

Mothing in Montgomeryshire - 2011 - Annual Report

The Moth Group – MMG

Once again a full programme of ten events was held throughout the county during 2011 and all events were well attended. The purchase of a gazebo certainly made the mothing a little more comfortable when out in the field, although we nearly lost it at Dolforwyn Woods during some extremely squally weather. The events produced seven of the new county records for the year (which makes running them all the more rewarding). The 2012 event schedule will be published on the events page of the web site, early in 2012.



Moth HQ - the new gazebo gets first outing at Pont Llogel.

Macro Moths 2011

New county records - Chamomile Shark, Silver Hook, Heart & Club, Small Waved Umber, Barred Carpet and the Ni Moth.

Other notable species recorded - Glaucous Shears, Little Emerald, Small Eggar, Haworth's Pug, Confused, Rosy Marsh Moth and the Mallow.

The first good find of the year was the Glaucous Shears, it hadn't been seen in the county since 1977, this year it was recorded from no fewer than five sites, where has it been all these years!



Rosy Marsh Moth

Next to show up were two separate larval tents of the nationally scarce B species, the Small Eggar (right), a species not seen in the county for over half a century (it had been a target species so it was great to see it rediscovered). In August we were treated to the sighting of a Confused, a nationally local species last seen in Montgomeryshire in 1976. And last but definitely not least, the existence of the Rosy Marsh Moth (right), another target species, was finally confirmed when one was trapped at Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve. We had been looking for this species for many years so what a wonderful moment it was when the moth finally graced us with its presence.



Small Eggar - larval tent.

Micro Moths 2011

New county records - *Stigmella speciosa*, *Stigmella obliquella*, *Emmetia angusticolella*, *Psyche casta*, *Nemapogon wolffiella*, *Bucculatrix nigricomella*, *Phyllonorycter blancardella*, *Phyllonorycter junoniella*, *Prochoreutis myllerana*, *Argyresthia pygmaeella*, *Coleophora trifolii*, *Metzneria metzneriella*, *Carpatolechia notatella*, *Teleiopsis diffinis*, *Caryocolum viscariella*, *Anacampsis populella*, *Cosmopterix orichalcea*, *Cochylis hybridella*, *Cochylis nana*, *Philedonides lunana*, *Olethreutes mygindiana*, *Hedya salicella*, *Lobesia reliquana*, *Epinotia subocellana*, *Epinotia cruciana*, *Epiblema foenella*, *Epiblema costipunctana*, *Antigastra catalaunalis*, *Hymenia recurvalis*, *Achroia grisella* and *Hellinsia osteodactylus*.

