

The Glamorgan Moth Recording Group

Founded 1995



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NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT, SATURDAY 9th JULY 2005

For National Moth Day/Night this Saturday, July 9th, we will be running two daytime events & two evening events. The National target species for 2005 are Dusky & Welsh Clearwings, Northern Dart, Chalk Carpet & Double Line. Realistically we really only have a chance with the last two species but we will certainly be searching for other Clearwing species on the day. Due to changes forced upon us, **both evening events have changed** from those detailed in the last newsletter.

East Glamorgan

During the day we will visit both Ogmores Down & Merthyr Mawr Warren to search for Orange-tailed, Six-belted & Red-tipped Clearwings along with Chalk Carpet and other limestone loving species. The evening session will now take place at Bull Cliff, The Knap, Barry where we will search for Chalk Carpet.

Both sessions will be led by Dave Gilmore & Mike Powell.

For the daytime session meet in the Candleston car park, Merthyr Mawr Warren at 11.00am. To find the meeting place take the B4524 just south of Bridgend signposted to Ogmores by Sea. After 1km take the minor road on the right before you reach the river in Ewenny to Merthyr Mawr village. Go through the hamlet of Merthyr Mawr until you reach the large car park on the edge of the dunes at SS 871 772.

For the evening session meet from 21.30 onwards at the far western end of the Bull Cliff car park. To find the site take the A4050 from Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff to Barry. Follow signs off the A4050 to Barry Island. As you drop down toward Barry Island & before you cross the causeway take the minor road signposted on the right for The Knap. Go to the far end of The Knap car park and meet at ST 095 666.

Contact Mike Powell on 07808 096972 for further information.

West Glamorgan

During the day we will visit a number of sites to search for Silky Wave and Chalk Carpet on the Gower coast and if time allows to search for Six-belted Clearwing and possibly one or two other Clearwing species using pheromone lures. The evening session will now be a visit to Oxwich Marsh & Dunes. Both sessions will be led by Barry Stewart.

For the daytime session meet in the car park at Port Eynon beach, SS 467 850 at 10.30am. To find the meeting place take the A4118 from Swansea, onto Gower then all the way to the car park at Port Eynon. **Please note the slightly earlier meeting time.**

For the evening session to Oxwich please meet at the gate on the left hand side of Oxwich Marsh Road between 21.00 & 21.30. Please note that this gate will be locked before & after these times. To find the site take the A4118, south Gower road from Swansea and take the turning signposted to Oxwich. Go down the hill and across the marsh until you reach the gate at SS 502 870. Contact Barry Stewart on 01792 539447 for further information.

Members as well as guests are welcome to attend all of our meetings. Please note that everyone attending does so at their own personal risk and is fully responsible for their own safety. Nearly all our field meetings take place at night and involve the use of moth traps brought along by those members of the GMRG who are willing & able to use them. The meetings involve moving around from one trap to another looking at different species attracted to the lights. Members and guests are requested to follow the following guidelines at all meetings:

- Ensure you make your presence known to the leader on arrival and that you inform the leader when you are leaving.
- Please take care of your own safety, ideally bring a torch and move about in pairs or in groups. Take careful note of any potential problems whilst it is still light, i.e. cliff or quarry edges. Note the position of the generator(s) and avoid tripping over any electrical cables. Where possible avoid looking directly at the moth trap bulb when in use.
- If bringing your own moth trap ensure a qualified electrician has checked it for electrical safety.
- Check the condition of the bulbs to be used in MV traps before use every time. Do not use any bulb that appears cracked or if you are unsure of its safety in any way.
- Ensure you can protect the bulb in the event of rain i.e. by using a rain guard or Pyrex type bowl or jug as there is an increased risk of hot bulbs shattering. If in doubt turn off the electrical supply as soon as it starts raining.
- In case of emergency seek help from the meeting leader who will be equipped with a mobile phone.
- If you bring a guest to any meeting please ensure they are aware of the need to remain aware of all risks and the means of reducing them.

