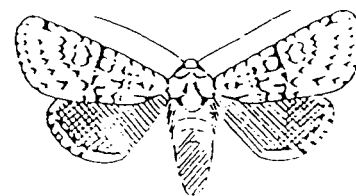


The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

Founded 1995



Dichonia aprilina

President: Steve Moon

Recorder (West): Barry Stewart

Recorder (East): Dave Gilmore

Field Meetings Sec./Newsletter Editor: Mike Powell

Treasurer : Stefan Golaszewski

NEWSLETTER No. 25-OCTOBER 1998

FIELD MEETING, SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

Only five members and a guest attended the last field meeting of the year on 5th September. The location was moved on the night from Coed-y-Wenallt where it was felt to be too breezy, to the survey site at Draethen Woods. 24 species were recorded, namely:

Blastobasis lignea

Pandemis cerasana

Hedya dimidioalba

Eudonia mercurella

Dark Marbled Carpet

Spruce Carpet

Double-striped Pug

Canary Shouldered Thorn

Black Arches

Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing

Centre-barred Sallow

Angle Shades

Pandemis corylana

Epiphyas postvittana

Epinotia ramella

Garden Carpet

Common Marbled Carpet

Small Rivulet

Brimstone Moth

Common White Wave

Large Yellow Underwing

Square-spot Rustic

Copper Underwing

Silver Y

INDOOR MEETING, WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

The Autumn indoor meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 11th November at the Reserve Centre, Kenfig NNR, doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

Members wishing to show slides will be more than welcome and discussion will centre around the 1998 season, 1998 field-meetings, planned field-meetings for 1999, the provisional Atlas, Members weekend to Portland, Dungeness or Flatholm, any discussion that members wish raise on the running and aims of the group plus any other business.

The trap will be run at the centre provided the weather remains fair and the contents examined following the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Enclosed with this newsletter is an updated membership list as at 1st October. Membership currently stands at 46, unfortunately 4 members did not renew their subscriptions for the current year otherwise we would have hit the milestone of 50 members.

NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome this month David Clements of Llandaff, Cardiff to the group.

RECORDING AREA

In recent newsletters Dave Gilmore has updated particular 10km squares with any new species recently recorded. Enclosed with this newsletter, David has produced a map of vice-county 41 showing all the 10km squares, highlighting principal sites. In future when a new species is recorded in ST 28 for example, you will be able to pinpoint the Draethen/Cefn Mably area.

MONMOUTHSHIRE LEPIDOPTERA

Monmouthshire Lepidoptera, The Butterflies and Moths of Gwent by G.A.Neil Horton published by Comma International Biological Systems in 1994 at £26.75, is an excellent book that no doubt appears on several members bookshelves and is frequently referred to in our newsletter. In the Autumn 1998 Newsletter of the Gwent Wildlife Trust an article appears indicating that the remaining stock of the book has been purchased by C.Arden, a bookseller of Hay-on-Wye who is offering the book at the significantly reduced price of £10.00.

To place an order phone 01497 820471 or write to C.Arden, Bookseller, Radnor House, Church St. Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5DQ.

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY 1997 REPORT

Several members, notably the birders amongst us, will be well aware of Portland Bird Observatory & Field Centre near the tip of Portland in Dorset. In the 1997 report (which has just arrived with the newsletter editor) are 16 pages on Lepidoptera, mainly moths, plus six excellent colour plates including Scar Bank Gem on 30th July & the 2nd British record of Red-headed Chestnut on 28th November.

Membership of the Observatory entitles members to the annual report, newsletters, reduced accommodation charges, carparking and use of the facilities at the obs. In addition you have the opportunity to view the contents of the 5 MV traps run at the centre.

If you wish to become a member send £10.00 to The Warden, Portland Bird Obs. & Field Centre, The Old Lower Light, Portland Bill, Dorset, DT5 2JT.

