

Mothing in Montgomeryshire - 2012 - Annual Report

The Mothing Year

What a strange mothing year 2012 has been in Montgomeryshire. Generally speaking, due to the wet and dull weather conditions, mothing in the county has been pretty poor, with falls in both numbers and species recorded. Yet, conversely, in the face of all this, we've had our best year ever as far as new species for the county is concerned, with a massive 43 added to our county list (37 micro and 6 macro). It just goes to show that you can't take anything for certain, when it comes to mothing.

New Species recorded were: -



Caryocolum tricolorella

February: 0476 *Acrolepia autumnitella*.

March: 2185 Lead-coloured Drab *Orthosia populeti*.

May: 0472 *Digitivalva pulicariae*, 0517 Clover Case-bearer *Coleophora alcyonipennella*, 0654 *Pleurota bicostella*, 0732 *Eulamprotes unicolorella*, 0936 *Cochylimorpha straminea*, 0966 *Cochylis atricapitana*, 1014 *Isotrias rectifasciana*, 1184a *Epiblema cirsiana*, 1287 *Dichrorampha aeratana* & 2043 Orange Footman *Eilema sororcula*.

June: 409a *Argyresthia trifasciata*, 0822 *Scrobipalpa acuminatella*, 0874 *Blastobasis decolorella*, 1278 *Dichrorampha sequana*, 1827 Freyer's Pug *Eupithecia intricata* & 2463 Burnet Companion *Euclidia glyphica*.

July: 0494 *Coleophora coracipennella*, 0532 *Coleophora albidella*, 0536 *Coleophora betulella*, 0559 *Coleophora peribenanderi*, 0640 *Batia lunaris*, 0642 *Batia unitella*, 0731 *Eulamprotes atrella*, 0736 *Monochroa lucidella*, 0742 *Monochroa lutulentella*, 0772 *Carpatolechia fugitivella*, 0779 *Bryotropha affinis*, 0856 *Anarsia spartiella*, 0886 *Mompha ochraceella* & 1792 Dark Umber *Philereme transversata*.

August: 0430 *Yponomeuta plumbella*, 0595 *Elachista biatomella*, 0834 *Caryocolum tricolorella*, 0847 *Syncopacma taeniolella*, 0859 *Psoricoptera gibbosella*, 1207 *Clavigesta purdeyi* & 2279 Sycamore *Acronicta aceris*.

September: 0260 *Leucoptera malifoliella* & 0456 *Ypsolopha horridella*.

October: 029 *Ectoedemia atricollis* & 078 *Stigmella incognitella*.



Freyer's Pug *Eupithecia intricata*

Other notable species recorded during the year

Apart from the new county records listed above, other species worthy of mention are listed below: -

2011 (a late record from the previous year)

[1367 *Pyrausta cingulata*](#) – last recorded in 1998.

2012

[0004 *Micropterix aruncella*](#) – last recorded in 1967.

[0068 *Stigmella salicis*](#) – last recorded in 1990.

[0305 *Parornix scoticella*](#) – last recorded in 1990.

[0308 *Parornix finitimella*](#) – last recorded in 1990.

[1150 *Epinotia abbreviana*](#) – last recorded in 1998.

[1251 *Grapholita jungiella*](#) – last recorded in 1967.

[1273 *Dichrorampha petiverella*](#) – last recorded in 1929.

[1285 *Dichrorampha plumbana*](#) – last recorded in 1998.

[1661 Orange Underwing *Archiearis parthenias*](#) – last recorded in 1998.

[1825 Lime-speck Pug *Eupithecia centaureata*](#) – last recorded in 1998.

[2286 Light Knot Grass *Acronicta menyanthidis*](#) – last recorded in 1989.

[2303 Straw Underwing *Thalpophila matura*](#) – last recorded in 1992.



Pyrausta cingulata



Light Knot Grass
Acronicta menyanthidis

End of Year Statistics

2012 is summarised below. I have separated the macro from the micro moths so that you get a better overview of how both groups are doing.

- 14298 macro and 2766 micro records were added to our database which now holds 121523 macro and 18034 micro records giving us a total of 139557 records.
- Total number of species on our database is now 512 macro and 526 micro, taking us through the psychological 1000 level, and giving us a total of 1038 species recorded in the county.
- Total species recorded in 2012 were 407 macro and 308 micro (715 species for the year).

The two charts below show the top five most numerous records for the year. It is interesting to note that the Poplar Hawk-moth is at number five; I would imagine that in a normal year (without the strange weather conditions) that this species wouldn't count in the top ten records.

