

Grey Daggers Moth Group

2011 Autumn Newsletter



January started with the annual meeting which was held at Anna White's and the introduction of our first ever *Checklist of the Moths of Dumfries & Galloway*.

It wasn't long before it was out of date with new VC records being added at an amazing rate.

Also the new web site at www.dgmoths.org.uk was finally having the macro species accounts completed, with the micro species accounts due to be added later on, although the list of species for the region was being kept up to date.

27th July was a red letter day, a new Geometrid for Scotland and Dumfries & Galloway – Clay Triple-lines was trapped in Mabie Forest by Jessie Wormell.

Grey Daggers Moth Group Field Meetings: -

The first was held in Pete Robinson's grounds at Carsluith (VC73), traps set Friday 6th May, with the highlight being Oak-tree Pug, two Broken-barred Carpets, three White-pinion Spotted and three Broad-barred White.

Second meeting was held at Bentpath (VC72) and although nothing out of the ordinary occurred, thirty species were registered for that square from traps set on 27th May.

Third meeting was midway between Langholm and Newcastleton (VC72) in a poorly recorded area, six Heath traps being set on Friday 1st July. However, it did produce at least 24 species from the Tarras Water valley with a few grass moths being found with the net also.

In the Loch Urr area (VC73) the group held its fourth meeting with seven traps set on Friday 29th July. Highlights were two Great Brocade, proving residency still exists, a Wood Tiger that was netted on the viewing morning as was a Manchester Treble-bar, with a further two of that species caught the night before. Five species of grass moth were identified and as you would expect the fenland produced a dozen Haworth's Minor.

To return to the Checklist the following species using B&F numbers have been added during the year, this listing includes previous announcements on the web site, mainly from three visits to access specimens and data held at the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh. So the records do not necessarily relate to 2011:

VC72: 0038, 0129, 0130, 0332a, 0414, 0470, 0485, 0669, 0674, 0695, 0696, 0704, 0713, 0892, 0924, 0954, 0966, 0991, 0993, 1007, 1013, 1025, 1031, 1032, 1053, 1074, 1084, 1095, 1108, 1119, 1132, 1154, 1156, 1168, 1178, 1182, 1186, 1205a, 1257, 1272, 1279, 1306, 1363, 1367, 1386, 1508, 1849.

VC73: 0038, 0083, 0124, 0142, 0247, 0296, 0326, 0401, 0452, 0473, 0564, 0599, 0608, 0669, 0691, 0760, 0773, 0778, 0892, 0967, 1008, 1019, 1053, 1057, 1061, 1084, 1089, 1108, 1111a, 1148, 1156, 1158, 1168, 1251, 1268, 1271, 1432, 1433, 1801, 2068, 2399.

VC74: 0008, 0012, 0156, 0321, 0424, 0427, 0478, 0485, 0560, 0669, 0724, 0819, 0905, 1009, 1021, 1030, 1033, 1036, 1042, 1044, 1062, 1063, 1133, 1147, 1179, 1184a, 1219, 1246, 1257, 1271, 1272, 1283, 1307, 1363, 1413, 1458, 1497, 1513, 2093, 2195, 2400.

After closer scrutiny the following should be deleted:

VC72: 1361.

VC73: 0274, 0632.

VC74: 1361, 2384.

An updated pdf file will be available on the web site around the new year (2012).

Species names can be viewed on the web site pertaining to the B&F numbers.

The Garden Wildlife Festival public event held at Threave Gardens on 31st July proved popular until the rain came in the afternoon. The public

were treated to a bonanza of moths, over 1700 from five traps set around the grounds the previous night. Large Yellow Underwing featured heavily in the first Robinson trap, with about 230 specimens, and huge numbers in the other MVs as well. Highlight was the half-dozen Juniper Pugs caught and a dark-form of Willow Beauty.

For those of you interested in micros, *Bird-dropping Tortrix Moths of the British Isles* by Jon Clifton & Jim Wheeler, two Norfolk based moth-ers is well worth buying. Even better news is that Richard Lewington is over half way through his paintings of micros for a complete British micro book with Phil Sterling of Dorset.

For readers of Atropos, number 43, has a very good article on Scoparia and Eudonia grass moths which has to be used with Goaters book to aid identification. It definitely works as I have resolved some old photos.

The Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths by the Butterfly Conservation team gave us our first distribution maps of Noctuis since the mid-1980s and our first ever for the Geometrids. Again well worth buying.

One other item of interest is all Scottish CMRs are subscribing to a photo archive of each VC for posterity purposes which is displayed on the East of Scotland Butterfly Conservation web site. Future researchers will be able to check out Scottish species. It also features dot distribution maps for micros in Scotland.

Currently (August) our micro species accounts are being added to our web site. Our micro dataset will be sent to the NBN Gateway by DGERC in early winter so that the micro species maps will display the same as our macro species.

Keith Naylor (CMR)