PHOTOGRAPHS – A REMINDER

Several members have already submitted material for use in an end of year colour newsletter. If you wish to have photographs considered for inclusion, please submit them to Mike Powell before the end of October (extended from 15th October)

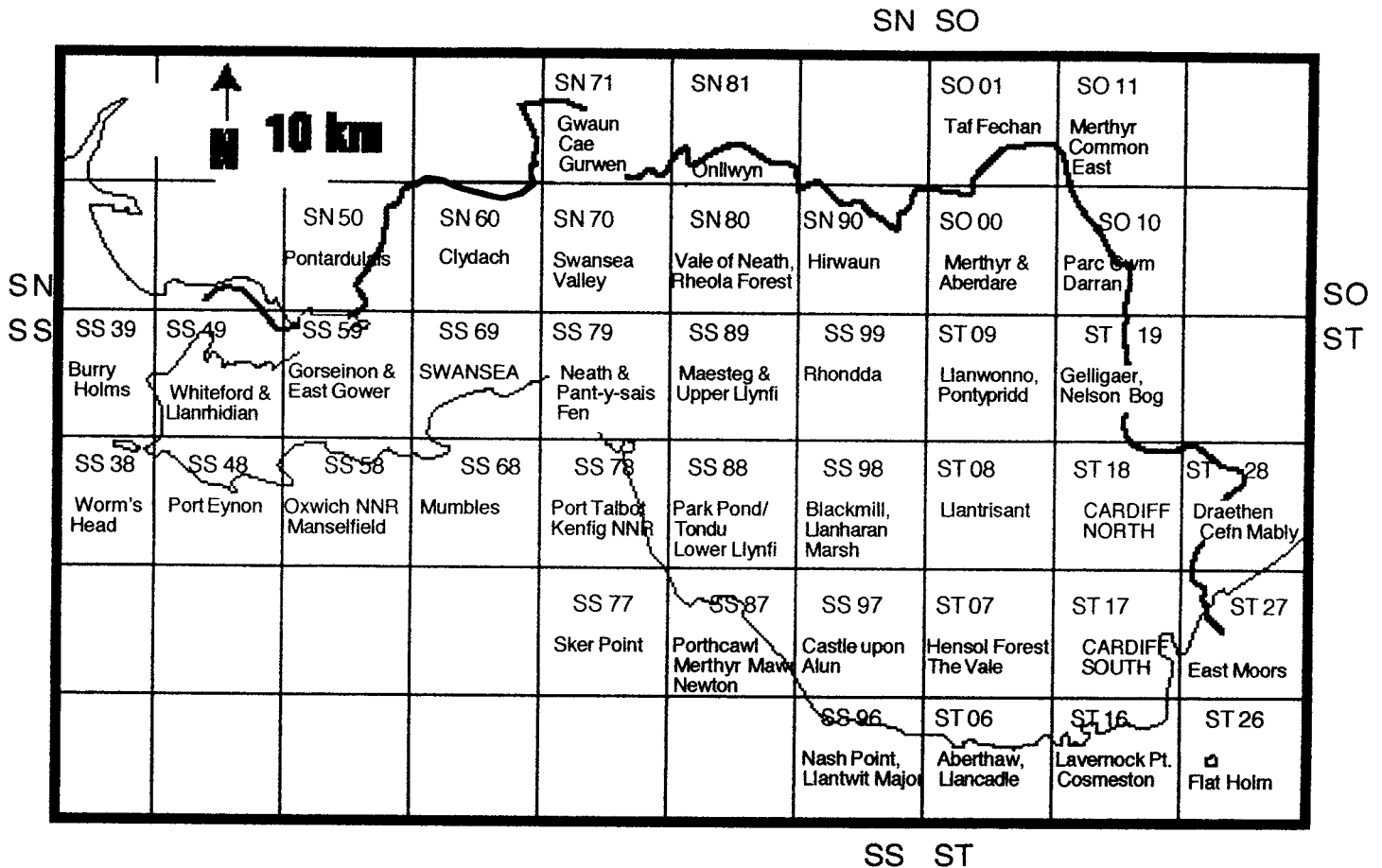
ANYONE INTERESTED IN FLIES ?

The annual UK Dipterists meeting is being held in The National Museum of Wales, Cardiff this year and anyone interested in the study of Diptera (true flies) is welcome. The event will comprise a day of presentations, exhibits and national recording scheme events on Saturday 14th November, followed by workshops and access to the Museum collections the next day, Sunday 15th.

There will also be a Dipterists' Supper held on the Saturday evening in the University next door, tickets priced @ £13.00/head.

Further details are available from David Clements, 7, Vista Rise, Llandaff, CARDIFF, telephone 01222 307878.

THE GLAMORGAN MOTH GROUP RECORDING AREA.



