

The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

Founded 1995

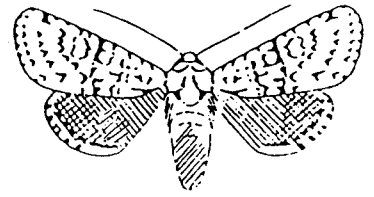
President: Steve Moon

Recorder (West): Barry Stewart

Recorder (East): Dave Gilmore

Field Meetings Sec./Newsletter Editor: Mike Powell

Treasurer: Stefan Golaszewski



Dichonia aprilina

NEWSLETTER No. 33 - JUNE 1999

FIELD MEETING, 21st MAY 1999

Our second field meeting of the 1999 season, led by David Gilmore took place on a rather cool Friday 21st May at Rudry Common near Caerphilly.

18 members & guests attended, namely Paul Alton, Martin & Christine Bevan, Maurice Chown, Dave Gilmore, Stefan & Henrik Golaszewski, Martin Hnatiuk, Ashley Matthews, Steve Moon, Paul Parsons, Mike Powell, Rob Taylor, Geri Thomas, Simon Warmington, Martin White & Jeff & Richard Williams.

Two MV traps were run from approx. 21.30 until 23.30 but again the catch was disappointingly small.

16 species were recorded, namely:

Caloptilia elongella

Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet

Small Phoenix

Common Pug

Brown Silver-line

Brimstone Moth

Common Wave

Flame Shoulder

Red Twin-spot Carpet

Silver-ground Carpet

Common Marbled Carpet

Clouded Border

Barred Umber

Common White Wave

Pale Tussock

Nut-tree Tussock

FIELD MEETING, 5th JUNE 1999

Our next field meeting takes place on Saturday 5th June led by Mike Powell to Merthyr Common. Meet at 9.00pm in the McDonald's carpark at Dowlais Top, Merthyr, situated at the junction of the A4060 & A465 Heads of the Valley road, S0 077 083.

We hope to visit some old limestone quarries where recording has taken place in recent years but if the weather is windy or cold at this exposed site, a visit to local woodland will take place instead.

FIELD MEETING, 26th JUNE 1999

The second field meeting in the month is our annual visit to Kenfig Pool NNR on 26th June led by Steve Moon. Meet at the reserve carpark at 9.00pm, SS 802 810.

Kenfig is our best recorded site and holds a range of local and notable species. However most recording has taken place at the reserve centre so this field meeting could well turn up something new for the site by trapping at some new locations.

BRISTOL & DISTRICT MOTH GROUP

The next B & DMG field meeting takes place on 11th June to Leigh Woods NNR near Bristol, meeting at 9.00pm at ST 554 731.

From Ashton Gate, Bristol take the A369 toward Pill on the south side of the Avon Gorge. Turn right into Valley Road, which is a small road into the wood after the turning to North Road, but before the traffic lights at the top of the hill. Meet at the warden's cottage in the wood at the end of Valley Road.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Our friends from BC are holding a field meeting to Rhydycar West, near Merthyr on Saturday 19th June. This is a joint meeting with Merthyr & District Naturalists Society to a potential Marsh Fritillary site, now threatened with open cast mining proposals. This is an opportunity to assist BC with field work on Butterflies for the New Millennium but also to seek out day flying moths such as Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion and possibly to find a real rarity such as Chimney Sweeper and add to our own local knowledge. Meet at 11.00am in the carpark of Rhydycar Leisure Centre.

NEW MEMBERS

6 new members have joined the group this month taking the total membership up to 64.

Dr. & Mrs. P.J. Edwards, Haddenham Low House, Oxford Road, Dinton, Aylesbury, Bucks.
HP17 8TT, 01296 748351.

David Fisher, 56, Western Way, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1DU.

Paul Chattermole, 13, Waverleigh Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8BZ.

James Hill, 19, Llanbleddian Gardens, Cathays, Cardiff, CF24 4AT.

Sally Brown, 80, Holywell Crescent, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5LG.

Chris Tyler-Smith, Northview, North Lane, Weston-on-the-Green, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX6 8RG.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A renewal notice will be enclosed with the July Newsletter with subscriptions set at £4.00 for the period July 1999-June 2000. A notice will be sent to every member, even those that have complimentary membership, so as to update our database with any changes to post codes or phone numbers.

RECENT REPORTS

The following reports from May have been received by Dave Gilmore. Many thanks to all recorders. Mike Powell (MCP) & Dave Gilmore (DRWG) spent a very rewarding time at The Knap on 5th, see the report elsewhere in this newsletter. Joined by Stefan Golaszewski (SRG) on the 25th at the same site, Ruddy Carpet was taken again along with Bordered Sallow & Mullein Wave, the first East Glamorgan record of this species.

