

CARMARTHENSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP
NEWSLETTER ISSUE No.1
MAY 2006

Editor: Jon Baker (County Moth Recorder for VC44 Carmarthen)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome all, to the first issue of a monthly bulletin summarising the recording of lepidoptera in VC44. I hope you forgive my first attempt, and I welcome any suggestions for improving future newsletters. As this is my first attempt I'm going to keep it moderately simple and straightforward, but if this is successful and appreciated, I intend to expand future issues with articles on identification, analysis of species and in depth looks at some of the county's best habitats.

THE YEAR SO FAR

It was a very slow spring, with many species that have in recent years appeared in early April not making a showing until later. A spell of warm weather at the beginning of May encouraged a lot of things to catch up, but then the weather returned to unseasonably cool temperatures, along with wind and rain – making it the wettest May for at least 20 years.

HIGHLIGHTS

Despite it being a somewhat slow start to the year, there have been a number of interesting records already. Probably the most significant record made so far was on 12th May at Aberglasney Gardens, where two Micromoths were seen flying in sunshine mid-day. These turned out to be a *Stathmopoda* species – but not *S. pedella*.... The only *Stathmopoda* so far recorded in Europe. That means that the moths at Aberglasney are not only new for VC44, Wales and the UK, but also for Europe. One specimen is currently with the world expert on this group, and hopefully being determined to species. When we have a name for it, I will obviously let people know.

The National Botanic Garden was the site of the first new species for the county this year, when Dave Slade, visiting from Glamorgan, recorded cases of the micro *Infurcitinea argentimaculella* on a wall there. This species feeds on lichens and flies in July – so if you are at the NBG in July, take a net! Would like to have an adult record for the county.

The other addition to the county list was that of **Northern Drab** *Orthosia opima*, on 23rd April, when Julian Wormald and Martin Lovell caught several (photographed) on a mountain at Llanybydder. Although there are some records on the database for this species, none had been satisfactory and proven until now.

A **Seraphim** *Lobophora halterata* on 14th May at Rhydcwmerau (Martin Lovell and Julian Wormald) was the 8th county record (4th site).

An **Alder Kitten** *Furcula bicuspis* on 20th May, again at Rhydcwmerau (Julian Wormald and Martin Lovell) was the 5th county record, although there are a few more pending.

For the second year in a row **White Marked** *Cerastis leucographa* was caught at Rhydcwmerau (Martin Lovell), but was also caught in SN12 by Melanie Collier on 22nd April. This species has been reported from the Rothampsted Trap at Rhandirmywn several times, as well as from their trap at Trelech. But the Rhydcwmerau records and Melanie's are the first ones away from Rothampsted traps, and supported with photos.

A larva of **Orange Sallow** *Xanthia citrigo* was found at Green Castle Woods on 14th May, on the same lime tree that one was found in 2004 – and reared through. This being the only record for the county so far. If you have any limes near you, it might be worth checking them, as the caterpillar is fairly distinctive.

A **Bordered Straw** *Heliothis peltigera* was caught at MV light by Lee Walker at Gellywen (SN2723) on 27th May. Hopefully this is a sign that 2006 will be a good migrant year. This was the 8th county record and the first since 2003.

MICRO MOTHS

The following species of micro moth have been recorded in VC44 so far this year (to end of May 2006) with earliest date. Where the species is in italics, the record was of a non-imago stage. A species in RED indicates a new county record:

No.	<i>Scientific Name</i>	English Name	DATE
1	<i>Micropterix tunbergella</i>	Micro	16/05/2006
3	<i>Micropterix aureatella</i>	Micro	10/05/2006
4	<i>Micropterix aruncella</i>	Micro	29/05/2006
5	<i>Micropterix calthella</i>	Micro	25/05/2006
6	<i>Eriocrania subpurpurella</i>	Micro	24/04/2006
13	<i>Eriocrania semipurpurella</i>	Micro	22/04/2006
75	<i>Stigmella floslactella</i>	Micro	29/05/2006
111	<i>Stigmella microtheriella</i>	Micro	29/05/2006
130	<i>Incurvaria masculella</i>	Longhorn	10/05/2006
131	<i>Incurvaria oehlmanniella</i>	Longhorn	23/05/2006
140	<i>Nematopogon swammerdamella</i>	Longhorn	29/05/2006
141	<i>Nematopogon schwarziellus</i>	Longhorn	20/05/2006
148	<i>Nemophora degeerella</i>	Longhorn	29/05/2006
150	<i>Adela reaumurella</i>	Longhorn	10/05/2006
200	<i>Psychoides filicivora</i>	Micro	07/05/2006
203	<i>Infurcitinea argentimaculella</i>	<i>Micro</i>	04/02/2006
216	<i>Nemapogon cloacella</i>	Micro	20/05/2006
228	<i>Monopis weaverella</i>	Micro	07/05/2006
240	<i>Tinea pellionella</i>	Micro	00/04/2006
303	<i>Parornix anglicella</i>	Micro	03/05/2006
320	<i>Phyllonorycter quercifoliella</i>	Micro	26/05/2006
323	<i>Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae</i>	Micro	29/05/2006
337	<i>Phyllonorycter hilarella</i>	Micro	29/05/2006
361	<i>Phyllonorycter trifasciella</i>	Micro	07/05/2006
391	<i>Glyphipterix simpliciella</i>	Micro	20/05/2006
396	<i>Glyphipterix fuscoviridella</i>	Micro	25/05/2006
464	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamond-backed Moth	04/05/2006
485	<i>Schreckensteinia festaliella</i>	Micro	21/04/2006

607	<i>Elachista canapennella</i>	Micro	26/04/2006
610	<i>Elachista argentella</i>	Micro	25/05/2006
631	<i>Cosmiotes freyerella</i>	Micro	10/05/2006
633	<i>Cosmiotes stabilella</i>	Micro	29/05/2006
648	<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	White-shouldered House-moth	20/05/2006
649	<i>Esperia sulphurella</i>	Oecophorid	09/05/2006
663	<i>Diurnea fagella</i>	Oecophorid	15/04/2006
667	<i>Semioscopis steinkellneriana</i>	Oecophorid	15/04/2006
672	<i>Depressaria pastinacella</i>	Oecophorid	04/05/2006
688	<i>Agonopterix heracliana</i>	Oecophorid	29/03/2006
697	<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	Oecophorid	26/05/2006
701	<i>Agonopterix ocellana</i>	Oecophorid	29/03/2006
843	<i>Aproaerema anthylidella</i>	Gelechid	25/05/2006
882	<i>Mompha locupletella</i>	Momphid	23/05/2006
883	<i>Mompha raschkiella</i>	Momphid	26/05/2006
986	<i>Syndemis musculana</i>	Tortricid	07/05/2006
1007	<i>Capua vulgana</i>	Tortricid	16/05/2006
1054	<i>Acleris cristana</i>	Tortricid	10/05/2006
1142	<i>Epinotia tedella</i>	Tortricid	23/05/2006
1184	<i>Epiblema scutulana</i>	Tortricid	25/05/2006
1241	<i>Grapholita compositella</i>	Tortricid	25/05/2006
1251	<i>Grapholita jungiella</i>	Tortricid	25/05/2006
1255	<i>Cydia succedana</i>	Tortricid	07/05/2006
1257	<i>Cydia nigricana</i>	Tortricid	25/05/2006
1288	<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>	Twenty-plume Moth	05/05/2006
1301	<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>	Pyralid	26/05/2006
1333	<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>	Pyralid	26/05/2006
1342	<i>Eudonia angustea</i>	Pyralid	11/05/2006
1365	<i>Pyrausta despicata</i>	Pyralid	10/05/2006
1386	<i>Opsibotys fuscalis</i>	Pyralid	25/05/2006
1524	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	Plume Moth	08/05/2006

BUTTERFLIES

Below are the species I have recorded this year so far (to end of May 2006). Obviously as this doesn't include other observers' data, it is not a definitive list. Hopefully in future issues of this newsletter we can incorporate full butterfly data summaries.

