

Moorside Allotments Moth Survey Update, September - October 2011

Jonathan Wallace

Six trapping sessions were carried out during September and four were carried out in October. In both months the total number of species recorded was 19 and the total for the whole period was 29 species. Eleven species had not previously been recorded on the allotments (indicated as 'new' in the comments column of the table below).

The Species caught were:

Scientific Name	Vernacular name	Month(s) Recorded	Comments
<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	White-shouldered House Moth	Sept	
<i>Agonopterix heracliana</i>		Oct	New. A small brownish species that can occur throughout much of the year. Larvae feed on various umbellifers
<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>		Oct	
<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	Light Brown Apple Moth	Oct	
<i>Acleris sparsana</i>		Oct	New. Larvae feed on various tree species.
<i>Acleris variegana</i>	Garden Rose Tortrix	Oct	New. Bird dropping mimic. Larvae feed on Blackthorn and rose species.
<i>Celypha lacunana</i>		Sept, Oct	
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		Sept	
<i>Trachycera advenella</i>		Sept	
<i>Platyptilia gonodactyla</i>		Sept	
<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>		Sept	
<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	Sept	
<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	Sept, Oct	
<i>Thera britannica</i>	Spruce Carpet	Oct	New. As the name suggests the larval food plants include Spruces, <i>Picea spp</i> , as well as other conifers.
<i>Epirrita dilutata</i>	November Moth	Oct	New. One of three very similar species occurring in the late Autumn to early winter. Larval food plants include a variety of tree and shrub species.
<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	Willow Beauty	Sept, Oct	
<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	Sept, Oct	
<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing	Sept	
<i>Lithophane leautieri</i>	Blair's Shoulder-knot	Sept, Oct	New. A southern European species that colonised the UK in the 1950s, spreading north from the south coast. The first Northumberland record was in 1996 but it is now apparently well established. Feeds on Cypresses including <i>lawsoniana</i> and <i>leylandii</i> and its spread has been assisted by the widespread planting of these plants.
<i>Conistra ligula</i>	Dark Chestnut	Oct	New. Larval food plants include Oaks, Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

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<i>Agrochola circumcellaris</i>	Brick	Oct	New. Larvae feed on various trees including Ash, Willows and Poplar species.
<i>Agrochola lota</i>	Red-line Quaker	Sept, Oct	
<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	Lunar Underwing	Oct	New. So named for a small dark crescent moon-shaped mark on the hind wing. Larvae feed on various grasses including Yorkshire Fog and Annual Meadow Grass.
<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>	Sallow	Sept	New. Pretty yellow moth whose name reflects the larval food plants which include Sallow and other Willows as well as Poplars.
<i>Amphipyra berbera</i>	Svensson's Copper Underwing	Sept	
<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Mouse Moth	Sept, Oct	
<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Flounced Rustic	Sept	New. Larvae feed on the roots and stem bases of various grasses.
<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic	Sept, Oct	
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	Sept, Oct	



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