

Isle of Wight Moth Report 2017

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Isle of Wight Moth Report 2017

Introduction

The year saw a decrease in recording effort but although overall numbers were down the diversity of species recorded remained high. This was thanks in no small part to the excellent work undertaken by visiting lepidopterists which helped produce the second highest species count for any year.

Survey work for target species was also reduced and for the first time in many years there was no trapping for Beautiful Gothic (*Leucochlaena oditis*). One species that was searched for, but without success, was *Sclerocona acutellus* and it appears that the colony found at Afton Marsh in 2010 may have died out. However, we got good news in November when the identity of the adventive from Parkhurst Forest was finally confirmed as *Barea asbolaea*.

Migrant numbers were down but it is difficult to assess whether it was a poor migrant season as some regular trapping sites were inactive during the autumn.

By the end of the season there were 14200 records of 907 moth species including 11 new VC records, 254 new hectad records and 604 new tetrad records. A total of 44 recorders sent in data from 225 sites.

Notes:

- Species name is followed by authority and national status
- All records are of adult moths to MV traps, unless otherwise stated
- New vice county records are indicated with highlighted species names
- New hectad (10km squares) records are indicated by an asterisk after the site name
- Sequence and nomenclature follows Agassiz, Beavan and Heckford ¹

With so many moth species recorded it has been necessary to exclude many from the report so the more common and widespread species are not described. The following criteria for the inclusion in the report were established for the combined Hants and IW Report and are continued here.

- Scarce species at vice county level
- Fewer than 25 county records
- Scarce species with fewer than 50 county records in new hectads
- Otherwise notable records such as those indicating significant range expansion, unusual migration

Systematic list

Micropterigidae

1.001 Micropterix tunbergella

(Fabricius, 1787)

Uncommon

This day-flying moth is usually found in woodland from May into June. Little is known of the larval stage but adults can be found feeding on pollen of various tree species, typically oak, sycamore and hawthorn. There were two records in 2017 with one swept at Town Copse on 22 April and one swept at Parkhurst Forest on 25 May.

Nepticulidae

4.003 Stigmella confusella

(Wood, 1894)

Common

Vacated mines on Birch (*Betula spp.*) were reported from Middleton* on 12 September and from Mottistone Forest* on 16 September and 14 October.

4.005 Stigmella betulicola

(Stainton, 1856)

Local

Occupied mines on Birch (*Betula spp.*) reported from Mottistone Forest* on 16 September and 14 October were a new VC record.

4.024 Stigmella magdalenae

(Stainton, 1853)

Local

Recorded for only the second time on the Island, vacated mines were found on Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) at Middleton* on 12 September.

4.024 Stigmella obliquella

(Heinemann, 1862)

Local

There are just five previous IW records, all concerning leaf mines, as were the three reports from 2017. Vacated mines were found on willow (*Salix sp.*) at Town Copse* on 07 October and at Mottistone Forest* on 14 October. Occupied mines were found on Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*) at Freshwater* on 21 October.

4.039 Stigmella trimaculella

(Haworth, 1828)

Common

A mine found on poplar (*Populus sp.*) at Totland Bay on 12 August was the only record.

Occupied mines were found on Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) at Golden Hill Country Park* on 23 September.

4.062 Stigmella samiatella

(Zeller, 1839)

Local

Five mines, two tenanted, in Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) growing alongside gravel track at Parkhurst Forest on 25 June. Six mines in Sweet Chestnut at Brighstone Forest on 11 July.

4.091 Ectoedemia heringi

(Toll, 1934)

Local

A leaf mine found on Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) at Mottistone Forest* on 16 September and numerous mines on oak at Golden Hill Country Park on 23 September and at Town Copse, Newtown on 7 October were the fifth to seventh records for this species.

Opostegidae

5.001 Opostega salaciella

(Treitschke, 1833)

Local

The larvae of this species feed on the leaves of Sheep's Sorrel (Rumex acetosella) which can be found throughout the county, but the moth remains scarce with just five previous records. The majority of reports are from a regular garden trapping site in Shanklin rather than in association with the food plant. Singles were taken in Shanklin on 05 and 10 July, whilst two came to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm* on 10 July.

Heliozelidae

6.004 Heliozela resplendella

(Stainton, 1851)

Local

Rarely reported and all IW records are of leaf mines. There was one report in 2017, of two leaf mines and cut-out on leaves of Grey Alder (*Alnus incana*) from the Western Yar on 08 July.

Adelidae

7.014 Nematopogon metaxella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

Probably under-recorded owing to potential confusion with other Nematopogon species but there has been an increase in records since 2010. Two from 2017 involved one at Afton Marsh on 14 June and one to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 23 June. The larvae feed within leaf litter in a moveable case.

Incurvariidae

8.003 Incurvaria oehlmanniella

(Hübner, 1796)

Common

One at Briddlesford Copse on 16 May was the second record for the Island, the other is from the adjacent Firestone Copse in 2014.

8.005 Phylloporia bistrigella

(Haworth, 1828)

Common

Occupied mines were found on Birch at two new locations with one at Mottistone Forest* on 16 September and one at Golden Hill Country Park* on 23 September.

Psychidae

11.009 Luffia ferchaultella

(Stephens, 1850)

Common

This is an unusual parthenogenetic species in which only the wingless female is known. The larvae feed on lichen from within a moveable case and can be found on tree trunks, branches, gravestones and walls. There are only 17 previous records of this species on the Island so eight records from 2017 is exceptional. One larval case was found at Waytes Court, Brighstone on 18 April with another at The Needles* on 20 April and one at East Cowes on 22 April. Eight larvae were found on an oak tree next to A3055 at Afton Marsh on 15 May. A single larva was found on the wall of a house in Shanklin on 18 May. One larval case was found on Elm in a hedgerow off Laundry Lane on 24 May. Two larvae were beaten from trees at Parkhurst Forest South on 25 May and three larvae were found on hawthorn at Marlborough Road pond, Newport on 10 June.



Luffia ferchaultella – Shanklin

Tineidae

12.010 Morophaga choragella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

First recorded in 1996 there are just five previous reports of this species. One came to actinic light at Bonchurch* on 06 July.

This is a distinctive Tineid moth whose larvae feed on bracket fungi. One came to MV at Parkhurst Forest on 01 June.

12.012 Triaxomera parasitella

(Hübner, 1796)

Local

There were two records in 2017 with singles in Shanklin on 02 and 21 June.

12.021 Nemapogon clematella

(Fabricius, 1781)

Local

One at Parkhurst Forest* on 23 August was from a new hectad with previous county records restricted to Yarmouth and Shanklin. The larvae feed on fungi and on decaying timber from a number of tree species. This was the 1000th moth species recorded by Stephen Plummer.

12.027 Case-bearing Clothes Moth (Tinea pellionella)

Linnaeus, 1758

Local

One of ten specimens found indoors in Shanklin between 13 May and 22 July was retained and confirmed by gen. det.

12.028 Tinea dubiella

Stainton, 1859

Nationally scarce (Na)

One taken by dusking at Freshwater on 10 August is a new VC record (gen. det. Brian Elliott).

12.032 Tinea semifulvella

Haworth, 1828

Common

Two records were from new hectads for this species with one to MV at Parkhurst Forest* on 01 June and one found by torchlight at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July.

12.033 Tinea trinotella

Thunberg, 1794

Common

Formerly believed to be uncommon on the Island, this species has been recorded annually since 2010 and was probably overlooked previously. Singles were taken in Shanklin on 02 June, to actinic light at Walter's Copse on 24 June and also to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 01 August.

Roeslerstammiidae

13.002 Roeslerstammia erxlebella

(Fabricius, 1787)

Local

A distinctive moth whose larvae mine the leaves of Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) and Birch (*Betula spp.*). Four adults were recorded at light at Afton Marsh on 01 July.

Gracillariidae

15.001 Parectopa ononidis

(Zeller, 1839)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Typically found in calcareous grassland where the larvae mine the leaves of Red Clover. It has not been recorded on the Island for more than a century so one at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest* on 12 August is an important find.

