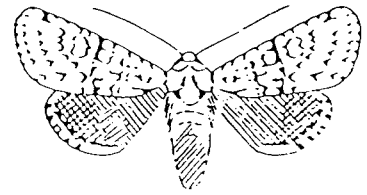


The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

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. 31 - APRIL 1999

FIELD MEETING, 23rd APRIL 1999

Our first field meeting of the 1999 season, led by Barry Stewart, takes place on Friday 23rd April to the Melin Court area in the Neath Valley, commencing at 8.00pm.

From the south, take the A4109 signposted for Seven sisters off the A465 (T) just north of Neath. From this junction take the B4434 signposted for Tonna. Go through the village toward Resolven and after approx. 3 miles park in the Melin Court Falls carpark on the left (north side) of the road half a mile before Resolven at SN 821 020.

From the north, take the B4242 signposted off the A465 (T) to Resolven, go through the town heading for Tonna & Neath and the carpark is situated on the right after half a mile.

BRISTOL & DISTRICT MOTH GROUP

The second Bristol & District Moth Group field meeting takes place on Friday 16th April to Cleaves Wood, situated south of Bath commencing at 8.00pm.

From the village of Wellow cross the Wellow Brook and bear left towards Norton St. Philip, cross the stream and park along the roadside, ST 760 573.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTH GROUP

The GMG are holding a joint meeting on Saturday May 8th with the British Entomological & Natural History Society (BENHS) in the Wye Valley. Meet at 11.00am & 8.00pm at ST 553 984, a turning off the B4228 Chepstow to Coleford road. Motor access to the site has been arranged to allow generators & traps into the best woodland.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We welcome back both Roy and Neil Jones who have re-subscribed to GMRG after a short period away. Neil's new address is 8 Eaton Crescent, Uplands, Swansea, SA1 4QJ, 01792 527520. Barry Stewart can now also be contacted via Email on Barry@moonmoths.demon.co.uk

NEW MEMBERS

Three new members have joined the group this month taking the total membership up to 55.

Paul Harcourt Davies, Westbrook, Factory Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge, CF71 7JD.

Peter Hatherley, Treetops, The Derwen, Parc Derwen, Bridgend, CF35 6HD.

Owen Lewis, NERC Centre for Population Biology, Imperial College, Silwood Park, Ascot, Berks, SL5 7PY.

Welcome to all three.

RECENT REPORTS

The warmer weather during March and into early April finally encouraged a number of members into the field.

Barry Stewart (BS) & Rob Colley (RC) had Yellow Horned at Resolven on 14th & 21st March. This species was also taken by BS at Pant-y-Sais on 24th along with Sandra Stewart (SJS), Rob Taylor & Martin White. The 2nd record for Kenfig also occurred late in the month. Orange Underwing was seen at Bargod Taf on 15th by Richard Pryce and at Bargod Taf by BS & SJS on 27th along with the larva of Heath Rustic swept from heather. During March BS and RC recorded Grey-shoulder Knot at Resolven on 21st, Kevin Dupe (KD) recorded a series of Oak Nycteoline at his Newport garden on 17th, 24th & 31st, Dave Gilmore (DRWG) had Pale Pinion at Whitchurch on 28th & finally a Pearly Underwing was taken at Kenfig late in the month.

The survey at Cog Moors commenced on 17th with 9 macro species recorded including Shoulder Stripe, the first post 1980 record of this species in the 10km square (ST 17).

Early April produced a few interesting records with Blossom Underwing on 1st at Craig Pal (BS & SJS) probably the best with Lunar Marbled Brown also taken the same night. Records of Pale Pinion continued with individuals seen at Mansfield & Penyrheol on 1st (BS & SJS) and Llanishen on 2nd, Mike Powell (MCP). KD continued to catch Oak Nycteoline into April with records on 1st & 5th and on 4th he also took a Grey-shoulder Knot. MCP & DRWG recorded Lunar Marbled Brown at Porthkerry Country Park on 8th, more exciting records from this neglected site now seem likely.

ADDITIONS TO THE MICRO LIST

Dave Gilmore has turned up yet another addition to the micro list, *Palpita unionalis*, the Scarce Olive-tree Pearl recorded for "Glamorganshire" in the Entomologists Gazette :2: 80 [1951]
H.D.Morgan.

