

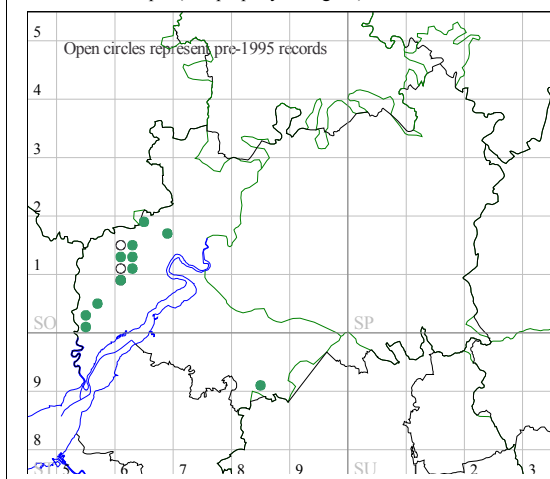
GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2005 Newsletter 5

Since the last newsletter in early August, there has been a number of trapping sessions, all but two of which produced a good number of records but nothing particularly exceptional.

Jon Brock and I met at Flaxley Woods on 13th August. We recorded about 70 species altogether including **Devon Carpet**, **Large Twin-spot Carpet** and *Epinotia trigonella*. The map shows how Devon Carpet has spread from its original station in the heart of the Forest of Dean. This species was recorded in the Rothamsted trap at Westonbirt in 2003 and 2004, hence the dot shown there.

1751 Devon Carpet (*Lampropteryx otregiata*)

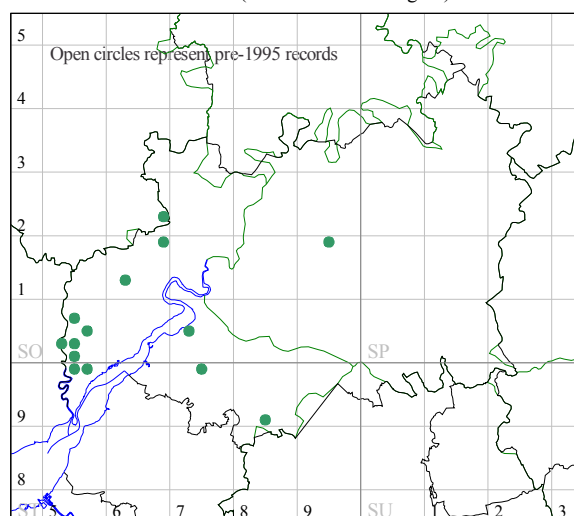


At the end of August, Angus and Jan Moir, Dennis and Val Jackson and I ran five MV traps at Crabtree Hill hoping for heathland specialities. Although we recorded over 50 species there were no surprises. The best record was that of *Caloptilia populetorum*. This has only otherwise been recorded from The Park, Tidenham Chase in VC 34.

Some records from John Martin at Pilning: **Plain Pug**, **Round-winged Muslin**, **European Corn-borer** (pyralid), **Gothic**, **Southern Wainscot**, **White-line Dart** (dissected), **Double Dart**, **Maple Pug** and **White Satin Moth** and at Aldsworth *Cydia nigricana*.

Neil Woodward has recorded another **Lempke's Gold Spot** at Slimbridge, and **The Chevron**, **Small Seraphim**, **Oak Eggar** (two females), **Old Lady** and **Pinion-streaked Snout**. The last seems to have become more common and could be overlooked. Here is the latest map.

2484 Pinion-streaked Snout (*Schrankia costaeatrigalis*)



Neil has also recorded **Cream-bordered Green Pea** regularly and thinks that this may be becoming continuously brooded through the summer.

Angus Moir has been particularly active and has recorded at a number of sites across the county. I do not have all his records to hand yet, but they include **The Delicate** and **Large Wainscot** at Sllimbridge, and **Tissue** and fifteen **September Thorn** in Queen's Wood, Southam.

Peter Hugo has had a number of interesting records from Thrupp. These include several **Least Yellow Underwing**, **Maple Prominent** (3), **Poplar Kitten**, **Small Purple-barred**, **Galium Carpet**, **Wood Carpet**, **Gothic** and several **Mocha**. He recently sent me a photo of a female **Gem**, the first record of this migrant since 2003.

John and Viv Phillips, using a Heath trap at Pope's Hill, have recorded **Ear Moth**, **Triple-spotted Clay**, **Feathered Gothic** (2), **Small Wainscot** and **Deep-brown Dart**. The last mentioned is very rare west of the Severn, the only other record being from Pool Hill in 1999. They were able to compare it with three **Black Rustic** that they had on the same night.

Gordon Avery has notched up his 325th macro for his garden with his first ever **Satellite**. He was also able to separate two *Amphipyra* sp into **Copper Underwing** and **Svensson's Copper Underwing**.

Here at St Briavels I have recorded 33 macro species since the beginning of October including **Merveille du Jour** and **Figure of Eight**. This is

just a reminder to those who have put their traps away that it is worth continuing to the end of the month at least.

Robert Homan and Guy Meredith have both been specialising in day-time recording of some of the more obscure and little-recorded micro-moths.

Robert has recorded mines of *Stigmella obliquella* and *Phyllonorycter viminiella* (moth bred out) on Crack Willow at home in Cheltenham and a case of *Coleophora mayrella* on White Clover at Coombe Hill. Out of 50 seedheads of Red Clover on Nottingham Hill, Robert found 27 with cases of *Coleophora deauratella*. He has found many of the distinctive mines of the pRDB1 *Phyllonorycter sagitella* on suckers of Aspen in Highnam Wood. The RSPB have been advised of the importance of this discovery. In chenopodium in Cheltenham Robert has found mines of *Chrysoesthia drurella*. Finally, among many other records, Robert has found mines of *Phyllonorycter emberizaepennella* in Honeysuckle on the old railway line near his home.

Guy has recorded *Heliozella resplendella* as a mine in Alder, and *Phyllonorycter rajella* (mine and cocoon) in Dowdeswell Wood. *Mompha propinquella* in the Greathough Brook Valley; *Stephensia brunnichella* mines on Wild Basil on Leckhampton Hill; *Schreckensteinia festaliella* to light on the edge of Chedworth Woods. There are a number of micros that I have awaiting genitalia examination.

There are a handful of other micro records of note.

At a GIG meeting in Blaisdon Wood I found mines of *Stigmella speciosa* in Sycamore, new to VC34.

Roy and Liz Radcliffe have had *Amblyptilia punctidactyla* at Cinderford, and Roger Pearce has recorded *Eucosma conterminana* on Haresfield Hill.

Now that digital images can so easily be created and passed on, I receive quite a lot of email attachments showing moths, larvae or mines. I am sure you will like this picture of a **Pale Tussock** larva taken by Roger Wasley at Gretton.



I am about to send in the records I have received from National Moth Night. If anyone has more and wishes me to send them in please forward to me in the next week, otherwise send them direct to the organisers.

Finally I would make a plea to everyone to send me their records. I fully realise how hard it is for busy people to find time to do this, however if it is not done then the records vanish into obscurity and are lost. All records I receive are freely available for reference, you have only to ask, and in particular go forward to national recording schemes, where appropriate, and the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER) where an archive of the county's wildlife is being created.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 9th October 2005.

.PS Apologies for the box in the first column – without it the map of Devon Carpet insisted on being in the second column!