

HANTS MONTHLY

NUMBER 19 - July to August 2011



Jersey Tiger is finally making inroads onto the mainland with many more records than usual. This fine photo was taken by Gary Palmer on 2nd August.

Wallblings... For the last two weeks of August I had the good fortune to escape the cool weather which seems to have characterised the last month by migrating to the south of France, enjoying some excellent mothing while I was at it (although I had no Small Marbled or Ni Moth!) In my absence, many thanks to Tim Norriss for compiling the news roundup which makes up the bulk of this edition, and the usual suspects for their contributions.

The editorial team would like to wish Robin Turner, recuperating from a heart operation, the swiftest of recoveries, and our thoughts are with Paul Boswell who is going through a rough period health-wise at present. Hopefully moths and mothing will provide some focus to help you both through.

Mike



DAVE'S WEATHER SUMMARY

JULY 2011

July was notable in that the temperature at Winchester peaked at 24.9°C on the 28th, which is low for midsummer. That, combined with a number of cool nights, led to the month being a good 1°C below normal. The coldest night was the 14th which fell to a very chilly 6.0°C. It was an unsettled month although rainfall came in close to average as there were few wet days.

AUGUST 2011

Following a wet June and average July, August set the seal on a poor summer with some heavy rainfall, a lack of sunshine, and below par temperatures. The rainfall in Winchester was concentrated on three very wet days giving 27.9mm (4th), 34.5mm (18th) & 29.0mm (26th). That said, these falls were typical of summer with wide variations over fairly short distances as is the nature of thundery rainfall. This was particularly true on the 18th when Bournemouth was badly flooded. An unofficial weather station at Christchurch recorded over 70mm that day. Needless to say this was an unsettled month with low pressure around giving a lot of cloud. The best weather was right at the start with 26°C reached on the first three days.

It looks probable that this summer will be the coolest since 1988 over England as a whole following the coldest winter for over 20 years

<http://www.winchesterweather.org.uk/>

<http://www.climate-uk.com/>

Dave Owen



JULY - AUGUST 2011 SUMMARY

Please note that in accordance with the usual convention where referring to overnight light-trapping the evening date not the morning date is used.

At a glance:

- Small Marbled influx continues
- Dark Crimson Underwing have a very good season
- 27 June Bright Wave at Hayling
- 3 July *Argyresthia ivella* at Newtown - New to IoW
- 11 July *Oxyptilus laetus / distans* at Fawley
- 13 July Clay Fan-foot at Grayshott
- 21 and 26 July Splendid Brocade at Hayling
- 28 July *Diploseustis perieresalis* at Southsea
- *Conobathra tumidana* at Pennington and Stubbington
- 13 August *Metalampra* sp. (determination to be confirmed) at Over Wallop - New to Hampshire

JUNE A few late entries to add to last time's round-up. On 26th June DC caught *Coleophora lixella* in his garden at Freshwater, the second island record of this thyme feeder.

SW trapped a moth on 27th in his garden on Hayling that he couldn't immediately identify. AJ saw the photo and suggested it might be a Bright Wave which proved to be the case. This is just the second or

third VC11 record, the other being early in the last century though it is common just over the channel in France.

JULY

The influx of Small Marbled that started on the 27th June as reported in the last newsletter continued through July and on 1st singles were seen at Hayling (GSAS and AJ), Titchfield Common (DW) and also in Portsmouth (IRT) along with a Ni Moth - another of the latter was reported from Sholing on 10th, by Rob and Toni Stephens, as shown right.



RAC has found Suspected to be unusually abundant this year at Blashford, and they were recorded at several new sites including RBW's garden at Brockenhurst where he also recorded Waved Black on 1st and the first of several Light Crimson Underwing.

Trapping at Andover Down (TJN, LF) on the 2nd with three traps in two separate gardens produced six Small Black Arches, Dark Umber, Dark Swordgrass, Maple Prominent, Short-cloaked Moth and Suspected.

On the same day, PGLT spent an hour in Cheriton wood and saw at least five Hummingbird Hawk-moths nectaring on a profusion of Viper's Bugloss. Many others were seen during the period but nearly all were in the first two weeks of July, including one that was apparently laying on Lady's Bedstraw in a garden at Stubbington on 7th (DWH). At Grayshott RTu trapped 52 species including *Rhyacionia pinicolana*, *Eudonia angustea*, Pine Hawk-moth and Varied Coronet. On the 2nd, MLO was surprised to find the coleophorid *Gimniodoma limoniella* (right) which is only very rarely seen away from saltmarsh.