SOME TARGET SPECIES FOR APRIL 1999

The following notes describe ways in which best to record some interesting species that are known to occur in Glamorgan during the month of April. Many are poorly recorded and these notes will hopefully provide some useful tips to help moth recorders target their efforts, thus furthering the work of the atlas as well as helping people get to grips with some of April's offerings:

Dunes

The **Oblique-striped** may be on the on wing towards the end of the month. This species, which is easily disturbed during day, is currently known from the dune systems at Whiteford, Broughton, Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr. Several other dune systems are likely to support populations of this national scarce species so it is well worth checking out other sites. Second and third broods appear in June and August and are usually more abundant so there are always other windows for this one. The larvae feed on Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*).

Heaths

Sweep areas of heath (at night brings the best results, but daytime visits can also be productive during sunshine) where Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) or Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) is plentiful to obtain the larvae of **Heath Rustic**. The larvae of **Neglected Rustic** can be swept during the day from Heather, although it is best to avoid the middle of the day. The **Northern Drab** flies during April when it is attracted to light. It is also found in a variety of other habitats.

Coniferous woodland

Beating for larvae can be very productive at this time of year. **Grey Pine Carpet**, **Spruce Carpet**, **Satin Beauty** and **Barred Red** are all readily obtained by targeting a range of conifers. Light trapping in this habitat is likely to turn up one or two surprises as very few people trapped in coniferous woodland at this time of year. **Pine Beauty** is a likely species to appear at light in such habitat.

Willow (*Salix* spp.) catkins

Collect a good sample of catkins, put them in a ventilated box and label them. The larvae of species such as **Slender Pug**, **Red-line Quaker**, **Pink-barred Sallow** and **Sallow** appear in due course. As some larvae become larger they will need to be supplied with willow leaves to bring them through all their larval stages.

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

Beat swollen buds or flowers of Ash for **Centre-barred Sallow** larvae or collect them as they climbing up Ash trunks at dusk.

Aspen (*Populus tremula*)

Look out for adult **Lead-coloured Drab** when light-trapping in areas where Aspen grows.

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Beat for larvae of **Yellow-barred Brindle**.

Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Larvae of **Grass Emerald** can be obtained by beating.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

The distinctive larvae of **Short-cloaked Moth** are often easily obtained by beating Hawthorn during this month.

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)

Flowering plants are suitable for beating the larvae of **Sloe Pug**. Larvae of **Green Brindled Crescent** should also be looked for.

Woodland/Scrub - Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Willow, Birch (*Betula* spp.)

Light trapping in some of our better woodland sites may turn up adults of the following species:

- Frosted Green** (oak)
- Scorched Carpet** (Spindle)
- Square-spot** (various trees and shrubs)
- Grey Birch** (Birch and Alder)
- Lunar Marbled Brown** (oak)
- Blossom Underwing** (oak)
- Oak Nycteoline** (oak)

As all members should now have a copy of the Provisional Atlas, the opportunity is there for those who wish to venture into uncharted territory to add detail to our limited knowledge of the county's moths!

Barry Stewart

PROVISIONAL ATLAS, MACRO-MOTHS of GLAMORGAN

All members should now have received their copy of the Atlas. If yours has not arrived, please contact Mike Powell. Further copies are available @ £5.00 plus P&P from Mike or from the Reserve Centre at Kenfig NNR.

There has been very favourable reaction to our publication and Adrian Fowles the Senior Invertebrate Ecologist at CCW has sent the following letter:



**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

Anfonwch eich ateb at:

Please reply to: A. P. Fowles, CCW, Plas Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ

Direct dial: 01248 385640

e-mail: a.fowles@ccw.gov.uk

Dear Steve

PROVISIONAL ATLAS OF MACRO-MOTHS IN GLAMORGAN

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of this report. Considering that the Glamorgan Moth Recording Group has been in existence for a relatively short time it is testament to the enthusiasm and endeavour of its members that such a useful document can already be produced. I am well aware of the effort it takes to get local atlases to this stage and the key personnel should be warmly applauded for their efforts. I am also aware of the invaluable support given to the Group by Bridgend County Borough Council and I am certainly pleased to see Unitary Authorities recognising the contribution that amateur naturalists can make to biodiversity audit.

