

# The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

Founded 1995

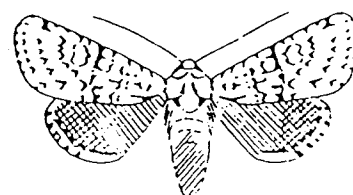
President: Steve Moon

Recorder (West): Barry Stewart

Recorder (East): Dave Gilmore

Field Meetings Sec./Newsletter Editor: Mike Powell

Treasurer : Stefan Golaszewski



*Dichonia aprilina*

## NEWSLETTER NO. 20-MAY 1998

### FIELD MEETING, FRIDAY 24th APRIL

Nine members and one guest turned up for the first meeting of the year, Belinda Ashong, Phil Bristow, Gail Devine, Dave Gilmore, Mike Powell, Richard Smith, Rob Taylor, Tony White, Martin White & Jeff Williams.

A total of 23 species were recorded, 5 micro's and 18 macro's which considering the rather poor weather in the days leading up to the meeting was generally considered good. Rain was forecast but it only started as we packed up to leave, otherwise the night was mild with air temperature around 8 deg.

Species list;

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 436 <i>Pseudoswammerdamia combinella</i> | 648 <i>Endrosia sarcitrella</i>        |
| 667 <i>Semioscopis steinkellneriana</i>  | 692 <i>Agonopterix subpropinquella</i> |
| 1054 <i>Acleris cristana</i>             | 1663 March Moth                        |
| 1724 Red Twin-spot Carpet                | 1738 Common Carpet                     |
| 1746 Shoulder Stripe                     | 1747 The Streamer                      |
| 1750 Water Carpet                        | 1852 Brindled Pug                      |
| 1858 V Pug                               | 1862 Double-striped Pug                |
| 1875 Small White Wave                    | 1888 Scorched Carpet [local]           |
| 1906 Brimstone Moth                      | 1947 The Engrailed                     |
| 1957 White-pinion Spotted                | 2187 Common Quaker                     |
| 2189 Twin-spotted Quaker                 | 2190 Hebrew Character                  |
| 2243 Early Grey                          |  |

### FIELD MEETING, SATURDAY 23rd MAY

Our next field meeting takes place at Kenfig National Nature Reserve on Saturday 23rd May. Meet at the carpark at 9.00pm. situated just off the minor road from Mawdlam to Porthcawl, 802 810. Moth recording has taken place at Kenfig for many years but generally only at the reserve centre building. We therefore hope to add several species to the reserve list by trapping in the dunes and beside the pool.

## **RECENT REPORTS-APRIL 1998**

Dave Gilmore (DG) & Mike Powell (MCP) recorded 20sp. at Draethen on 31st March including Early Tooth-striped, Pale Pinion, Satellite & Oak Nycteoline. Puss Moth, Northern & Lead-coloured Drab's on 1st April and Dark Swordgrass & Mullein on 7th (6th record, first adult) were taken at Kenfig whilst MCP recorded a single Orange Underwing at Creigiau on 5th.

At Cwm Colhuw, Llantwit Major on 6th, DG & MCP took Pale Pinion, Shoulder Stripe & Diamond-backed Moth. The latter was also recorded by Barry Stewart around this time at Gorseinon. At Draethen Woods on 18th DG, MCP along with Phil Bristow recorded Lesser Swallow Prominent and Purple Thorn. Finally Early Tooth-striped and Muslin Moth were taken at Abercwmboi mid month.

## **BRISTOL MOTH GROUP**

A reminder that the BMG have two field meetings this month.

A daytime meeting at Brown's Folly, Nr. Bath on Saturday 16th May at 10.30 am. (ST 798 664) to search for larvae & an evening meeting to Wetmoor, Nr. Wickwar on 29th May at 9.00pm ( ST 746 880).

Full details appeared in our Newsletter No.17, Feb.98.

## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTH GROUP**

The GMG have a field meeting to Workman's Wood NNR (SO 900 113) on Saturday 2nd May at 8.00pm led by Jon Brock. Phone 01242 675890 for more details.

## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Following last months steering committee meeting both David Slade and Stefan Golaszewski have accepted invitations to join the committee. Accordingly the steering committee will now comprise of the following ;

President, Steve Moon

Recorder (East)/Secretary, Dave Gilmore

Recorder (West), Barry Stewart

Newsletter Editor/Field Meeting Secretary, Mike Powell

Treasurer/Membership Secretary, Stefan Golaszewski

Committee, Martin White & Dave Slade

until elections take place at the AGM planned for November.

## **DONATION**

Since the last newsletter, a donation of £150 has been received from Welsh Brewers to support our activities during 1998. We are very grateful for the continued support of the company.

## HARLEY BOOKS

Harley Books have just announced a number of special offers, open until 30th September, on selected titles as detailed below ;

|   |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| British Pyralid Moths (h/b)   | was £22.50  | now £17.50  |
| The Hawkmoths of the Western Palaearctic (h/b)                          | was £49.95  | now £25.00  |
| <u>The Moths &amp; Butterflies of GB and Ireland</u>                    |             |             |
| All published volumes (h/b)   | was £420.00 | now £337.00 |
| (p/b)   | was £210.00 | now £170.00 |
| single volumes ;  |             |             |
| Vol.3 Yponomeutidae to Elachistidae<br>(incl. leaf miners)              | was £37.50  | now £30.00  |
| Vol.7(2) Lasiocampidae to Thyatiridae<br>(incl. Eggars, Hook-tips etc.) | was £30.00  | now £24.50  |

In addition, there are also special offers on Vol. 7(1), British Butterflies (£24.50 p/b), The Dragonflies of GB & Ireland (£10.50 p/b), The Dragonflies of Europe (£45.00 h/b) & Grasshoppers and Allied Insects of GB and Ireland (£13.50 p/b) plus several other titles.

Add 10% to a maximum of £5.00 for postage & packing.

Phone your order on 01206 271216 using your credit card.

## MICRO-MOTHS IDENTIFIED AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES

As reported in a recent newsletter, two Moth Group members, Anthony and Martin White, recently visited the National Museum in Cardiff to identify a number of micro-moths by comparison with collections held in the Department of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology at the Museum. The following species were positively identified (numbered according to Bradley & Fletcher's 'Recorder's Log Book or Label List of British Butterflies & Moths, 1979):

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 247.Tinea trinotella            | - Neath, June '86                      |
| 649.Esperia sulphurella         | - Kilvey Hill, Swansea, 28/5/97        |
| 649.Esperia sulphurella         | - Neath 30/4/90                        |
| 666.Semioscopis avellanella     | - Neath, June '97                      |
| 688.Agonepterix heracliana      | - Swansea Vale, Swansea, 27/8/97       |
| 692.Agonepterix subpropinquella | - Marina dunes, Swansea, 11/9/97       |
| 858.Hypatima rhomboidella       | - Crymlyn Bog, June '96                |
| 874.Blastobasis decolorella     | - Crymlyn Bog 22/10/96                 |
| 874.Blastobasis decolorella     | - Marina dunes, Swansea, 22/10/96      |
| 098.Limnaecia phragmitella      | - Pant-y-Sais Fen, Neath, 19/7/97      |
| 980.Archips xylosteana          | - Rheola Forest, Neath Valley, 10/7/97 |
| 1042.Acleris rhombana           | - Kenfig NNR, 5/8/81                   |
| 1048.Acleris variegana          | - Neath, September '91                 |
| 1062.Acleris emargana           | - Neath, 27/8/90                       |
| 1111.Bactra lanceolana          | - Neath, July '86                      |
| 1155.Epinotia brunnichana       | - Crymlyn Bog, August '96              |
| 1177.Epiblema rosaecolana       | - Neath, 15/7/91                       |
| 1452.Phycita roborella          | - Pant-y-Sais Fen, Neath, 19/7/97      |
| 1501.Platyptilia gonodactyla    | - Neath, 27/8/90                       |

Those marked "Neath or Kenfig" were recorded by Tony White, the others were recorded by Kevin Dupe & Martin White. Two species originate from last year's Moth Group field meeting to Pant-y-Sais Fen. The majority of these are fairly unremarkable, though species such as *Limnaecia phragmitella* are localised, since they are largely confined to marshy habitats. Some of these species, such as *Esperia sulphurella* (which has metallic bronze and bright yellow markings) are highly distinctive. However as the series of books "The Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland" has yet to be completed, the lack of well-illustrated English language books covering the whole of the Microlepidoptera has resulted in many species being almost impossible to identify without reference to museum collections. (Then again, some micro species are so hard to distinguish from each other that even with well illustrated books we might be none the wiser !)