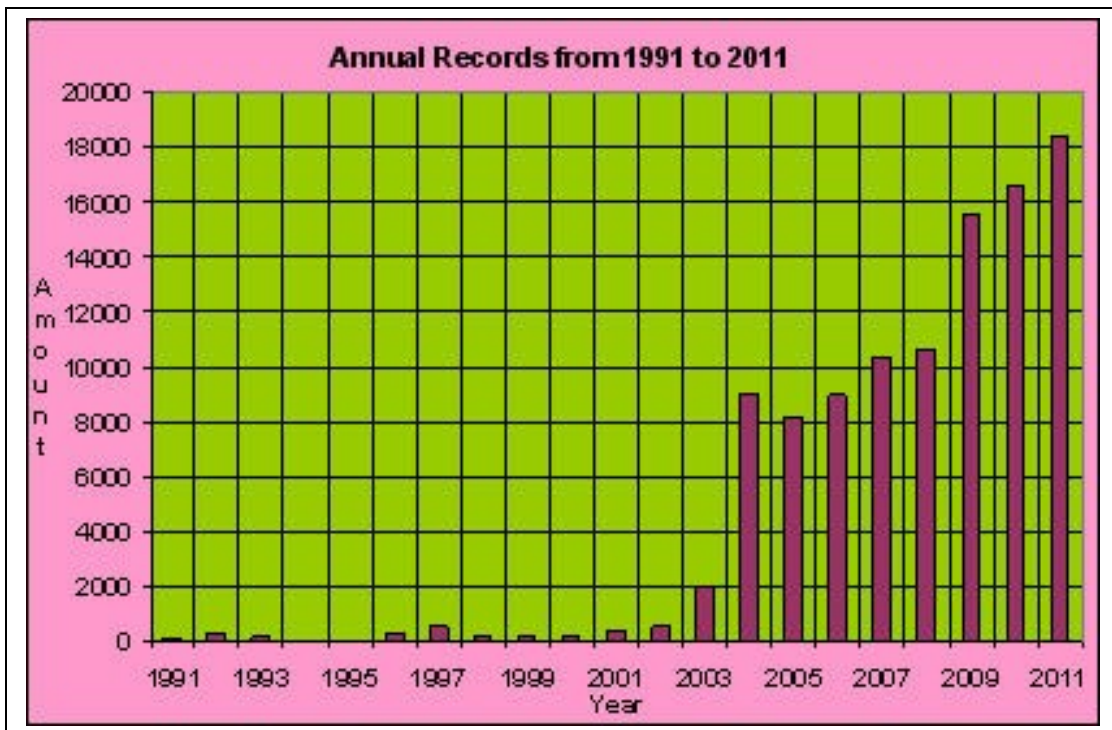


Other notable species recorded - *Incurvaria oehlmanniella*.

2011 Annual Statistics

2011 has been an exceptional year both for new county records and for confirming the presence of species not seen for many years. There were several excellent species recorded throughout the year and many of these had also been target species, some of which were also new to the county. The autumn months also rewarded us with many migrant species (some rare) due to the mild weather systems coming from a south or south-easterly direction. The facts & figures are –

- 18,405 moth records were recorded in 2011, the most ever in a single year. The graph below shows how annual records have increased over the last twenty years.



- During 2011 we recorded our 1000th species in the county (507 macro and 493 micro).
- Total sightings records in the database are now 122,059.
- There were 37 new species recorded in the county in 2011 (31 micro and 6 macro).

Web Site

Visits to our website during 2011 were almost double the 2010 figures. We hit a peak in July of just over 1200 visits for the month. The average monthly number of visits (since the web site was created) is now in excess of 500 per month.

In 2011 we added four new features plus a fundraising link to the web site:

- The first new addition in February was the 10km 'Species Distribution' map of the county. This shows exactly 'what' has been recorded in every 10km square, and 'when'. An excellent tool to help us fill in those missing species from specific areas.
- Also added in February was a 'What's flying now' for any month of the year. This feature has been a great help to all moth-ers, but especially to inexperienced moth-ers, when trying to identify difficult species. A very helpful tool indeed.
- In May the 'Blog' was launched; this has proved to be an excellent method for everyone to keep in touch on all sorts of moth related issues. I'm sure this feature will be used a lot during 2012. In December Douglas took over as 'Blog Administrator' so any questions regarding the Blog should now be addressed to Douglas, his contact details are on the contacts page of the web site.
- Also in May the 'Stop Press' was launched. This was to be an area where any new or exciting find for the year could be shown 'as and when' it happened, giving everyone the very latest information on all those exciting records. It's quickly become one of the most popular pages on the site.
- 'Easyfundraising' web links were added in October. As you all know, Mike and I give our time freely to the MMG, but we can't get away from the fact that there are certain 'running' costs e.g. web site, mothing equipment and reference books (which I pay for out of my own pocket). We thought if we could just generate a small amount towards these costs, it would be of great help. Many thanks to all of you who have signed up to 'Easyfundraising' and raised some money for the pot already.

Throughout the year many we've received many Montgomeryshire photos for use on the web site. There are still some missing species photos so please keep them coming in. Also, don't forget we are always trying to get the best quality pictures, so if you've taken a particularly good detailed picture, then please send it in, even if the species is already represented (as it may well go alongside, or replace, an existing photo).

British Moth Recorder –BMR

Unfortunately, we have had a few issues with our moth recording software, the BMR (British Moth Recorder). The main problem has been in moving forward with the programme. It was built using Excel 2003 which is not compatible with later versions. Mike, who along with myself, built the programme, has said it could be written in a new format that would operate with later versions of Excel and other operating systems. However, this would mean a major rebuild and what with maintaining the web and data base, Mike's time is limited, so unfortunately, I can't say when this will be done. As a consequence of this, the BMR has been taken off the web site and is no longer available to 'out of county' users. New 'in county' recorders will still be able to use the BMR providing the operating system criteria is met.

In Conclusion

I would like to say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his hard work during 2011 in all areas of the MMG, without whom, much of this would not be possible. Lastly to all of you for using the facilities that the MMG provides, when all said and done, that's what makes it all work!

Good mothing for 2012

Peter.