

Moth survey 22 May 2004

The following is a list of the moths and butterflies John Langmaid and Ian Thirlwell recorded on 22 May 2004 (national moth day/night). They carried out the survey by sweeping the grasses/sedges and looking for larvae on leaves (leaf mining). A third method is to use a moth trap at night.

Stigmella aurella a few vacated mines on bramble, the whitish wiggly ones you may have seen in various places. It is very common.

Emmetia marginata a few mines on bramble, these are pale brownish blotch mines.

Adela rufimitrella a few. These are the 'longhorn' moth I showed you.

Luffia ferchaultella one case on tree-trunk. These moths are often referred to as 'bagworms'.

Caloptilia falconipennella two mines and one small larva on alder. This is quite a local species and I am very pleased to have the mines for my herbarium.

Phyllonorycter messaniella a few mines on holm oak near the entrance to the meadow. An abundant species.

Anthophila fabriciana several. Often known as the nettle-tap moth. Feeds on nettle and is ubiquitous.

Glyphipterix simplicella many of the tiny tiny moths nectaring on various flowers.

Coleophora serratella several larval feeding signs on alder but no case seen. This a common member of the case-bearing family Coleophoridae.

Coleophora follicularis one case on fleabane - after prolonged search when we saw many larval feeding signs.

Esperia sulphurella one moth at rest on a hazel leaf. A common species whose larva feeds on fungus in dead wood.

Agonopterix heracliana a few larvae on cow-parsley and Hemlock Water-dropwort. Another common species.

Mompha epilobiella a few larvae in spun shoots of great hairy willow-herb. Also v. common.

Clepsis spectrana a few larvae of the Polyphagous tortrix moth on low plants.

Pseudargyrotoza conwagana one of this very attractive, but common, silver and yellow Tortrix moth.

Celypha lacunana a few of this common and dull day-flying Tortrix moth.

Dichrorampha plumbana one specimen of this common dull brown Tortrix moth which feeds on yarrow.

Pleuroptya ruralis "The Mother-of-pearl Moth" many larvae on nettle.

Oidaematophorus lithodactyla one larva of this attractive plume moth on a leaf of Fleabane.

Pieris rapae "Small White" a few.

Pieris napi "Green-veined White" one.

Lycaena phlaeas "Small Copper" a few.

Aglais urticae "Small Tortoiseshell" one adult and very many larvae on nettle.

Pararge aegeria "Speckled Wood" a few.