Perhaps the most interesting species amongst the list is *Epinotia brunnichana*, a Tortricoid which according to Bradley & Tremewan's "British Tortricoid Moths, Vol.1" was not previously known from Glamorgan. Over the past few years it has turned up in a number of places, being recorded in the east of the county by Mike Powell & Dave Gilmore and in the west by myself and Kevin Dupe (at Rheola Forest, Neath Valley) as well as by Tony White. Two possibilities arise from this : either the moth has always been present, but had been overlooked by earlier recorders or it has recently arrived in Glamorgan and colonised much of the county since Bradley & Tremewan's book was published, in 1973.

Martin J White.

### **IN THE FIELD WITH MAITLAND EMMET**

In January 1997, I published a short paper on the micro moths collected in 1995, on behalf of the National Museum of Wales. In the introduction to this article I commented that we could have produced a bigger list if we had been able to do more light trapping, which I said was "generally accepted as the main method for collecting Lepidoptera". Shortly after this, Maitland Emmet published a short communication highlighting an additional species new to Wales in my list, and also said that light trapping was no substitute for field work. He issued a challenge. If someone was willing to provide accommodation, and point him in the direction of some suitable habitat he would find fifty species not on my list, in one day, in October. I thought it would be foolish not to take him up on this wager, so I agreed.

Of all the lepidopterists that I have met in the past few years, Maitland Emmet is by far the most prominent, and I have to admit that I was somewhat nervous. This man has written many important reference books, including the life history chart published in Volume 7(2) of MBGBI. The scary thing is that he remembers most of it! At 90 years of age, he is still pretty mobile, and very independent. In the flesh, he is charming, intelligent, and very entertaining. Within a short time, it felt as though we had known each other for years.

He drove across from Essex on Sunday 19th October, and we spent the afternoon over at Tidal Sidings/East Moors as a warm up, with the day of the wager being set for Monday. Despite the fact that a lot of the site had already been bulldozed, the better part of it remained intact. He proceeded to show me leaf mines and larval workings, most of which could be positively identified without needing to see the moth. We recorded 15 species in a couple of hours, most of which were new to my site list. This also included an adult *Caloptilia rufipennella* which was new to Glamorgan. Under the agreed terms of the wager, however, these records were not to be included in the final count.

He had certainly done his homework, and produced a list of the species he expected/hoped to see, their foodplants and the nearest known vice-county record. The foodplants were then organised in order of preference, so as to get as many species in a short time as possible. We did not want to spend the day driving. I limited our search to sites around Cardiff, starting with the Ely side of Plymouth Great Wood. This is a nice, mixed woodland, with a diversity of ground flora, and we produced a good list very quickly.

We then drove to the St Fagans end, to a short section next to the river Ely. Plenty of Grey Alder (*Alnus incana*), covered in *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* mines, and a solitary Norway maple, with *Phyllonorycter platanoidella*, a species not recorded from Wales, but which would almost certainly prove to be common wherever Norway maple is planted.

We had lunch in the Plymouth Arms, where the Car Park provided possibly the best record of the day, *Parornix fagivora* on Beech, second Welsh record. We then moved to Llandaff playing fields, which has a good variety of trees and shrubs, in a small area.

It has to be said that he was not particularly impressed with the days' findings. Apparently 1997 was one of the worst years for leaf mines that he can remember (and he can remember many). We found very little on Hawthorn, even though we found some excellent bushes. We saw very little Birch, and only a couple of Elm trees. Nevertheless, the final list included one species new to Wales, three for which we made the second Welsh record, nine new to Glamorgan, and 60 additions to my list. He maintains that we should have done much better.