From my viewpoint the atlas will be of great value in indicating the distribution of those species of macro-moths that are included as Priority Species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Glamorgan has a high proportion of the Welsh species listed on the Plan and the first step towards attaining targets will be to ascertain the distribution of each species. The Provisional Atlas will provide a good basis for CCW, the Unitary Authorities and the NGOs to begin to identify priorities for conservation and no doubt as the Group continues its efforts this information will gain in value. At some stage, once we have determined how we are going to proceed with the latest batch of action plans, I must contact the GMRG to request details of the records of Priority Species and to discuss how CCW and GMRG can work together to ensure that these species are adequately surveyed and conserved.

Please pass on my thanks to the editors of the provisional atlas.

With best wishes

Adrian P. Fowles
Senior Invertebrate Ecologist

Moth Survey of Newport

Community Action for Wildlife in Newport, CAWN and the Wildlife in Newport Group, WING, are joining forces to carry out a survey of the moths that are present over a large area of Newport. Kevin Dupé from CAWN and Roger James from WING will be leading the events. They will boldly go where no moth trappers have gone before! The survey will be carried out between March and October, with traps being run on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The venues are set out below.

March 18th Ringland Woods

6.30pm - 10pm

Meet junction of Sterndale Bennet Rd and Dunstable Rd, Ringland

April 15th Allt-yr-yn Local Nature Reserve

7.30pm - 11pm

Meet Reserve Car Park, Bottom of Strawberry Lane

May 20th Gaer Pond

8.45pm - 11pm

Meet Junction of Masefield Vale and Shakespeare Crescent, The Gaer

June 17th -Lawrence Hill

9.15pm - 12am

Meet end of Glanmor Park Avenue, off Gibbs Rd

July 15th Usk Mouth

8.45pm - 12am

Contact Kevin Dupé on 840064 or Roger James on 215627 for details

August 19th Bettws Brook

8pm - 11pm

Meet end of Blackwater Close, Bettws

September 16th Duffryn Pond

7pm - 11pm

Meet junction of Morgan Way and Pencarn Way, Duffryn

October St. Julians Woods

Contact Kevin Dupé on 840064 or Roger James on 215627 for details

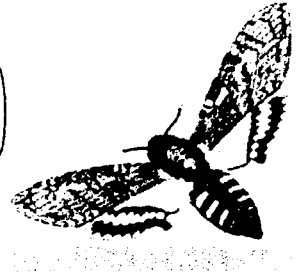
A moth trap uses UV light to attract moths. After identification they are released unharmed. There are around 850 species of Macro moth recorded in Britain and over 1500 species of Micro Moth! You will be amazed by the variety of their form, colour and patterning. Many species are only found in specific habitats, and the caterpillars often feed on only one or two species of plant. With the distribution and status of most species relatively well known, moths are an excellent indicator of the biodiversity that may be present in a specific site. Moth caterpillars form the major part of the diet of many of our bird's young, so they are an important part of the food chain. If you have never been to a moth trap before, come along for a new wildlife experience.

NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT 1999

The following Press Release has just arrived, confirming that the night of the National Moth Night will now be Saturday 17th July. This date coincides with our members weekend to Portland Bird Observatory where those attending will be actively taking part. Members not attending may wish to organise other events, in which case let Mike Powell know so that they can be included in *your* newsletter.



National Moth Night 1999



In Conjunction With *Atropos* and *InsectLine*

1999 sees the launch of National Moth Night. On the night of Saturday 17th July, moth enthusiasts throughout the UK are encouraged to set their light-traps up and gather information about what is on the wing in their area.

National Moth Night, jointly operated by *Atropos* and *InsectLine* is the first of what is to be an annual event. Similar county events, operated in Essex and Sussex in recent years, have proved very successful, so in preparation for the new millenium, *Atropos* and *InsectLine* are helping the event go nationwide.

Many organisations and groups are making the event a social as well as a scientific venture, with barbeques and activities for non-moth enthusiasts.

The aims of this event are as follows.

1. To encourage widespread moth recording and to gather useful data.
2. To stimulate wider interest in moths and raise their profile amongst the public.
3. To raise funds for moth conservation projects.

