

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2006 Newsletter 2

As so often is the case, it has been a frustrating start to the season with cold and often windy conditions seeming to predominate.

I have had several unsuccessful searches for the 1661 **Orange Underwing** at new sites, but others have been more successful. Angus Moir saw this species flying on the New Fancy View (goshawk viewing site) quite late one afternoon, and Guy Meredith has seen it at Parkend Walk.

The only known county site for 1662 **Light Orange Underwing** (on aspen) is the Lower Woods/Wetmoor complex where aspen is common. It would be worth searching Collinpark Wood GWT Reserve next spring as there is a lot of aspen there whereas in the Forest of Dean only isolated trees seem to be present.

I have had two reports of 1984 **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** so far. Roger Pierce saw one in Gloucester on 24<sup>th</sup> March and Vic Polley saw one at Bisley on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Roger has also had 2185 **Lead-coloured Drab** and his first 1881 **Early Tooth-striped** on Haresfield Hill.



Peter Hugo recorded this stunning 1061 *Acleris literana* in Withington Woods. He has also had 1676 **Mocha** and an early 2091 **Dark Sword-grass** at Thrupp.

Jon Brock has had an early and out of habitat 2476 **Beautiful Snout** at Bishop's Cleeve at the end of April and he has been heartened to see 2181 **Silver Cloud** there again. Increasing development seems to have reduced the number of species he sees. Ian Elphick has also had the dark form of the Silver Cloud at Tuffley.

Gordon Avery trapped the tiny plume moth 1517 *Adaina microdactyla* at Hempsted. This species has been recently recorded mostly in woodland where the food-plant Hemp-agrimony grows.

So far sales of 'Gloucestershire Moths – A Second Account' have been disappointing. Nearly all have gone to people outside the county or to people who are not moth recorders! If you are using the old (green) version, remember that it is now six years out-of-date and that there have been 47 new species (13 macros and 34 micros) recorded and many more records since the year 2000. See Newsletter 1 for details.

There is a correction to make in the list from Mike Bradley published in Newsletter 1. The elachistid recorded at Ashleworth Ham on 7.viii.2004 was 596 *Elachista poae* and not *Elachista pomerana*.

Some of those reading this may not be aware that work has been proceeding on setting up a National Macro-moth Recording Scheme. The objective is to bring together all records so that trends can be evaluated and a true picture drawn of the state of British macro-moths. The county recorders will play an important role in validating and forwarding records to the scheme.

Such a scheme will involve significant costs and the good news is that funding has been obtained from national sources (still in need of some matching) and the scheme will be administered by Butterfly Conservation.



This is a reared out imago of 471 *Digitivalva perlepidella* Notable Na that Guy Meredith found as a pupa on Ploughman's Spikenard on Charlton Kings Common. This is the first record since 1987 and only the third record for the county.

Guy also found 008 *Eriocrania unimaculella* on Poors Allotment.

On Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>, I visited ValletsWood north of Cannop, and although the sun had gone in and rain was again threatened, I saw at least eight 1878 **Drab Looper**. There were no other lepidoptera flying. This suggests a strong colony near peak emergence.

This is the right time of year to record a number of important day-flying moths, and I hope that recorders will be keeping a particular look out for Argent and Sable, Drab Looper, Chalk Carpet, Wood Tiger, Chimney Sweeper, (Cistus) Forester etc.

Also, those who have bought pheromone lures for the clearwings should be getting ready to try for these elusive moths when the sun shines.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006.