On the 3rd LF led a group of Wallop Field Club members (with a few from BC as well) around Magdalen Hill Down. Clouded Yellow was a highlight on the butterfly front. A male *Nemophora metallica* sitting on Field Scabious was possibly the first seen at this site. A worn and exceedingly late Burnet Companion was a surprise. Using an api pheromone produced about twenty Six-belted Clearwing in about a minute so there must be a very good population there. Two good plumes were seen in the form of two *Marasmarcha lunaedactyla* that feeds on Restharrow, and *Merrifieldia baliodactylus* that feeds on Marjoram. For the latter there are just ten Hants records on the database although it has been recorded once from the site before - on 28 June 1997 by Donald Hobern.

Also on 3rd a single Forester *sp* were seen at Old Winchester Hill (SM) on Round-headed Rampion (with six Hummingbird Hawk-moth) and Butser Hill (DW). It is likely that both were The Forester *Adscita statices* but verification will have to wait until next year.

The same day DC photographed an *Argyresthia ivella* (right) at Walters Copse, Newtown (DC) which was new to loW. Another was seen there on 9th July. This species is associated with isolated crab apple trees.



On 4th there were more Small Marbled at Hayling (GSAS) and Portchester (JS) and three Small Mottled Willow at Lymington (PRD). There was *Evergestis limbata* at Cadnam (MLO) and Gem at Anna Valley (TJN). Small Ranunculus and Least Carpet were the highlights at Cove, Fleet (RJE).

On 8th another Small Marbled at Hayling (SJW) with another and a Waved Black on 10th at Funtley, Fareham (MLO) and a Gem at Portchester (JS) - the first there since 2003 - followed by Grass Emerald and Oak Nycteoline at Lymington the next day (PRD).

On 11th, at least another five Small Marbled were seen, two at Eastleigh (with Cream-bordered Green Pea) (SI) and two at Lymington (PRD), and more unusually, one in North Hampshire where KBW reported one from Farnborough; it was accompanied by Scarce Silver-lines, which, having only had

one previous record, has now turned up three times this year. At Stubbington DPH had a good night with around 80 spp. - *Dolicharthria punctalis*, *Mompha propinquella* and seventeen Many-plumed Moth *Alucita hexadactyla*.

KP at Fawley caught a rare immigrant plume *Oxyptilus laetus* / *distans*. This species pair is only safely determined by dissection but a small influx of *O. laetus* in SW England at this time and IRT's record in June would suggest that this species is more likely. Others were seen as far afield as the Forest of Dean (Gloucs), Weston-super Mare (Somerset) and Bishop's Hill (Warks). A *Stathmopoda pedella* was at Freshwater (DC).

Highlights in RBW's Brockenhurst garden around this time included a Small Marbled (12th), Light Crimson Underwing (10th, 11th, 12th), Suspected (3rd, 11th, 12th), Kent Black Arches (8th, 11th), Double Lobed (8th), Barred Hook-tip (11th) and Dark Tussock (12th), with small numbers of Diamond-back Moth, Rusty-dot Pearl, Rush Veneer, European Corn-borer, Dark Sword-grass and Silver-Y. Throughout July and August numbers of these normally commoner migrants remained low with Dark Sword-grass perhaps being the most regularly seen.

On 12th RAC had two *Stathmopoda pedella* at Highcliffe and a still a few Suspected most nights and several Slender Brindle and Double Lobed. There was another Small Marbled at Cadnam (MP).

On 13th RTu got up at 4.15am to deny the Magpies their free breakfast and was glad he did as there was a Clay Fan-foot (shown right) in the grass near the trap. This is just the fifth county record and the first since 1995.



Trapping near Goodworth Clatford produced *Phyllocnistis saligna* / *ramulicola* and *Elachista maculicerusella* (WL, TJN).



EM has spent some time in the New Forest this year recording moths by day and has been very successful in finding some rarely recorded species. He found Purple-bordered Gold at Dibden Bottom on 13th and an Emperor Moth larva (shown left) at Yew Tree Heath the next day.

On 14th AH caught a *Blastobasis vittata*, the most recent of the Blastobasis group to turn up in Britain. *Ebulea crocealis*, Large Twin-spot Carpet, Bordered Beauty and Double-lobed were the highlights of a public session held at the Millfield, Old Basing on 15th (MJW).

At Burton on 19th JS caught an *Evergestis limbata* and two Blair's Mocha.

On 21st MP at Cadnam caught his third Small Marbled of the year and AJ caught the first of two Splendid Brocade at Sandy Point.

On Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd which were the first two nights of the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Moth weekend** the weather in Hampshire was cold at night with very heavy showers in places and this significantly affected moth catches. On the Isle of Wight however things were significantly better and LF and TJN went to the island and joined up with ER to trap at Newtown Meadows. Although a bit cooler than expected about 85 spp by 1.30am was not bad and included a Small Marbled that ER found on the outside of one of the traps and at least seven new 10km square records. Best of the rest was Leopard, Brussels Lace, September Thorn, *Pammene rhediella*, *Udea fulvalis*, *Agonopterix scopariella*, *Athrips mouffetella* and *Mecyna asinalis*. Most unusual was a male glow-worm on the sheet. Quite a few *Coleophora vibicella* cases were still visible on the foodplants but seemed to be parasitised as



none were seen feeding, and indeed no adults were seen either despite searching. TN/LF/DC visited various other sites over the weekend including High Down to see the plume moth *Pterophorus spilodactylus* (photo left) on White Whorehound. RW had seen quite a few there during the previous week and also found it at two other sites on the island.

On the chilly night of the 23rd JG trapped at Mottisfont and caught two Light Crimson Underwing. There were three records from this

area last year during the Wildcru DEFRA survey project.

On Sunday morning 24th TN/LF went to open up Ian & Pat Merrifield's trap in their garden just north of Parkhurst Forest. There were 55 spp with at least three new 10km sq records there - Lunar-spotted Pinion, *Acleris aspersana*, *Helcystogramma rufescens* and *Mecyna asinalis*.

On 24th DC found *Anacampsis blattariella* at Newtown Meadows, IoW - a new 10km record.

MJW tried, and failed, to run a light Friday night in a friend's garden in Ashmansworth, in the 10km square which is the biggest 'black hole' for records in Hampshire, trekking across the downs only to get there and find the bulb had cracked. He returned home and had an unexceptional session in the garden, the only exception being a Garden Dart, the first for four years. Trying again on Saturday

night 23rd resulted in five new 10km square records, all of which were quite common micros: *Eucosma cana* and *hohenwartiana* for example. Sunday night he had a session in an unimproved grassland on the chalk just west of Basingstoke, which turned up some interesting stuff, including *Nemophora metallica*, *Cnephasia longana*, *Sitochroa palealis* and *Merrifieldia leucodactyla*, and a very early Straw Underwing.



GCE trapped a Cloaked Carpet near Stockbridge on Sunday 24th but the best only turned up after the weekend, on Monday 25th near Harewood Forest - Dark Crimson Underwing (second vc12 record), Bordered Sallow (photo left), Scarce Silver-lines - all new for the 10km square - plus several Scarce Burnished Brass. And for good measure, the garden actinic at Chilbolton held a Light Crimson Underwing.

There will be a full write-up of the weekend in the 2011 moth report, so it would be appreciated if all records for the weekend can be sent in as early as possible.

On 26th AJ caught his second Splendid Brocade of the year at Sandy Point as well as Blair's Mocha and an *Yponomeuta rorrella*.

MP at Cadnam trapped 47 species (including 100 Water Veneer); NFY were *Pyralis farinalis*, two Dark Spinach (shown right), Pine Hawk-moth and True Lover's Knot.



At Burton JSw caught Dark Sword-grass, Cream-bordered Green Pea, Garden Tiger and Dog's Tooth.

There was another *Yponomeuta rorrella* at Stubbington (DPH) with two Silver Y and a Diamond-backed Moth. NFG was a *Biselachista utoonella* det. RJD, and the most notable NFYs were *Catoptria pinella* and Saltern Ear.

Trapping in Basingstoke yielded exactly 100 species for MJW for the first time this year, the garden rarities being a second Garden Dart for the year and the first Least Carpet for four years, the first Orange Swift of the year, and *Argyresthia albistria*. On the following night (27th) MJW noted that numbers were down to about 80 species as it was cooler and misty by dawn - but was very pleased to see the first Garden Tiger for the site (since trapping started in his garden in 2002) and the second

ever Waved Black. Shuttle-shaped Dart and *Chrysoteuchia culmella* were by far the most common species.

At Blashford RAC said the last couple of nights had added a few species for the year including Dark Tussock, *Phyllonorycter stettinensis*, *Evergestis pallidata*, Tawny Shears, Fen Wainscot and a probable *Yponomeuta rorrella*.

At Southsea on 28th JRL caught the highlight of the month, a second *Diplopseustis perieresalis*. JRL had also caught the first for Hampshire, on 12th September last year (see the section below summarising in more detail John's highlights for the two months).

At Sherborne St John NM had two new macros for the garden, Kent Black Arches and Dark Spinach, new for this 10km square - and 99 species in total.