Such is the nature of leaf miners that not all species collected on the day could be identified, and the mines were kept, to be over-wintered, after which they can be identified. For this reason, I am not able to publish the full list. However, the list below includes all species identified to date.

For convenience, the localities have been abbreviated as follows;

|   |                                     |               |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Plymouth Great Wood (Ely end)       | ST1376        |
| 2 | Plymouth Great Wood (St Fagans end) | ST120770      |
| 3 | St Fagans (Plymouth Arms Car Park)  | ST122772      |
| 4 | Llandaff Playing Fields             | ST1478-ST1479 |

|      |   |                         |
|------|---|-------------------------|
| 0037 | <i>Ectoedemia albifasciella</i> Heinemann   | 1                       |
| 0038 | <i>Ectoedemia subbimaculella</i> Haworth    | 1                       |
| 0039 | <i>Ectoedemia heringi</i> Toll              | 1                       |
| 0042 | <i>Fomoria septembrella</i> Stainton        | 2                       |
| 0050 | <i>Stigmella aurella</i> Fabricius          | 1, 4                    |
| 0053 | <i>Stigmella splendidissima</i> H.-S.       | 1, 4                    |
| 0058 | <i>Stigmella ulmariae</i> Wocke             | 2 (Second Welsh record) |
| 0063 | <i>Stigmella lemniscella</i> (Zeller)       | 2                       |
| 0067 | <i>Stigmella plagicolella</i> Stainton      | 1                       |
| 0068 | <i>Stigmella salicis</i> Stainton           | 4                       |
| 0070 | <i>Stigmella obliquella</i> Heinemann       | 2 (Second Welsh record) |
| 0075 | <i>Stigmella floslactella</i> Haworth       | 1                       |
| 0077 | <i>Stigmella tityrella</i> Stainton         | 1, 3                    |
| 0079 | <i>Stigmella perpygmaeella</i> Doubleday    | 1, 4                    |
| 0083 | <i>Stigmella atricapitella</i> Haworth      | 4                       |
| 0084 | <i>Stigmella ruficapitella</i> Haworth      | 1                       |
| 0092 | <i>Stigmella anomalella</i> Goeze           | 4                       |
| 0100 | <i>Stigmella oxyacanthella</i> Stainton     | 1                       |
| 0108 | <i>Stigmella crataegella</i> Klimesch       | 1, 4                    |
| 0111 | <i>Stigmella microtheriella</i> Stainton    | 1                       |
| 0114 | <i>Stigmella glutinosae</i> Stainton        | 2, 4                    |
| 0115 | <i>Stigmella alnetella</i> Stainton         | 2, 4                    |
| 0123 | <i>Tischeria ekebladella</i> Bjerkander     | 1                       |
| 0125 | <i>Emmetia marginea</i> (Haworth)           | 1                       |
| 0129 | <i>Incurvaria pectinea</i> Haworth          | 1, 2                    |
| 0156 | <i>Heliozella resplendella</i> Stainton     | 2                       |
| 0263 | <i>Lyonetia clerkella</i> (Linnaeus)        | 1, 3, 4                 |
| 0272 | <i>Bucculatrix cidarella</i> Zeller         | 4                       |
| 0288 | <i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i> Fabricius     | 4                       |
| 0293 | <i>Caloptilia syringella</i> (Fabricius)    | 1                       |
| 0301 | <i>Parornix betulae</i> Stainton            | 4                       |
| 0302 | <i>Parornix fagivora</i> Frey               | 3 (Second Welsh record) |
| 0303 | <i>Parornix anglicella</i> Stainton         | 1, 4                    |
| 0304 | <i>Parornix devoniella</i> Stainton         | 1                       |
| 0309 | <i>Parornix torquillella</i> Zeller         | 1                       |
| 0308 | <i>Parornix finitimella</i> Zeller          | 1                       |
| 0315 | <i>Phyllonorycter harrisella</i> Linnaeus   | 1                       |
| 0317 | <i>Phyllonorycter heegeriella</i> Zeller    | 1                       |
| 0320 | <i>Phyllonorycter quercifoliella</i> Zeller | 1                       |

