

Dartmoor moth records for 2014

Warren House area

Moth recording took place throughout the year using various methods. Most records were obtained by trapping during five nights (usually two traps per night) between May and September using Skinner traps with 15W Actinic lights run from batteries. In addition daytime searches were made usually before or after trapping although a few other visits were also made.

The main area covered was the moorland and valley between Warren House and Headland Warren. The habitat is mainly heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) but many other species of plants can be found particularly in the valley area near Headland Warren.



The valley area with Headland Warren on the right

Species list

A total of 91 species were recorded during the year with a few only identified to generic level. Several moths remained unidentified and many other species, no doubt, were not found. Another year or so should improve the list!

The following list gives all those recorded and shows the number of times they were recorded and also the total number of individuals together with their national status.

For interest the main food plants of the larva are also listed. These are given very generally. It must be remembered that many moths are very specific as to the species of plant their caterpillars eat!

The code number given is the Bradley checklist number followed by the scientific name and English (vernacular) name where available. The number of records refers to the number of times recorded on a particular date or location. The individual number is the total number of moths recorded. This is followed by the national status of each species:-

Na - Recorded in 16 to 30 10km squares

Nb - Recorded from 31 to 100km 10km squares

Local - Recorded from 101 to 300 10km squares

Common - Recorded from over 300km 10km squares

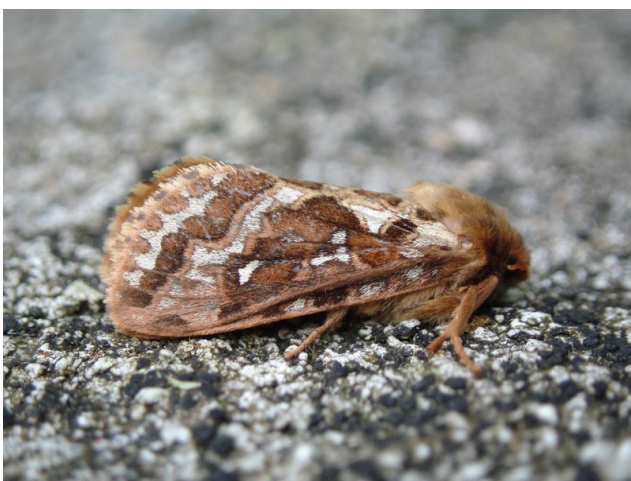
Migrant - Regularly recorded in Britain

Code	Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Indivi'	Status	Larval food plants
	Mesapamea sp.	Common Rustic agg	3	3	Common	
0004	Micropterix aruncella		1	1	Common	Herbaceous plants
0018	Hepialus fusconebulosa	Map-winged Swift	2	2	Local	Roots- mainly Bracken
0130	Incurvaria masculella		1	Present	Common	Hawthorn
0387	Prochoreutis sehestediana		1	1	Nb	Skullcaps
0396	Glyphipterix fuscoviridella		2	10	Common	Field Wood-rush
0397	Glyphipterix thrasonella		1	Present	Common	Rushes
0418	Argyresthia conjugella	Apple Fruit Moth	1	3	Common	Rowan
0510	Coleophora juncicolella		1	25	Local	Heather; Bell Heather
0541	Coleophora pyrrhulipennella		1	2	Local	Heather; Bell Heather
0584	Coleophora alticolella		1	Present	Common	Rushes
0797	Neofaculta ericetella		4	19	Common	Heather; Bell Heather; Cross-leaved Heath
0946	Aethes rubigana		1	1	Common	Greater Burdock
0954	Eupoecilia angustana		1	1	Common	Various incl. Heather
0991	Clepsia senecionana		1	2	Local	Withered leaves of trees
1083	Hedya nubiferana	Marbled Orchard Tortrix	1	1	Common	Hawthorn; Apple
1096	Apotomis sauciana		1	3	Local	Bilberry
1128	Ancylis myrtillana		2	1	Local	Bilberry