15.003 Caloptilia populetorum

(Zeller, 1839)

Local

One was recorded at Parkhurst Forest* during a 24 hour recording marathon on 10 June however the specimen was not retained.

15.001 Caloptilia rufipennella

(Zeller, 1839)

Common

A single mine was found on Sycamore at Mottistone Forest* on 16 June.

15.018 Povolnya leucapennella

(Stephens, 1835)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The majority of IW records are concentrated in west Wight. One by day at Totland Bay on 12 August was the only report.

15.026 Parornix fagivora

(Frey, 1861)

Local

Vacated and occupied mines found on Beech (Fagus sylvatica) at Mottistone Forest* on 14 October is only the third record for the Island.

15.044 Phyllonorycter sorbi

(Frey, 1855)

Common

Vacated mines were found on Rowan at Middleton* on 30 September and occupied mines were found at Witches Wood, Totland on 22 October.

15.058 Phyllonorycter hilarella

(Zetterstedt, 1839)

Common

Usually recorded at the larval stage when mines can be found in Sallow species (*Salix spp.*) so one to MV at Afton Marsh* 19 July is a rare record of the adult moth and the seventh for the county.

15.082 Phyllonorycter klemannella

(Fabricius, 1781)

Common

Several on leaves of Grey Alder (Alnus incana) beside the road at Freshwater Causeway on 24 June.

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Upper surface 'snail' mines on leaves of White Poplar (*Populus alba*) at St. Helens on 03 July and at Whitecliff, Bembridge on 04 July. Vacated mines found at Afton Marsh tip road on 22 July.

Yponomeutidae

16.003 Apple Ermine (Yponomeuta malinellus)

Zeller, 1838

Local

One in Shanklin on 29 June and two on 06 July with singles in Shanklin Upper Chine on 06 July and 27 August.

16.007 Yponomeuta plumbella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

One by day at Lukely Brook, Carisbrooke* on 30 June. The larvae feed on Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*).

16.014 Pseudoswammerdamia combinella

(Hübner, 1786)

Common

The few IW records are from scattered locations. One in Shanklin on 02 June was the only report this year.

16.019 Paraswammerdamia albicapitella

(Scharfenberg, 1805)

Common

One at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point* on 26 September was new for hectad SZ47.

16.020 Paraswammerdamia nebulella

(Goeze, 1783)

Common

Fresh specimens may be identified by eye but otherwise these require dissection. One to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 10 July was confirmed by gen. det.

Ypsolophidae

17.002 Ypsolopha nemorella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

Widely distributed but at low density and infrequently recorded on the island. The larvae feed on Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and the imago has a distinctive dark spot on the forewing. Two were trapped at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

17.005 Ypsolopha scabrella

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Common

Another distinctive ypsolophid which is common in much of southern England but is scarce on the Island. One in Shanklin on 15 July was the only report.

Widespread and common in oak woodland across the Island but with fewer records than might be expected. One report was from a new hectad with a single to MV at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July.

Plutellidae

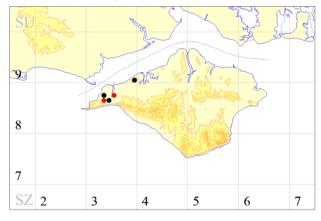
18.003 Plutella porrectella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

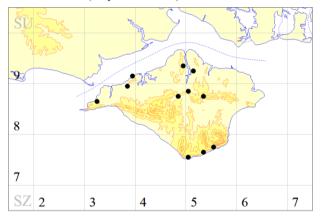
Common

The larval food plant Dame's-violet (*Hesperis matronalis*) is scarce on the Island so it unsurprising that there are few records of this moth. There is no apparent correlation between the scattered records of the plant and the moth records which are concentrated in West Wight, perhaps suggesting IW records are not local. One to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 10 July was the only record.

18.003 a moth (Plutella porrectella)



975 Dame's-violet (Hesperis matronalis)



Glyphipterigidae

19.001 Orthotelia sparganella

(Thunberg, 1788)

Local

Local in marshes and waterside locations, records are concentrated in suitable habitat which is accessible to trapping effort. Five came to light at Afton Marsh on 01 July with one netted there on 06 July.

19.006 Glyphipterix forsterella

(Fabricius, 1781)

Local

Two at Parkhurst Forest South* during the IW Bioblitz on 02 June were the third and fourth records for the Island.

19.007 Cocksfoot Moth (Glyphipterix simpliciella)

(Stephens, 1834)

Common

A common and widespread day-flying grassland species. One record was from a new hectad with two by day at St. Catherine's Road, Niton* on 01 July.

20.005 Argyresthia trifasciata

Staudinger, 1871

Local

One came to light at Parkhurst Forest South on 10 June and was the second record for the county.

20.007 Argyresthia cupressella

Walsingham, 1890

Naturalised

Probably now found throughout the Island but still not common. Reports are concentrated at sites with continued recording activity. There was only one record in 2017, to MV light in Shanklin on 30 May.

20.013 Argyresthia pygmaeella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

There are only seven previous records, mostly from West Wight. Ten came to a variety of MV and actinic lights at St. Catherine's Point on 19 June.

20.019 Apple Fruit Moth (Argyresthia conjugella)

Zeller, 1839

Common

Previously unrecorded on the Island, presumably owing to confusion with *A. spinosella* and *A. semifusca* so one in Shanklin* on 31 May was a new VC record. A further eight specimens were taken during the year with one at Parkhurst Forest* on 01 June and three in Shanklin on 02 June. Two were recorded at Parkhurst Forest South on 10 June and two in Shanklin Upper Chine on 17 June.



Apple Fruit Moth (Argyresthia conjugella) – Parkhurst Forest

The is just one historical record of this species from early in the last century. One was collected by day at Brading Marsh on 03 July and subsequently confirmed by gen. det. In the south of England the larvae feed primarily on shoots of Hawthorn.

20.022 Argyresthia bonnetella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

Singles were recorded to MV in Freshwater on 08 July and 04 August with one by day in Freshwater on 05 August. The final report was one at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest on 12 August.

Lyonetiidae

21.007 Leucoptera lathyrifoliella

(Stainton, [1865])

pRDB2

The continued presence of this species on the SE coast of the Island was confirmed with many blotch mines, probably over 100, present on leaves of Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) at Bonchurch on 01 July. Numerous mines found on the slope above Monk's Bay on 05 July and at least 120 blotch mines found on the cliff below Rylstone Gardens at Appley Steps, Shanklin on 22 July.

Praydidae

22.003 Prays ruficeps

(Heinemann, 1854)

Local

One to actinic at Brook Down quarry on 12 July, collected and photographed.

Autostichidae

27.001 Oegoconia quadripuncta

(Haworth, 1828)

Common

There were three records of males in 2017, each confirmed by gen. det. including one from a new hectad. One to actinic at Bonchurch on 02 July, one to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 10 July and one in Shanklin* on 19 July.

Oecophoridae

28.015 Batia lunaris

(Haworth, 1828)

Common

There were singles to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 12 and 13 July, the latter confirmed by gen. det. and a further three at Afton Marsh on 19 July.

28.017 Batia lambdella

(Donovan, 1793)

Local

There are just ten previous records with all but one form west Wight. Two to actinic at Brook Down quarry on 12 July was the only report.

28.028 Barea asbolaea

(Meyrick, 1884)

Adventive

Specimens of this adventive moth have been collected from Parkhurst Forest each year since 2014 but their identity was not confirmed until 2017. The moth is native to Australia and was first recorded in the UK from Cornwall. It has not been reported from anywhere else in the UK until the specimen was found in 2014 at Parkhurst. In order to confirm the species it was necessary to collect and examine a male specimen. Fifteen were recorded on 01 June, of which 13 were collected, but all the specimens proved to be female. A further twelve were collected on 07 July. Two of these were male and gen. det. was completed by Brian Elliott. The distinctive bifurcate valvae confirmed the species as Barea asbolaea and as a new species for the Island.





Barea asbolaea – Parkhurst Forest

Barea asbolaea gen. det.

Lypusidae

30.003 Pseudatemelia josephinae

(Toll, 1956)

Local

Two came to light at Parkhurst Forest* on 07 July with a female specimen retained and confirmed by dissection.