Log No.	Macro Species	Records
2190	Hebrew Character	239
1906	Brimstone Moth	213
1764	Common Marbled Carpet	201
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	197
1981	Poplar Hawk-moth	174

Log No.	Micro Species	Records
1076	Celypha lacunana	82
1338	Dipleurina lacustrata	81
1334	Scoparia ambigualis	69
1304	Agriphila straminella	67
1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	62

The next two charts show the top five species by quantities trapped. As expected, the spring flying macro moth species featured highly as did the summer micro 'grass moths'.

Log No.	Macro Species	Counts
2182	Small Quaker	2826
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	2123
2190	Hebrew Character	1414
2044	Dingy Footman	1104
2187	Common Quaker	790

Log No.	Micro Species	Counts
1304	Scoparia ambigualis	379
989	Aphelia paleana	212
424	Yponomeuta evonymella	206
1293	Chrysoteuchia culmella	195
1305	Agriphila tristella	187

The final two charts show the top five all time records in our database, including the 2012 data. Flame Shoulder (at number two below) does not appear at all in the charts above, suggesting a poor year for the species in 2012. As for the micro moths, the 2012 data was far more consistent with our long-term figures with *Scoparia ambigualis* 'heading the pack'.

Log No.	Macro Species	All records
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	1894
2102	Flame Shoulder	1708
2190	Hebrew Character	1677
1906	Brimstone Moth	1567
1764	Common Marbled Carpet	1499

Log No.	Micro Species	All records
1334	Scoparia ambigualis	716
1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	576
1305	Agriphila tristella	560
1338	Dipleurina lacustrata	509
1304	Agriphila straminella	492

The Moth Group – MMG

During 2012 we held 8 events throughout the county, all of which were well attended.

Full reports for 2012 can be seen on the events page of the web site but some of the highlights are worth another mention.

Our first event of the year was a combined 'Bio Blitz' event with MWT at Dolforwyn Woods Nature Reserve. It was very successful, with 22 people attending and 25 species of moths recorded, a good start to the year.



Around the table, at the Pont Llogel event in October

The Lake Glaslyn event in May was very cold indeed with temperatures falling to 3.5c. Only two species were recorded, but the usual cake, tea and good banter kept us all going. Those present said that as the evening got colder, I had evidently started to hallucinate by seeing moths not visible to them, but I think my sugar levels had dropped and once I'd eaten another piece of cake, the 'extra moths' just flew away!

Our June event was combined with the 'Moth Night' event but heavy rain kept the species count down, which is rather a shame as we operated 15 traps (our highest number ever) and our expectations for the night had been high.

The August event at Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve was once again our best attended event of the year with over 40 people turning up, and as usual, they weren't let down, with a massive 125 species being recorded.

Thank you to all those who came along to events and helped with setting up and taking down kit (which can be an arduous job), to those who brought along cake and other goodies (very important), and to all members of the public who attended any event.

This year we will once again be holding a full programme of events (see the [website](#) for details). Please come along and support us wherever you can.

Easy Fundraising

2012 was our first full year of using 'Easy Fundraising' as a way of raising funds for ongoing costs such as the web site, reference books and trapping kit. Funds raised so far stand at just over £150.00. Monies spent so far are:-

Two reference books -	
'Field Guide to the Micro-Moths of Great Britain and Ireland'	£22.46
'British Plume Moths'	£24.00
Replacement MV bulb + p & p	£15.89
Web site domain renewal charges	£6.48
Total	<u>£68.83</u>

I would like to give a huge thank you to all those who have helped to put some funds in our kitty during the last year. To all those who haven't yet used 'Easy Fundraising', but use the web to do their shopping, please do so, as it costs you nothing extra to go through 'Easy Fundraising' and you may be able to purchase your goods even cheaper with offered deals. Every little bit raised helps to pay with our ongoing costs. A link to access 'Easy Fundraising' is at the bottom of the 'home page' of our web site. Go on, give it a try, you've got nothing to lose.

Web Site

In 2012, the website (excluding the blog) received 31% more visits than in 2011 and 51% more bandwidth (actual data usage) was accessed.

In September 2012 Douglas took over the running and maintenance of the 'Stop Press' to relieve Mike from some of the workload, and I think he's done an excellent job since taking on the task - thank you Douglas.

Throughout the year many of you have continued to send in photos for use on the web site which all go towards building up the widest possible photo gallery to help us id every species we record. We are still short of some photos, so please keep them coming in. Also, don't forget we are always trying to get the best quality photos, so if you've taken a particularly good detailed one, please send it in even if it's already represented as it may well go alongside, or even replace, an existing photo.

In Conclusion

I would like to once again say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his hard work during the year with the web site and for maintaining our database, without whom, much of this would not be possible. Lastly, to all of you, for using the facilities that the MMG offers, when all said and done, that's what makes it all work!

I hope you all have good mothing in 2013.

Peter.