



Cornwall Moth Group



Newsletter No.5 - October 2004

Assistant County Moth Recorders Report Phil Boggis

Scarce Merveille du Jour – *Moma alpium* (Osbeck)

On the 25th June 2004 at Kilminorth Woods, Lower Looe Valley, Paul Wakelin recorded this moth at about 12.30pm at his mercury vapour light – well-done Paul. The meeting at Kilminorth was in response to CMG being a lead group to seek to identify new sites for this Cornish BAP species in the coming years – so we have got off to a good start. This is the first record in Cornwall for this moth outside of its known haunt at Herodsfoot and I feel sure it will be found up and down the Looe valley in the coming years. Many thanks to Leon Truscott, who I believe was the first to spot it, John Cooke and George Davis who also contributed with light traps.



Scarce Merveille du Jour - *Moma alpium* (Osbeck).
Kilminorth Woods, 25th June 2004.
Photo © L. Truscott.

Death's-head Hawk-moth – *Acherontia atropos* (Linn.)

Several of these huge hawk-moths have been reported to me from various places across the county. Firstly, Christine Foster from St Ives (SW 518405) reported one on the doorstep of her porch on the 6th July. It aroused much interest from local passers by before, sadly, expiring in her home. She has very kindly sent the specimen for setting. Astrid Griffiths found another dead on a windowsill in Sancreed Church (SW420294) on the 23rd July 2004.



Death's-head Hawk-moth - *Acherontia atropos* (Linn.).
St. Ives 6th July 2004 – C. Foster.
Photo © P. H. Boggis

Yet another Death's-head Hawk-moth was reported to Tony Aston at Downderry on the 20th July. The finder apparently took a photograph and will be showing it to Tony. More about this later when I hear from Tony.

***Eublemma purpurina* (D. & S.)**

After arriving home from holiday a few weeks ago, I found this record awaiting me amongst my e-mails. It was found in George Davis's garden trap at Maenporth on the 8th August 2004. Initially, he didn't know what it was, as also others, who were coming across this moth during the first week in August. When Martin Cade, a few days later, published and first identified this moth on the 10th August, at the Portland Bird Observatory, it dawned on George what it really was – a first for Britain. Mick Scott from the Longstone Heritage Centre, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly had a similar experience earlier on the 2nd August 2004, unfortunately this one escaped without positive identification – much to Mick's regret and disappointment. Laurie Oakes at Buryas Bridge, Penzance also thought he had seen one in his trap again on the 8th August but this too regrettably, escaped. Both Mick and Laurie were subsequently rewarded with specimens, caught and photographed this time on the 19th August 2004 and 21st August 2004 respectively.



Eublemma purpurina (D. & S.)
Maenporth, 8th August 2004.
Photo © G. Davis.

Robin Howard our County Recorder, has made some comments on this species based on his personal experience amongst lepidopterists in France, I quote: 'Regarding *Eublemma purpurina*, we get *ostrina* as well and although most illustrations make them look quite different, they are not and can cause confusion.'

Based on this personal comment, I have felt it wise to accept good photographs and voucher specimens in these early stages of reporting.

Addendum: Steve Nash kindly reported to me and even earlier record than Georges, on the 31st July 2004 at Bishop's Sutton near Alresford, Hants by Peter Thompson – one taken at light.

Bilberry Pug – *Pasiphila debiliata* (Hüb.)

Whilst at Kilminorth woods, Leon Truscott took a photograph of this moth at Paul Wakelin's light. Adrian Spalding last recorded this **Nb** moth here on the 16th July 1985.



Bilberry Pug – *Pasiphila debiliata* (Hüb.)
Kilminorth Woods. 25th June 2004.
Photo © L. Truscott.

The Sycamore – *Acronicta aceris* (Linn.)

Leon Truscott has sent me a photograph of this moth, which he reported from his garden trap at Torpoint on the 7th June 2004. He discovered another on the 29th June 2004. This moth, although not nationally scarce, has been seen only five times since 1962, the last by Leon on the 6th August 1987.

***Celypha aurofaciana* – (Haw.)**

Richard Champion from St. Germans (SX362570) discovered this **Nb** moth on the 29th July 2004. It is the 4th Cornish Specimen. The late Paul Siddons had two, one at St Clement in July 1974 and another at Luxulyan in August 1983. It was last seen at Carlyon Bay on the 27th July 1996.

