), Triple Spotted Clay (8th, 12th), Striped Wainscot (8th), Dingy Shears (12th), Double Lobed (23rd), Bordered Sallow (8th), Scarce Silver-lines (23rd)

In the Overton area on 23rd the following were seen; Crescent Dart, Madder Pearl, Devonshire Wainscot, Mullien Wave & Annulet.

A visit to Newton Burrows on 1st July by Dave Gilmore, Steve Moon and Mike Powell produced Oblique Striped, Wood Carpet, Dark Umber, Scorched Carpet, Sharp-angled Peacock, Small Elephant Hawkmoth, Scarce Footman, Sand Dart, White Colon, Vines Rustic and Bordered Sallow. On the 6th, Phil Bristow and Stefan Golaszewski joined Mike and Dave at Coed Coesau-Whips near Lisvane and recorded Satin Lutestring, Blomers Rivulet, Dingy Shell, Waved Carpet, Clouded Magpie, Red-necked Footman, Coronet, Dingy Shears and Rufous Minor.

At Coed-y-Wenallt on 8th, Mike, Dave and Stefan took Satin Lutestring, Beech-green Carpet, Sharp-angled Carpet, Haworths Pug, Muslin Footman, Coronet and Beautiful Snout.

As part of a survey relating to a planning application Steve Moon, Mike, Stefan and David visited Island Farm, Bridgend, on 16th July. Unfortunately no major find occurred but a total of 68 species were recorded including Ghost Moth, Currant Pug and Dingy Shears.

Dave Gilmore has visited the Coed-y-Bedw NR near Pentyrch on a monthly basis and hopes to have a provisional list for the site ready for publication later this year. A visit on 31st turned up Satin Lutestring, Clay Triples-lines, Devon Carpet, White-spotted Pug, Dingy Shell, Small Engrailed, Buff Footman, Triple-spotted Clay, Double Kidney, Slender Brindle and Rufous Minor. The Buff Footman is provisionally the first vice-county record.

Mike Powell, in his Llanishen garden, recorded Ghost Moth (6th, 23rd) Rufous Minor (10th) Dingy Shears (11th) Red-necked Footman (19th) and Dark Umber (22nd).

We look forward to seeing as many members and guests as possible at Kenfig this Saturday.

GLAMORGAN MOTH RECORDING GROUP FIELD MEETING

PANT-Y-SAIS FEN LNR. SS 71 94 - 19TH JULY 1997

The following species were recorded:-

462.	<i>Ypsolopha sequalla</i>	1	2098.	Flame	3
1041.	<i>Acleris sparsana</i>	1	2102.	Flame Shoulder	1
1290.	<i>Chilo phragmitella</i>	20+	2107.	Large Yellow Underwing	2
1331.	Water Veneer	6	2109.	Lesser Yellow Underwing	3
1334.	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	3	2111.	L.B.B. Yellow Underwing	1
1344.	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	1	2112.	Least Yellow Underwing	1
1345.	Brown China-mark	10	2118.	True Lovers Knot	2
1385.	<i>Ebulea Crocealis</i>	1	2122.	Purple Clay	1
1437.	<i>Acrobasis consociella</i>	1	2123.	Small Square-spot	3
1640.	Drinker	4	2127.	Triple-spotted Clay	1
1645.	Scalloped Hook-tip	1	2160.	Bright-line Brown eye	10
1646.	Oak Hook-tip	1	2193.	Clay	3
1653.	Buff Arches	35	2196.	Striped Wainscot	6
1657.	Common Lutestring	1	2197.	Southern Wainscot	16
1702.	Small Fan-footed Wave	1	2199.	Common Wainscot	2
1708.	Single-dotted Wave	2	2225.	Minor Shoulder-knot	2
1713.	Riband Wave	1	2268.	Suspected	3
1724.	Red Twin-spot Carpet	1	2289.	Knot Grass	1
1755.	Chevron	2	2293.	Marbled Beauty	1
1777.	July Highflyer	2	2302.	Brown Rustic	1
1803.	Small Rivulet	1	2305.	Small Angle Shades	1
1826.	Triple-spotted Pug	1	2321.	Dark Arches	4
1846.	Narrow-winged Pug	3	2343a.	Lesser Common Rustic	1
1887.	Clouded Border	2	2367.	Haworth's Minor	20
1910.	Lilac Beauty	1	2377.	Fen Wainscot	1 (1st vice-county record)
1922.	Swallow-tailed Moth	5	2379.	Small Rufous	2
1955.	Common White Wave	2	2391.	Silky Wainscot	4
1981.	Poplar Hawk-moth	2	2435.	Scarce Burnished Brass	3 (Notable Na)
2011.	Pale Prominent	1	2450.	Spectacle	2
2030.	Yellow-tail	10	2469.	Herald	2
2035.	Round-winged Muslin	10	2477.	Snout	1
2044.	Dingy Footman	20	2485.	Marsh Oblique-barred	8 (Notable Nb)
2050.	Common Footman	1			
2081.	White-line Dart	8			
2089.	Heart & Dart	2			