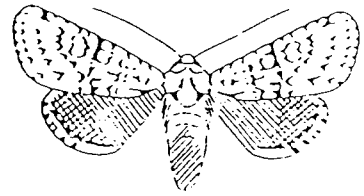


The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

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. 29- FEBRUARY 1999

INDOOR MEETING, 24th FEBRUARY 1999

A reminder that we will be holding our second winter indoor meeting at Kenfig Pool NNR on Wednesday 24th February, 7.30pm for 8.00pm. This will be an opportunity for members to show slides and to discuss the forthcoming season.

We also hope to have the provisional atlas available for distribution.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Our close friends, BC South Wales branch are holding a Conservation Day at the Swansea Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea on Saturday 27th February. Doors open at 10.00 for coffee & tea with the programme starting at 10.30. The programme includes feedback to date on the Butterflies in the New Millennium, A lepidopterist in Belize, The making of a Close-up Photography book plus a section on our own Provisional Atlas of Glamorgan Moths.

The Environment Centre can be found between Sainsbury's & the Leisure Centre.

1999 FIELD MEETINGS

Attached to this newsletter are the full details of all our 1999 field meetings, commencing with the visit to Melin Court in the Neath Valley on Friday 23rd April led by Barry Stewart.

BRISTOL & DISTRICT MOTH GROUP

The Bristol & District Moth Group plan to run 9 field meetings this year between 19th March & 8th October. As always members of our own group are welcome to attend.

The full programme of meetings is attached.

BRITISH PUGS

As long ago as Newsletter No. 15, December 1997, we reported that Harley Books were due to publish a field guide to British Pugs. Sadly this new work by Adrian Riley and the late Gaston Prior has been further delayed and although now expected to be published during 1999, it is unlikely to be available until the autumn.

ATROPOS No 6, JANUARY 1999

Atropos No. 6 has just been published and as usual is full of moth related articles. There are articles by Julian Parkes entitled A very good year for Small Ranunculus and Instances of Purple Marbled, Small Marbled & *Tebenna micalis* in larval and adult stages in England during 1998 by Peter Davey. Also included are articles by Peter Marren, entitled My Wiltshire Garden & My Best Day by Sarah Patton. Dr. Paul Waring's item on The National Recording Network for Rarer British Macro-moths provides a very useful directory of all the county recorders in the UK plus a map of the UK showing all the vice-counties.

In the section, News, Notes and Requests, there are short articles on the planned National Moth Night, *Herpetogramma licarsisalis*, a species new to Britain, Mediterranean Brocade in Ipswich, additional records from Bradwell-on-Sea, a further record of Small Ranunculus in Kent & Red Underwing in Scotland.

The excellent colour plates in this issue depict Small Marbled, *Tebenna micalis*, Lesser Belle, Small Ranunculus, Blair's Mocha, *Diasemiopsis ramburialis* & Clifden Nonpareil.

One of the most interesting features within Atropos is the round up of migrants and the annual reports from the 21 coastal stations around the UK including Skomer off the Pembrokeshire coast. Views and Reviews look at three recently published titles. The Checklist of Lepidoptera recorded from the British Isles by D.J. & M.J. Bradley is reviewed by Adrian Spalding, The Butterflies & Moths of Bedfordshire by V.W. Arnold, C.R.B. Baker, D.V. Manning & I.P. Woiwood is reviewed by Jim Porter and Unfinished Business: A supplement to the Lepidoptera of the Orkney Islands by R.I. Lorimer is reviewed by Sidney Gauld.

Atropos will in future be published three times per year, in January, April & August, with subscription rising to £15.00 per year as a consequence but colour plates are promised to increase to eight pages per issue.

Atropos is available by subscription only from 36, Tinker Lane, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD7 3EX.

MY LLANISHEN GARDEN

Our home is situated in the north of Cardiff in the fairly built up district of Llanishen, not far from the Inland Revenue offices, that dominate the skyline locally. All the local gardens, including our own are mature, with the usual range of native and exotic trees & shrubs. We are some way from both farmland and woodland but several parks are situated reasonably closeby.

I have trapped in the back garden, usually from March to October, with an MV light trap, since we moved to the house in June 1995, recording 226 macro species up to October 1998.

March and early April produce the expected crop of Common Quaker, Dotted Border, Early Grey, Hebrew Character & Clouded Drab. March 1998 was exceptional with 11 species recorded before the end of that month including Small Quaker, Pale Pinion & Lesser Swallow Prominent. A warm end of April brings with it the expected species but rarely anything of interest.