Portland Ribbon Wave – *Idaea degeneraria* (Hüb.)

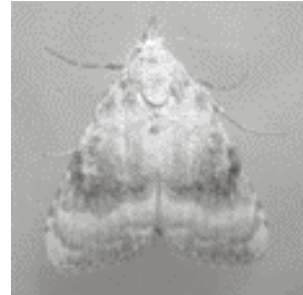
George Davis had another of this **RDB3** moth at his light at Maenporth (SW7929) on the 13th June 2004. Laurie Oakes at Buryas Bridge (SW446292) reported yet another on the 3rd August. This would be the 4th Cornish record (3 within the space of a month this year) F.H.N. Smith in his book *The Moths and Butterflies of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*, presumes that the first Cornish record on the 21st September 1962 was an immigrant due to its late date. Could these be immigrants or vagrants from Dorset or do we have resident populations? Your comments invited. P.S. George has reported several other to me recently.



Portland Ribbon Wave – *Idaea degeneraria* (Hüb.)
Buryas Bridge
3rd August 2004.
Photo © L. Oakes.

Kent Black Arches – *Meganola albula* (D. & S.)

The late Paul Siddons and Adrian Spalding first discovered this moth at Carlyon Bay, Cornwall on the 11th July 1992. Another was found by Robin Howard at Poltesco on the 29th and 30th July 1996 so Frank Smith's comments in his book that, 'the curiously disjunct distribution of this moth was difficult to explain' i.e. south coast from Kent to Isles of Scilly, but not Cornwall has been more than answered by recent finds at Maenporth (SW7929) by George Davis on the 16th July 2004 and Richard Champion from St Germans (SX362570) who reported one to Leon Truscott and found at his mvl on the 2nd August 2004.



Kent Black Arches – *Meganola albula* (D. & S.)
Maenporth 16th July 2004.
Photo © G. Davis.

Orache Moth – *Trachea atriplicis* (Linn.)

This **RDB** extinct resident/transitory resident and migrant turned up at George Davis's light at Maenporth (SW7929) on the 2nd August. This is the second record for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, the first having been taken by Mick Scott at Longstone Heritage Centre, St Mary's Isles of Scilly (SV918113) on the 24th May 2004 – well done Mick. This moth is widespread and fairly common abroad. I have taken it at mvl both in France and Spain. The plate in Bernard Skinner's book does not really do this moth justice as it soon loses its beautiful green colour once set. You have to see a live specimen to appreciate it!



Orache Moth – *Trachea atriplicis* (Linn.)
Maenporth 2nd August 2004.
Photo © G. Davis.

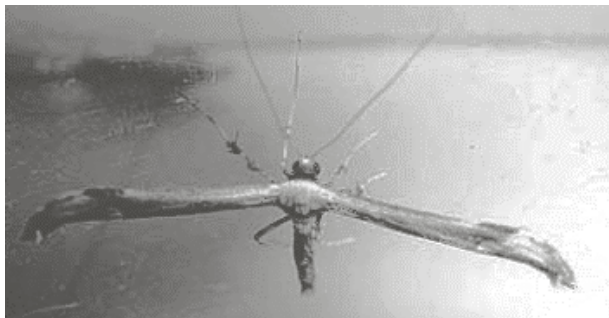
Splendid Brocade – *Lacanobia splendens* (Hüb.)

The history of this moth is well documented in *Atropos* no.21, p.25. There were 12 records in 2003 and none before that date, the first being on the 14th June 2003 at Dymchurch, Kent by J. Owen. Consequently it came as no surprise to me to find that George Davis – yet

again! Observed this moth on the 10th June 2004. He knew it was different to anything else he had seen before and eventually found it in *Atropos* no. 22, plate 3, figure 9. Considering George has only been moth recording a year, this was very observant of him. Congratulations George on another excellent record! I think us 'mothers' will have to be moving to Maenporth. Incidentally I have overlooked the records mentioned in *Atropos* no.21 of Mick Scott's first for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly last year when he observed this moth in his trap at Longstone Heritage Centre, St. Mary's (SV918113) on the 15th, 25th and 29th July 2003. Well-done Mick.

