

Mothing in Montgomeryshire – 2021 Annual Report

Mothing Overview

As with last year, with Covid still around with restrictions of movement, we all tried to cling onto some kind of normality wherever we could – and for some of us it's recording and studying lepidoptera - and for many more, studying and recording wildlife in general.

The Covid 19 restrictions did affect us for the first half of the year and public mothing events were once again cancelled. Thankfully rules around public events relaxed somewhat during the latter half of the year and we actually managed to run a few events and it was great for the regular moth-ers to meet up again after such a long break. Hopefully, some of the events which had to be cancelled during the year can be rearranged in the future.

Once again (because of a lack of events) we tried to keep everyone involved by running Lockdown challenges throughout the year to keep everyone engaged and in the loop. All recorders in the county were informed and kept up to date with these challenges on our 'group Facebook page', our blog and mailing list.

Unlike 2020 when we had an influx of new records, due to increased trapping during the lockdowns, 2021 was quite different, with very few new records. In fact, recording actually dropped off from the previous year. This of course could have been expected to some degree as some of those new recorders in 2020 didn't continue with moth recording.

2021 was a very sad year for not only us in Montgomeryshire (but nationally as well) as the news broke that Douglas Boyes had died, such a terrible shock to everyone, we're all the poorer for his passing.

My full tribute to Douglas is in our blog and can be accessed by following this link [The Montgomeryshire Moth Group Blog: Happy Memories of Douglas Boyes with the MMG \(montgomeryshiremoths.blogspot.com\)](https://montgomeryshiremoths.blogspot.com)

The Moths - New Species Recorded in Montgomeryshire During 2021

There were 4 new micro species recorded, the details are: -

15.016 (0297) *Euspilapteryx auroguttella* – recorded at Commins Coch in the west of the county on 3rd September, PRW, to light. Although quite common throughout most of the UK it has only been sporadically recorded in Wales.



Euspilapteryx auroguttella

49.290 (1182) *Epiblema turbidana* - first recorded at an MMG event at Cors Dyfi in the far west of the county on the 10th. July, to light. A very local species throughout the whole of the UK.

49.014 (0979) *Archips crataegana* - First recorded at an MMG event at Llyn Coed-Y-Dinas in the east of the county on the 26th. June, to light. Common the UK but absent from most of Wales.



Archips crataegana

49.030 (0985) *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* - First recorded at Waen in the north-east of the county on 24 July 2013 by DRS. This record has only just come to light. Common in much of England, least so or absent in other areas of the UK.



Cacoecimorpha pronubana

There was 1 new macro species recorded, the details are: -

72.076 (2451) Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini* – This fabulous species was first recorded at Commins Coch in the west of the county on the 8th. September, PRW. Over the following few weeks, it was also recorded by SS in the north of the county and SAL in the west of the county. It has very quickly been spreading north and west from the south-east of England. At the current trend it will soon be over much of the UK. Hopefully more of us will record it in Montgomeryshire in 2022.



Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini*

Notable micro species recorded during the year (where there are 5 or less records in the database).

- 4.026 *Stigmella oxyacanthella*, Berriew, SO141994, DMD, 16/10/21, 4th. county record.
 4.071 *Bohemannia pulverosella*, Glan-y-nant, SN921844, GD, 17/08/21, 3rd. county record.
 4.096 *Ectoedemia arcuatella*, Afon Efyrrwy, SJ034152, GT, 19/09/21, 2nd. county record.
 20.013 *Argyresthia pygmaeella*, Commins Coch, SH845028, PRW, 11/07/21, 3rd. county record.
 32.035 *Agonopterix yeatiana*, Cemmaes, SH843058, SAL, 08/06/21, 5th. county record.
 35.08 *Eulamprotes unicolorella*, Middletown, SJ305121, DHB, 09/07/21, 4th. county record.
 35.101 *Gelechia sororculella*, Cors Dyfi, SN704984, JP, 10/07/21, 2nd. county record.
 49.014 *Archips crataegana*, Middletown, SJ305121, DHB, 09/07/21, 2nd. county record.
 49.04 *Lozotaeniodes formosana*, Ardleen, SJ250154, PT, 14/08/21, 3rd. county record.
 49.377 *Pammene germmanna*, Commins Coch, SH845028, PRW, 07/06/21, 3rd. county record.
 62.034 *Acrobasis repandana*, Ardleen, SJ250154, PT, 14/08/21, 2nd. county record.