Despite all this necessary attention to Health & Safety, accidents are thankfully very rare. The intention is that you enjoy the meeting, see plenty of moths and return home safely. It is always advisable to check that the meeting is still taking place if the weather is forecast to be either cold, wet or windy so as to avoid a wasted journey. Call Mike Powell on 029 2076 2182 or 07808 096972 or Barry Stewart on 01792 539447 or 07730 502738.

Further details on NMN can be found at www.nationalmothnight.info

STATUS OF *PSYCHOIDES VERHUELLA* AND *PSYCHOIDES FILICIVORA* IN GLAMORGAN.

The sub-family of micro-moths, *Teichobiinae* (*Tineidae*), comprises of two species in Great Britain, both of which are to be found in Glamorgan. Both are predominantly daytime flyers, although *Psychoides filicivora* has also been noted at light in vc41. Both use fern species as their food-plants.

Of the two *Psychoides filicivora* [Meyrick 1937], a Notable Nb, is the more common in Glamorgan and was first discovered by Richard Warren at Cwm Ivy Tor on Gower in 1981. It has subsequently been found at a few sites on the Gower Peninsula and in the Cardiff area from 1989, where again it is not uncommon. Outside these areas it has only been recorded at two sites: Neath and Pontypridd. Of these two, the latter is well inland and constitutes the county's furthest inland record. The main food-plants of *P. filicivora* in Glamorgan seem to be Soft-shield Fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), and Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), but it has also been found on Harts-tongue (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*). The flight period for this species in vc41 seems to extend throughout the year with a peak period from March to early June, then intermittently from August to January.

The status of *Psychoides verhuella* [Bruand 1853] in Glamorgan is quite the opposite to that of *P. filicivora* in so much as it has only been recorded on three occasions, and one of those is considered questionable. Until 2004, when it was discovered at a Cardiff site, the only known record was a documented one from the mid nineteenth century. The record concerned was from Caerphilly Castle by Robert Drane and published by Stainton [1856]. In it Drane states that he found the larva of *P. verhuella* on Wall-rue (*Asplenium ruta-mutaria*). However in *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain & Ireland* Vol. II, p160 the editors state in History and distribution that this could well be a misidentification for *P. filicivora*, especially in the larval state and that the host plant: stated as Wall-rue, would be more likely with *P. filicivora*. This now clashes somewhat with an extraordinary find at Maesteg in June 2005 when *P. verhuella* was found on Wall-rue. Both imago and larvae were found in numbers on several occasions [see photo gallery]. It's usual given food-plant is harts-tongue, which it has been found on in Monmouthshire [vc35], with spleenwort (*Asplenium spp.*) and rusty-back (*Ceterach officinarum*) as other documented plants. The flight period is in June with adults flying in daylight.

It seems that these two species could well be under-recorded in vc41, especially *P. verhuella*. However with the advent of better field guides, online identification services and greater local observer awareness records of these two species could become more frequent than at present. There also seems to be an overlap in the food-plant species, especially Harts-tongue and Wall-rue, so care must be taken to separate the two before formal identification can be proved. It is worth mentioning that *Blastobasis lignea* has also been found on hart's-tongue so adding to the problem of identification.

David Gilmore

Source & References

Glamorgan Moth Recording Group Archives 1832-2005

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Acknowledgements

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PHOTO GALLERY 37



Left: Small Marbled, Cwm Ivy, Gower, 05 Jun 05 (V. Shenston, Photo B. Stewart) [2nd record for vc41]. Right: *Grapholita lunulana*, Rhydycar, Merthyr, 26 May 05 (D.R.W. Gilmore & M.C Powell, photo D. Slade) [1st record for vc41].



Left: Reddish Light Arches, Port Talbot, 2005 (C. Gittins) [5th record for vc41]. Right: Larval case of *Psychoides verhuella* on Wall-rue, Picton Street, Maesteg, June 05 (P. Parsons) [3rd record for vc41].



Left: Little Thorn, Mumbles, 10 Jun 05 (T. Bantock) [20th record for vc41, 1st record for Gower]. Right: Delicate, Sandy Lane Gower, May 05 (S. Musgrave) [29th record for vc41].