***Oideamatophorus lithodactyla* (Treitschke)**

This Pterophoridae (Plume Moth) was reported to me by Malcolm Lee from Port Gaverne on the 19th July. He said he hadn't seen this moth in all his ten years of nightly recording and it has not been seen in VC2 for 30 years - a notable record; well-done Malcolm in spotting this one.



Oideamatophorus lithodactyla (Treitschke)
Port Gaverne
19th July 2003.
Photo © M. Lee.

***Pyrausta cingulata* (Linn.)**

Malcolm also reported this pretty, rather elusive, quick day-flying moth to me. He has found a new colony at Stepper Point Quarry (SW915784), on the western side of the Camel Estuary mouth on the 23rd July 2004. He also recorded them on the eastern side of the Camel estuary at Brae Hill, Daymer Bay (SW927770) on the 18th July. R. J. B. Hoare also found a colony at Rock dunes on The 11th July 1990. The moth can be found on sandy dune locations where thyme - *Thymus polytrichus* grows.

Small Grass Emerald – *Chlorissa viridata* (Linn.)

This rare **Na** moth was found in Adrian Russell's mvl trap whilst on holiday at Housel Bay, The Lizard (SW 709120) on the 26th July 2004. Note the median line on the hind-wing is straight not curved as in the Little Emerald. Frank Johns also had one in his trap at Trevergy Farm, Cury (SW672221) on the 7th June 2004. Surprisingly, he looked further back in his reference collection to a specimen taken on the 25th May 1973! Well-spotted Frank.

Pine-tree Lappet - *Dendrolimus pini* (Linn.)

This rather large impressive moth was recorded by Mark Tunmore at The Lizard on the 6th August 2003. I have recorded this species in the Landes region of southwest France, south of Bordeaux, in extensive pine forest during 1995. I believe this to be the first

Cornish record. The moth has been recorded from Benfleet, Essex, June 1999 (larva), Freshwater, Isle of White, August 1996 and Guernsey, July 1989.

Ni Moth - *Trichoplusia ni* (Hüb.)

Mark Tunmore also recorded this moth at the Lizard on the 12th February 2004 during an influx of migrants observed from early February until the 14th of the month.

Pale Shoulder - *Acontia lucida* (Hufn.)

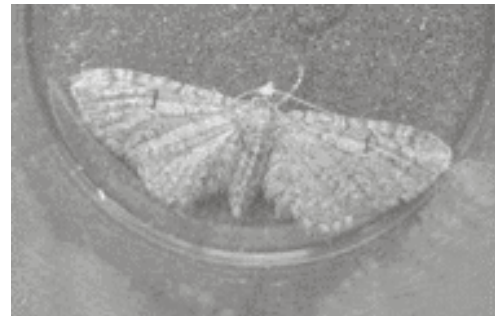
This moth was recorded on St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly on the 14th July 2003 by B. Thomas. (No further details).

***Cyda amplana* (Hüb)**

This Olethreutinae was first recorded in Cornwall on the 29th August 1999 at Stockaton, east Cornwall by W. Birkett (genitalia determination by K. Tuck, The British Museum for Natural History, London). It comes as no surprise then that Mick Scott took one at his light trap at Longstone, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly on the 2nd August 2004. Well done Mick as I understand this is not your favourite family of moths to identify!

Channel Island Pug – *Eupithecia ultimaria* (Boisduval)

This excellent moth, new to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, was also taken at Mick Scott's mercury vapour light trap on the 4th August 2004 at Longstone Heritage Centre, St. Mary's Isles of Scilly. The moth was first recorded at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire in June 1989.



Channel Islands Pug – *Eupithecia ultimaria*
(Boisduval) St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly 4th August 2004.
Photo © M. Scott.

Several moths I have overlooked in past reports are: the **Purple Marbled – *Eublemma ostrina* (Hüb.)** found at Maenporth (SW79290) by George Davis at his light on the 5th November 2003 – the 10th Cornish record. Also overlooked is the **Yellow Belle – *Semiaspilates ochrearia* (Rossi)**, found by Leon Truscott at his light at Torpoint (SX4354) on the 8th May 2004.

