

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

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FIELD MEETING, FRIDAY 22nd MAY

12 members and guests attended the re-arranged meeting at Kenfig NNR, Belinda Ashong, Paul Alton, John Ball, Phil Bristow, Henrick & Stefan Golaszewski, Simon Greenfield, Martin Hnatiuk, Steve Moon, Paul Parsons, Mike Powell & Rob Taylor. Two MV lights were run from 9.30 until around midnight with 49 species being recorded.

Species recorded;

Opsibotys fuscalis

Brimstone Moth

Fox Moth

Scalloped Hook-tip

Pebble Hook-tip

Peach Blossom

Buff Arches

Purple Bar

Common Marbled Carpet

Green Carpet

Grass Rivulet

Wormwood Pug

Small Seraphim

Clouded Border

Peacock Moth

Brown Silver-line

Common White Wave

Common Wave

Clouded Silver

Yellow Belle

Small Elephant Hawkmoth

Puss Moth

Sallow Kitten

Iron Prominent

Coxcombe Prominent



Pale Prominent

Pale Tussock

White Ermine

Buff Ermine

Ruby Tiger

Heart and Dart

Flame Shoulder

Small Square-spot

Beautiful Brocade

Light Brocade

Pine Beauty

Hebrew Character

Shoulder-striped Wainscot

Knot Grass

Brown Rustic

Angle Shades

Clouded-bordered Brindle

Small Clouded Brindle

Rustic Shoulder-knot

Marbled Minor

(Tawny) Marbled Minor

Treble Lines

Spectacle

Straw Dot

FIELD MEETING, SATURDAY 6th JUNE

Our next field meeting takes place at Llangynwyd, in the Llynfi Valley on Saturday 6th June. Meet at the carpark of The Tylers Arms public house at 9.00pm. From junction 36 on the M4 (Sarn Services) take the A4063 toward Maesteg. One mile after Bridgend Paper Mills (on your right) is the village of Llangynwyd. In the village, turn right just after the Post Office, and proceed down the hill to the river. Park in the pub carpark at SS 738 891. There are a few places to trap closeby with a decision to be made by local observer, Paul Parsons, on the night dependant upon the weather.

FIELD MEETING, FRIDAY 26th JUNE

Our second field meeting of the month takes place at Cwrt-yr-Ala/Cwm George Woods Nr. Dinas Powis on Friday 26th June. Meet at the railway station carpark situated on the A4055 at the eastern (ie Cardiff) end of the village at 9.00pm. These woods are one of the few places that Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) occurs naturally in the south of the county. A number of rare moths are associated with just this one species of tree in the UK, and whilst one, The Scarce Hooktip, known only from The Wye Valley and Leigh Woods Nr. Bristol is very unlikely our recorder, Dave Gilmore, lives in hope. After all, both sites are not far away !

BRISTOL MOTH GROUP

The BMG have a field meeting to Oldbury Power Station just north of Oldbury-on-Severn on the banks of the Severn Estuary in South Gloucestershire, on Friday 26th June. Meet at 9.00pm at the power station carpark, ST 607 941. Full details appeared in our Newsletter No.17, Feb.98.

RECENT REPORTS-MAY 1998

Barry Stewart (BS) recorded a Silver Y at Penyrheol on 23rd April, the earliest report so far this year. Mike Powell (MCP) and Jeff Williams took a single Red Swordgrass at Llanwonno on 1st. This is only the 4th record for East Glamorgan & the first away from Kenfig.

MCP recorded Oak Nycteoline in his garden trap at Llanishen on 2nd, Seraphim on 13th, Puss Moth on 19th, Least Black Arches, Yellow-barred Brindle and Figure of Eighty on 21st & Alder Moth on 26th. On a rather cool 9th, Dave Gilmore (DG), Stefan Golaszewski (SG) and MCP took six Striped Twin-spot Carpets at Merthyr Common. A short stop at Gethin on the way home resulted in Engrailed new for the 10km square and Brown Silver-line, March Moth & Coxcombe Prominent all first post 1980 records for the square ! Other new 10km records during the month were Mother Shipton at Cardiff Heliport & Grey Pine Carpet and Silver-ground Carpet at Llanfabon.