Depressariidae

32.007 Agonopterix ocellana

(Fabricius, 1775)

Common

A total of six was recorded during torchlight searches at Rocken End* over two nights on 14 March and 27 March.

One by day at Freshwater Bay on 16 April. One netted at Afton Marsh on 06 July with another to light at the same site on 09 July.

32.032 Agonopterix angelicella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

There were three records in 2017 all from Afton Marsh with two on 29 June, one to actinic on 04 July and two on 19 July.

32.035 Agonopterix yeatiana

(Fabricius, 1781)

Local

Reported annually since 2010 and there were two more records this year. One to actinic at Waytes Court, Brighstone* on 17 April and one netted at Afton Marsh on 06 July.

Cosmopterigidae

34.004 Limnaecia phragmitella

Stainton, 1851

Common

A common fenland species but with few IW records prior to 2015. Two were recorded at Afton Marsh on 01 July with singles at the same site on 17 July and 01 August.

34.005 Cosmopterix zieglerella

(Hübner, [1810])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One by day at Afton Marsh on 26 June and five by day on Hop (*Humulus lupulus*) also at Afton Marsh on 30 June. These are the second and third records for the Island.



Cosmopterix zieglerella – Afton Marsh © Phil Barden

Nationally scarce (Na)

Reported with increasing frequency there were a further nine records in 2017. There were two at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June and one came to actinic at Afton Marsh on 25 June. Daytime records from Afton Marsh included two on 25 June, three on 26 June, two on 29 June, six on 30 June and two on 08 July. Fifty came to MV at Afton Marsh from the section to the South of Blackbridge Road on 01 July and one was recorded at Parkhurst Forest* on 07 July.

34.009 Cosmopterix pulchrimella

Chambers, 1875

Nationally scarce (Na)

One by day at Steephill Cove on Pellitory-of-the-wall (*Parietaria judaica*) and several vacant mines also present on 27 June. Larvae on Pellitory-of-the-wall were watched ejecting frass from opening near base of mine at Shalfleet Church* on 05 September.

34.010 Cosmopterix lienigiella

Lienig & Zeller, 1846

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Almost all recent records come from Afton Marsh and 2017 was no exception with one on 14 June, one on 15 June, two to actinic on 25 June and fifty on 01 July. The only other site with reports was nearby at Freshwater Causeway where ten were recorded on 06 July.

Gelechiidae

35.020 Anarsia spartiella

(Schrank, 1802)

Local

A species of heaths and downs with occasional records elsewhere. There were two reports in 2017. The first in Shanklin on 09 July and the other by day from Headon Warren on 15 July.

35.028 Brachmia blandella

(Fabricius, 1798)

Common

A common and widespread species, one of twelve records in 2017 was from a new hectad with two at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July.

35.033 Platyedra subcinerea

(Haworth, 1828)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Although this species is abundant in parts of Hampshire it is rarely recorded on the Island. One to MV at Compton Bay cliffs on 07 August is the seventh county record.

35.037 Thiotricha subocellea

(Stephens, 1834)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One photographed on 29 June at Mottistone Down* was the fourth record for the Island.

One to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 08 July was confirmed by gen. det.

35.058 Metzneria metzneriella

(Stainton, 1851)

Common

Three came to a combination of MV and actinic lights at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June.

35.060 Apodia bifractella

(Duponchel, [1843])

Local

A day-flying moth but will also come to light. The only record was one by day at Totland Bay on 12 August.

35.061 Ptocheuusa paupella

(Zeller, 1847)

Local

One by day at Clamerkin on 18 June. One at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest on 12 August. Another specimen was found on Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) at Bonchurch on 25 August and one came to light in Shanklin on 26 August.



Ptocheuusa paupella – Hillis Gate © Dave Cooke

Stenolechia gemmella – Shanklin

35.073 Monochroa palustrellus

(Douglas, 1850)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The third county record was one trapped at Brown's Golf Course, Sandown on 17 June.

Common in Hampshire but rare on the Island where there are just six previous records. Singles were taken in Shanklin on 05 and 15 July.

35.143 Teleiodes luculella

(Hübner, [1813])

Common

There were only two records prior to 2013 but it has been recorded annually since then. One in Shanklin on 17 June was the only report.

35.160 Stenolechia gemmella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

Widespread but nowhere common in oak woodland across Hampshire and not previously seen on the Isle of Wight. One collected in Shanklin Upper Chine on 27 August was a new VC record with a second trapped the following night at another site in Shanklin.

35.161 Parachronistis albiceps

(Zeller, 1839)

Local

A distinctive gelechiid which was first recorded on the Island in 2013 and remains scarce. Singles were reported from Shanklin on 17 and 19 June. The larvae feed within the shoots of Hazel.

Batrachedridae

36.001 Batrachedra praeangusta

(Haworth, 1828)

Common

Almost certainly under-recorded but has been reported annually since 2011. One in Shanklin on 25 July was the only record in 2017.

Coleophoridae

37.003 Coleophora limoniella

(Stainton, 1884)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The larvae feed within the seed heads of Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*) so it is not surprising to find records concentrated in the coastal northwest of the Island. One was seen by day at woodland edge at Clamerkin on 18 June.

37.022 Coleophora lusciniaepennella

(Treitschke, 1833)

Common

Larval case found on Grey Willow (Salix cinerea) at Beaper Farm, Ryde on 29 May.

37.033 Large Clover Case-bearer (Coleophora trifolii)

(Curtis, 1832)

Common

Two came to a combination of MV and actinic lights at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June.

A larval case was found on Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) at Totland Bay* on 30 September.

37.048 Coleophora mayrella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

The first since 1959 was taken at actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 09 July with the specimen retained and identity confirmed by gen. det.

37.050 Coleophora albidella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

One to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 23 June was confirmed by dissection. This is the second record for the Island.

37.059 Coleophora vibicella

(Hübner, [1813])

pRDB2

Four larval cases were found on shoots of Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*) at Newtown meadows on 24 June and two adult moths at Newtown meadows on 13 August.







Coleophora vibicella – Newtown © Tim Norriss

37.061 Coleophora lixella

Zeller, 1849

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Four to actinic light at Compton Down on with one by day at the same site 29 June. Four to actinic light at Freshwater Bay also on 29 June.

Parametriotidae

39.001 Blastodacna hellerella

(Duponchel, 1838)

Common

One by day at Mottistone Down* on 29 June. Singles in Shanklin on 29 June and 16 July. One to actinic at Bonchurch on 02 July.

Momphidae

40.002 Mompha ochraceella

(Curtis, 1839)

Common

There were two records in 2017 both from Shanklin with two on 21 June and two on 30 June.





Mompha ochraceella – Shanklin

Coleophora mayrella - Freshwater

40.003 Mompha lacteella

(Stephens, 1834)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Two at Parkhurst Forest* on 01 June is the second record for the county.

40.014 Mompha terminella

(Humphreys & Westwood, 1845)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One in Shanklin on 30 May. Vacated leaf mines found on Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) at Freshwater playing fields on 22 July.

Stathmopodidae

42.002 Stathmopoda pedella

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Six were found by day on leaves of Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) beside the road at Freshwater Causeway on 24 June with two there on 25 June. One, also on Common Alder, was found beside the Western Yar cycle path on 26 June.

Pterophoridae

45.009 Tansy Plume (Gillmeria ochrodactyla)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One came to actinic light at Bonchurch on 07 July was a new VC record. The specimen was retained and identity confirmed by gen. det.



Tansy Plume (Gillmeria ochrodactyla) – Bonchurch © Phil Barden

45.012 Brown Plume (Stenoptilia pterodactyla)

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Common

There was just one report in 2017 with a single in Shanklin on 02 July.

45.021 Dowdy Plume (Stenoptilia zophodactylus)

(Duponchel, 1840)

Local

One by day at Brook Down Quarry on 12 July.

45.023 Crescent Plume (Marasmarcha lunaedactyla)

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

This is a species of downland, sand dunes and shingle beaches with occasional wanderers recorded elsewhere. There were a further eleven records in 2017 with one from a new hectad, one by day at The Needles* on 09 July.