Mick Scott would also like me to mention some other excellent records he took last year and the year before at Longstone Heritage Centre, St. Mary's Isles of Scilly, they are:

Eastern Bordered Straw – *Heliothis nubigera* (Herrich-Schäffer) on the 17th and 25th June 2003.

Stephens's Gem – *Autographa biloba* (Stephens)
on the 9th July 2002.

***Euleioptilus carphodactyla* (Hüb.)** on the 22nd July 2002.

All of the photographs included in this article are by kind permission of the owners. There are more photographs on our website.



Membership matters
Jayne Herbert

Our current membership stands at 109, most of our members being resident in Cornwall - but not all. After looking at our member's database I discovered that the majority of our members live in mid or west Cornwall.

Breakdown of Cornish members by postal area and town:

PL Bodmin	1	TR Camborne	5
Boscastle	1	Falmouth	2
Callington	2	Hayle	2
Calstock	2	Helston	4
Camelford	2	Penryn	1
Downderry	1	Penzance	14
Launceston	1	Perranporth	1
Liskeard	3	Porthleven	1
Lostwithiel	1	Redruth	3
Mevagissey	1	St Ives	1
Par	3	St Just	1
Plymouth	1	Truro	5
Port Isaac	1	EX Bude	2
Saltash	2		
St Austell	4		
Torpoint	2		
Wadebridge	1		



This year's activities
Jayne Herbert

It has been a busy year for Cornwall Moth Group, with numerous events including an identification workshop, a visit to the Royal Cornwall Museum, National Moth Night and an evening entertaining 35 brownies – thanks Phil!

Phil has also been busy attending meetings involving a recent planning proposal for a new cycle route through the West Looe Valley. The Moth Group wanted to ensure that all parties were aware of the possible implications to the habitat of the Scarce Merveille du Jour, and that they are seriously taken into consideration before the final application is submitted.

During the next four years we are very pleased to be taking the leading role in organising surveys for the

Orange Upperwing, Scarce Merveille Du Jour, white-spotted Pinion, and the Argent & Sable. These moths are included in the Biodiversity Action Plans for Cornwall and are all threatened species.

Some of our members have been holding recording meetings organised at short notice. Quite a good idea, considering the unpredictable weather we have been having. Most of these events have been advertised to members through our web site, or our Egroup, and have been well supported.



ERCCIS news release
Online information about Cornwall's plants and animals

Have you ever wondered how many different species of bird can be seen or heard in Cornwall, or what the call of a Meadow Grasshopper sounds like? If so, you should pay a visit to the website of our local environmental records centre.



The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has recently expanded its website to include pages about some of the species found in and around Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The pages currently include information about birds, plants, mammals, grasshoppers and crickets, as well as hoverflies, amphibians and reptiles. For many of these species groups you can obtain basic information, as well as downloading checklists of the various species found in our County.



Local naturalist, Malcolm Lee, says 'The internet is a great tool for the rapid and free dissemination of information, and the Environmental Records Centre is to be congratulated on taking such a pro-active role to provide this resource for local and visiting naturalists. I am delighted that, for the first time ever, those interested in our grasshoppers and bush-crickets can not only read about the distinctive sound each species makes, but hear my recordings as well.'

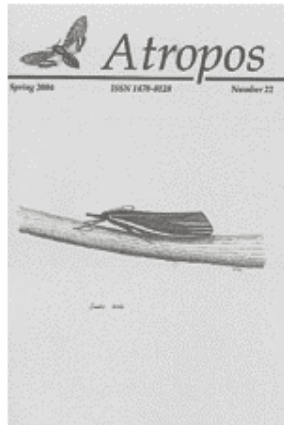
Information about other species groups, such as dragonflies and moths will be added to the site and it will continually be developed and updated.

'We aim to develop our website further so that it becomes a resource for everyone to access information about the County's species and habitats' states the Centre's Manager, Sarah Board. 'I would like to acknowledge all the help the Centre receives from the extremely knowledgeable experts for the various species groups both within and outside the County.'

The website contains lots of information to help you to identify and note down the wildlife you see around the County, as well as details about the work of the Records Centre and the Wildlife Information Service. It is designed and maintained by Jayne Herbert, who also runs the Cornwall Moth Group web site. The ERCCIS site can be found at www.ercis.co.uk or www.cornwallwildliferecords.co.uk.