NH at Fordingbridge recorded 91 moths of 35 species including Rosy Footman, Sallow Kitten, Garden Tiger, Kent Black Arches, Lesser Cream Wave and Currant Pug.

LF also caught *Evergestis limbata* at Ropley, a species that seems to be rapidly getting a hold in North Hants. An *Elachista bedellella* at Stubbington (DPH) was gen. det. by RJD.

EM reported the scarce Bordered Grey from near Pig Bush by day (shown left).

On 29th another *Stathmopoda pedella* this time at Freshwater (DC) with the migrant *Oncocera semirubella*. In Eastleigh, there were 72 sp (SI) with 4 species new to garden: Silky Wainscot, *Blastobasis rebeli*, *Agriphila selasella* and *Ypsolopha scabrella*; *Gelechia senticetella* was also a good find.

A good haul of 26 Ruby Tigers in the trap at Cheriton Wood with an *Evergestis limbata* (PT).

AJ was pleased to get his first Small Marbled at Sandy Point, Hayling.

Jim Day posted a picture on the Blashford Blog of a Dark Crimson Underwing caught at MV (shown right).

Amongst a catch of the usual species at Pennington were two Jersey Tiger, "the first time I have had more than one on a night." (RCr).



GCE trapped at Leckford during the last week of July and caught *Orthotelia sparganella* (two), *Donacaula mucronellus*, Balsam Carpet, Crescent (six), Scarce Burnished Brass (four), seven Wainscot species, Olive, Double-kidney, Nutmeg, etc. *Yponomeuta sedella* was found at Freshwater (DC).

In Funtley, Fareham REJ found some larvae of *Psychoides filicivora* in their covered "tubes" on the sporangia of *Dryopteris* sp. fern fronds.

At Grayshott on 30th - 118 moths of 42 species including Juniper Pug (RTu). A second session in Worting, Basingstoke on the same night (MJW), in association with the Basingstoke Field Society, saw highlights in Grayling (yes, the butterfly), Maple Pug and Least Carpet.

The month opened with a good night by RBW in his Brockenhurst garden last night, with Light Crimson Underwing, Marsh Oblique-barred, Webb's Wainscot, Round-winged Muslin, Sallow Kitten and Dusky Sallow being the highlights. It was clearly a good night for wandering wetland species, but the biggest surprise was *Agdistis bennetii*, which is

AUGUST

the furthest inland that this saltmarsh species has been recorded in our region (apart from a possible that was seen outside Chilbolton a few years ago that was seen next to a field of Statice.)

DPH at Stubbington caught getting on for 70 spp. On the migrant front *Conobathra tumidana* was the highlight (2nd garden record after one in 2004), also singles of Dark Sword-grass and Silver Y. NFG were *Digitivalva pulicariae* and Currant Pug. NFY were *Aethes smeathmanniana*, *Batia lunaris*, Common Carpet, Sharp-angled Peacock, Yellow-tail and Nutmeg.

The nights of 1st and 2nd saw 83 and 89 species respectively to MJW's Basingstoke trap, the latter session seeing further examples of Garden Dart (third of the year - doubling the total number recorded at this site) and Least Carpet. On 2nd *Cydia amplana* was NFG at Burton (JSw) whilst RBW was very pleased to finally catch his first Dark Crimson Underwing in the garden last night, together with three Light Crimson Underwing - two species which were evidently having a good year. Other highlights included Waved Black, Dark Sword-grass, European Corn-borer, two White-point and three Double Kidney.

At Grayshott 175 moths of 48 species - NFY for RTu were *Perinephela lancealis*, Coxcomb Prominent, Scarce Footman and Sallow Kitten and also a surprising 21 Rosy Footman including 1 f. *flava* which was a first there. EM reported four Bordered Grey and six Annulet from Yew Tree Heath in the New Forest, one of the latter being shown right.



Also on 2nd GP / PAB held a moth night in a garden at Shirley Holms and had a respectable 124 species come to light, including the second Jersey Tiger in a week, the other being on the undercliff at Highcliffe four days previously. This species was then seen in higher than usual numbers along the Hants coast throughout the month including at Hayling where it was recorded for the first time. Considering the high numbers that have been seen for many years on the island it is surprising that the colonisation of Hampshire has been so slow.

On 4th IMcP had a male Gem and a Dark Sword-grass in his Fareham garden.

On 11th a Dotted Border Wave was caught by IMcP in his Fareham garden.