1159	Rhopobota naevana	Holly Tortrix	6	26	Common	Bilberry (on Moorland)
1175	Epiblema uddmanniana	Bramble Shoot Moth	1	1	Common	Bramble; Raspberry
1304	Agriphila straminella		7	7	Common	Grasses
1305	Agriphila tristella		2	2	Common	Grasses
1306	Agriphila inquinatella		2	4	Common	Grasses
1334	Scoparia ambigualis		2	3	Common	Mosses
1340	Eudonia truncicolella		1	1	Common	Mosses
1345	Elophila nymphaeata	Brown China-mark	2	5	Common	Aquatic plants
1395	Udea ferrugalis	Rusty-dot Pearl	1	2	Migrant	Various incl. Mint
1497	Amblyptilia acanthadactyla		1	1	Common	Heather; Mint and others
1637	Lasiocampa quercus	Oak Eggar	3	4	Common	Heather; Bilberry
1640	Euthrix potatoria	Drinker	2	6	Common	Grasses
1643	Saturnia pavonia	Emperor Moth	1	1	Common	Heather; Bramble; Sallows etc
1651	Cilix glaucata	Chinese Character	1	1	Common	Hawthorn; Rowan etc
1693	Scopula floslactata	Cream Wave	1	1	Local	Bedstraws
1694	Scopula ternata	Smoky Wave	1	1	Local	Heather; Bilberry
1724	Xanthorhoe spadicearia	Red Twin-spot Carpet	3	3	Common	Heath Bedstraw (on Moorland)
1733	Scotopteryx mucronata	Lead Belle	1	2	Common	Gorse; Broom
1737	Epirrhoe tristata	Small Argent & Sable	1	1	Common	Heath Bedstraw
1738	Epirrhoe alternata	Common Carpet	1	1	Common	Cleavers; Bedstraws
1740	Epirrhoe galiata	Galium Carpet	1	1	Local	Bedstraws
1752	Cosmorhoe ocellata	Purple Bar	4	5	Common	Bedstraws
1755	Eulithis testata	Chevron	3	8	Common	Sallow also Heather
1756	Eulithis populata	Northern Spinach	5	36	Common	Bilberry
1758	Eulithis pyraliata	Barred Straw	1	1	Common	Cleavers; Bedstraws
1762	Chloroclysta citrata	Dark Marbled Carpet	1	1	Common	Heather; Bilberry, Birch
1775	Colostygia multistrigaria	Mottled Grey	1	1	Common	Bedstraws
1776	Colostygia pectinataria	Green Carpet	2	4	Common	Bedstraws
1777	Hydriomena furcata	July Highflyer	1	5	Common	Heather; Bilberry; Sallow
1809	Perizoma didymata	Twin-spot Carpet	3	5	Common	Heather; Bilberry; Sallow etc
1817	Eupithecia pulchellata	Foxglove Pug	1	1	Common	Foxglove
1830	Eupithecia absinthiata	Wormwood Pug	2	2	Common	Heather
1846	Eupithecia nanata	Narrow-winged Pug	3	18	Common	Heather
1887	Lomaspilis marginata	Clouded Border	1	3	Common	Sallow; Willows; Hazel
1902	Petrophora chlorosata	Brown Silver-line	1	2	Common	Bracken
1917	Selenia dentaria	Early Thorn	1	1	Common	Birch; Sallow; Hazel etc
1921	Crocallis elinguaris	Scalloped Oak	2	2	Common	Heather; Bilberry; various trees
1941	Alcis repandata	Mottled Beauty	1	1	Common	Many plants incl. Heather
1952	Ematurga atomaria	Common Heath	2	23	Common	Heather; Bell Heather
1956	Cabera exanthemata	Common Wave	1	1	Common	Sallows; Willows
1964	Charissa obscurata	Annulet	1	2	Local	Heather among others
2007	Pheosia tremula	Swallow Prominent	1	1	Common	Sallows; Willows
2061	Spilosoma luteum	Buff Ermine	1	1	Common	Birch; various herbaceous
2089	Agrotis exclamationis	Heart and Dart	2	2	Common	Herbaceous plants
2102	Ochropleura plecta	Flame Shoulder	3	10	Common	Herbaceous plants
2107	Noctua pronuba	Large Yellow Underwing	2	20	Common	Herbaceous plants
2109	Noctua comes	Lesser Yellow Underwing	1	1	Common	Herbaceous plants