Special offer to CMG members



Cornwall Moth Group members can still receive 10% off marked prices on any book listed by Atropos if you are able to collect them.

Call Mark Tunmore on (01326) 290287 for more details or pay a visit to their web site at www.atroposuk.co.uk.



Cotton grass and pomegranates ... again

Thanks to everyone who sent cotton grass or pomegranates to John Gregory after our last request. Please keep sending them directly to him at Lepidoptera House, Bodelva, Par, Cornwall, PL24 2SZ, stating your contact details and in the case of seed heads also the date, location and grid ref.



Current status of the Cornwall Moth Group web site Jayne Herbert

Well it's taken me a long time to get round to it, but our moth surveys are now in database format on our web site at www.cornwallmothgroup.org.uk. Now that probably won't mean very much to most people, but as far as I'm concerned it means a lot less work for me!

At the moment only our 2004 targeted survey details are on the site, but this should grow soon and I hope to be able to include better reporting and summarization of data in due course.

We will eventually be linking the data in with the ERCCIS web site, which will in turn link in with the National Biodiversity Network site. The more we can work with other organisations the better picture we will be able to see overall.

The numbers of people visiting our site is also increasing. We had over 1,800 visits with nearly 4,000 page views just in August this year!



I am pleased to report that through our sales in association with Amazon.co.uk we also now have a gift certificate of £25 to spend on books available through their web site.

Thanks to the generosity of Peter Fleming we already have a paperback copy of the Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland. This has had good use this year. If anyone thinks a particular book (in this price range) would be useful to the group please let me know.



Important notes on recording Phil Boggis



Rare migrants, species rare to a locality or not seen for many years, or firsts for the county, or the UK, must be treated with care and close scrutiny. Not only for the veracity and reliability of the record but also for posterity's sake. Therefore only voucher specimens or good quality photographs of the specimen can be accepted. Hindsight reports, good though they may have been, have sometimes proved inaccurate. I hope this in no way infers, any bad intention or untrustworthiness on behalf of the recorder.

Can recorders please ensure they use in future use the accepted dating convention for recording a night's catch. This is to record the catch as the date before midnight of the night in question.

National Macro-moth Recording Scheme

For the past year, a partnership led by Butterfly Conservation, with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Nature and other partners, has been carrying out a consultation and planning project for a proposed new National Macro-Moth Recording Scheme.

The most important part of the planning project was the consultation with existing moth recorders, entomological societies and moth groups, as well as other relevant nature conservation and biological recording organisations.

Much of the consultation and planning of the project was undertaken by a Cornish company, Spalding Associates, and carried out by CMG members, Adrian Spalding and Mark Tunmore, who many of you may know.

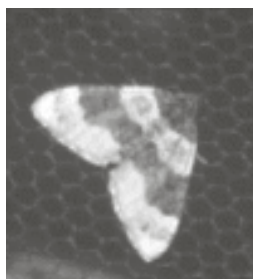
Securing the further funding for the project may not be so easy, but work has already begun and there are high hopes of getting the scheme up and running in the next year or so.

According to survey results most people felt that the main aims of the proposed NMRS should be to highlight trends in moth populations (81%) and to use moth records to help conservation (80%). Two out of every three of participants also supported the idea of working towards a national atlas of macro-moths. It also highlighted the fact that many new people are taking up moth recording with almost a third having been recording moths for less than 4 years.



Goonhilly Quarry Moth Night 8th September 2004 Tony James

My thanks to Geoff and Pam Littler, and Frank Johns for bringing their Moth Traps and generators to the quarry.



The night was a bit uncertain at the outset, as Cornwall was beset with force 4-5 Easterly winds, not ideal for moths. However, when we arrived at the quarry, we discovered that this problem was minimised, as there was a windbreak of fir trees across the road which effectively blocked the strong winds. Also, there were a number of locations in the sunken

part of the Quarry which provided good sheltered trapping. So, spoilt for choice, we decided strategy.