A very late Festoon was at West Walk on 13th on a bright moonlit night (J&KS). On the same night TJN/LF trapped in a garden at Over Wallop. This remarkable garden turns up something good every time and that night it was a *Metalampra* species (Oecophoridae, det. JRL). All previous records for this genus in this country have been referred to *M. italica*, the first in Britain from Devon in 2003: unusual in that *italica* was previously unknown outside of Italy (hence the specific name!) and it is suspected that this feeder on decaying wood was accidentally imported. It does however have a close relative in *M. cinnamomea* which is widely distributed on the continent, and which is perhaps just as likely to occur here, and until this specimen has been dissected I feel it safer to not determine to species level (MJW).

At Brockenhurst during the same week it was a case of quality rather than quantity with the highlight being a second Dark Crimson Underwing (6th), with a few notable wanderers from nearby heathland have included Horse Chestnut (9th), Bordered Grey (13th) and July Belle (13th). Migrants were limited to small numbers of Rush Veneer, Rusty-dot Pearl, White-point and Silver-Y (RBW).

EM at Matley saw a further two Bordered Grey by day on 14th and the next night there were two Jersey Tiger at Sandy Point (AJ) with four Garden Tiger. These are normally scarce at this site. An illustration as to how far catches had declined by the middle of the month was from Basingstoke, where a session on 14th returned just 45 moths of 16 species, half of which were Orange Swift and *Agriphila inquinatella* (suffice to say I was quite glad to be going to France two days later! - MJW)

On the island to the west of Ventnor on 16th RW caught a Portland Ribbon Wave. The next day JS at Portchester caught a Jersey Tiger and at Pennington RCr had his fourth this season.

Trapping on 20th at Pennington proved none too startling with the only migrants being a Vestal and single Dark Sword-grass, also second generation Lesser Swallow and Iron Prominent, Antler Moth, Rosy and Six-striped Rustic and both Svensson's and Copper Underwings (PRD). RBW's third Dark Crimson Underwing of the month was the highlight in South Brockenhurst, with the first Antler Moth at this site, and a giant Tanner Beetle blundering around on the lawn near to the trap.



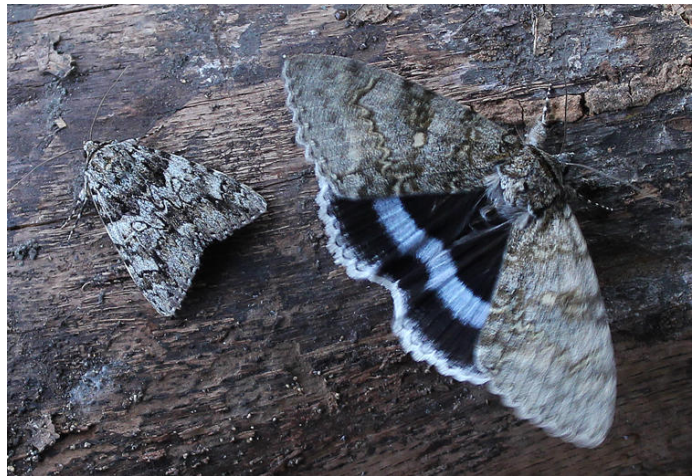
On 22nd JHa at Bonchurch had Dark Crimson Underwing - his first there. Several second brood *Evergestis limbata* and a second brood Least Black Arches the previous day. He reports that he has now found about seven Small Marbled larvae (photo left) on Fleabane.

On 23rd the National Trust moth event at Mottistone Manor Gardens, IoW produced nine male and three female Four-spotted Footman *Eilemma quadra* so almost certainly have discovered a new colony (JHa). The same night, a Waved Black and a pristine Clifden Nonpareil was in RBW's garden trap at Brockenhurst - "amazing to see it next to a Light Crimson Underwing (see below), which was roughly half the size! This is

now the fifth year in succession that Clifden Nonpareil has appeared at this site." Earlier in the month, on the 20th, Laura Murdoch trapping at the GCWT estate at Fordingbridge had also been lucky enough to see one. On Hayling, a Vestal at Hayling was the first there in a couple of years (GSAS).

On 29th RAC caught a Clouded Magpie at Blashford (a new 10km record) and on 30th the first of the autumn Centre-barred Sallow was at Fareham (MLO).

At DW's Titchfield Common garden on the 31st the highlight was another Portland Ribbon Wave.



TJN



SOUTHSEA AND ENVIRONS – JULY/AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

JRL has provided the following summary of July and August highlights from his Southsea garden and extensive fieldwork. It is reproduced in full as an illustration of the work that John puts in throughout the year.

1st July Southsea: *Plutella porrectella* was new to my garden; *Hecatera dysodea* - two at MV, with another on 19th and again on 30th.