2110	Noctua fimbriata	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	1	1	Common	Herbaceous plants
2111	Noctua janthe	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	1	1	Common	Herbaceous plants
2117	Eugnorisma glareosa	Autumnal Rustic	1	18	Common	Heathers; Bedstraws; Sallows
2118	Lycophotia porphyrea	True Lover's Knot	7	673	Common	Heather; Bell Heather
2120	Diarsia mendica	Ingrailed Clay	3	7	Common	Heathers; Bilberry etc
2127	Xestia ditrapezium	Triple-spotted Clay	1	5	Local	Herbaceous plants
2130	Xestia baja	Dotted Clay	2	2	Common	Herbaceous plants
2134	Xestia xanthographa	Square-spot Rustic	1	3	Common	Mainly grasses
2135	Xestia agathina	Heath Rustic	1	22	Local	Heather
2160	Lacanobia oleracea	Bright-line Brown-eye	1	3	Common	Herbaceous & woody plants
2163	Melanchra pisi	Broom Moth	2	3	Common	Heather; Bracken; Broom etc
2167	Hadena perplexa	Tawny Shears	1	2	Common	Campions
2176	Cerapteryx graminis	Antler Moth	4	17	Common	Grasses
2177	Tholera cespitis	Hedge Rustic	1	2	Common	Grasses
2191	Mythimna turca	Double Line	1	2	Nb	Grasses
2198	Mythimna impura	Smoky Wainscot	3	9	Common	Grasses
2302	Rusina ferruginea	Brown Rustic	2	10	Common	Herbaceous plants
2305	Euplexia lucipara	Small Angle Shades	1	1	Common	Herbaceous plants esp. Bracken & Ferns
2321	Apamea monoglypha	Dark Arches	1	1	Common	Grasses
2340	Oligia fasciuncula	Middle-barred Minor	1	1	Common	Grasses
2350	Chortodes pygmina	Small Wainscot	1	38	Common	Sedges; Cotton Grass and others
2379	Coenobia rufa	Small Rufous	1	4	Local	Rushes
2394	Stilbia anomala	Anomalous	2	7	Local	Grasses
2441	Autographa gamma	Silver Y	2	3	Migrant	Herbaceous plants
2474	Rivula sericealis	Straw Dot	2	3	Common	Grasses
2484	Schrankia costaestrigalis	Pinion-streaked Snout	2	3	Local	Unknown in the wild (Heather flowers in captivity among others)

It is interesting to note that of the 91 species recorded the food plant of the larvae for approx 27 species are Heathers and Bilberry; for around 9-10 species are Bedstraws and for 16 species are Grasses, Sedges and Rushes.

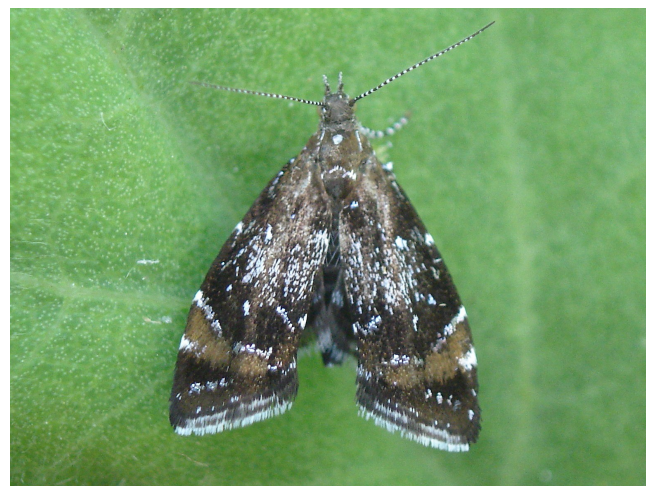
Summary and highlights



0018 Hepialus fusconebulosa (Map-winged Swift)

Most Devon records appear to be on Dartmoor. Two individuals were caught in separate traps on the 16th July.

The food plant of the larva are the roots of Bracken but probably also roots of other plants.



0387 Prochoreutis sehestediana

One was observed during the day in an area of marshy ground close to Warren House. A tiny moth the larva feeds on Common and Lesser Skullcap. Certainly later in the year a great deal of Skullcap was seen in flower in the marshy areas around the whole area and so the moth could well be widespread here.

