

## Mothing in Montgomeryshire - 2009

It's been an exciting time for mothing in Montgomeryshire during 2009. We now have a moth-recording programme, the county database has been created with all the archive and current records verified, and we've built a web site dedicated to moths and mothing in Montgomeryshire.

### Technical Developments

The BMR (British Moth Recorder) programme was tested at the beginning of 2009. After this the programme was given to all regular recorders in the county (with excel) and during the first year all the feedback has been really positive.

After many months of effort we transferred all VC47 moth records onto a newly created county database. Verifying the integrity of the data was a particular challenge and various techniques were used to remove duplicates, spelling mistakes and general sighting errors (e.g. using flight date comparisons). Now that it's done, sorting records and data entry should be far easier. We now have 80,000 records in the database.

Our latest development has been to design and build this web-site (an ongoing project).

### Moth Species of note

There were 21 new species of micro moths added to the county list in 2009 (species listed below). There are now 441 species recorded in the county.

*Stigmella lemniscella, Nemaxera betulinella, Phyllonorycter rajella, Phyllonorycter froelichiella, Ypsolopha scabrella, Schreckensteinia festaliella, Borkhausenia fuscescens, Agonopterix alstromeriana, Pseudotelphusa paripunctella, Chionodes fumatella, Helcystogramma rufescens, Acleris caledoniana, Apotomis semifasciana, Bactra lacteana, Epinotia tetraquetra, Chilo phragmitella, Agriphila latistria, Endotricha flammealis, Assara terebrella, Pempeliella dilutella and Ephestia elutella.*

There were also 4 new species and 2 new sub-species of macro moths added to the county list in 2009 (species listed below). There are now 498 species recorded in the county.



*Biston betularia* ssp. *insularia* Peppered Moth; *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* ssp. *borealis* Northern Ruby Tiger; *Hecatera bicolorata* Broad-barred White; *Mythimna straminea* Southern Wainscot; *Acronicta tridens* Dark Dagger and *Mesapamea didym* Lesser Common Rustic.

One of the most exciting finds of the year is the re-discovery very locally in the north of the county of *Xestia rhomboidea* Square-spotted Clay (photo left by MDH, 24/7/09). Last recorded in Montgomeryshire in 1987, this is a 'Nationally scarce B' species throughout the British Isles, so to record it in numbers which suggest a small breeding colony is a really great find. We will keep a very close eye on this species over the coming year and watch any developments with interest.

I now look forward to a successful 2010 for Montgomeryshire. If it turns out anywhere near as good as 2009 I will not complain!

Peter Williams – Feb 2010.