

Expanded features

Lepidoptera update by Iain Outlaw

Although the summer months produced vastly improved moth numbers the range of species was not exceptional. However there were some notable highlights and some unexpected finds.

A few migrant moths were recorded at the start of June with **Rosy Marbled (*Elaphria venustula*)** and **Scarce Bordered Straw (*Helicoverpa armigera*)** in Bonchurch on 3rd and **Orache Moth (*Trachea atriplicis*)** was trapped in Shanklin on 19th.

Four **Red-tipped Clearwing (*Synanthedon formicaeformis*)** came to pheromone lure at Afton March on 23rd June which was only the second time this species had been recorded on the Island, but this was quickly followed by 19 to pheromone at Sandown Water Works on 27th, two at Afton Marsh on 28th and four at Haseley Manor on 04th July. ***Nascia cilialis*** was recorded at Freshwater on 23rd June and in Shanklin ***Agrotera nemoralis*** trapped on 20th and 25th were probably immigrants but this species is a potential colonist. At the end June ***Argolamprotes micella*** was trapped in Shanklin, a new species for IW.

A **Large Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis polychloros*)** flew into a workshop near Brighstone on 1st July and on the same day a **Druid (*Aedia funesta*)** was trapped in Bonchurch.

Towards the end of July several good immigrants appeared. Plumed Fan-foot was recorded at Wheelers Bay, Ventnor on 24th. ***Paracorsia repandalis*** was reported from Totland on 26 July; if confirmed it will be a first record for IW. On 27th a **Pale Shoulder (*Acontia lucida*)** was trapped in Totland and a **Four-spotted (*Tyta luctuosa*)** in Carisbrooke. Finally on 31 July, ***Ancylolomia tentaculella***, a new species for the Island was trapped in Shanklin. Until 2019 this moth had been recorded just six times in the UK, but July saw a small influx with other records from Dorset, Kent, Suffolk, Norfolk and West Sussex.

A **Death's Head Hawk-moth (*Acherontia atropos*)** larva was found at an allotment in Ryde on 12 August. Elsewhere, an actinic moth trap at Cranmore produced two particularly noteworthy moths. A **White Spot (*Hadena albimacula*)** on 17 August, which has been recorded only once before. This was followed by a **Neglected Rustic (*Xestia castanea* f. *neglecta*)** on 30 August, the first on the Island since 1951.

September has been much quieter but has seen five **Clifden Nonpareil (*Catocala fraxini*)** recorded with two in Bonchurch, two in Shanklin and one at Freshwater Cliffs.

Hemiptera

Several aphid species have been recorded for the first time on the Island. ***Cinara acutirostris*** was found on Corsican Pine in Shanklin on 9th June, **Beech Aphid (*Phyllaphis fagi*)** found at Shanklin Big Mead on 14th and **Tansy Aphid (*Macrosiphoniella tanacetaria*)** **pictured** at Sandown Airport on the same day. Finally, **Small Willow Aphid (*Aphis farinosa*)** was recorded at Shide Quarry on 21st June.

Other new species included the leafhopper ***Metidiocerus rutilans*** from a moth trap in Shanklin on 8th August and 3rd instar nymphs of **Southern Green Shieldbug (*Nezara viridula*)** were found on Nasturtium in Ventnor on 22nd August.