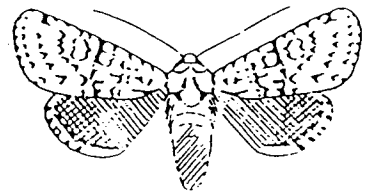


# The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

Founded 1995

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



*Dichonia aprilina*

## NEWSLETTER NO. 17- FEBRUARY 1998

### WINTER INDOOR MEETING -25th FEBRUARY

Under separate cover, every member should have received a letter from Steve Moon advising that the meeting planned for 18th February at Kenfig NNR has now moved to 25th February. The start time remains at 7.30 for an 8.00pm start.

### BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION ( SOUTH WALES BRANCH)

The local branch of BC are holding a Conservation Day on 28th February at Swansea Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea to which members of our group are invited. A donation of £1.00 for non BC members is requested.

The programme starts at 10.00am and is planned to end around 4.30pm. A full and varied programme is promised throughout the day, with Barry & Sandra Stewart giving a talk on Moths of Gower during the afternoon session.

### ATROPOS 4

Atropos #4, January 1998, has recently been published. The 84 page issue is packed full of moth articles including;

A book about caterpillars by Jim Porter as well as a review of his new book, separating The Rustic and The Uncertain, A moth in the Ear, the dangers of Ultra Violet light, notable rarities on St. Agnes, Scilly, a site guide for Hamstreet, Kent, Black Collar in Shetland, reports from Coastal Stations ( Guernsey to Shetland), along with many other interesting moth related articles.

Atropos is available by subscription of £10.00 per annum by returning the enclosed form.



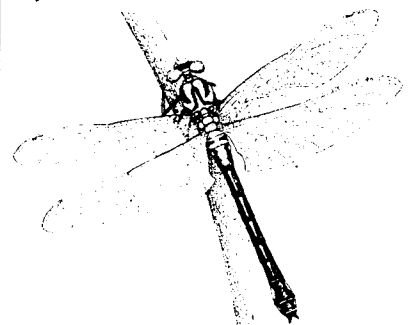
## Atropos

The new lively publication for active butterfly, moth and dragonfly enthusiasts

*Issue 4 out now*

*Features include ~*

*American dragonflies - potential British firsts; Britain's second Scarlet Darter; 1997 Small Tortoiseshell influx; Coastal reports from migration hotspots; Colour photos; Migrant butterfly and dragonfly reports; Separation of The Rustic and The Uncertain; Geranium Bronze*



*Atropos*

Dept BW3, 36 Tinker Lane, Meltham  
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD7 3EX

Club-tailed Dragonfly by Andrew Mackay

## GREY SHOULDER KNOT

The following article appeared in The Daily Mail on 12th January in case you missed it.

## Birds' eye-tech weapon

AS YOU watch the blue tits in your garden on a foul winter day, you may wonder how such tiny birds survive. The answer is that nature has equipped them with a secret weapon.

Ecologists believe the birds have ultraviolet vision to help them to pick out the most heavily disguised insects in the shrubbery.

A team from Bristol University discovered their secret almost by accident. They were studying the caterpillar *Lithophane ornitopus*, which hides among oak leaves and is

almost invisible to our eyes. But, using an ultraviolet camera, they were able to see the caterpillars sharply outlined against their background.

*Lithophane ornitopus* is not normally on the menu for tits, but the team realised that the birds' ultraviolet detection system could highlight any insect against any background.

Like human husbands who think they can hide secrets from their wives, the insects have no chance.

TED HARRIOTT

## RECENT REPORTS

January highlights were few, but the appearance of a **Large Yellow Underwing** in Barry Stewart's garden trap in Gorseinon was quite a surprise. Barry also raised a **Broom Moth** from a pupa later in the month.

February, normally one of the coldest months of the year was turned on its head by the flow of warm southerly winds from the Azores bringing daytime temperatures to over 60f, a record for the month. This warm spell brought about the most amazing winter moth record for the county. A **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles lineata livornica* [Esper] was trapped at Kenfig NNR on the 14/15th following a mild but clear night. This scarce Palearctic migrant is normally only seen from May onwards in Great Britain, so a February record is highly unusual.\*

This constitutes the tenth record for this species in Glamorgan [provisional only]. A full summary of all known records follows at the end of this report.