|      |  |                  |
|------|--|------------------|
| 0321 | <i>Phyllonorycter messaniella</i> Zeller       | 1, 4             |
| 0323 | <i>Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae</i> Frey         | 1, 4             |
| 0329 | <i>Phyllonorycter spinicolella</i> (Zeller)    | 1                |
| 0332 | <i>Phyllonorycter corylifoliella</i> Hubner    | 1, 4             |
| 0337 | <i>Phyllonorycter hilarella</i> (Zetterstedt)  | 1                |
| 0341 | <i>Phyllonorycter maestingella</i> (Muller)    | 1, 3             |
| 0342 | <i>Phyllonorycter coryli</i> Nicelli           | 1, 4             |
| 0344 | <i>Phyllonorycter strigulatella</i> Zeller     | 2                |
| 0345 | <i>Phyllonorycter rajella</i> Linnaeus         | 2, 4             |
| 0351 | <i>Phyllonorycter lautella</i> Zeller          | 1                |
| 0353 | <i>Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella</i> Hubner      | 4                |
| 0357 | <i>Phyllonorycter stettinensis</i> Nicelli     | 4                |
| 0358 | <i>Phyllonorycter froelichiella</i> Zeller     | 4                |
| 0359 | <i>Phyllonorycter nicellii</i> (Stainton)      | 1                |
| 0360 | <i>Phyllonorycter kleemannella</i> (Fabricius) | 1                |
| 0362 | <i>Phyllonorycter acerifoliella</i> (Zeller)   | 1, 4             |
| 0363 | <i>Phyllonorycter platanoideella</i> Joannis   | 2 (New to Wales) |
| 0364 | <i>Phyllonorycter geniculella</i> Ragonot      | 1, 4             |
| 0438 | <i>Swammerdamia pyrella</i> Villers            | 4                |
| 0490 | <i>Coleophora lutipennella</i> Zeller          | 1                |
| 0584 | <i>Coleophora alticolella</i> Zeller           | 4                |
| 0768 | <i>Teleiodes notatella</i> Hubner              | 4                |
| 0883 | <i>Mompha raschkiella</i> Zeller               | 1                |
| 1053 | <i>Acleris hastiana</i> Linnaeus               | 2 (Adult)        |

From this list, only three were included in my paper, namely;  
*Emmetia marginea*, *Coleophora lutipennella*, & *Caloptilia stigmatella*.

The species recorded from Tidal sidings were;

|      |  |                          |
|------|--|--------------------------|
| 0068 | <i>Stigmella salicis</i> Stainton            |                          |
| 0284 | <i>Caloptilia rufipennella</i>               | Adult (New to Glamorgan) |
| 0293 | <i>Caloptilia syringella</i> (Fabricius)     |                          |
| 0303 | <i>Parornix anglicella</i> Stainton          |                          |
| 0327 | <i>Phyllonorycter cydoniella</i> ([D. & S.]) |                          |
| 0329 | <i>Phyllonorycter spinicolella</i> (Zeller)  |                          |
| 0332 | <i>Phyllonorycter corylifoliella</i> Hubner  |                          |
| 0495 | <i>Coleophora spinella</i> (Schrank)         |                          |
| 0515 | <i>Coleophora albitarsella</i> Zeller        |                          |
| 0547 | <i>Coleophora discordella</i> Zeller         |                          |
| 0563 | <i>Coleophora argentula</i> (Stephens)       |                          |
| 0883 | <i>Mompha raschkiella</i> Zeller             |                          |
| 0962 | <i>Cochylis roseana</i> (Haworth)            |                          |
| 1097 | <i>Endothenia gentianaeanana</i> (Hubner)    |                          |

Maitland Emmet may not be as quick on his feet as he would like, but for a man of 90, he is still both entertaining and informative. It was a delight and an honour to spend a day in his company. He is currently working on Volume 4 of MBGBI, although he is suffering from a severe hip problem which has affected his mobility.

(Note: The status of these species is based on published sources only, and I apologise to anyone who may have recorded these species previously, but not had the opportunity to publish them yet.)

Dave Slade

Finally we look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our Kenfig field meeting on 23rd May.