The night of 12th at Draethen was much more productive for DG & MCP with Satin Lutestring, Yellow-barred Brindle, Least Black Arches & Coronet recorded. This site is proving very productive with further visits planned every 3 to 4 weeks up until October. If you wish to join up with Mike & Dave on a midweek night, please phone Mike on (01222) 762182 to see which sites are due to be visited in the forthcoming week.

Whilst beating Juniper bushes looking for Juniper Pug larvae on 19th in South Gower, Kevin Dupe found some interesting caterpillars that proved to be those of Chestnut-coloured Carpet. On a follow up visit, BS also found larvae at a further site, Horton, on 24th. We will be looking out for this notable species on our field visit to the area on 11th July, although the species rarely comes to light.

SG recorded Oak Nycteoline on 12th, Yellow-barred Brindle, 18th & Dingy Shell, 19th at his Llanishen garden using his actinic trap.

BS was busy, as usual, during May. On 1st (and 11th) at Cwm Llyd Wood LNR, he recorded Square Spot and Lunar Marbled Brown with Least Black Arches on 8th at Mansfield. Penyrheol produced Gem on 12th and 14th plus Dogs Tooth on 23rd. On 14th at Gorseinon he had Gem & Lunar Marbled Brown and on 16th at Penlleger, Dwarf Pug, Square Spot, Lunar Marbled Brown & Least Black Arches. Nr. Velindre, Gem was recorded on 9th and again on 16th along with Dwarf Pug, Scorched Wing & Least Black Arches. Work at Oxwich NNR produced some excellent records most notably the 2nd West Glam. record of Netted Pug on 13th but also White Colon on 22nd (and 30th) and Obscure Wainscot on 22nd.

At Mynydd Aberdar on 25th, Dark Brocade, Small Engrailed and Glaucous Shears along with the larvae of Neglected Rustic were found. On the same date at Overton, BS took Bordered Sallow, Least Black Arches & Marbled Coronet. Cwm Dulais on 26th produced Scorched Wing, Small Engrailed, Least Black Arches, Camomile Shark & Beautiful Snout. Finally at Horton on 30th, Shore Wainscot was recorded.

John Martin, on a visit to St.Fagans Folk Museum recorded several *Dichrorampha sequana* on 24th and Martin Evans recorded Small Yellow and Beautiful Yellow Underwings in the Aberdare area toward the end of the month. Finally DG and Steve Moon took Light Brocade, Figure of Eighty and several Silver Y's at Lock's Common, Porthcawl on 30th.

A reminder that if you want your latest records to appear in the newsletter, please get them to Dave Gilmore by the last day of the month.

BRITISH WILDLIFE

Enclosed with our newsletter is a leaflet inviting you to subscribe to British Wildlife having first seen a sample copy if you wish. The magazine is published 6 times a year and features a regular round up on moths by Dr. Paul Waring as well as lots of other interesting articles on all aspects of wildlife in the UK.

Annual subscription is £18.95 per annum or a concessionary rate of £17.95 if you belong to a range of organisations such as Butterfly Conservation or British Birds.

OVER THE BORDER

Mike Powell, on a recent visit to Kent on 15th May (to look at Lady Orchid) recorded Speckled Yellow & *Alabonia geoffrella* at Yocketts Bank and Small Yellow Underwing at Sladden Wood.

THE WORST APRIL FOR MOTHS SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE GMRG !

The mild weather experienced during March of this year produced great optimism for an early and productive spring. However, April 1998 turned out to be one of, if not *the*, wettest Apriils on record, with recorded night-time temperatures well below average. This resulted in catches of moths in Robinson light (MV) traps throughout the county being unseasonably low. Data gathered from West Glamorgan over the past four years are compared here to demonstrate just how poor April 1998 was.

The average numbers of species and average totals of individual moths per night recorded during April in each of the last four years are shown in figure 1. This plot shows that 1995, 1996 and 1997 were all relatively similar years with average catches of around 10 species (totalling around 70 individuals) per night. 1995 showed slightly higher numbers of species than other years and 1996 showed higher total numbers of individuals, almost certainly a result of the early influx of migrant moths witnessed during that particular year. However, what figure 1 clearly demonstrates is that numbers of moths attracted to light during 1998 were dramatically lower than the previous three seasons with an average of only six species averaging just over 20 individuals per night (≈ 3.5 times less than the previous three years). It will be very interesting to see what effect this has on the numbers of moths in April 1999.

Figure 1. Average catches of moths in MV traps during April, 1994 to 1998.