Very rare immigrant

One by day at Mottistone Down* on 29 June was tentatively identified using wing features and subsequently confirmed by dissection. This is the second record for the Island.

45.028 Wood Sage Plume (Capperia britanniodactylus)

(Gregson, 1869)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

There are just seven previous records of this species and until now were concentrated in the northwest of the Island. One to light at Brighstone Forest on 03 July was from a new hectad.

45.034 Dingy White Plume (Merrifieldia baliodactylus)

(Zeller, 1841)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Typically found on chalk downland where the larvae feed on Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*). One was seen by day on Mottistone Down* on 02 July.

45.037 Dusky Plume (Oidaematophorus lithodactyla)

(Treitschke, 1833)

Local

One to actinic light at Walter's Copse on 24 June was confirmed by gen. det.

45.038 Plain Plume (Hellinsia tephradactyla)

(Hübner, [1813])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

A larva found on Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*) during a fungus foray at Parkhurst Forest on 30 September was identified from a photo (det. Colin Hart) and is a new VC record.





Hellinsia tephradactyla – Parkhurst Forest © S. Plummer

Schreckensteinia festaliella – Shanklin

Schreckensteiniidae

46.001 Schreckensteinia festaliella

(Hübner, [1819])

Uncommon

Still uncommon on the Island but recorded more frequently since 2008. There were three reports in 2017 with one at Bonchurch on 29 March, one in Shanklin on 30 March and one by day at Headon Warren on 23 July.

Choreutidae

48.005 Tebenna micalis

(Mann, 1857)

Rare immigrant

The fourth for the Island was recorded in Bonchurch on 18 October.

Tortricidae

49.001 Olindia schumacherana

(Fabricius, 1787)

Local

Still recorded from just two sites on the Island, the only report from 2017 was of two at Hungerberry Copse, Shanklin on 17 June. Fourteen of the sixteen IW records have come from this site.

49.005 Epagoge grotiana

(Fabricius, 1781)

Common

One to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 23 June and one to actinic at Burnt House Copse, Alverstone on 04 July.

49.018 Choristoneura hebenstreitella

(Müller, 1764)

Local

This species is usually found in mature woodlands but is occasionally recorded in other habitats. One came to light at Afton Marsh on 01 July.

49.050 Grey Tortrix (Cnephasia stephensiana)

(Doubleday, [1849])

Common

Two to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 26 June, both confirmed by gen. det. One to actinic at Bonchurch on 05 July was also confirmed by gen. det.

49.057 Cnephasia longana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

There were two reports, both of moths seen by day at Compton Down on 01 July. One record of three moths and the other a singleton.

49.058 Spatalistis bifasciana

(Hübner, [1787])

Local

The first IW record was in 1972 with no further reports until 2009. Since then it has been recorded from six more sites suggesting it has been overlooked in the past. A single report from 2017 involved two at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

49.075 Acleris umbrana

(Hübner, [1799])

Nationally scarce (Na)

First reported on the Island in 2014, there were two further records this year with singles in Shanklin on 06 July and at Shanklin Upper Chine on 26 October.



Acleris umbrana – Shanklin

49.076 Acleris cristana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

Singles were recorded in Shanklin on 08 January, 15 February and 18 March. In Bonchurch singles were recorded on 09 January, 29 and 30 March and 06 April.

49.076 Acleris aspersana

(Hübner, [1817])

Common

A common species of grassland habitats there were two records from a new hectad in 2017, one by day from Culver Down* on 04 July and one to light at the same site on 05 July.

49.080 Acleris hastiana

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

One was netted during a torchlight search at Rocken End* on 14 March.

49.087 Acleris literana

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

The majority of records come from the north of the Island but several have been recorded from Shanklin in recent years. There were two records from 2017 with one in Shanklin on 29 March and two at the same site the following day.

This species is found in a number of habitat types and primarily from the NW of the Island. 2017 was a good year with 23 records received, including from two new hectads. Four came to light at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June and two were seen at the Butterfly Conservation moth night at Firestone Copse* on 12 July.

49.096 Hysterophora maculosana

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

The first county record since 1969 was of one seen flying among Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) at Brighstone Common* on 21 April.

49.111 Eupoecilia angustana

(Hübner, [1799])

Common

This species has been recorded more frequently since 2012, probably the result of increased observer effort. Two reports in 2017 involved one in Ventnor on 24 August and one in Shanklin on 27 August.

49.120 Aethes smeathmanniana

(Fabricius, 1781)

Common

One to light at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June and one in Shanklin on 21 August.

49.121 Aethes tesserana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

One at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June. One by day at Mottistone Down* on 29 June with another there on 02 July. Singles were also recorded at Brook Down Quarry on 05 and 12 July and at Main Bench on 09 July.

49.122 Aethes dilucidana

(Stephens, 1852)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

There are just eight previous records of this species on the Island. One to actinic light at Compton Down on 29 June was confirmed by gen. det.

49.124 Aethes francillana

(Fabricius, 1794)

Local

Usually found on downland where the larvae feed on Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*). One was trapped at Highdown Cliffs, 04 July.

49.127 Aethes cnicana

(Westwood, 1854)

Common

One to light at Parkhurst Forest South on 10 June. Two at Afton Marsh to the South of Blackbridge Road on 01 July with another there on 17 July. One at Tennyson Down on 02 July and four at Brighstone Forest East* on 03 July.

Two records were from new hectads for this species. The first came to light at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June and the second was taken at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July.

49.133 Cochylis nana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

This is a species of Birch woodland with only one previous county record, from 1900. One was collected at Parkhurst Forest South on 10 June.

49.136 Cochylis hybridella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

One by day at Compton Down on 12 July was confirmed by gen. det.

49.150 Apotomis betuletana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

Two came to a combination of MV and actinic traps at Firestone Copse on 12 July.

49.155 Hedya salicella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

Less common on the Island than in Hampshire but this species has been recorded annually since 2014 from scattered locations. There were five at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June and a further five at Afton Marsh on 01 July.

49.162 Celypha rosaceana

Schläger, 1847

Local

There are just ten county records, concentrated at regular trapping sites. The only report from 2017 was of one at Shanklin Upper Chine on 06 July.



Celypha rosaceana – Shanklin

There are just five previous records of this species on the Island. One was seen by day at Newtown Meadows on 13 August.

49.180 Piniphila bifasciana

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

The first of the year was recorded in Shanklin Upper Chine on 21 June, with different singles in Shanklin on 04 July and 05 July. One at Parkhurst Forest* on 07 July was new for hectad SZ49.

49.183 Lobesia abscisana

(Doubleday, [1849])

Common

Records from the Island are concentrated in West Wight. There were two to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 23 June and another there on 10 July. One to actinic at Freshwater Bay on 29 June and one at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July. Singles were recorded in Shanklin on 06 and 10 July and one at the Butterfly Conservation moth night at Firestone Copse* on 12 July.

49.184 Lobesia reliquana

(Hübner, [1825])

Local

First recorded on the Island in 2009 and reported with increasing frequency there were nine records in 2017. One at Parkhurst Forest on 03 May. Singles in Shanklin on 15 and 19 May. One at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 23 May. Two at Parkhurst Forest on 01 June and one at Parkhurst Forest South on 10 June. One at Afton Marsh on 15 June.



Lobesia reliquana - Shanklin

Usually found in coastal areas, two were seen by day at Tennyson Down on 25 June.

49.188 Endothenia marginana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

Although males can be identified by examining the hindwings, female specimens are more problematic. One to actinic light at Brook Down quarry on 12 July was confirmed by gen. det.

49.190 Endothenia ustulana

(Haworth, 1811)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One trapped in Freshwater on 19 August is the first record since Fassnidge (1900-1937). The specimen was retained and confirmed by gen. det. (Brian Elliott).



Endothenia ustulana – Freshwater © Dave Cooke

49.191 Endothenia nigricostana

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

There are just three previous records of this unobtrusive species. The larval food plant is Hedge Woundwort and it is suspected the moth may be more widespread and found wherever Woundwort grows. One by day in Shanklin was netted and photographed on 04 June.

