

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2009 Newsletter 2

It seems to have been a fairly quiet start to the season with generally low catches on mainly cool nights. There are reports of some moths appearing earlier than usual however.

Species seen

Standing out above all recent records is that of **Barred Tooth-striped** from Matthew Oates' garden at Culkerton. This was trapped on 31st March and is the first record in the county for this BAP species since 1958. There are wild privet-rich hedges to the south of the garden as well as the old Tetbury railway line so this may suggest that the moth was not a stray. Matthew has also had the Barberry Carpet in his garden – few people can claim such distinguished moths on their garden list!

There have been several records of **Orange Underwing**. The most northerly was from adjacent to Littleworth Wood (Jon Brock).

Dotted Chestnut has been recorded by Matthew Oates (Culkerton), Bob Smith (Chalford) and Peter Hugo at Daneway Banks.

The rarer **White-marked** has been recorded by Liz Radcliffe at Cinderford and by myself here at St Briavels.

Roger Ward had three **Lead-coloured Drab** together at Charlton Kings and Peter Cranswick as had three **Spring Ushers** at Dursley. Gordon Avery is having a very quiet season so far but has had a **Seraphim** in his trap.

I have left two Heath traps overnight on a number of occasions. The second best catch was at James's Thorns on 15th April when I had 54 moths / 20 species. These included **Square Spot**, **Oak Nycteline**, **Dark Swordgrass** and **Dark UMBER**. The best catch was at East Wood on 30th March when 158 moths / 22 species were recorded but nothing of special note. Another trip to the nearby Oakhill Wood produced **Scarce Prominent** a Local moth known from this wood and mainly confined to the Wye Valley woodlands.

Robert Homan has found cases of *Coleophora solitariella* on Greater Stitchwort at Corse Grove near Hasfield on 3rd April. He has found more sites for the pRDB2 *Celypha woodiana*. The larva mines in mistletoe and Gloucestershire seems to be well supplied with sites for this BAP species. Robert has also had his first ever **Pine Beauty** at home in Cheltenham.

Guy Meredith continues to be very active. He considers that the Notable Na *Digitivalva perlepidella* is probably more common than its national status implies. He has found mines on Ploughman's Spikenard on Haresfield Hill and mines in a high proportion of the plants on Charlton Kings Common. On the same plant at Haresfield Hill he has found cases of *Coleophora conyzae* (Notable Nb). More of Guy's records: *Acleris schalleriana* at his home in Cheltenham, *Schreckensteinia festaliella* at Shorn Cliff and *Eriocrania salopiella* at Welshbury Wood. The woods around

Cranham are the only area in the British Isles where the pRDB1 plume moth *Pselnophorus heterodactyla* may be found. On 26th April Guy found and photographed a larva of this moth on the food-plant Wall Lettuce at Buckle Wood and subsequently has found larvae at Saltridge Common Wood and Blackstable Wood.

Other news

Jon Brock has found a website BLTDirect.com that supplies reasonably priced low energy black-light bulbs that also have a bayonet fitting and is experimenting with them. So far the results have been encouraging.

Dates

6th June I hope to run another daytime meeting at Cinderford Linear Park. Last year The Forester was recorded for the first time but Clouded Buff and other rare moths eluded us. Details in the next newsletter.

27th June As above. I will be away between these dates and the first is a bit early and the second a bit late for the target species.

18th and 19th September National Moth Night(s)

14th November Peter Hugo's annual field meeting for the Plumed Prominent, details later.

When conditions improve I hope to have some trapping sessions here in the Forest of Dean.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 30th April 2009.