Least Black Arches was recorded mid month at Kenfig NNR, the first record for the reserve, along with good numbers of Emperor Moth through the month. DRWG recorded Freyers Pug in Roath on 7th plus Least Black Arches & Broken-barred Carpet in Whitchurch. Steve Moon recorded Light Brocade on two nights mid month at his Rest Bay garden along with Currant Pug on 10th. The latter species was also recorded by SRG at his Llanishen home on 7th.

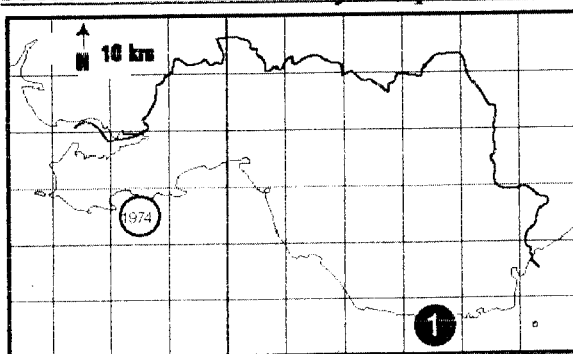
Alex Coxhead (AC) & Richard Knott took Cream Wave, Peacock Moth & Small Seraphim at Park Pond, Tondy mid month, AC also recorded Seraphim & Cream Wave at Darran Park on 15th.

Finally Mark Evans recorded Chamomile Shark on 8th, Square Spot & Lead-coloured Drab on 15th and Foxglove Pug on 24th at Cwmbach, Aberdare.

REDISCOVERY OF RUDDY CARPET (*Catarhoe rubidata*) IN GLAMORGAN

Once in while, an evenings moth trapping turns up something special, just out of the blue. That's what happened to Mike Powell and Dave Gilmore on Wednesday the 5th May. Both were at Porthkerry Country Park from about 20:45 until 22:30, when they both agreed that trapping there was a bit slow. So they decided to try the cliffs at The Knap for the last hour. MCP & DRWG had done a daytime inspection a few weeks previously and thought the site looked worth a visit. The wind being a light SE 0-1 was very favourable as anything stronger or a west/south west wind would be out of the question as the site is very exposed. The access is very good as you can drive down to the beach and along to the end of the carpark. A quick inspection showed many moths flying around so the trap was fired up and trapping began at 23:00. Within minutes a Mullein flew straight into DRWG's rucksack and had to be carefully fished out. Moths were coming to light in better numbers here than at Porthkerry. Chinese Character, Least Black Arches, Small Waved Umber, Cream Wave, Light Brocade, Wood Carpet, Scalloped Hazel and Pretty Chalk Carpet. While DRWG was busy trying to pick up a Common Quaker from his boots he noticed a slow flying Geometrid over the trap. Having netted and potted it he took one look and shouted to MCP to fetch "Skinner" as he had a moth he didn't know potted up. That, commented MCP, was just what he likes to hear and quickly brought up the field guide. We all know the scenario, huddled around "Skinner" looking up and down the plates when, my goodness! [a little more Anglo-Saxon was used, but is unprintable here - eds.] its a Ruddy Carpet. Turning to the text; sea cliffs, uncommon, southern Britain, a month early but on our lists. With just two other known records for Glamorgan, one from Oxwich in 1974 [Rothamsted Survey]. The other c1887 at Porthkerry taken by W.E.R.Allen, less than 1km from our present position. Within five minutes a second Ruddy Carpet came to light, just like a bus, none for twenty five years then two come along - moth trapping don't you just love it.

Present Status of Ruddy Carpet (*Catarhoe rubidata*) in Glamorgan [v-c 41]



1735. Ruddy Carpet.
Catarhoe rubidata ([D.&S.])
GB: Notable Nb

MICRO NEWS

SRG recorded *Lampronia fuscata* at Llanishen, Cardiff on 7th May. This is only the 2nd vice-county record for this species in Glamorgan.

MCP & DRWG took *Nemapogon schwarziellus* & *Incurvaria masculella* at Porthkerry and *Epiblema cynosbatella* at Bull Cliff, The Knap, Barry on 5th.

DRWG found *Alabonia geoffrella* & *Olethreutes lacunana* during the day at Bull Cliff, on 14th and *Udea ferrugalis* at Whitchurch on 26th.

Thanks go to Martin White for his help in identification.

OVER THE BORDER

Dave Gilmore & Stefan Golaszewski recorded *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* [Carnation Tortrix] and Speckled Yellow at Beale Wood, Kent on 9th May.

EARLY EMERGENCE OF MOTHS IN 1999

Observers have reported several moth species on the wing much earlier than stated in the standard field guides. Species concerned are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pale Tussock | 13 th February | Darran Park, Pontypridd |
| Lesser Yellow Underwing | 15 th May | Rest Bay, Porthcawl |
| Marbled Beauty | 17 th April | Cwmbach, Aberdare |
| Common Rustic | 29 th March | Kenfig NNR |