Glamorgan : Vice-county 41.

Map indicating principal sites within given 10km squares & OS numbers for that particular 10km sq.

Areas within the Swansea & Cardiff 10km sq's. that are either permanent or occasional moth trapping sites.

SS 69: **Swansea**; Clyne Woods, Crymlyn Bog {west}, Kilvey Hill, Swansea Maritime, Penllergaer, Sketty & Valley Wood.

ST 18: **Cardiff North**; Caerphilly, Coed-y-Bedw NR, Coed-y-Wenallt, Garth Mountain, Glamorgan Canal, Lisvane, Llanishen, Taff's Well & Whitchurch.

ST 17: **Cardiff South**; Cwrt-yr-Ala Woods, Penarth, Penylan *, Roath, Splottlands {west} & St Fagan's.

* Site of the Rothamsted Survey Moth Trap.

CLOAKED PUG *Eupithecia abietaria* Goeze - A NEW MACRO-MOTH SPECIES FOR GLAMORGAN

On July 16th, Phil Bristow [PB], Mike Powell [MCP] and myself had arranged to meet Martin Bevan [MB] and Mark Evans [ME] at a site above Aberdare, known as Cefn-pennar Uchaf which is part of Mynydd Merthyr Forestry. MCP had visited the site recently with ME, as this is one of the few places where you can see the lovely geometrid Small Argent & Sable as they fly in the afternoon sun.

After parking the car we had a walk of some several hundred yards to the glades where there are stands of Bilberry and Galium. Here we set our light-traps surrounded by Spruce, Larch and Rowan. Several interesting species were captured within the first hour, Muslin Footman, Beautiful Snout, Barred Red, Satin Beauty and Welsh Wave. At about 23:30 hrs. MCP, MB & ME went down to the second trap which was situated further down the track at the bottom of a large ride. Presently they came back with another Welsh Wave and two Pugs, one of which replied MCP "was huge". PB and myself peered at the pot MCP had produced from his jacket. MCP then pronounced confidently that it was a pug he had not seen before, he then handed it to PB and me. We then set about trying to put a name to this monster pug. Taking the Bible [Skinner, which being the first edition shall be known ever after as the Old Testament, since the second edition came out in August.] and turning to plate 10 [The Pug plate.] with some trepidation, we came to number 20. "Yes I like that, that's a good candidate. Cloaked Pug!" Reading the text, no similar species, former resident with uncertain status. The date was OK, so was the Habitat. After going through plate 10 another ten times we still came to the same conclusion. I then decided that this moth had to be taken for a specimen and let Barry Stewart and Martin White in Swansea have a look to verify our determination.

In the cold light of morning I took the moth out of the fridge and went over it very carefully. I was very lucky as this was a very fresh and well marked individual. I cross-referenced it with "A Guide to the British Pugs", Plate 1 and text and came to the same decision, a Cloaked Pug and size indicating a female.

I then showed the specimen to BS & MW at our Crymlyn Bog meeting and they initially agreed with our identification. Barry rang me a few days later after some rubbing of scales and a little dissection to tell me the good news, a female Cloaked Pug.

This species is not mentioned by H.M. Hallett in his Lepidoptera of Glamorgan or in any other records, publications etc. that we have in our archives. Therefore this is the first record for this species in Glamorgan [v-c 41].

According to J.W.Tutt in his Practical Hints for the Lepidopterist, September is now the month to look for the larvae of this species. One should lookout for spruce cones with "copious quantity of fresh frass [excrement or other refuse of boring larvae - yes, I had to look it up too.] protruding". Some cones can house up to several larvae, these eventually leave the cone and spin slight cocoons on the surface of the ground.

PS: the other pug in MCP's pocket was a Larch Pug.

David Gilmore.

References:

- Moths of the British Isles. Bernard Skinner 1984
- An Identification Guide to the British Pugs. D.Agassiz and others. 1981
- Practical Hints for the Field Lepidoterist. J.W.Tutt 1901 [Facsimile edtion 1994]
- Lepidoptera of Glamorgan. H.M.Hallett annotated copy c1952
- Glamorgan Moth Recording Group Archives 1980-98

THE HUNT FOR NOVEMBER MOTHS

In the September issue of the Bristol & District Moth Group newsletter, Mike Bailey drew attention to an entry in the recently published "Larger Moths of Surrey" by G.A. Collins about habitat preferences for the species in this group, *Epirrita*.