Other February moth news contained several good records. Stefan Golaszewski took the **Satellite** and **Oak Nycteoline** in his garden in Cardiff on the 13th. Also recorded that night [13th] at Hensol Forest were **Spring Usher** [1], **Pale Brindled Beauty** [22], **March Moth** [3] and **Hebrew Character** [1]. The latter species was also recorded at Porthcawl [9th] along with **Common Quaker**. The **Chestnut** was reported at Llanishen and Whitchurch in Cardiff. **Red Chestnut** and **Oak Beauty** [5th KNNR rec.] were trapped at Kenfig [15th] and **Spring Usher** & **Pale Brindled Beauty** were trapped on 14th & 16th at Roath/Cardiff.

Micro news concerns records from Hensol on the 13th, *Acleris cristana* [1], *Acleris notana* [1], *Tortricodes alternella* [2] and a *Caloptilia* sp. Either *elongnella* or *betulicola*. [If it is the former, then it will be the first post 1980 record. The latter will provisionally be a v-c first]. *E.postvittana* [Light Brown Apple Moth] was present in several garden traps throughout January and February.

\* GMRG is writing to Paul Waring, the National Moth Co-ordinator to confirm the status of pre May records for this species in GB.

Records of **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles lineata livornica* [Esper] in Glamorgan.

1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:27/05/1875	Llantrisant
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:Aug. 1878	Merthyr Mawr Warren
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:5/06/1892	Sketty/Swansea
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:11/09/04	Barry
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad: -1917	Port Talbot
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:4/06/31	Penylan/Cardiff
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	Present ad: c.1970	Langland Bay/Gower *
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:21/05/92	Stout Hall/Gower
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:20/06/96	Mansfield/Gower
1990.Striped Hawk-moth	1 ad:15/02/98	Kenfig NNR

\* : This record may involve more than one individual.

**Deletion to the county list:**

Due to research done at the National Museum of Wales by Martin White, it was found that the specimen for *Pristrogantha penthinana* collected at Neath in 1979 was not this species and therefore being the only record is subsequently deleted from the county list for micro-lepidoptera.

**Record under investigation:**

*Coleophora ahenella* Nb. This moth is mentioned by Hallett in his list for Glamorgan. His record was based on a larval case from the W.E.Cox collection. There now seems to be some discrepancy over the legitimacy of the record since there is no data on Cox's specimen. A friend of Cox's, a Mr Griffith, who collected in the New Forest. [ *C. Ahenella* is only known from the New Forest area ] is thought to have given Cox the specimen [David Slade pers comm], therefore it now seems highly unlikely that this species has ever occurred in Glamorgan.

GMRG is conducting a review of several species listed for Glamorgan that are considered of doubtful origin.

**Recent Record News.**

Two previously unpublished records for the RDB3 species **White-spotted Pinion** have recently come to light [please excuse the pun]. Both records are for 1980, one in the Swansea area [per BS] the other being a specimen taken in Cardiff at the Rothamsted Survey light trap at Penylan [R&VS]. These constitute the 2nd & 3rd records for v-c 41 Glamorgan and the first this century.

A request for all outstanding records to be sent in ASAP to either Barry Stewart [West Glam] or David Gilmore [Mid & South Glam].

**Thank you to all observers who have submitted their records for previous years.**

**Provisional Moth Atlas for the Macro-Lepidoptera of Glamorgan**

Update: Barry Stewart and David Gilmore have so far processed over 12,000 records for the atlas which will hopefully be published sometime in late autumn. This will contain well over 650 distribution maps of all the larger moths recorded in vice-county 41 Glamorgan. It will also give details of all the Na / Nb and Local species plus all the last known dates for the rarer species prior to 1980. The maps will be on a 10km sq mapping format.

## **FIELD MEETINGS 1998**

Attached are details of the field meetings planned for the forthcoming season. Full details are not yet available for all venues, the schedule will be updated as they are confirmed with the local member(s).

Also attached are full details of the field meetings planned by the Bristol & District Moth Group to which all members of our group are welcome to attend.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at Kenfig NNR on 25th February.