Notable macro species recorded during the year (where there are 5 or less records in the database).

- 52.003 Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis*, Middletown, SJ305121, CBo, 22/07/21, 4th. county record.
 69.004 Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli*, Cemmaes, SH843058, SAL, 08/10/21, 5th. county record.
 70.189 Shaded Pug *Eupithecia subumbrata*, Cors Dyfi, SN704984, JP, 10/07/21, 2nd. county record.
 73.322 Archer's Dart *Agrotis vestigialis* Derwenlas, SN722991, AT, 09/08/21, 2nd. county record.
 73.255 Nutmeg *Anarta trifoli*, Llandyssil, SO194950, MEG, 01/08/21, 4th. county record.
 73.217 Lunar-spotted Pinion *Cosmia pyralina*, Commins Coch, SH845028, PRW, 31/07/21, 3rd. county record.
 72.076 Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini*, Bryn Crai, SJ096221, SS, 10/10/21, 2nd. county record.
 72.076 Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini*, Bryn Crai, SJ096221, SS, 11/10/21, 3rd. county record.
 72.076 Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini*, Cemmaes, SH843058, SAL, 12/10/21, 4th. county record.

One more notable species for the year (just falling outside the criteria of 5 or less records in the database).

- 65.014 Oak Lutestring *Cymatophorina diluta*, Llwynderw Farm, SN911849, RB, 08-07-21, 6th, county record, last recorded in Newtown 1973.

Key to all recorders

MDH – Mike Haigh
JP – Julie Pearce
GT - George Tordoff
PT - Peter Terry
CBo – Clare Boyes
RB – Richard Becker

PRW – Peter Williams
DRS - Dave Skingsley
SAL – Simon Layton
MEG – Meurig Garbutt
SS – Sue Southam

DMD – Daisy Dunn
SS – Simon Spencer
GD - Graham Dennis
AT- Alan Tadman
DHB – Douglas Boyes

End of Year Statistics for 2021

Summary of end of year statistics; figures in parenthesis show 2020 totals.

- Numbers of records overall were slightly down for the year by about 1000 records, which was reflected in both the macro and micro statistics.
- The breakdown is: - we added a total of 19,983 (20,942) of records to our database. The share between macro and micro records was; 17,788 (18,306) macro and 2,195 (2,636) micros. We now have 259,123 (241,335) macro records and 42,819 (40,624) micro records, giving us a grand total of 301,942 (281,959) records in the database.
- Total number of species now held in our database is 537 (536) macro species and 676 (672) micro species giving us a total of 1213 species recorded in the county.
- Total species recorded in 2020 was 421 (424) macro species, 3 species down on 2020, but still pretty good and 258 (294) micro species, 36 species down on 2020, probably due to fewer leafmine species being recorded. Giving a grand total of 679 (718) species for the year – an overall fall of 39 species on the previous year.

The following charts show the 2021 rank of the top five species in various categories recorded in Montgomeryshire.

Please note the previous year's rank/records are shown in parenthesis and a dash indicates that the species was not in top five the previous year. As usual I have separated the macro (left hand charts) from the micro moths (right hand charts) so that you get a better overview of how both groups are doing.

The two charts below show the top five most numerous species 'by records' for the year.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Records
1 (3)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	315 (325)	1 (-)	63.038	Pleuroptya ruralis	72 (-)
2 (1)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	310 (432)	2 (1)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	70 (105)
3 (-)	70.097	Common Marbled Carpet	275 (-)	3 (2)	63.025	Anania hortulata	59 (100)
4 (5)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	261 (268)	4 (-)	63.114	Elophila nymphaeata	57 (-)
5 (-)	72.003	Snout	216 (-)	5 (3)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	56 (96)

In the macro moths the Large Yellow Underwing was toppled from the top spot by the Brimstone Moth and in at number three was the Common Marbled carpet. No spring species did well in this category. The biggest surprise of all was the entry at five by the Snout, as species which has never been in the top five before.

In the micros *Eudonia lacustrata* was pushed into second place by *Pleuroptya ruralis*, which moved into top spot after not showing at all in the top five last year. Also, *Elophila nymphaeata* came straight into fourth spot.