It is a nationally rare species.



0510 Coleophora juncicolella

This species was only recorded in the larval stage. They are very difficult to see as they construct a case out of Heather leaves arranged in a herring-bone fashion.

The food plant is Heather and they were fairly easily found by beating plants over a sheet and the debris placed into a plastic tub. After a short while the larva start crawling up the side.



0541 Coleophora pyrrhulipennella

This species was also only recorded in the larval stage. It appeared to be much less frequent with only two found.

Found in a similar way to the species above but the larval cases are much larger and easier to spot.

The food plant is Heather.



0797 Neofaculta ericetella

A common moth of the moorland, the larvae feeding on various heathers. Easily disturbed during the day between April and July.



0991 Clepsia senecionana

Another but more local mainly moorland species. The main food plant on the moor is probably Bilberry. The adult flies in May and June.



1096 Apotomis sauciana

A very local moorland species, particularly in Southern England, occurring between May and August. The larvae feed on Bilberry



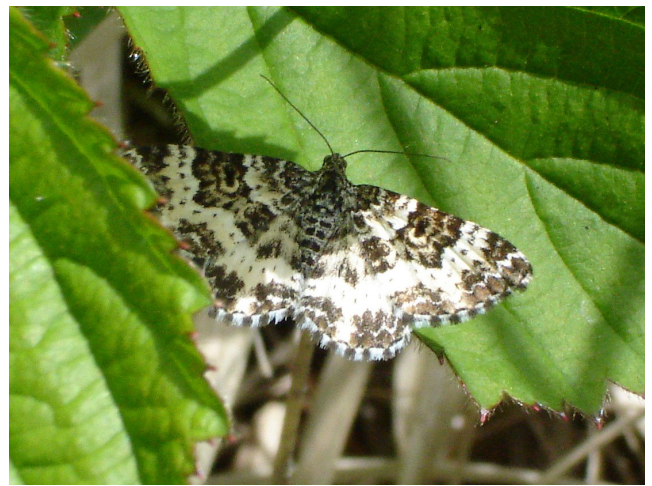
1128 Ancylis myrtilana

A local species particularly in the south. Another mainly moorland species the larvae again feeding on Bilberry.



1694 Scopula ternata (Smoky Wave)

A local species occurring mainly on moorland during June and July. The food plant of the caterpillar is Bilberry and Heather.



1737 Epirrhoe tristata (Small Argent & Sable)

Although classified as common this species is quite rare now in Devon. The caterpillar feeds on Heath Bedstraw and the adult flies from late May to July occasionally August.



1755 Eulithis testata (Chevron)

This and the similar Northern Spinach are typical moorland species. Both species fly during July and August. The food plant of the Chevron is mainly Sallow while that of the Northern Spinach is Bilberry.



1846 Eupithecia nanata (Narrow-winged Pug)

Flying during the summer months this striking species occurs on heath and moorland. The caterpillar feeds on the flowers of Heather.



1964 Charissa obscurata (Annulet)

Although a mainly coastal species it also occurs on moorland especially in rocky areas. The ones recorded were caught in the quarry area. The caterpillar feeds on Heather as well as a wide variety of other plants which are mainly coastal species.



2117 Eugnorisma glareosa (Autumnal Rustic)

A lovely species which often has a pink tinge such as the specimen above. As the name suggests it flies between August and October. The caterpillar feeds on Heathers, Bedstraw's and a few other plants.



2118 *Lycophotia porphyrea* (True Lover's Knot)

A typical moorland species which is quite common. It flies during June to August. In mid-July I caught over 600 in two traps! Evidently this must have been at their peak emergence time. The food plant is Heather and Bellheather.



2127 *Xestia ditrapezium* (Triple-spotted Clay)

A local species but more widespread in the west of the country. It flies mainly during July. The caterpillar feeds on a wide variety of plants.



2135 *Xestia agathina* (Heath Rustic)

A beautiful and another typical moorland species. Now very local in the south-west. It flies mainly during September. The caterpillar feeds on Heather.



2176 *Cerapteryx graminis* (Antler Moth)

A common moth of grassland and moorland which flies from July to September. The caterpillar feeds on hard-bladed grasses such as Purple Moor-grass.