May is when things really get underway and both May 1997 with 48 species & May 1998 with 52 species were very good years. May has produced Muslin Moth, Broken-barred Carpet, Alder Kitten, Broad-barred White, Oak Nycteoline, Seraphim, Puss Moth & Least Black Arches.

June is always a special month, 1996 produced 75 species and 1997, 73 species. Better species recorded in June have been Bordered Gothic, Bordered Straw, Chocolate Tip, Small Mottled Willow, Blomer's Rivulet, Alder Moth, Dog's Tooth, Figure of Eighty, Yellow-barred Brindle & Eyed Hawkmoth.

July never produces the same number of species as June, but numbers of Heart & Dart, Dark Arches, Scalloped Oak, Riband Wave, Bright-line Brown-eye & Swallowtail all peak during the month.

The highest number of Heart & Dart I have recorded was 153 on 1st July 1996.

July has produced Blue-bordered Carpet, Olive, Golden Plusia, Leopard Moth, Scarce Silver-lines, Foxglove Pug, Ghost Moth, Haworth's Pug, Red-necked Footman, Brown-line Bright-eye, Dark Umber and Oak Hooktip.

By August numbers are significantly reduced although interesting species such as Orange Swift, Small Rivulet & Red Underwing have all occurred.

September sees the range of species falling rapidly although numbers of Large Yellow Underwing can remain high. My best count of any species was 181 Large Yellows on 2nd September 1996.

Rustic's dominate September and Rosy, Hedge, Autumnal, Black, Square spot, Flounced, Lesser/Common & Vines have all been recorded during the month. Other interesting species recorded are Brindled Green & August Thorn.

October is my last month of trapping in the garden, before I put the trap away for the winter. October 1998 was simply dreadful with only 7 species seen, but over 20 is the norm. The garden attracts good numbers of Blair's Shoulder-knot with 17 recorded in a single night.

The last month of trapping does however produce some good moths such as Vestal, Merveille du Joir, Red-green Carpet, Green-brindled Crescent & Beaded Chestnut.

To date I have tended to ignore most of the micro species, but have promised the East Glamorgan recorder, Dave Gilmore to do better in the future.

Mike Powell.

GLAMORGAN MOTH RECORDING GROUP

1999 FIELD MEETINGS

Detailed below are the planned field meetings for the forthcoming 1999 season. As always members, guests and friends are welcome to attend, with or without a means of trapping moths.

For reasons of safety to everyone present, it is requested that generators are well maintained and traps are plugged into generators via an automatic circuit breaker.

It is always advisable to check that the meeting is on if the weather is expected to be either wet, cold or windy, so as to avoid a wasted journey. Call Mike Powell on 01222 762182 or 0836 327066 if in doubt. Lifts can be arranged for those without transport.

Warm clothing & hot drinks are advisable, especially early or late in the season. Boots and a good torch are also recommended.

Please note that everyone attending any meeting does so at his or her own risk.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Friday 23rd April | 8.00pm | Neath Valley. |
| Leader, Barry Stewart | | Meet in the car park on the B4434 at Melin Court half a mile SW of Resolven, SN 821 020. |
| Friday 21st May | 8.30pm | Rudry Common. |
| Leader, Dave Gilmore | | Meet at the car park on Rudry Common situated on the minor road between Caerphilly & Rudry, ST 183 865. |
| Saturday 5th June | 9.00pm | Merthyr Common. |
| Leader, Mike Powell | | Meet at the McDonalds car park at Dowlais Top situated at the junction of the A4060 & A465 (Heads of the Valleys Rd.), SO 077 083 |
| Saturday 26th June | 9.00pm | Kenfig Pool NNR |
| Leader, Steve Moon | | Meet at the Reserve Centre car park, SS 802 810. |
| Saturday 10th July | 11.00am | Gower. (Day & evening meeting) |
| Leader, Barry Stewart | | Meet at the beach car park at Port Eynon, SS 467 852 at 11.00am for the daylight session or 9.00pm for the evening session. |
| Friday 30th July | 8.30pm | Parc Dowlais, Llantwit Fadre. |
| Leader, Dave Gilmore | | Meet in the car park of The Ship public house ST 075 844, situated on the minor road from Llantwit Fadre to Efail Isaf/Creigiau. |
| Saturday 21st Aug. | 8.00pm | Gower. (Joint meeting with BENHS) |
| Leader, Barry Stewart | | Meet at Pitton on the B4247, situated 1 mile before Rhossili, SS 427 876. |
| Friday 10th Sept. | 7.30pm | Llantrisant Common. |
| Leader, Mike Powell | | Meet in the car park of The Castell Mynach public house, ST 057 812. The pub is situated on the A4119 approx. 1 mile north off junction 34 of the M4, at the first set of traffic lights heading toward Llantrisant. |