

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2008 Newsletter 2

In contrast to April 2007, this year the weather has been poor with conditions generally unsuitable for moth trapping. Consequently there is not as much to report as usual. As I will be away for the first half of May, I decided to do a newsletter anyway hoping that by the time I come back there will be a change in the weather and more to report at the end of the month.

Species seen

I left two Heath traps overnight at The Park, Tidenham Chase on April 3rd as the forecast was reasonably good. Altogether there were 17 species there in the morning, 11 being new to the site. The most noteworthy were **Dotted Chestnut** and 666 *Semioscopis avellanella*.

Steve Chappell sent me a moth that he trapped at Dursley on April 2nd that he suspected was the Leek Moth (473 *Acrolepiopsis assectella*). On examination I was able to confirm that this identification was correct. This moth is a pest species and seems to be spreading into the county.

Paul Wilkins has been running a trap at Brockweir and so far the most noteworthy species he has reported is **Tawny Pinion**.

Guy Meredith is celebrating his (virtual) early retirement and has, I believe, set himself the task of recording all the micros on the Gloucestershire list together with a few more known from neighbouring counties that should be here. He has shown me a short camera video of the larva of 181 *Taleporia tubulosa* in a case moving steadily up a tree trunk. He has found tubes of 203 *Infurcitinea argenticaculella* at Siccaridge Wood, Lineover Wood and Welshbury Hill. At the last site he has also found *S. avellanella* mentioned above.

Guy has also been working on genitalia preparations. Two that I can confirm are 1023 *Cnephasia genitalana* taken at Brassey NR on 4/8/2007 (this is a new county record) and 1228 *Pammene argyrana* taken at Siccaridge Wood on 4/6/2007.

I have received Peter Cranswick's records from Dursley for 2006 and 2007. He started recording in 2006 and on 3rd July recorded a **Pine Hawkmoth**. He reported this to me but I had to tell him that without confirmation by photograph or seen by a more experienced recorder I could not accept the record as it was new to the county. Not having my book at this stage he had not realised the importance of the record. He recorded five other hawk-moths that year and remains convinced that this was in fact a correct record. I have agreed to record it as 'unconfirmed' as this moth is to be expected some time in the county.

Here at St Briavels there has been little to report with the exception of a **Broom-tip** pictured below.



Sorry about the picture, I'm having software problems and can't clip it! It escaped when I took it out of the box and put it on a leaf. This is the first record anywhere in the county for eleven years.

General

I am sending separately the newsletter of the Moths Count project for information. All my macro moth records have been submitted to the project.

I am grateful to Robert Homan for putting all past newsletters and reports on to the GNS website. These can be found on www.glosnats.org.uk

Further software problems (I have lost MapMate!) mean I cannot usefully highlight a moth to look out for and a site to visit. I have CD backups (I hope) but being rather pressed for time this will have to wait until I return from holiday.

Diary

7th June National Moth Night and Day. I will be trapping at Ban-y-gor Wood. Numbers will be limited and booking will be required (details later). Peter Hugo will be trapping in an orchard at Brookthorpe. I hope to have a grid ref and details of any other sessions in time for the next newsletter.

14th June Day meeting Cinderford Linear Park. Meet at 10.30 am. I will be leading this GNS meeting hoping to see some day-flying moths among other insects. Park opposite Winner Garage SO 645151.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, April 29th 2008.