49.195 Bactra furfurana

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

As the larvae of this moth feed inside stems of Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and Compact Rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*) most records are from marshes but with occasional reports from elsewhere. One at Freshwater Cliffs on 24 May was the third record for the county.



Bactra furfurana – Freshwater Cliffs © Sue Davies

49.199 Eucosmomorpha albersana

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

The third county record was one at Briddlesford Copse* on 16 May. The larvae feed on Honeysuckle.

49.209 Ancylis diminutana

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

There are two previous records, one historical and one from 2011. One came to MV light at Afton Marsh on 23 May.

49.216 Ancylis mitterbacheriana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

A common species of deciduous woods where the larvae feed on Oak and Beech. Three to a combination of MV and actinic lights at Briddlesford Copse on 16 May. One at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 23 May and four at Parkhurst Forest on 01 June.

49.221 Rhopobota stagnana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One by day at Limerstone Down* on 19 April and one by day at Brook Down Quarry on 12 July was confirmed by gen. det.

49.231 Epinotia brunnichana

(Linnaeus, 1767)

Common

Typically found in birch woodland and scarce on the Island there were only four records prior to 2010 since when it has been reported annually. One record from 2017 was of one at Afton Marsh* on 29 June.

This species is local throughout its range and on the Island it has been reported from just two sites. One in Shanklin on 06 July was the fifth county record.

49.238 Willow Tortrix (Epinotia cruciana)

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Local

There have been just five previous records of this species on the Island from scattered localities. Three reported during the year involved one at Afton Marsh on 15 June, eight at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June and four at Afton Marsh on 01 July.



Willow Tortrix (Epinotia cruciana) – St. Catherine's Point

49.240 Epinotia immundana

(Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1839)

Common

This is another species that has been reported annually since 2010. One to actinic light at Afton Marsh on 25 August.

49.248 Nut Bud Moth (Epinotia tenerana)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

Singles were recorded in Shanklin on 25 June, 09 and 25 July. There was one at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July and one in Shanklin Upper Chine on 06 July.

49.249 Epinotia ramella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

One at Parkhurst Forest on 10 June and one in Shanklin on 03 August were the only reports.

There are just four previous records from Cranmore, Bouldnor, Walter's Copse and Parkhurst. One was seen during the 24-hour recording challenge at Parkhurst Forest on 10 June. The larvae feed on Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

49.254 Epinotia bilunana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

This species is typically found in Birch woodland and heaths where the larvae feed within the Birch catkins. Six were recorded at light in Parkhurst Forest on 10 June.

49.272 Eucosma tripoliana

(Barrett, 1880)

Local

One by day at Cassey Lake, Newtown on 11 August is the first record since 1977. Locally distributed in salt marshes, all IW records are from the northwest of the Island close to suitable habitat.



Eucosma tripoliana – Newtown © Dave Cooke

49.280 Gypsonoma oppressana

(Treitschke, 1835)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The third record for the Island was of one to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 25 June.

49.288 Epiblema foenella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

A distinctive moth but infrequently recorded on the Island. One came to actinic light at Bonchurch on 05 July.

There were two records from a new hectad, one at Briddlesford Copse* on 16 May and one at Firestone Copse on 12 July. The only other record was of one in Shanklin on 30 May.

49.324 Pea Moth (Cydia nigricana)

(Fabricius, 1794)

Common

One was swept from a verge at Newtown on 29 May (conf. Mike Wall) and one came to actinic at Afton Marsh on 03 July.

49.332 Cydia coniferana

(Saxesen, 1840)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The second record of this species for IW, one came to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 13 July and was confirmed by gen. det.





Cydia coniferana – Freshwater © Phil Barden

Epinotia bilunana – Parkhurst Forest

49.342 Cydia fagiglandana

(Zeller, 1841)

Common

At Parkhurst Forest there were twelve on 01 June, five on 07 July and one on 23 August. The only other record was of two in Shanklin on 18 July.

49.345 Lathronympha strigana

(Fabricius, 1775)

Common

The only record was of one in Shanklin* on 23 August. A common species in much of Britain but scarce on the Island where this is only the tenth record.

49.349 Grapholita internana

(Guenée, 1845)

Local

One was found by day during the Bioblitz in the southern part Parkhurst Forest on 02 June. Locally common on gorse where the larvae feed within the seed pods. The majority of IW records are concentrated in west Wight.

Probably under-recorded this is a small tortrix moth whose larvae feed inside Hawthorn berries. An adult was recorded at MV from a new hectad in Shanklin* on 30 June.

49.379 Pammene aurana

(Fabricius, 1775)

Common

A very distinctive moth that is usually seen on Hogweed. One by day at St. Catherine's Road, Niton* on 01 July.

49.381 Strophedra weirana

(Douglas, 1850)

Local

Twenty at Parkhurst Forest on 01 June with a further three there on 07 July.

Sesiidae

52.003 Lunar Hornet Moth (Sesia bembeciformis)

(Hübner, [1806])

Common

This impressive day-flying moth is rarely recorded on the Island. One was photographed at Haseley Manor on 04 June.

52.012 Yellow-legged Clearwing (Synanthedon vespiformis)

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The first record since 2004 was of two attracted to pheromone near Oak trees (*Quercus sp.*) on the edge of a ride at Mark's Corner, Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.



Lunar Hornet Moth (Sesia bembeciformis)

– Haseley Manor © Selena Bone



Yellow-legged Clearwing (Synanthedon vespiformis)

– Mark's Corner © Phil Barden

52.014 Six-belted Clearwing (Bembecia ichneumoniformis) ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

There were seven records in 2017 with six of those of moths attracted to pheromone lures. Seven at Brook Down Quarry on 05 July, five at Rew Down on 08 July, three at Main Bench and one at Alum Bay on 09 July. Eight at The Needles* on 09 July and five at Brook Down Quarry on 12 July. The only record not involving pheromone was of one at St. Catherine's Point on 05 July.

Limacodidae

53.002 Triangle (Heterogenea asella)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

RDB3

Ten were recorded at a variety of MV and actinic traps at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

Zygaenidae

54.009 Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet (Zygaena lonicerae)

(Scheven, 1777)

Common

The burnets are conspicuous day flying moths. This species is more common than Five-spot Burnet (*Zygaena trifolii*) but there are still fewer than twenty IW records. Eight were recorded at Afton Down Chalk Pit on 10 June.

Pyralidae

62.006 Wax Moth (Achroia grisella)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

One at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June was new for that hectad. Singles were also recorded at Freshwater Cliffs on 20 June, Shanklin on 16 July and at Afton Marsh on 17 July.

62.010 Elegia similella

(Zincken, 1818)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Two reports involved ten at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July and a single to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 13 July.

62.015 Delplanqueia dilutella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

This species is associated with chalk and limestone cliffs and almost all the IW records come from the Tennyson Down and Needles area. Six came to MV at Tennyson Down on 02 July and six were netted at the same location on 05 July.

62.023 Pempelia palumbella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

A species of heathland where the larvae feed on Heather, Heath Milkwort and Wild Thyme. Most IW records are from coastal sites. One at Freshwater Cliffs on 20 June.

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One at Afton Marsh on 01 July and one to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 13 July. The latter confirmed by gen. det.

62.028 Dioryctria abietella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

Five in Shanklin on 21 June included four at Hungerberry Copse and one at Upper Chine. Another single was recorded in Shanklin on 04 July.

62.030 Hypochalcia ahenella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This is a rare chalk downland specialist. Two came to actinic light at Freshwater Bay on 29 June.

62.034 Acrobasis repandana

(Fabricius, 1798)

Common

Singles were recorded in Shanklin on four dates from 21 June to 19 July. One to actinic at Bonchurch* on 06 July. One at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

62.038 Acrobasis consociella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

Reasonably common in Oak woodland across the Island there were five records in 2017 with one of those from a new hectad. Four at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July.

62.057 Phycitodes maritima

(Tengström, 1848)

Local

Three pupae at Monk's Bay were found in Ragwort heads (Senecio sp.) on 05 July and were collected. Three adults emerged on 18 July, with a male confirmed by gen. det.

62.065 Ephestia unicolorella

Staudinger, 1881

Local

A male to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 26 June was confirmed by gen. det.