2nd Southsea: *Macroglossum stellatarum* one nectaring on Buddleia; *Dolicarthria punctalis* one at MV, a rare species in his garden; *Platyperigea kadenii*- one at MV

4th Portsdown Hill - seedheads of *Silene vulgaris (inflata)* collected and sent to Tomasz Rynarzewski in Poland who is working on the *Coleophora silenella* group of species. Later he emailed me that there were larvae of *Coleophora nutantella* (= *silenella* auctt.) (this name change will appear in the forthcoming new checklist....don't ask when!) present in the seedheads, an extremely rare species in the county.

9th Southsea: *Heliothis peltigera* - one at MV

11th Southsea: *Eublemma parva* - one at MV and new to the garden

13th Portsmouth: galls of the mite *Aceria fraxinivorus* collected from ash trees. Larvae seen and later in the month two *Prays fraxinella* f. *rustica* (or possibly *Prays ruficeps*) and three typical *Prays fraxinella* emerged.

Southsea: *Hypena obsitalis* - one at MV

One *Dichrorampha acuminatana* emerged from larvae found in flowerheads of Oxeye Daisy at Hilsea Lines NR on 22nd June. This appears to be a previously unpublished manner of larval feeding because all John can find in the literature is that the species feeds in the roots of Oxeye Daisy.

15th Hilsea Lines NR (with IRT) larvae of *Ptocheuusa paupella* found in flowerheads of *Pulicaria dysenterica* and *Inula crithmoides* - moths emerged later in the month.

23rd Milton Common (with IRT) many mines of *Bucculatrix albedinella* on *Ulmus* sp.; very many vacated larval spinings of *Caloptilia semifascia* on *Acer campestre*; several mines of *Phyllonorycter dubitella* on *Salix caprea* from which moths emerged within a few days; a few larval feeding signs of *Grapholita lobarzewskii* in apples.

25th Southsea: *Noctua janthina* - one at MV

28th Southsea: *Diploseustis perieresalis*- one at MV

29th Southsea: *Tinea columbariella* one at MV (male genitalia det.) - the first have seen there for 25 years; *Yponomeuta rorrella* - one at MV

August 2011

On the whole it was a pretty poor month and there was little of any great note.

14th Hilsea Lines NR - lots of *Mompha bradleyi* in *Epilobium hirsutum*

15th Southsea - one Jersey Tiger (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) at MV, a first for my garden

17th Cams Bay, Fareham, with Richard Dickson – a daytime visit produced a list of 53 species including many mines of *Ectoedemia louisella* in samaras of *Acer campestre*; one mine of *Tischeria dodonaea* on *Quercus robur*; several *Caloptilia* sp. spinings on *Acer platanoides*, most of which produced parasites but one moth, which seems to be *C. semifascia*, emerged subsequently on 4th September and will be dissected later to confirm the identification; also a few larval feeding signs of *Acrolepiopsis marcidella* in fruits of *Ruscus aculeatus* and a few *Mompha bradleyi* galls in *Epilobium hirsutum*.

22nd grounds of St James' Hospital, Milton, with Ian Thirlwell – more *Caloptilia* spinings in leaves of *Acer platanoides* cultivar 'Royal Red' resulting in a few cocoons none of which have yet produced moths; also we noted very many mines of *Phyllonorycter platani* with almost as many on the uppersides of the Plane leaves as on the undersides

23rd Southsea – one Tree-lichen Beauty (*Cryphia algae*) at MV plus four Old Ladies

24th Southsea – one Small Ranunculus (*Hecatera dysodea*) and one Bloxworth Snout (*Hypena obsitalis*) at MV

26th another visit to the grounds of St James' Hospital with Ian Thirlwell where we found one sycamore tree with very many mines of *Cameraria ohridella*. It was amusing to note that two men staring at tree trunks in the grounds of this psychiatric hospital caused absolutely no surprise or comments from passers-by!!

Mark and Jemma Young arrived on 27th to stay with me for the rest of the month.

28th Havant Thicket – it was good to find mines and cocoons of *Phyllocnistis ramulicola* on *Salix cinerea* and *S. caprea* and to know that last winter's intense cold had not completely done for them, though there were fewer than I saw in previous years and they were confined to a smaller area. At Staunton Country Park we found one larva of *Acrolepiopsis marcidella* in a fruit of *Ruscus* and this is a new record for that locality; also there were tenanted spinings of *Caloptilia falconipennella* on alder and mines & cocoons of *Phyllocnistis xenia* on *Populus canescens*

