

# Mothing in Montgomeryshire – 2023 Annual Report

## New Species Recorded in Montgomeryshire During 2023

Once again it was a pretty quiet year where new species for the county was concerned with only two macro and one micro species added to our county lists.

The details of the 1 new micro species recorded are. Old bf log number in brackets: -

35.118 (0814) *Scrobipalpa ocellatella*, recorded at Cemmaes by SAL in the far west of the county on the 05-09-23. Not only an NCR for Montgomeryshire, but a first for north Wales as well.



**SCROBIPALPA OCELLATELLA**

The 2 new macro species recorded are: -

70.211 (1889) Peacock Moth, recorded at Cemmaes by SAL in the far west of the county on the 19-08-23. A local species for much of the central part of Britain and the 1st record for the whole of north Wales.



**PEACOCK MOTH**

73.099 (2384) Vine's Rustic recorded in the east of the county at Llandyssil by MEG on 09-09-23. A species spreading north and west across Britain.



Vine's Rustic

**Other Notable Macro Records Taken During 2023 (where there are 5 or less records in the database).**

52.008 (0380) - Red-tipped Clearwing, *Synanthedon formicaeformis* 12/06/2023, SAL, Cemmaes. First recorded in 2022 by the same recorder.

70.006 (1705) - Dwarf Cream Wave, *Idaea fuscovenosa*; 17th June 2023 Crew Green (SA). The second and third records for Montgomeryshire were recorded from Crewgreen in the north-east of the county.

70.159 (1855) - Cypress Pug, *Eupithecia phoeniceata*; 07/09/2023 (and 10/09/23), PRW Commins Coch. These are only the third and fourth records for Montgomeryshire and the first in the west of the county, the previous two records coming from the east of the county.

69.007 (1978) - Pine Hawk-moth, *Sphinx pinastri*. The second record for Montgomeryshire was recorded on 10/06/2023 Nr Newtown (IW) and a third record was added on 17/06/2023 in Llandyssil (MEG). The fourth and fifth records for North Wales.

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

35.118 (0814) Beet Moth, *Scrobipalpa ocellatella*, 05/09/2023, SH843058, SAL, Cemmaes.

27.001 (0870) Four-spotted Obscure, *Oegoconia quadripuncta*, 21/08/2023, SJ265185, SS4, Four Crosses.

40.005 (0889) Neat Mompha, *Mompha divisella*, 16/04/2023, SO141999, DMD, Abermule.

49.04 (1001) Orange Pine Tortrix, *Lozotaeniodes formosana*, 26/07/2023, SJ238167, CC, Bryn Awel, Penrhos.

49.193 (1104) Blotched Marble, *Endothenia quadrimaculana*, 07/07/2023, SH843058, SAL, Cemmaes.

63.117 (1348) Ringed China-mark, *Parapoynx stratiotata*, 01/07/2023, SH843058, SAL, Cemmaes.

45.043 (1517) Hemp-agrimony Plume, *Adaina microdactyla*, 05/06/2023, SH845028, PRW, Commins Coch.

45.043 (1517) Hemp-agrimony Plume, *Adaina microdactyla*, 07/07/2023, SH747007, PMG, Machynlleth.

### Key to all recorders in this report

CC - Carol Cockbain  
DMD – Daisy Dunn  
PMG - Phil McGregor

PRW – Peter Williams  
MEG – Meurig Garbutt  
SAL – Simon Layton

SS4 - Stuart Sharp  
SA – Sarah Anstis-Smith  
IW – Iolo Williams

### End of Year Statistics for 2023

Summary of end of year statistics; figures in parenthesis show 2022 totals.