62.069 Anerastia lotella

(Hübner, [1813])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The majority of recent records come from Norton Spit from where three came to MV on 05 July. More unusual was one in Shanklin* on 06 July.

62.076 Hypsopygia glaucinalis

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

Found around farm buildings, sheds and gardens where the larvae feed on detritus in bird's nests. There were three records in 2017. One at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July and singles to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 19 July and 26 September.

Crambidae

63.016 Anania fuscalis

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

After a number of records in 2016 just one was reported this year. One by day at Freshwater Cliffs on 24 May.

63.027 Psammotis pulveralis

(Hübner, 1796)

Immigrant

An occasional immigrant from Europe all of the IW records are from the same site. One at Moons Hill, Totland on 19 July is the fourth county record.

63.041 Agrotera nemoralis

(Scopoli, 1763)

pRDB1

The national status of this moth is based on the established colony at Blean Woods in Kent with records elsewhere, including those on the Island, presumed to involve immigrants. One in Shanklin on 31 May was the 2nd IW record. That was quickly followed by one in Bonchurch* on 19 June and another to an actinic light at Flowers Brook, Ventnor on the same night. A fourth was taken at actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm* on 23 June.



Agrotera nemoralis – Shanklin

63.046 Duponchelia fovealis

Zeller, 1847

Rare immigrant

One to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater* on 25 July and one in Bonchurch on 28 August were the third and fourth for IW.

Rare immigrant

There are just six previous records of this rare migrant with four of those occurring in 2006. One in Shanklin* on 18 October.





Duponchelia fovealis © Stephen Plummer

Antigastra catalaunalis – Shanklin

63.054 Cydalima perspectalis

(Walker, 1859)

Adventive

There were two records; one at Tennyson Down on 02 July and one melanic moth at East Cowes on 14 October. In addition there were four reports of larvae during the Royal Horticultural Society Box Tree Caterpillar survey. The RHS reports were from Cowes and East Cowes between 29 July and 31 August but have not been passed on to the CMR.

63.060 Evergestis pallidata

(Hufnagel, 1767)

Common

Found in damp woodlands where the larvae feed on Winter-cress (*Barbarea vulgaris*). One in Shanklin Upper Chine on 03 July.

63.072 Eudonia delunella

(Stainton, 1849)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One at Freshwater Cliffs* on 12 June and one at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

63.076 Euchromius ocellea

(Haworth, 1811)

Scarce immigrant

A scarce migrant appearing primarily in early spring and to a lesser extent in autumn. One at Moons Hill, Totland on 18 October was the only record.

There were nine records in 2017 two of which were from new hectads for this species. The first to actinic at Afton Marsh on 16 June. One at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June. One to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 25 June. At Afton Marsh there were four on 29 June, five on 01 July and five to actinic on 08 July. Three came to actinic at Alverstone Marsh on 04 July, two at the Westbrook Centre, Pondwell* on 05 July and fourteen at Freshwater Causeway on 06 July.

63.079 Calamotropha paludella

(Hübner, [1824])

Local

Two at Afton Marsh on 01 July with singles there on 17 and 19 July. One at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 26 September.

63.103 Catoptria verellus

(Zincken, 1817)

Rare immigrant

In recent years this immigrant moth has been recorded more frequently. Singles were recorded in Bonchurch on 22 June and in Shanklin on 06 July and 15 July.



Catoptria verellus – Shanklin

63.116 Small China-mark (Cataclysta lemnata)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

An exceptional year for this species saw 15 reports. There were singles at Freshwater Causeway on 06 July, at Afton Marsh on 17 July and in Shanklin on 19 July. One at Freshwater on 10 August, one at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst* on 12 August and a further nine over six nights at Freshwater between 13 August and 29 September.

Common

Reported with greater frequency in recent years with the majority coming from West Wight. There were six records in 2017; two at Afton Marsh on 29 June, five at Freshwater Causeway on 06 July, one in Shanklin also on 06 July. One to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 12 July and one to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 16 July. The final record was one at Afton Marsh on 17 July.

63.120 Schoenobius gigantella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

The only record from 2017 was of one at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

63.121 Donacaula forficella

(Thunberg, 1794)

Local

Infrequently recorded and with the majority of reports form west Wight. One to actinic light at Afton Marsh on 03 July.

Drepanidae

65.012 Satin Lutestring (Tetheella fluctuosa)

(Hübner, [1803])

Local

The only previous record of this species on the Island dates from 1982. One was taken at Firestone Copse* during a Butterfly Conservation mothing event on 12 July.



Satin Lutestring (Tetheella fluctuosa) – Firestone Copse

Sphingidae

69.005 Death's-head Hawk-moth (Acherontia atropos)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Immigrant

A final instar larva was found on and olive tree growing in a pot on patio at Ryde on 22 August. The larva was collected on 25 August and bred through with the adult moth emerging on 10 October.



Death's-head Hawk-moth larva (Acherontia atropos) – Ryde

69.015 Striped Hawk-moth (Hyles livornica)

(Esper, [1804])

Rare immigrant

There were two records in 2017 with the first in Shanklin on 22 May and the other at Moons Hill, Totland on 19 August.

69.018 Silver-striped Hawk-moth (Hippotion celerio)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Immigrant

The fourth county record was of one at Freshwater Causeway on 01 October.

Geometridae

70.004 Least Carpet (Idaea rusticata)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

Singles were recorded to actinic at Bonchurch on 07 July and at Freshwater Cliffs on 10 July. The larvae feed on a number of plants, particularly Traveller's joy (*Clematis vitalba*) and Common Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

RDB3

One at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June was the only record.

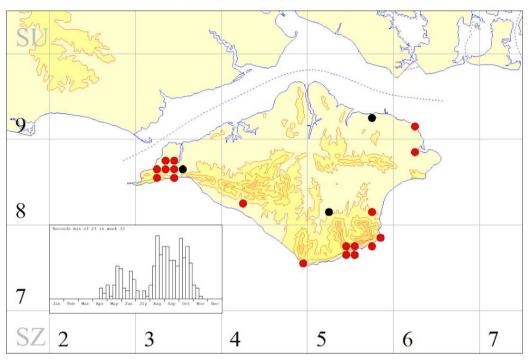
70.033 Blair's Mocha (Cyclophora puppillaria)

(Hübner, [1799])

Adventive and immigrant

This species is increasingly common on the Island and 2017 saw a record number of reports with 53 records of 120 individuals. Those reports included three from new hectads with records from St. Catherine's Point, Brighstone and from Seaview.

70.033 Blair's Mocha (Cyclophora puppillaria)



70.034 Jersey Mocha (Cyclophora ruficiliaria)

(Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)

Immigrant

Two to actinic at Afton Marsh* on 17 July with another two to MV on 19 July.

70.068 Beautiful Carpet (Mesoleuca albicillata)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

Two records in 2017 with one at Parkhurst Forest on 01 June and one at Brighstone Forest East* on 03 July.

70.084 Blue-bordered Carpet (Plemyria rubiginata)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

One to actinic at Cranmore on 14 June. Two to a combination of MV and actinic traps at Afton Marsh on 15 June. Five at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June and one in Shanklin Upper Chine, on 21 June. Eight were taken at Hungerberry Close, Shanklin between 18 June and 10 July. One at Afton Marsh on 29 June.

Infrequently recorded there were five reports in 2017. One to actinic at Afton Marsh on 22 May. One by day at Freshwater Causeway on 29 June. Five at Afton Marsh on 01 July and two at Freshwater Causeway on 06 July. Two at Parkhurst Forest* on 07 July.

70.119 Dark Umber (Philereme transversata)

(Hufnagel, 1767)

Local

Far less common on the Island than in Hampshire, most records are concentrated at Cranmore. One was trapped at on actinic light at Town Copse on 24 June.

70.129 Dentated Pug (Anticollix sparsata)

(Treitschke, 1828)

Nationally scarce (Na)

In recent years this has been reported only from West Wight and primarily from Afton Marsh and it was this site that generated a further four records in 2017; four on 14 June, five on 15 June, two on 29 June and ten on 01 July. One other record was one to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 24 June.