Geoff and Pam set their two traps up on hard standings near the disused building, surrounded by Sallow and other trees, and out on one of the overgrown tracks close by. After a bit of a reconnoitre, Frank chose to set up his trap in an open grassy marsh area (right) by the side of the pool, with a flowery slope to the east, and small sallows dotted around the flat area near the water. Although fairly slow, there was a

steady stream of moths coming to both sites, and Geoff got a "first", a Neglected Rustic, which made it worthwhile.



Andy Major joined us to have his first taste of Mothing, and left very enthusiastic about the pastime.

Species List:

Angle Shades
Brimstone
Celypha lacunana
Common Carpet
Common Wainscot
Dark Sword Grass
Epiphyas postvittana
Eupoecilia angustana
Flame Shoulder
Flounced Rustic
Frosted Orange
Green Carpet
July Highflyer
Large Yellow Underwing
Lesser Yellow Underwing
Neglected Rustic
Purple Bar
Rusty Dot Pearl
Setaceous Hebrew Character
Shuttle Shaped Dart
Small Square Spot
Square Spot Rustic
Straw Dot
The Snout
White Speck

Species Count: 25

Weather: Clear, 0/8 Cloud, East Wind Force 5-6, trapping Areas Sheltered to breezy gusts

Time Range: 8.30pm - 11.30pm



Goonhilly Quarry Moth Night 18th September 2004 Tony James

My thanks to Geoff and Pam Littler, and Frank Johns for again bringing their moth traps and generators to the quarry. The night was clear, the temperature started at 12°C, and there was a light westerly wind, so when we arrived at the quarry at sunset, we quickly decided to set up on the sheltered western side.

Frank arrived first, and we investigated the western perimeter track, heading to the more distant end and found a sheltered area by a low Oak tree. There was a heather bank

on the eastern side and the trap illuminated the northern part of the track and a flat area of mixed flowers.



Geoff and Pam arrived just after we had set up, and again decided to set their first trap up on the hard standing near the disused building, it was surrounded by sallow and other trees. Out on the beginning of the overgrown western track close by they set their other blue UV trap (a sun-bed array which looked like a

small rival to one of the Goonhilly antennas) near heather and honeysuckle. About half an hour later, Mike Thompson joined us and we all settled down to see what would arrive.

Moths became active right after dusk, and a steady trickle arrived at the traps. We spent the time migrating between the traps to see what was around and captures were dropped into my "keep nets" slung on the nearby trees for pictures later.

Whilst Frank and I headed back to his trap, we were quickly caught up by Mike with news that Geoff's blue UV trap had brought in a large Hawk-moth, so back down the trail we all went to see the newcomer. After again carefully opening the trap, Geoff proudly displayed a large **Convolvulus Hawk**. It was big enough to be a female, so this was one capture which was not released at the end of the evening. This is the 4th **Convolvulus Hawk** coming to traps in our small group in the past week, Frank having shown me two from his trap on the 10th September, and I also got one to light at 21.02 on the 17th. There is obviously a wave arriving in Cornwall at present.

Back to our trap watching, and an interesting list of species continued to come in slowly. Other notable species recorded were **Black Rustic**, **Heath Rustic**, **Bulrush Wainscot**, and **Pink-barred Sallow** at Geoff's main trap, whilst at Frank's trap we got an **Autumnal Rustic**, and a small, pretty Tortrix moth, **Acleris rhombana**, which got Frank's attention.

As midnight approached, we decided to close down, but whilst dismantling Geoff's blue UV trap, we found a **Copper Underwing** in the bottom, and another interesting species which needed some verification. As everything else had been stowed away in the cars, the investigation continued first on the back seat of Geoff and Pam's car, and then in their open boot.



A thought led to the likely identity, which matched in the reference book. The last species of the night was a specimen of **The Anomalous**. It has since been found that

there are records of this moth on Goonhilly Downs, so the identification is more certain.