No.	Scientific Name	English Name	DATE
1532	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Dingy Skipper	25/05/2006
1534	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grizzled Skipper	25/05/2006
1549	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	10/05/2006

1550	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White	28/05/2006
1551	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White	21/04/2006
1553	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange Tip	10/05/2006
1555	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Green Hairstreak	25/05/2006
1561	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper	25/05/2006
1569	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	Small Blue	25/05/2006
1574	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	25/05/2006
1580	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue	10/05/2006
1590	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	10/05/2006
1591	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady	28/05/2006
1593	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell	21/04/2006
1597	<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock	21/04/2006
1614	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood	21/04/2006
1627	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	25/05/2006

MACRO MOTHS

The following species of macro moth have been recorded in VC44 so far this year (to end of May 2006) with earliest date. Where the species is in italics, the record was of a non-imago stage. A species in RED indicates a new county record:

No.	<i>Scientific Name</i>	English Name	DATE
163			
4	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Lackey	25/05/2006
164			
0	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	Drinker	25/05/2006
1643	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	Emperor Moth	21/04/2006
1648	<i>Drepana falcataria</i>	Pebble Hook-tip	08/05/2006
1651	<i>Cilix glaucata</i>	Chinese Character	10/05/2006
1652	<i>Thyatira batis</i>	Peach Blossom	04/05/2006
1657	<i>Ochropacha duplaris</i>	Common Lutestring	14/05/2006
1659	<i>Achlya flavicornis</i>	Yellow Horned	28/03/2006
1660	<i>Polyploca ridens</i>	Frosted Green	24/04/2006
1663	<i>Alsophila aescularia</i>	March Moth	14/03/2006
1693	<i>Scopula floslactata</i>	Cream Wave	03/05/2006
1722	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	Flame Carpet	07/05/2006
1724	<i>Xanthorhoe spadicearia</i>	Red Twin-spot Carpet	04/05/2006
1725	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	03/05/2006
1728	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	09/05/2006
1738	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet	10/05/2006
1746	<i>Anticlea badiata</i>	Shoulder Stripe	02/04/2006
1747	<i>Anticlea derivata</i>	Streamer	19/04/2006

