

Micro-moths 2015

David Manning

Seven new species were added to the county list during 2015. The list follows that of Agassiz, Beavan & Heckford (2013), which is a revised taxonomic list and numbering system of British Lepidoptera. The number in square brackets refers to a species' Bradley-Fletcher number (2000).

New species in VC30 (Bedfordshire)

4.072 *Bohemannia quadrimaculella* (Boheman) [19]

Beaten from Alder at Flitwick Moor on 20th July 2015 (AMB & MGB).

Flight: July, August (week 29)*

Larval foodplant: Alder

12.006 *Infurcitinea argentimaculella* (Stainton) [203]

Larval tubes on a tree trunk at King's Wood Heath & Reach, 12th March 2015 (AMB).

Flight: July

Larval foodplant: lichens on shady rocks, walls or tree trunks

14.006 *Bucculatrix frangutella* (Goeze) [270]

Leaf-mines at Pegsdon Hills on 13th September 2015 (MGB).

Flight: June, July

Larval foodplants: Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn

28.024 *Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyrick) [656]

To MV light at Biggleswade on 28th August 2015 (PM).

Flight: May to September (week 35)*

Larval food: leaf litter

43.007 *Scythris limbella* (Fabricius) [918]

One to MV light at Biggleswade on 12th August 2015 (LRB).

Flight: June, August, September (week 32)*

Larval foodplants: oraches and goosefoots

49.340 *Cydia leguminana* (Lienig & Zeller) [1264]

To MV light at Bromham on 1st July 2015 (PA, gendet DVM).

The first British record since 1976.

Flight: May, June (week 26)*

Larval foodplant: elm

49.356 *Grapholita lobarzewskii* (Nowicki) [1249]

To MV light at Upper Caldecote on 29th June 2015 (MB, gendet DVM).

Flight: May, June (week 26)*

Larval foodplants: apple, plum

Adult flight times have been culled from literature but all flight times marked with an asterisk (*) are local observations in Bedfordshire. The week numbers cited are the

standard week numbers used in the Rothamsted Insect Survey (RIS). The weeks of the year are numbered consecutively from 1–52 omitting 29th February and 31st December, and are approximate to those printed in pocket diaries.

References

- Agassiz, D.J.L., Beavan, S.D. & Heckford, R.J. 2013 *Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles*. Royal Entomological Society.
- Arnold, V.W., Baker, C.R.B., Manning, D.V. & Woiwod, I.P. 1997 *The Butterflies and Moths of Bedfordshire*. Bedfordshire Natural History Society.
- Bradley, J.D. 2000 *Checklist of Lepidoptera recorded from the British Isles*. Second Edition (revised)

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*David Manning was the Society's Recorder for Micro-moths, a position he held in an honorary capacity from 1986 to early 2016. He is co-author of the BNHS publication *The Butterflies and Moths of Bedfordshire*.*

Recording micro-moths in Bedfordshire

David Manning

The first documented record is by J.C.Dale of larvae of a plume moth, *Pterophorus galactodactyla*, at Clapham Park Wood in 1820. Dr Walter Gifford Nash recorded in the early 1900s, and supplied records to C.G.Barrett who compiled the Lepidoptera section of *The Victoria County History for Bedfordshire*. This mentioned 25 species of micro-moths. In the next 50 years only 53 species were added. J.C.F.Fryer recorded eight species, mostly at Whipsnade Heath, between 1922 and 1939. Colonel S.H.Kershaw recorded 28 species between 1935 and 1955, mainly in his garden at Aspley Guise. By 1971 82 had been recorded in the county.

I started recording in 1973, and Terence Hollingworth recorded from 1978 to 1986 when he left the county. The first two volumes of *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* were published in 1976 and 1985, with the leaf-mining moths comprehensively covered by Colonel A.M.Emmet. In 1984 and 1985 Colonel Emmet visited us and helped us record leaf-mining micro-moths adding many species to the county list.

Since 1985 the publication of new books has meant that the recording of micro-moths has become more practical. All groups are now well covered, and many more people are now recording.

Encouraged by Barry Dickerson, the recorder for Huntingdonshire (VC31), I began dissecting difficult species in 1992, starting with historical pinned specimens. More recently, the arrival of the internet and digital cameras have made the exchange and confirmation of records far simpler.

The number of micro-moths recorded in the county is now over 900. The list has reached this total as follows: 100 species – 1974, 200 – 1976, 300 – 1978, 400 – 1982, 500 – 1984, 600 – 1985, 700 – 1991, 800 – 2003, 900 – 2014.

My 30th annual report to the Bedfordshire Natural History Society listed new species recorded during 2015. After this I retired as Micro-moth Recorder, and was replaced by Andy and Melissa Banthorpe.

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