Three of the genus, November Moth, *Epirrita dilutata*, Pale November Moth, *E. christyi* and Autumnal Moth, *E. autumnata* have all occurred in Glamorgan, the missing member being Small Autumnal Moth, *E. filigrammaria*. All four occur in Monmouthshire however, with Small Autumnal Moth restricted to the hills and moorland of the north of that county.

Skinner states that members of the genus are so alike that it is difficult, if not impossible, to positively identify the many forms without examination of the genitalia.

Therefore the following may help;

November Moth, polyphagous and widespread, flying in October and November.

Pale November Moth restricted to woodland containing Beech (the foodplant), flying in late September to early November.

Autumnal Moth, found on heathland and commons where Birch (the foodplant) is widespread, flying in September and October.

Small Autumnal Moth, a northern species, found on moorland where heather and bilberry occurs, flying in September.

Mike Bailey will provide a photocopy of the characteristics to aid identification and suggests that males seem in theory to be relatively easy to identify with the females being **much** more difficult. His address is Holly Cottage, Tynning, Timsbury, Bath, BA3 1HG.

RECENT REPORTS – AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 1998

Recent highlights for the period from Kenfig are as follows, Grass Rivulet, Sharp-angled Carpet, [6th KNNR rec.], Yellow Belle, Small Elephant Hawkmoth, Scarce Footman, Small Chocolate-tip [5th KNNR rec.], Archers Dart, Triple-spotted Clay, White Colon, Shore Wainscot [9th KNNR rec.], Bordered Sallow [6th KNNR rec.], Blackneck and Scarce Bordered Straw.

Records from the Cwmbach/Aberdare area were September Thorn, Small Elephant Hawkmoth, Triple-spotted Clay, Neglected Rustic, Double Lobed and Anomalous.

During August, Barry and Sandra Stewart recorded Plain Wave at Penyrheol on 4th, The Gem at Cwm Dulais on 11th and at Penyrheol on 5th and 17th. Devon Carpet was recorded at Gelli-hir Woods on 4th and at Oxwich on 9th, Ling Pug on 5th at Penyrheol, Golden-rod Pug and Small Chocolate-tip at Cwm Dulais on 11th, Small Seraphim, Webbs' & Brown-veined Wainscots, Small Rufous and The Olive at Oxwich Hotel on 18th, Yellow-bared Brindle at Overton and Scorched Carpet at Oxwich Hotel on 8th, Black Arches and Rosy Footman at several sites, Northern Rustic, Marbled Green and Devonshire Wainscot at Overton Mere on 9th. Scarce Silver-lines was recorded at Lletty Turner and Scarce Burnished Brass at Cwm Dulais on 11th with Pinion-streaked Snout at Cwm Dulais on 23rd. During September they recorded Anomalous at Manselfield, 21st, Bleached Pug larvae at Crymlyn, 21st, Neglected Rustic at Overton, 23rd, Webbs and Large Wainscot at Oxwich, 24th and Scarce Bordered Straw at Penyrheol, 30th.

Two Convolvulous Hawkmoths were reported during the period, Steve and Sarah Warmesley saw one at Pilton on 19th August and Dave Lewis & Colin Gittins saw one at Cwmavon on 10th September.

Steve and Sarah Warmesley had a purple patch during September at their home in Pilton, recording Slender Burnished Brass [2nd Glamorgan rec.] on 21st and Scarce Bordered Straw, White-speck and *Diasemiopsis ramburialis* [1st Vice county rec.] on 28th.

Scarce Bordered Straw was also recorded by Dave Gilmore on 29th at Nash.

Finally a Wax Moth, *Galleria mellonella*, was a surprise for Phil Bristow and Mike Powell at Draethen on 20th [1st post 1980 rec.].

1998 RECORDS

Now that the 1998 recording season is drawing to a close, for most of us, Dave Gilmore has requested that all observers submit their outstanding records by 31st October so they can be entered into the county moth atlas database. Records for prior years are also welcome. To assist, a recording sheet is included with this mailing. Please photocopy it if more than one sheet is likely to be required or contact David for further supplies. Pre-addressed labels for David were supplied with a previous newsletter.



**"An excellent specimen ... symbol of beauty,
innocence, and fragile life ... hand me
the jar of ether."**