Dentated Pug (Anticollix sparsata) – Afton Marsh

70.145 Bilberry Pug (Pasiphila debiliata)

(Hübner, [1817])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One to MV at Tennyson Down on 02 July was the 2nd IW record and a welcome find, the only other record dating from 1981.

70.148 Maple Pug (Eupithecia inturbata)

(Hübner, [1817])

Local

One to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit on 13 July was confirmed by gen. det.

There are just nine previous records of Netted Pug. Typically found on coastal cliffs on chalk and limestone where the larvae feed on the seeds of Bladder Campion (*Silene vulgaris*) or Sea Campion (*Silene maritima*). One came to MV at St. Catherine's Point* on 19 June.



Netted Pug (Eupithecia venosata) – St. Catherine's Point

70.189 Shaded Pug (Eupithecia subumbrata)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

One to actinic at Compton Down on 29 June. Another to actinic at Bonchurch on 02 July, confirmed by gen. det. Two at Brighstone Forest East* on 03 July.

70.201 Barred Tooth-striped (*Trichopteryx polycommata*) ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Na)

Typically found on chalk downland where the larvae feed primarily on Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) this species was first recorded on the Island in 1993. In recent years it has been found at two locations with St. Catherine's Point being the most reliable site. Torchlight searches of the privet at Rocken End produced two on 14 March and another two on 27 March.

70.223 Barred Umber (Plagodis pulveraria)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

Two to a combination of MV and actinic lights at Briddlesford Copse on 16 May.

70.248 Brindled Beauty (Lycia hirtaria)

(Clerck, 1759)

Common

One in Shanklin on 01 April with two at the same site on 13 April.

Common

Reported more frequently in recent years, there were eight records in 2017. The first report involved two at Parkhurst Forest on 01 June with ten there on 07 July. There were singles in Shanklin on 19 June and at Brighstone Forest on 03 July. Two came to actinic light at Mark's Corner on 09 July and one to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 10 July. Three were recorded at Firestone Copse during the Butterfly Conservation moth night on 12 July and the final record was one to actinic light at Brook Down quarry also on 12 July.

70.267 Great Oak Beauty (Hypomecis roboraria)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

There were two records from hectad SZ48 with one by day at Orchards Caravan Park, Newbridge* on 02 July and two to MV at Brighstone Forest on 03 July.

70.297 Grass Emerald (Pseudoterpna pruinata)

(Hufnagel, 1767)

Common

One in Shanklin Upper Chine on 21 June. One to actinic at Compton Down on 29 June. One to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 30 June and six to actinic at Brook Down guarry on 12 July.

Notodontidae

71.010 Marbled Brown (Drymonia dodonaea)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

Although this species has declined it remains common in oak woodland on the Island. All records for 2017 came from the north of Parkhurst Forest where there were twelve on 03 May, a record count of seventy on 10 May and two on 01 June.

Frebidge

72.034 Crimson Speckled (Utetheisa pulchella)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Immigrant

This is a rare immigrant to southern counties, one at Moons Hill, Totland on 25 October is the seventh record for the county.

72.047 Hoary Footman (Eilema caniola)

(Hübner, [1808])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

A scarce species of cliffs and shingle beaches but which does appear to be increasing parts of its range but still infrequent on the Island. Two reports from 2017 were of one in Shanklin* on 06 July and one in Shanklin Upper Chine on 10 July.

72.056 Common Fan-foot (Pechipogo strigilata)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Nationally scarce (Na)

This moth has not been seen on IW since 1988. One was recorded at Brighstone Forest on 03 July.

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Although quite common in parts of the New Forest this is scarce on the Island. One at Parkhurst Forest* on 07 July was the eleventh record and the first to be recorded outside Freshwater since 1959.

72.065 Levant Blackneck (Tathorhynchus exsiccata)

(Lederer, 1855)

Rare immigrant

One to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 21 April was a new VC record. This moth which was seen on the outside of the trap during the evening but not collected, was fortunately still on the outside of the trap in the morning!



Levant Blackneck (Tathorhynchus exsiccata) – Freshwater © Stephen Plummer

72.070 Olive Crescent (Trisateles emortualis)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

RDB3

This is a priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan but has been increasing in recent years. It is resident at a few locations in southeast England, now appears to be spreading west and the increasing numbers reported from the Island suggest that it may now be resident here. A further two records in 2017 involved four at Brighstone Forest East on 03 July and seven at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

Immigrant

With just thirteen previous records on the Island, nine from 2017 was an exceptional year. Singles were recorded at Moons Hill, Totland on 22 June and 23 October and to actinic at Bonchurch on 01 July, two locations in Bonchurch on 02 July and another on 07 July. Three came to MV at Afton Marsh on 01 July and one was seen by day at Compton Down on 08 July. The final record of the year was one in Shanklin* on 25 October.



Small Marbled (Eublemma parva) – Shanklin

72.076 Clifden Nonpareil (Catocala fraxini)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Immigrant

This impressive migrant moth is almost certainly now established in several locations in southern England and on the Island has been recorded annually since 2006. One in Shanklin on 23 August. One to actinic light at Cranmore on 30 August. One at Moons Hill, Totland on 19 September. Singles were recorded at Freshwater Causeway on 02, 04 and 05 October.

72.079 Rosy Underwing (Catocala electa)

(Vieweg, 1790)

Rare immigrant

Another at Moons Hill, Totland on 27 August is the fourth for the Island of this rare migrant.

72.082 Light Crimson Underwing (Catocala promissa)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

RDB3

One to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater* was found on the outside a garden trap after returning from a moth trapping session at Afton Marsh, 19 July.

Noctuidae

73.003 Ni Moth (Trichoplusia ni)

(Hübner, [1803])

Immigrant

One at Wheelers Bay, Ventnor on 08 July was the only record.

73.010 Dewick's Plusia (Macdunnoughia confusa)

(Stephens, 1850)

Scarce immigrant

There are only nine previous records of this rare immigrant which was first recorded on the Island in 2001. Two more records from 2017 were one to actinic light at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 24 September and two at Freshwater Causeway on 01 October.



Dewick's Plusia (Macdunnoughia confusa) – Golden Ridge, Freshwater © Stephen Plummer

73.027 Silver Barred (Deltote bankiana)

(Fabricius, 1775)

RDB3

Small populations exist in the Cambridgeshire fens with other records resulting from occasional immigration. One at Moons Hill, Totland on 20 June was the first for the county.

73.0301 Druid (Aedia funesta)

(Esper, 1786)

Rare immigrant

This very rare immigrant has been recorded just seven times in the UK, including one from Totland in 2016. The second county record came in 2017 with a male to MV at Afton Marsh on 01 July.

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One was collected at Parkhurst Forest* on 10 June and a second was in Shanklin* on 01 July.

73.100 Silky Wainscot (Chilodes maritima)

(Tauscher, 1806)

Local

Two records from 2017 involved one to actinic at Alverstone Marsh on 04 July and five at Freshwater Causeway on 06 July.

73.106 Orache Moth (Trachea atriplicis)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Rare immigrant

This species was first recorded on the Island in 1996. One was trapped in Bonchurch on 15 July.



Orache Moth (Trachea atriplicis) – Bonchurch © James Halsey

73.141 Brown-veined Wainscot (Archanara dissoluta)

(Treitschke, 1825)

Local

One to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 17 July was the only report.

73.142 Small Rufous (Coenobia rufa)

(Haworth, 1809)

Local

Found in marshes and water meadows where the larvae feed on various rushes, but they are occasional found away from this habitat. One such record was a single in Shanklin on 06 July.

Records of this species are infrequent, from scattered locations around the Island and never more than two individuals. One record in 2017 was unusual with ten at Afton Marsh on 01 July.

73.164 Reddish Light Arches (Apamea sublustris)

(Esper, 1788)

Local

Singles at St. Catherine's Point on 19 June and at Highdown Cliffs on 04 July were the only records.