29th Southwick Estate – tenanted mines of *Elachista gangabella* (affectionately known as 'gang-bang') were in great abundance on *Brachypodium sylvaticum*; also noted were mines of *Mompha terminella* and *M. langiella* on *Circaea lutetiana*, *Caloptilia populetorum* on birch and *Parornix fagivora* on beech. Southsea – one *Hypena obsitalis* at MV and a ver welcome Large Thorn (*Ennomos autumnaria*)

31st Southwick in carpark of the Golden Lion – three vacated mines of *Stigmella pyri* and a few mines of *Leucoptera malifoliella* on a pear tree. Then a visit to Magdalen Hill Down by kind permission of Lynn Fomison, a place I had never before visited. It was wonderful to see such a well-kept reserve with so much stunning flora. There we recorded 62 spp. of which 47 were micros and included some tenanted mines of *Trifurcula eurema* on *Lotus corniculatus* and *Parectopa ononidis* on *Trifolium pratense* and cases of *Coleophora trifolii* on *Melilotus altissimus*. A plume moth species which is probably *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla* was particularly common and some specimens were taken which will be dissected at a later date in order to confirm identity.



FAREHAM MOTH GROUP REPORT

JULY 2011

The month of July started warm and relatively sunny but quickly the weather became inclement and stayed that way. The group managed to make several visits but numbers were generally on the low side, especially for July.

On the 1st six of us (KC, RJD, AG, DH, MLO, TT and KW) set out to visit a private woodland, in which Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata* predominates, near Shedfield, Hampshire. The evening was very rewarding with between 700 and 800 moths of 113 species being caught. There were large numbers of Tortricids of which *Archips xylosteana* and *Epagoge grotiana* were outstanding. Among the other interesting tortricids was a first for the group *Cochylis hybridella* (photo right).



However the highlights were the capture of the rare RDB Pauper Pug *Eupithecia egenaria*, a worn specimen and confirmed by RJD and JRL. The other lime feeding specialist caught was *Chrysoclista linneella* (see photo).

Other highlights of this evening were Vestal, Dark Swordgrass, Double Kidney, Waved Black and Oak Nycteoline *f. ramosana*.

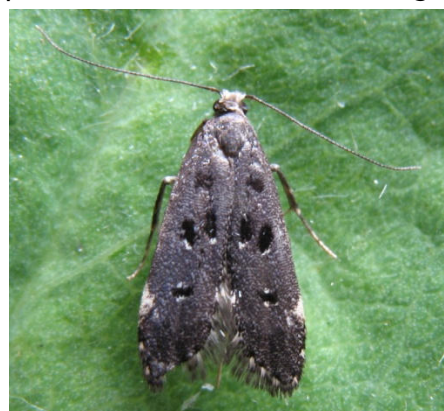
On July 8th a visit was arranged to visit Titchfield Haven to coincide with an annual moth evening for the Friends of the Haven, kindly arranged by Barry Duffin. KC, RJD, MLO and KW set up three lamps along the main footpath on a windswept cool night in whatever shelter we could find.

We caught between 200 and 300 moths of 82 species. Amongst these were several of Titchfield's specialities, Cream-bordered Green Pea, *Epinotia cruciana*, *Synaphe punctalis*, Obscure Wainscot, Southern Wainscot, Double Lobed, Crescent, Brown-veined Wainscot and Kent Black Arches.

With the advent of the inclement weather and planned visits to the New Forest cancelled we decided to add a second week day to the itinerary. The first of these Tuesday visits on 19th saw KC, RJD, MLO and KW visit Westbury Park, West Meon and set up four lamps on a somewhat showery night. Two lamps quickly became casualties - of the rain for one, and a plague of wasps for the other. We caught in all about 200 moths of 73 species before the rain finally curtailed the evenings' event. The highlights were *Cnephasia genitalana* and Satin Lutestring.

We finally managed to get to the New Forest on Friday 22nd July and visited the old favourite Denny Wood on what was to turn out to be a very productive night. Five (KC, RJD, AG, MLO and KW) of us turned up at 2100 hrs and proceeded to 'sugar' a few trees in the hope of a few 'Crimson Underwings' appearing. Even before darkness descended a few were seen briefly inspecting the patches of sugar so it was looking good. When the five lamps were switched on it was pretty slow to start, but the sugar came into its own with 7 Light Crimson Underwing and 3 Dark Crimson Underwing imbibing, along with countless Copper Underwing and Svensson's Copper Underwing, the latter being more common than the former.

In all we caught several hundreds of 87 species, amongst which were *Dichomeris alacella* (photo right), *Eudonia delunella*, Devon Carpet, Horse Chestnut, Brussels Lace, Dark Tussock, Waved Black (at sugar) and Marsh Oblique-barred. Also to light a Sawyer Beetle *Prionus coriarus*.