Species List:

Acleris rhombana (Tortrix)
Angle Shades
Autumnal Rustic
Black Rustic
Brimstone
Bulrush Wainscot
Common Marbled Carpet
Common Wainscot
Convolvulus Hawk
Copper Underwing
Dark Sword Grass
Epiphyas postvittana (Tortrix)
Flame Shoulder
Frosted Orange
Green Carpet
Heath Rustic
Large Yellow Underwing
Pink-barred Sallow
Rosy Rustic
Rusty Dot Pearl
Setaceous Hebrew Character
Small Square Spot
Square Spot Rustic
The Anomalous

Species Count: 24

Weather: Clear, 0/8 Cloud, Light SW Wind, trapping Areas Sheltered

Time Range: 08.15pm - 12.00 midnight



National Moth Night 22nd May 2004
Five Acres Nature Reserve, Allet, Truro
Jayne Herbert

Grid Ref: SW795486
MV Trap(s) (left overnight)

This event was in several parts. Phil Boggis and myself set traps up at various locations. Several more people joined us for the evening's mothing. Phil identified the majority of the catch and left around 5am. I went for a quick swim at the leisure centre and organised a trap for the children to investigate that morning with Richard Marsh and Nick Taylor. John Gregory helped people to identify the moths that they brought along with them and there was a display and information for people to browse.

Species list:

1 * Barred Umber
1 * Brimstone Moth
1 * Brindled Pug
1 * Broken-barred Carpet
4 * Brown Rustic
5 * Buff-tip
1 * *Capua vulgana*
1 * Cinnabar
3 * Clouded Silver
2 * Clouded-bordered Brindle
3 * Common Marbled Carpet
2 * Common Pug
8 * Common Quaker
1 * Dwarf Pug
1 * Elephant Hawk-moth
2 * Engrailed

1 * *Epinotia immundana*
 1 * *Esperia sulphurella*
 6 * Flame Shoulder
 1 * Great Prominent
 1 * Grey Pine Carpet
 3 * Grey Pug
 5 * Hebrew Character
 1 * Knot Grass
 2 * Least Black Arches
 6 * Lychnis
 1 * May Highflyer
 2 * Muslin Moth
 2 * *Nematopogon swammerdamella*
 1 * Oak-tree Pug
 1 * Privet Hawk-moth
 1 * Sandy Carpet
 4 * Scalloped Hazel
 1 * *Scoparia ambigualis*
 1 * Shuttle-shaped Dart
 2 * Small Phoenix
 2 * Small Square-spot
 1 * Small White Wave
 2 * Spectacle
 5 * Spruce Carpet
 6 * Treble Lines
 3 * White-pinion Spotted



Privet Hawk Moth
 Photo © Jayne Herbert



Results of the Survey to find Orange Upperwing Phil Boggis

Location: Lydcott Wood, Hessenford
 Date: 16th April 2004
 Recorder: Phil Boggis
 Determiner: John Gregory
 Method: MV Light Trapping
 Number of Species: 21

John Randall, Paul Wakelin, Leon Truscott, Frank Johns and I gathered at Lydcott Wood (SX301585) on what turned out to be a rather wet evening in the hopes of finding this elusive moth at the last place it was recorded during early May 1983 by Adrian Spalding but, unfortunately, without success. Apparently, despite concerted efforts last year by recorders in Wales, where the moth was last seen during November 1994, no moths were found despite 16 sites being surveyed. We were, however, rewarded with what I believe to be the first official record for Cornwall of *Semioscopis steinkellneriana* (D&S.) – Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain & Ireland Vol.4 Part 1, Plate 2, fig.17. The moth can easily be confused with *Semioscopis avellanella* (Hüb).

The main difference is that the origin of the inner end of medial black streak of the forewing is within the cell at one-fifth in *S.steinkellneriana* whilst the origin of the black streak in *S.avellanella* is at the base of the forewing – Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain & Ireland, p.121- comment under 'similar species' on p. 121.

The larvae feed from June to August or September on blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) but also occasionally on hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.). The adults are univoltine, appearing in April. The moth is a local species and believed to be declining in Britain due to the destruction of dense hedgerows and blackthorn thickets.

After identification, the moth was emptied onto some blackthorn ready to photograph, whereupon it promptly took to flight and having first darted forward, it took a reverse swing at my face and disappeared, rather annoyingly, out of sight behind me into the depths of my basement, apparently never to be seen again. The moth's identity can be reliably confirmed by several of us who were at Paul Wakelin's light discussing at the time whether or not it was an odd looking *D.fagella*!