We would like as many people as possible to run light-traps in as many different areas as possible on the night of Saturday 17 July 1999 (i.e. the period between dusk on Saturday night and dawn on Sunday morning). Participants may choose to record the moths in their garden or their local patch, but we would encourage people to visit new areas that they have not looked at previously, or for a number of years. That area you've often thought about visiting but never got around to it—go there on National Moth Night! Visits to under-recorded / remote areas are also encouraged. However, do ensure that you have permission from the appropriate landowner.

Participants should send the following information to Brian Goodey, 298 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 4ET. Brian will be collating the information; all records should reach him by 17 August 1999.

1. **Recorder's name(s)**
2. **Site name and six-figure grid reference**
3. **Local weather conditions**
4. **Brief habitat description**
5. **Number and type of MV traps used** (and details of any other recording techniques)
6. **How long the traps were operated**
7. **A full list of all species identified, the ten most abundant macro-moth species listed in chronological order** (i.e. the most common first, least common last). It would be useful if recorders drew attention to records of significant county interest
8. **Numbers of common, scarce and rare migrants encountered.** In particular we would like totals of **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella*, **Rusty-dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugalis*, **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella*, **Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon*, **Pearly Underwing** *Peridroma saucia* and **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma*

Records received will be passed on to the appropriate county recorder. A full account of the event will appear in the January 2000 issue of *Atropos*. We would be pleased to hear of any unusual incidents and details of any unusual creatures attracted to the moth-trap.

Three prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

1. **Record of greatest conservation value** (Macro-lepidoptera). This may be a species not recorded locally for some time, or a scarce species at a new site. The winner will receive a professionally made Skinner MV trap complete with electrics donated by Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies (worth £80).
2. **Rarest migrant species recorded.** InsectLine will award the winner a £50 book token which can be used to purchase titles from the *Atropos* Bookshop (valid for two years).
3. **Most unusual location trapped at.** A two-year subscription to *Atropos* will be awarded to the winner in this category.

Please note that the following rules apply.

1. Photographic proof will be required in all categories. In the case of category 3 a photograph is required of the trap(s) set up on site prior to dusk, or the following morning. All photographs should be sent to the *Atropos* editorial address (36 Tinker Lane, Meltham, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD7 3EX) and may be published in *Atropos*.
2. In order to qualify for category 2, full details of the capture (and name of the captor) must be left on the InsectLine hotline (01565 722928) the next day. If verification is required, a message should be left to that effect.

3. Members of the *Atropos* editorial panel or the InsectLine team are not eligible for prizes.

4. All decisions made will be final.

Anybody interested in becoming involved can hear further details on the National Moth Night Information Line (0891 446862—note that calls cost 60p / per minute). The proceeds will be donated to moth conservation projects. Another important aim of the event is to stimulate wider interest in moths amongst the public. We hope that nature reserves / country parks, moth groups and conservation organisations will organise local events that are open to the public. Events can be promoted on the National Moth Night Information Line by telephoning the InsectLine Hotline (01565 722928—normal rates apply), leaving basic details and a contact telephone number.

It is hoped that this will become an annual event. 1999 is very much a trial year and no doubt refinements will be made in future years.

Above all, have a good night!

Mark Tunmore (Atropos) and Paul Hill (InsectLine)

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
Leader, Barry Stewart | Neath Valley.
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
Leader, Dave Gilmore | Rudry Common.
Meet at the car park on Rudry Common situated on the minor road between Caerphilly & Rudry, ST 183 865. |
| Saturday 5th June 9.00pm
Leader, Mike Powell | Merthyr Common.
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
Leader, Steve Moon | Kenfig Pool NNR
Meet at the Reserve Centre car park, SS 802 810. |
| Saturday 10th July 11.00am
Leader, Barry Stewart | Gower. (Day & evening meeting)
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
Leader, Dave Gilmore | Parc Dowlais, Llantwit Fadre.
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
Leader, Barry Stewart | Gower. (Joint meeting with BENHS)
Meet at Pitton on the B4247, situated 1 mile before Rhossili, SS 427 876. |
| Friday 10th Sept. 7.30pm
Leader, Mike Powell | Llantrisant Common.
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. |