2191 *Mythimna turca* (Double Line)

A nationally scarce moth which occurs mainly in south-west England. It flies mainly from mid-June to July. The caterpillar feeds on various grasses.



2350 *Chortodes pygmina* (Small Wainscot)

A fairly common moth that occurs in wet and damp areas such as the valley near Headland Warren. It flies in August and September. The caterpillar feeds on Sedges, cotton grasses and other grasses.



2394 *Stilbia anomala* (Anomalous)

A local species that occurs on heathland and moorland. Along with many other species this moth has declined by over 90% since the late 1960's. It flies during August and September. The caterpillar feeds on Wavy and Tufted Hair-grass.

The whole experience of moth recording in this area was very enjoyable and of course there were many other highlights. The group of three Cuckoos flying low overhead was particularly memorable and of course there were the Whinchats, Wheatears as well as the occasional Adder and Grass Snake. There were also some fantastic sunrises which made the very early trips worth while!

Wistman's Wood

Unfortunately for various reasons I was only able to get to Wistman's Wood to trap once during the year. Hopefully next year, if allowed, I will manage a few trips. It is a difficult area to trap as it is quite exposed (it doesn't have the sheltered hollows that Warren House has) and of course the distance to walk makes setting out the trap (and collecting it) very time consuming. However a few moths were recorded both in the trap and during the day.

Species List

A total of 28 species were recorded. Most when a trap was placed in the wood during the third week of June.

Code	Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Individuals	Status	Larval food plants
0050	<i>Stigmella aurella</i>		1	Larval mines present	Common	Bramble
0150	<i>Adela reaumurella</i>		1	10	Common	Unknown
0970	<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	1	39	Common	Various trees & shrubs
0988	<i>Aphelia viburnana</i>	Bilberry Tortrix	1	2	Common	Various shrubs & herbaceous
1111	<i>Bactra lancealana</i>		1	Present	Common	Rushes
1223	<i>Pammene splendidulana</i>		1	1	Nb	Oaks
1255	<i>Cydia ulicetana</i>		1	2	Common	Gorse
1293	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden Grass-veneer	1	1	Common	Grasses
1304	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		1	1	Common	Grasses
1314	<i>Catoptria margaritella</i>	Pearl-band Grass Veneer	1	3	Local	Probably Moss
1640	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	Drinker	1	1	Common	Grasses
1727	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>	Silver-ground Carpet	1	2	Common	Herbaceous plants
1728	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	1	1	Common	Crucifers
1734	<i>Scotopteryx luridata</i>	July Belle	1	3	Common	Gorse
1740	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	Galium Carpet	1	1	Local	Bedstraw's

1756	<i>Eulithis populata</i>	Northern Spinach	1	3	Common	Bilberry
1776	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	1	8	Common	Bedstraw's
1817	<i>Eupithecia pulchellata</i>	Foxglove Pug	1	4	Common	Foxglove
1961	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	Light Emerald	1	1	Common	Trees etc. incl. Oak
2102	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	1	4	Common	Herbaceous plants
2107	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	1	1	Common	Herbaceous plants
2118	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	True Lover's Knot	1	3	Common	Heather & Bell Heather
2120	<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	Ingrailed Clay	1	2	Common	Herbaceous plants
2163	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	Broom Moth	1	2	Common	Heather, Bracken etc.
2302	<i>Rusina ferruginea</i>	Brown Rustic	1	12	Common	Herbaceous plants
2305	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	1	1	Common	Herbaceous plants
2321	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	1	1	Common	Grasses
2330	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	1	1	Common	Grasses

Highlights



1223 *Pammene splendidulana*

This species flies from April to June. The larvae feed on Oak. Apparently a nationally scarce species although some books state it is common.



1314 *Catoptria margaritella* (Pearl-band Grass Veneer)

A few of these were found during the day in an area of Rushes close to the wood. A local moth it is found mainly on moorland from June to September.

Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall); Simon Lee (Natural England) and Norman Baldock (Dartmoor Authority) along with local tenants for allowing me to place out moth traps around the Warren House and Wistman's Wood areas.

Hopefully, if allowed, I can continue next year.

All records are sent to the Devon County Moth recorder at the end of the year.

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