The next two charts show the top five species by the 'quantities' recorded.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Counts	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Counts
1 (2)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	2670 (3553)	1 (-)	63.116	Cataclysta lemnata	(-)
2 (3)	72.043	Buff Footman	1964 (1695)	2 (-)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	255 (-)
3 (5)	72.044	Dingy Footman	1435 (1288)	3 (-)	41.002	Blastobasis adustella	245 (-)
3 (-)	73.245	Small Quaker	924 (-)	4 (1)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	239 (663)
5 (-)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	922 (-)	5 (-)	63.038	Pleuroptya ruralis	228 (-)

Quantities recorded for the macro moths were rather mixed again when viewed against 2020 figures. Heart & Dart was knocked off top spot (in fact it wasn't even in the top five) and replaced by the Large Yellow Underwing. The only spring species to make a show was the Small Quaker in at number four. This was its first showing in the top five since 2014 when it held top spot. Also, in at number five was the Brimstone Moth.

The micro species by quantity recorded was a very strange year indeed. All but *Chrysoteuchia culmella* (down from first to fourth) were new into the table. The top spot was certainly a surprise, taken by *Cataclysta lemnata*. The other places were all taken by the usual suspects. Overall numbers were greatly down on last year's figures.

The last two charts show the top five all time records in our database.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	All records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	All records
1 (1)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	4389 (4063)	1 (1)	63.038	Pleuroptya ruralis	1330 (1254)
2 (2)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	3932 (3658)	2 (2)	63.064	Scoparia ambigualis	1271 (1228)
3 (3)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	3680 (3355)	3 (3)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	1232 (1161)
4 (5)	70.097	Common Marbled Carpet	3413 (3127)	4 (4)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	1161 (1107)
5 (4)	73.249	Hebrew Character	3407 (3223)	5 (5)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	1129 (1073)

The top five species macro species in our database 'by records' were largely unchanged except for the Common Marbled Carpet and Hebrew Character in 4th. and 5th. changed places. The top five micro moths were unchanged.

The 2021 Moth Group Events – MMG

Once again due to covid restrictions, events in the first half of the year were cancelled, but we did manage to get going with them again from late June to late October where we managed to run five events. To see reports and species lists of these events please look on the 'Events' page of our website.

News as regards the 'Events team'

A full programme of events has been published for 2022 (please see the 'Events' page of our website), it will certainly be good to get back to some kind of normality.

Current members of the 'events team' are Julie Pearce, Mark Thomas, Paul Roughley, Phil Mcgregor, Peter Williams and a warm welcome to Daisy Dunn who has just joined the team.

MMG Fundraising

I would like to thank all those who have helped to put some funds in our kitty during the last year via donations and 'Easyfundraising'. Running a website, updating reference books and the upkeep of the mothing kit has to be paid from somewhere, so every bit of funding raised is very much appreciated.

To all those who sometimes shop on the internet but have not yet used 'Easyfundraising', please do so, as it costs you nothing extra to go via 'Easyfundraising' and you may be able to purchase your goods even cheaper with some of the deals on offer. If you use the Montgomeryshire Moths link at the bottom of our home page of our website, you can contribute to our funds - every little bit helps!

MMG cash flow from 01/01/21 to 31/12/21

Cash in bank - Start Balance 01/01/2021£228.80

Outgoings

LCN.com (web domain payment)£26.39

CWCS.....£47.98

Total expenditure during the year.....£74.37

Income

Donations.....£83.97

Easy fundraising.....£20.57

Total income + cash in bank.....£312.77

Total expenditure during the year.....- 74.37

End balance at 31/12/21.....£258.97

The Website

There weren't any major changes to the website during the year, but it carries on being an excellent tool for id and for keeping an eye on events. Also, the Blog, for articles and event reports the group Facebook page for id and sharing information and photos and the Stop Press for any interesting and new species as they are recorded, and, just generally promoting everything 'mothy' the best way we can.

So, I would again, like to say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his continued hard work during the year with the website, and for updating and maintaining our database. Also, many thanks to Julie Pearce for her sterling effort as 'events coordinator' and for overseeing our Facebook group page and finally thanks go to all the other members of the 'Events Team', who helped at all the events we managed to put on.

Lastly, thanks to all you moth-ers out there for sending us your records each year and I hope that using the MMG facilities has proved helpful to you all.

I hope we all have a great mothing year in 2022.

Peter.