1750	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	Water Carpet	24/04/2006
1751	<i>Lampropteryx otregiata</i>	Devon Carpet	14/05/2006
1752	<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	Purple-bar	10/05/2006
1759	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix	26/04/2006
1760	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	Red-green Carpet	22/04/2006
1764	<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	23/05/2006
1768	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>	Grey Pine Carpet	25/05/2006
1769	<i>Thera britannica</i>	Spruce Carpet	06/05/2006
1773	<i>Electrophaes corylata</i>	Broken-barred Carpet	10/05/2006
1775	<i>Colostygia multistrigaria</i>	Mottled Grey	28/03/2006
1776	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	10/05/2006
1778	<i>Hydrimoena impluviata</i>	May Highflyer	14/05/2006
1799	<i>Operophtera brumata</i>	Winter Moth	03/01/2005
1807	<i>Perizoma albulata</i>	Grass Rivulet	25/05/2006
1819	<i>Eupithecia exiguata</i>	Mottled Pug	10/05/2006
1832	<i>Eupithecia assimilata</i>	Currant Pug	05/05/2006
1834	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	Common Pug	08/05/2006
1835	<i>Eupithecia tripunctaria</i>	White-spotted Pug	14/05/2006
1837	<i>Eupithecia subfuscata</i>	Grey Pug	29/04/2006
1840	<i>Eupithecia subumbrata</i>	Shaded Pug	25/05/2006
1844	<i>Eupithecia indigata</i>	Ochreous Pug	26/05/2006
1852	<i>Eupithecia abbreviata</i>	Brindled Pug	18/04/2006
1853	<i>Eupithecia dodoneata</i>	Oak-tree Pug	27/04/2006
1857	<i>Eupithecia tantillaria</i>	Dwarf Pug	10/05/2006
1858	<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	V-Pug	10/05/2006
1862	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	24/04/2006
1867	<i>Aplocera plagiata</i>	Treble-bar	25/05/2006
1875	<i>Asthena albulata</i>	Small White Wave	13/05/2006
1879	<i>Lobophora halterata</i>	Seraphim	14/05/2006
1881	<i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i>	Early Tooth-striped	11/04/2006
1883	<i>Acasis viretata</i>	Yellow-barred Brindle	10/05/2006
1887	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	09/05/2006
1888	<i>Ligdia adustata</i>	Scorched Carpet	03/05/2006
1890	<i>Macaria alternata</i>	Sharp-angled Peacock	25/05/2006
1893	<i>Macaria liturata</i>	Tawny-barred Angle	11/05/2006
1902	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	Brown Silver-line	10/05/2006
1903	<i>Plagodis pulveraria</i>	Barred Umber	10/05/2006
1904	<i>Plagodis dolabraria</i>	Scorched Wing	14/05/2006
1906	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	04/05/2006
1909	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>	Speckled Yellow	07/05/2006

1917	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	02/04/2006
1918	<i>Selenia lunularia</i>	Lunar Thorn	10/05/2006
1919	<i>Selenia tetralunaria</i>	Purple Thorn	24/04/2006
1920	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	Scalloped Hazel	10/05/2006
1926	<i>Apocheima pilosaria</i>	Pale Brindled Beauty	18/01/2006
1927	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	Brindled Beauty	14/04/2006
1930	<i>Biston strataria</i>	Oak Beauty	19/03/2006
1931	<i>Biston betularia</i>	Peppered Moth	14/05/2006
1932	<i>Agriopis leuchophaearia</i>	Spring Usher	19/02/2006
1934	<i>Agriopis marginaria</i>	Dotted Border	06/03/2006
1935	<i>Erannis defoliaria</i>	Mottled Umber	02/01/2006
1936	<i>Menophra abruptaria</i>	Waved Umber	05/05/2006
1947	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>	Engrailed	28/03/2006
1949	<i>Paradarisa consonaria</i>	Square Spot	27/04/2006
1951	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>	Grey Birch	24/04/2006
1952	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>	Common Heath	25/05/2006
1955	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	Common White Wave	09/05/2006
1956	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	Common Wave	10/05/2006
1957	<i>Lomographa bimaculata</i>	White-pinion Spotted	10/05/2006
1958	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	Clouded Silver	10/05/2006
1960	<i>Theria primaria</i>	Early Moth	10/02/2006
1968	<i>Semiaspilates ochrearia</i>	Yellow Belle	25/05/2006
1981	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk-moth	10/05/2006
1991	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Elephant Hawk-moth	26/05/2006
1995	<i>Cerura vinula</i>	Puss Moth	03/05/2006
1996	<i>Furcula bicuspis</i>	Alder Kitten	20/05/2006
2000	<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i>	Iron Prominent	16/05/2006
2003	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	Pebble Prominent	27/04/2006
2005	<i>Peridea anceps</i>	Great Prominent	28/04/2006
2006	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	Lesser Swallow Prominent	04/05/2006
2007	<i>Pheosia tremula</i>	Swallow Prominent	12/05/2006
2008	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	Coxcomb Prominent	10/05/2006
2011	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	Pale Prominent	10/05/2006
2014	<i>Drymonia dodonaea</i>	Marbled Brown	10/05/2006
2015	<i>Drymonia ruficornis</i>	Lunar Marbled Brown	24/04/2006
2028	<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>	Pale Tussock	09/05/2006
2039	<i>Atolmis rubricollis</i>	Red-necked Footman	29/05/2006
2060	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine	11/05/2006
2061	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Buff Ermine	05/05/2006
2063	<i>Diaphora mendica</i>	Muslin Moth	06/05/2006