- The macro number of records were down by just under 2000 records for the year, while micro records were up by just over 100 records.
- The breakdown is: - we added a total of 13,124 (14,985) of records to our database. The share between macro and micro records was; 11,136 (13,132) macro and 1,988 (1,853) micros. We now have 285,244 (274,108) macro records and 46,660 (44,672) micro records, giving us a grand total of 331,904 (318,372) records in the database.
- Total number of species now held in our database is 543 (542) macro species and 679 (678) micro species giving us a total of 1224 species recorded in the county.
- Total species recorded in 2023 was 398 (414) macro species, 16 species down on 2022, but still pretty good and 222 (219) micro species, 3 species up on 2022, going in the right direction. Giving a grand total of 620 (633) species for the year – an overall fall of 13 species on the previous year.

The following charts show the 2023 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 (2)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	185 (315)	1 (5)	63.025	Anania hortulata	70 (55)
=2 (3)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	164 (261)	2 (2)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	69 (66)
=2 (-)	73.015	Silver Y	164 (-)	3 (3)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	63 (64)
4 (1)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	145 (310)	4 (-)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	60 (-)
5 (-)	73.162	Dark Arches	137 (-)	5 (1)	63.064	Scoparia ambigualis	58 (72)

In the macro moths the Brimstone Moth has gone to the top spot from 2<sup>nd</sup>. the previous year. The Large Yellow Underwing has dropped down from top spot to fourth place. None of the spring species did well in this category.

In the micros the top five species were all once again *Pyralidae*, with *Anania hortulata* moving up to the top spot and one species *Agriphila tristella* coming into number four.

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 (-)	72.043	Buff Footman	1699 (-)	1 (1)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	1890 (398)
2 (1)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	1223 (2584)	2 (4)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	236 (265)
3 (-)	72.044	Dingy Footman	942 (-)	3 (-)	63.088	Crambus perlella	215 (-)
4 (2)	73.245	Small Quaker	859 (1735)	4 (-)	63.038	Patania ruralis	193 (-)
5 (3)	73.317	Heart & Dart	823 (823)	5 (2)	63.093	Agriphila straminella	154 (352)

Quantities recorded for the macro moths were rather mixed again when viewed against 2022 figures, with a lot of movement in the top five. Large Yellow Underwing dropped to 2<sup>nd</sup>. place and was replaced by the Buff Footman at top spot. The Dingy Footman also moved into the top 5, at 3<sup>rd</sup>. place.

The top four place in the micro species by quantity recorded were all once again from the *Crambidae*, with *Chrysoteuchia culmella* hanging onto top spot with a big increase in its count. Moving in to the top five places were *Crambus perlella* and *Patania ruralis*.

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	4851 (4706)	1 (1)	63.038	Pleuroptya ruralis	1409 (1361)
2 (2)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	4301 (4137)	2 (2)	63.064	Scoparia ambigualis	1401 (1343)
3 (3)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	4118 (3933)	3 (3)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	1360 (1297)
4 (4)	70.097	Common Marbled Carpet	3744 (3613)	4 (4)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	1276 (1216)
5 (5)	73.249	Hebrew Character	3724 (3600)	5 (5)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	1264 (1195)

The top five species macro species in our database 'by records' for both Macro and micro species unchanged.

### The 2023 Moth Group Events – MMG

We managed to run a slightly fewer public mothing events during the year due to cancellations, but all these which did go ahead were well attended.

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 will soon be published for 2023 (please see the 'Events' page of our website. Current members of the 'events team' are Julie Pearce, Mark Thomas, Paul Roughley, Phil McGregor, Peter Williams and Daisy Dunn.

### 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 01/01/22 to 31/12/22**

Cash in bank - Start Balance 01/01/2023.....£318.97

### **Outgoings**

Web fees LCN..... 34.79

Web fees CWCS Managed hosting.....47.98

Total expenditure during the year.....£82.77

### **Income**

Donations..... £95.00

Easyfundraising.....16.39

Total income.....£111.39

Total expenditure during the year..... 82.77

**End balance at 31/12/22.....£347.59**

### **The Website**

There weren't any major changes to the website during 2023, 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 throughout the season.

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 you all have a great mothing year in 2024.

Peter.