73.168 Double Lobed (Lateroligia ophiogramma)

(Esper, 1794)

Local

It was a good year for this species with six records. The first was at Freshwater Cliffs on 20 June. In Shanklin there was one 30 June and two on 06 July. One at Tennyson Down on 02 July, one in Shanklin Upper Chine on 03 July and two at Freshwater Causeway on 06 July.

73.170 Lesser Common Rustic (Mesapamea didyma)

(Esper, 1788)

Common

One to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 12 July was confirmed by gen. det.

73.178 Beautiful Gothic (Leucochlaena oditis)

(Hübner, [1822])

RDB3

This rare species is one of the Island's more important moths and is usually the subject of targeted survey work at the peak of the flight period in early October. However no survey was undertaken in 2017 and we have just one record of fourteen at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 26 September.

73.179 Orange Sallow (Tiliacea citrago)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

Although common where lime trees are established this moth does not come readily to light traps so there are few records. Two records in 2017 is unusual. One was collected at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 26 September and there was one at Freshwater Causeway on 05 October.

73.183 Dusky-lemon Sallow (Cirrhia gilvago)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

Always uncommon on the Island, this species has suffered with the loss of the larval host plant, Wych Elm. Recent records are all from the Freshwater area including one to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 25 September.

73.209 Red Sword-grass (Xylena vetusta)

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

Very scarce on the Island where there are just twelve previous records. The flight period is September-October and following hibernation from March-April so one at Moons Hill, Totland on 15 January is an early record.

This moth is scarce on IW and is recorded on a less than annual basis. There was one report from 2017, a singleton at Afton Marsh on 17 July.

73.218 Latticed Heath (Chiasmia clathrata)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

Although common in grassland and heaths on the mainland this is scarce on the Island. Two were reported from Bonchurch where singles were taken on 17 and 22 August.

73.222 Dingy Shears (Apterogenum ypsillon)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

One at Freshwater Cliffs on 20 June and one to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 04 July.

73.227 Sombre Brocade (Dichonioxa tenebrosa)

(Esper, 1789)

Immigrant

This rare immigrant has been recorded annually since 2012 and in increasing numbers, however the only record from 2017 was one at Luccombe on 12 October.

73.261 Grey Arches (Polia nebulosa)

(Hufnagel, 1766)

Common

Less common on IW than on the adjacent mainland but recorded annually since 2014. Four reports in 2017 involved singles to actinic at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 26 and 27 June. There was one at Tennyson Down on 02 July and one at Brighstone Forest* on 03 July.

73.268 Splendid Brocade (Lacanobia splendens)

(Hübner, [1808])

Immigrant

The first British record was from Kent in June 2003 and the first reported on the Island was a month later. Since then there have been more than 200 records from southern counties and as this species now occurs throughout northern France so we might expect the number of records to continue to increase. In 2017 there were five records with singles at Moons Hill, Totland on 30 June and 28 September and two there on 29 September. One was trapped at Afton Marsh on 01 July and one at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point* on 26 September.

73.302 Obscure Wainscot (Lacanobia obsoleta)

(Hübner, [1803])

Local

This is scarce on the Island where there have been only eight previous records. One at Brown's Golf Course, Sandown on 18 June is the second this century.

73.303 Devonshire Wainscot (Leucania putrescens)

(Hübner, [1824])

Nationally scarce (Na)

One at Moons Hill, Totland on 22 August was a new VC record and almost certainly an immigrant.





Devonshire Wainscot (Leucania putrescens)

– Totland © Stephen Plummer

Obscure Wainscot (Leucania obsoleta)

– Sandown © Ian Boyd

73.312 Square-spot Dart (Euxoa obelisca)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This species inhabits sea cliffs and records on the Island are concentrated from the Needles to Compton and from St. Catherine's Point to Ventnor. Four reports in 2017 included one at Freshwater Cliffs on 27 August, one at The Needles New Battery on 28 August, one at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 26 September and one to actinic at Golden Ridge, Freshwater on 08 October.

73.330 Radford's Flame Shoulder (Ochropleura leucogaster)

(Freyer, [1831])

Rare immigrant

It was an excellent year for this rare immigrant with eight new records in 2017. Five were taken at Moons Hill, Totland between 26 September and 28 October. One was at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point* on 26 September. One was at Freshwater Causeway on 06 October and one at Luccombe on 11 October.

73.332 Purple Clay (Diarsia brunnea)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

Another good year for records of this species there were six reports during 2017. Singles were seen in Shanklin on 13 June, 19 June and 19 July. One at Tennyson Down on 02 July. Five at Brighstone Forest East* on 03 July and one at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July.

73.341 Northern Rustic (Standfussiana lucernea)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

Now very rare on the Island, the first record since 1997 was of one at Highdown Cliffs on 04 July.

73.347 Langmaid's Yellow Underwing (Noctua janthina)

[Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775

Rare immigrant

Singles to actinic at Bonchurch on 01, 06 and 07 July. One at Norton Spit on 05 July. One at Culver Down* on 05 July and two at Freshwater Causeway on 06 July.

Nationally scarce (Na)

Not seen on the Island since 1995 there was one record from the traditional site at Parkhurst Forest with two to MV on 07 July.

Some of the others

With so many moth species seen during the year it is impossible to include everything. Here are few images of some of the other species that were recorded during the year. The figure in parentheses is the number of previous IW records.



Cydia amplana (47) – Freshwater © Tim Norriss







Chocolate-tip (Clostera curtula) (75)



Dolicharthria punctalis (55) Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point



Bird's Wing (Dypterygia scabriuscula) (39) Shanklin



Striped Hawk-moth (Hyles livornica) (31) – Shanklin







Streamer (Anticlea derivata) (158) – Parkhurst



Saltmarsh Plume (Agdistis bennetii) (35) – Newtown Creek © Dave Cooke



Eyed Hawk-moth (Smerinthus ocellata) (204)

Freshwater © Stephen Plummer



Pale Prominent (Pterostoma palpina) (361) Freshwater Cliffs © Sue Davies

And to finish, two stunning photographs



Dark Spectacle (Abrostola triplasia) (177) – Freshwater © Tim Norriss



Humming-bird Hawk-moth (Macroglossum stellatarum) (812) – Wheelers Bay, Ventnor © Andy Butler

Migrant summary

Totals recorded of the most common migrant moths

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Diamond-back Moth (Plutella xylostella)			11	4	22	89	786	1		4			917
Rusty-dot Pearl (<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>)	2			5	28	33	64	81	14	140	25		392
Palpita vitrealis					2			1	1	32	4		40
Rush Veneer (Nomophila noctuella)			5	1	14	14	57	48	10	18			167
Convolvulus Hawk-moth (Agrius convolvuli)							1	2	2	4			9
Humming-bird Hawk-moth (Macroglossum stellatarum)*		2	4	1		2	12	6	4	3			34
Jersey Mocha (Cyclophora ruficiliaria)							4						4
Vestal (Rhodometra sacraria)						2		3	2	57			64
Gem (Nycterosea obstipata)									1	4			5
Clifden Nonpareil (Catocala fraxini)								1	1	3			5
Dewick's Plusia (Macdunnoughia confusa)									1	2			3
Silver Y (Autographa gamma)				3	65	36	189	38	12	49	1		393
Scarce Bordered Straw (Helicoverpa armigera)						1		18	10	9			38
Small Mottled Willow (Spodoptera exigua)						6	5			4			15
Clancy's Rustic (Caradrina kadenii)									1	7			8
Delicate (Mythimna vitellina)						3	4	2	65	113			187
White-speck (Mythimna unipuncta)							1			1			2
Pearly Underwing (Peridroma saucia)					1		1	2	10	25			39
Dark Sword-grass (Agrotis ipsilon)			2	3	6	9	57	41	1	15			134
Radford's Flame Shoulder (Ochropleura leucogaster)									3	5			8
Totals	2	2	22	17	138	195	1181	244	138	495	30	0	2464

^{*} Includes daytime records

References

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In accordance with guidance received from Butterfly Conservation regarding compliance with GDPR, all records in this report have been anonymized with one exception where express permission was granted by the observer. All photographs are with permission and copyright as indicated.

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Title page: Double Lobed (Lateroligia ophiogramma) – Shanklin Unless otherwise stated photographs © Iain Outlaw