2064	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger	10/05/2006
2069	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	25/05/2006
2078	<i>Nola confusalis</i>	Least Black Arches	04/05/2006
2089	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	26/05/2006
2102	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	05/05/2006
2107	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	20/05/2006
2123	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	25/05/2006
2126	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	26/05/2006
2139	<i>Cerastis rubricosa</i>	Red Chestnut	06/04/2006
2140	<i>Cerastis leucographa</i>	White-marked	22/04/2006
2158	<i>Lacanobia thalassina</i>	Pale-shouldered Brocade	11/05/2006
2159	<i>Lacanobia suasa</i>	Dog's Tooth	26/05/2006
2173	<i>Hadena bicruris</i>	Lychnis	11/05/2006
2179	<i>Panolis flammea</i>	Pine Beauty	24/04/2006
2182	<i>Orthosia cruda</i>	Small Quaker	02/04/2006
2184	<i>Orthosia opima</i>	Northern Drab	23/04/2006
2186	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	Powdered Quaker	22/04/2006
2187	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	Common Quaker	02/04/2006
2188	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	Clouded Drab	29/03/2006
2189	<i>Orthosia munda</i>	Twin-spotted Quaker	13/04/2006
2190	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character	14/03/2006
2221	<i>Shargacucullia verbasci</i>	Mullein	11/05/2006
2236	<i>Lithophane hepatica</i>	Pale Pinion	22/04/2006
2237	<i>Lithophane ornitopus</i>	Grey Shoulder-knot	02/04/2006
2241	<i>Xylena vetusta</i>	Red Sword-grass	28/03/2006
2243	<i>Xylocampa areola</i>	Early Grey	02/04/2006
2256	<i>Eupisilia transversa</i>	Satellite	14/03/2006
2258	<i>Conistra vaccinii</i>	Chestnut	18/01/2006
227			
1	<i>Xanthia citrigo</i>	Orange Sallow	14/05/2006
2289	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	12/05/2006
2291	<i>Craniophora ligustri</i>	Coronet	14/05/2006
2306	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	Angle Shades	12/02/2006
2326	<i>Apamea crenata</i>	Clouded-bordered Brindle	26/05/2006
2380	<i>Charanyca trigrammica</i>	Treble Lines	26/05/2006
2397	<i>Panemeria tenebrata</i>	Small Yellow Underwing	25/05/2006
2403	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	Bordered Straw	27/05/2006
2425	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	Nut-tree Tussock	26/04/2006
2441	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	08/05/2006
2449	<i>Abrostola triplasia</i>	Dark Spectacle	16/05/2006
2450	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	Spectacle	11/05/2006

2462	<i>Callistege mi</i>	Mother Shipton	25/05/2006
2469	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	Herald	24/04/2006
2470	<i>Phytometra viridaria</i>	Small Purple-barred	25/05/2006

Thank you to all those who have contributed records to this bulletin: Julian Wormald, Martin Lovell, Melanie Collier and Lee Walker. Hopefully other people will be able to contribute in the coming months. If it is agreed that this newsletter is appreciated and worthwhile I am happy to try and summarise June's records. Please could all records for June be sent to be at the close of the month, and I'll start work on them on the 2nd or 3rd of July. Any suggestions or requests for future issues, please get in touch. As I said at the start – I've kept this one very basic, as it is just a test run.

JON BAKER
Moth Recorder for VC44 Carmes
14 Job's Well Rd
CARMARTHEN
SA31 3HG

01267 221681
Mothboy8@aol.com