Species list:

(*Eriocrania subpurpurella*) * 1
 (*Semioscopis steinkellneriana*) * 1
 Water Carpet (*Lampropteryx suffumata*) * 5
 Red-green Carpet (*Chloroclysta siterata*) * 1
 Grey Pine Carpet (*Thera obeliscata*) * 20
 Brindled Pug (*Eupithecia abbreviata*) * 10
 Double-striped Pug (*Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*) * 2
 Early Tooth-striped (*Trichopteryx carpinata*) * 2
 Early Thorn (*Selenia dentaria*) * 1
 Purple Thorn (*Selenia tetralunaria*) * 5
 Oak Beauty (*Biston strataria*) * 1
 Engrailed (*Ectropis bistortata*) * 1
 Square Spot (*Paradarisa consonaria*) * 1
 Lunar Marbled Brown (*Drymonia ruficornis*) * 1
 Red Chestnut (*Cerastis rubricosa*) * 1
 Small Quaker (*Orthosia cruda*) * 4
 Common Quaker (*Orthosia cerasi*) * 10
 Clouded Drab (*Orthosia incerta*) * 2
 Twin-spotted Quaker (*Orthosia munda*) * 1
 Hebrew Character (*Orthosia gothica*) * 10
 Early Grey (*Xylocampa areola*) * 3



Free Books

I still have some copies of Moths and Butterflies in Cornwall by John Gregory. They are bound photocopies of a work published by John in 1989.

They are free to members although a donation would be appreciated. Please contact Jayne Herbert, C/o Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres Nature Reserve, Allet, Truro Tel (01872) 240777 or email, with your postal address jayne@cornwallmothgroup.org.uk.



ERCCIS workshops and field trips

Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly run numerous workshops and fieldtrips throughout the year. You can find their current events on their web site at www.ercis.co.uk. They are

currently putting together a programme for next year and welcome suggestions. Contact Nic Harrison-White with your suggestion or to be put on their mailing list.

ERCCIS
Five Acres
Allet
Truro
Cornwall
TR20 8XT

Telephone (01872) 240777 ext 213
Email: at NWhite@cornwt.demon.co.uk.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 11th November 2004

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation AGM and talk
Truro Town Hall 7.30pm
Talk by Dudley Cheesman the Chairman of Butterfly Conservation. The evening will also include the groups Annual General Meeting. Please note new venue.

Saturday 27th November 2004

Butterfly Conservation Annual General Meeting and Members Day
Silsoe College, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Bedfordshire.
Booking is essential, contact Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP, Telephone: 0870 7744309, Fax: 0870 7706150



Saturday 9th July 2005
Cornwall Wildlife Trust Open Day
Five Acres Nature Reserve, Allet, Truro

Cornwall Moth Group should be having a stand and opening a trap on the day.

Please contact Jayne Herbert
on (01872) 240777
if you can spare time to help out.

Friday 8th – Saturday 10th April 2005
Butterfly Conservation 5th International Symposium
Lepidoptera as indicators of Biodiversity Conservation
Southampton University (UK)

Booking essential, contact Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP, Telephone: 0870 7744309, Fax: 0870 7706150, or download booking forms from their web site at <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/>



2005 date to be confirmed



Please send articles/diary dates for publication to Jayne Herbert, C/o Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres Nature Reserve, Allet, Truro or email them to jayne@cornwallmothgroup.org.uk.

Cornwall Moth Group Membership Form



Please subscribe me as a member of the Cornwall Moth Group. In keeping with the Data protection Act, I agree to my membership details being held for group purposes on paper or computer files that will be accessible only to committee members, and will not be generally distributed or released.

Name(s):

Address:

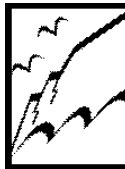
Telephone:

E-mail:

I would also like to join the Egroup: " Yes " No

Please return this form to:

Phil Boggis, Assistant County Recorder
Cornwall Moth Group
6 Tremena Gardens, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 5QH or Email:
phil.boggis@btinternet.com



Although the Cornwall Moth Group is an independent group, we indebted to The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) for their help and support, initially setting up the group and with administration costs such as photocopying and postage.

Cornwall Moth Group

Web site: www.cornwallmothgroup.org.uk
Egroup: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornwallmothgroup/>
Address: Cornwall Moth Group, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DJ