The following Friday 29th saw KC, RJD, AG, MLO, TT and KW at Hen Wood near West Meon. Again we caught several hundred moths of 129 species amongst which were *Yponomeuta plumbella*, *Cnephasia genitalana*, Satin Lutestring, Scallop Shell, Dark Umber, Maple Pug, August Thorn, Satin Beauty and Maple Prominent.

AUGUST 2011

August proved to be a frustrating month from the moth point of view with fairly inclement weather and pretty low numbers of moths caught, but we did manage to make all four Friday visits.



August 5th saw KC, RJD, MLO and KW visit Titchfield Haven, with the kind permission of Barry Duffin, to set some lights for members and friends to see moth catching after they had sifted through the previous nights catch at the Haven. In all we caught about 300 moths of 98 species, which was to prove to be the best catch of the month. Amongst them were *Phalonidia manniana*, *Nascia cilialis*, *Synaphe punctalis*, *Pempelia genistella*, and some of the more attractive moths for the public were Elephant Hawk-moth, Bordered Beauty, Canary-shouldered Thorn, Garden Tiger, Antler Moth, and Dusky Sallow. Among the expected wainscots was a Silky Wainscot *f. bipunctata* Haw (photo left, taken at MV).

August 12th saw KC, RJD, AG, MLO and KW with 5 lamps visit Sladford's Copse nr Marwell Zoo on what was a very promising looking night with no breeze and virtually complete cloud cover. However, it proved the opposite with only about 150 moths of 65 species the best of which were Waved Black, *Psoricoptera gibbosella* and 3 Devon Carpet.

August 19th saw KC, AG, MLO and KW visit West Walk (High Lines) on a clear night after a sunny warmer day but again the moths were disappointing with about 100 moths of 43 species but highlights include Old Lady, White Point, *Galleria mellonella* and 60+ *Blastobasis rebeli*.

August 26th and KC, MLO and KW took a trip to Denny Wood, New Forest, after heavy rain and showers all day, not expecting much but hoping. We were not disappointed as we caught less than 100 moths and only 36 species, notable amongst this few were *Crambus hamella*, Oak Lutestring, Neglected Rustic and Feathered Gothic.

Let us hope September brings better 'mothing' weather and plenty of autumnal moths.

MLO



‘GREEN’ CARPETS

Never assume that all “green carpets” are Green Carpet as the photos below demonstrate. Beech-green Carpet is a rare moth in Hants and IoW but it does occur in small numbers. In Hampshire Alasdair Aston used to catch it at Selborne during the 1990’s and again in 2006. On the Isle of Wight JHa catches it every year at Bonchurch. The larvae feed on various bedstraws so it is likely to be more widespread.



Beech-green Carpet, 13 August Portland M. Cade



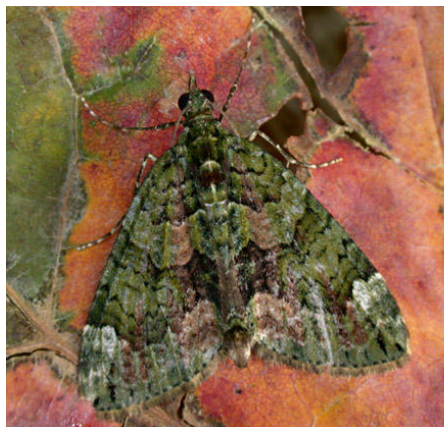
Green Carpet 2 September Ropley TJN

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The other two similar species differ in that they both overwinter as adults and are therefore seen in autumn and spring. Autumn-green Carpet is rare and declining in the south of England and the last verified report from our area was at Hook in 1976 (PBo gen. det.). It is much more common in the north and west of Britain. Red-green Carpet is quite common and widespread throughout. It is usually quite distinctive with reddish or brown markings amongst the green but occasionally can occur all green - as shown in the photo to the right below - in which case it is important to check the hindwing which is distinctly paler in Autumn Green Carpet. The larvae of both feed on various trees and shrubs.



Autumn-green Carpet (Keith Tailby)



Red-green Carpet (MJW)



Presumed Red-green Carpet (David Hamilton)

TJN



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As ever, this newsletter would not be possible without everyone who posts on the Hantsmoths Yahooogroup and uses the Hantsmoths and BC branch websites!

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Contributions and ideas for articles are always welcome. I would also like to be made aware of any errors and omissions for correction.

For more information on moth recording in Hampshire, please contact the county moth recorders, either Tim Norriss (tim@kitsmail.com) (Macros) or myself (micros), or see www.hantsmoths.org.uk/recording.htm

Mike

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