

In March of this year I was given permission by the Moorside Allotments Association Committee to carry out moth surveying within the allotments. After the first month or so of trapping it is perhaps timely to provide a short update on what I have found to date.

The first night of trapping was carried out on 28 March and a further 8 trapping visits were made during April. Results so far have been quite modest with just four species recorded and only small numbers of moths captured. This is partly to be expected in early Spring when fewer species are on the wing than in the summer but has probably been exacerbated by the relatively cold nights that have been a feature of this Spring. It is also the case that light traps such as the one I have been using only ever catch a fraction of what may actually be present in the vicinity and so it is necessary to survey regularly in the same location over an extended period of time in order to eventually build up a complete list of what is present.

Hopefully with time and warmth we will record a greater variety and quantity of moths!

The species recorded were:



**Hebrew Character, *Orthosia gothica***

This is a typical species of early Spring and is one of the most commonly recorded moths in the region. Highest count recorded so far was 18 on 10<sup>th</sup> April.



**Common Quaker, *Orthosia cerasi***

Another common Spring species. The highest count recorded at Moorside Allotments was 5 on 9<sup>th</sup> April.



**Clouded Drab, *Orthosia incerta***

Another typical Spring member of the *Orthosia* genus. The adults of all three of these species feed avidly on the blossoms of willows – a food supply that is readily available in Moorside Allotments. Highest count for this species was 7 on 7<sup>th</sup> April.



**Satellite, *Eupsilia tansversa***

Another widespread species. The adults emerge in the Autumn and hibernate over the winter, becoming active in mild weather. The caterpillars of this species are known to sometimes feed on the larvae of other moth species as well as on various plant leaves. A single moth was caught on 7 April.

All moths caught have been released back into the wild.

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