



MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 167 October 2020.

A monthly newsletter covering

Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35

Editor: Martin Anthoney

October 2020

October was a generally cloudy and wet month with near-average temperatures, with the last third of the month particularly wet and windy. It was briefly settled but still mainly cloudy from the 14th to 18th. The mean temperature for the month was 0.2 °C below the long-term average. Rainfall was 123% of average and sunshine was only 68% of average, well below normal giving the third dullest October in a series from 1919.

With the paucity of sunshine, only nine species of butterfly were recorded in October, the lowest total for four years. Cloudy nights meant moths fared better, but the count of eighty macro moth species in October was not exceptional (2019 count 66, 2018 count 100 macros).

Clifden Nonpareil Update

In 2020 the annual count of Clifden Nonpareil moths in Gwent has risen to 30 individuals between 14th August and 27th October, the sites being Newport (10 including 4 in one night), Tintern (9), Penallt (4), Great Crwys, Hendre (2), Dingestow (2) and singletons at three sites (Llandogo, Usk and Risca).

An earlier record has recently come to light of one at Tintern in 2018, which would be the second VC35 record, only one week after the first Gwent record at Undy on 25th Sept 2018.

Wales Big Butterfly Count Results

. Almost 3000 records of 17 butterfly species were submitted between Friday 17 July and Sunday 9 August by people in Gwent as part of Butterfly Conservation's UK "Citizen Science" survey project, the highest ever participation within Gwent. All the 2020 Big Butterfly Count records for VC35 have now been forwarded to me to add to the county butterfly database.

The table of Welsh results was published in last month's newsletter (No 166).

Wales Moth List 2019

An updated Wales Moth List, now including 2019 records, is available to download from the BC Wales website:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/welsh-office/wales-moth-list-2019>

Other Highlights

A few significant records from earlier in the year have only recently been submitted:

- 29th May A Pine Hawk (*Sphinx pinastri*) to light at Tintern. The second county record after one at Dingestow on 28th July 2019. This may well be the next large moth to colonise Gwent. (John Dawson).
- 15th June The micro *Sitochroa verticalis* (Lesser Pearl) at Tintern. A new species for VC35. (John Dawson)
- 29th July The micro *Evergestis extimalis* at Tintern. New to Wales as well as VC35. (John Dawson)



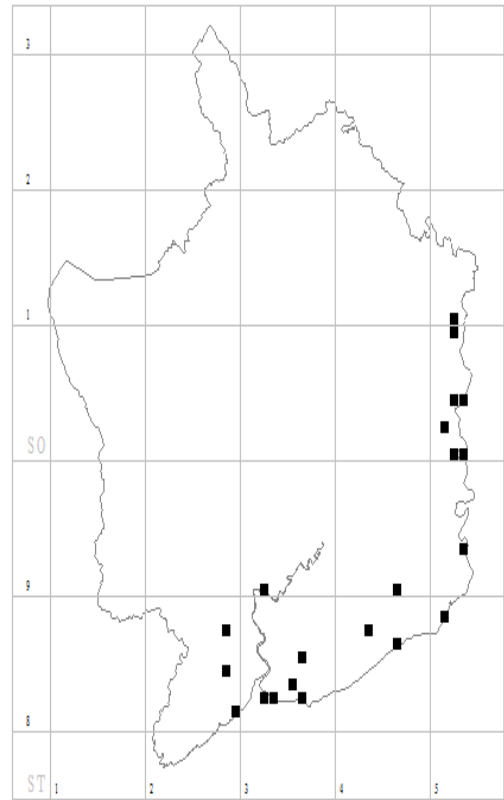
Evergestis extimalis



Convolvulus Hawk Caterpillar (Shona Woodbridge)

Highlights for October are:-

- 1st Oct Already mentioned as a late news item in the last newsletter, a Convolvulus Hawk caterpillar Was found in an Usk garden. (Shona Woodbridge)
- Day-flying Vapourer moth at Newport Wetlands. (Kevin Dupé)
- 3rd Oct. Frosted Orange to light at Penallt. A poor year for this species. (Stephanie Tyler)
- 4th Oct First Green-brindled Crescent of the season at Great Crwys, Hendre. (Wendy Tyler-Batt)
- 5th Oct 2 Mallow moths to light at Newport Wetlands (Fishers Gout). The only reliable Gwent site for this species. Also a Fox Moth larva (Kevin Dupé)
- Dark Sword-grass to light at Risca. (Martin Anthoney)
- Pinion-streaked Snout to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
- L-album Wainscot at Tintern (John Dawson)



L-album Wainscot

and its Gwent distribution

- 7th Oct Clifden Nonpareil to light at both Penallt (Ian Rabjohns) and Tintern (Hazel Mitchell).
 Figure of Eight to light at Dingestow. The first of 8 at this site in October. After years of decline, this species seems to have had a better season (Sam Bosanquet)
- First Mottled Umber of the season to light at Risca (Martin Anthoney)
- 9th Oct Dark Sword-grass at Penallt. (Stephanie Tyler)
- 10th Oct First of six Cypress Carpet to light at Risca during October. (Martin Anthoney)



Mallow ((Kevin Dupé)



Figure of Eight (Wendy Tyler-Batt)

13 th Oct	2 Clifden Nonpareil to light at Tintern, with 2 further specimens on 17 th and 19 th Oct. (John Dawson)
15 th Oct	Oak Lutestring to light at Risca. A new site for this species. (Martin Anthoney)
16 th Oct	Clifden Nonpareil to light at Great Crwys,. Hendre. (Wendy Tyler-Batt)
	Orange Sallow to light at Penallt. (Stephanie Tyler)
17 th Oct	First of the new generation Satellite moths at Penallt (Ian Rabjohns) and Tintern, with another Orange Sallow at Tintern. (John Dawson)
18 th Oct	Figure of Eight to light at Great Crwys, Hendre. (Wendy Tyler-Batt)
19 th Oct	Season's first Grey Shoulder-knot at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
	Red Sword-grass to light at Cwmyoy. A new site for this species. (Christine Knight)
20 th Oct	1 <i>Mecyna asinalis</i> (3rd county record and new for Dingestow) and 1 Clifden Nonpareil to MV light at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)
	A worn Sharp-angled Peacock to light at Risca. The poor condition of the specimen suggests a late second generation rather than an extra yhird generation. (Martin Anthoney)
21 st Oct	Immigrant Vestal moth to light at Tintern (John Dawson)
22 nd Oct	A Figure of Eight and a remarkable 17 Large Wainscot at Newport Wetlands. (Kevin Hewitt)
	A Small Copper, Speckled Wood, 3 Large White and 2 late Common Blue butterflies flying at Rogiet Country Psrk. (Martin Anthoney and Roger James)
	Comma butterfly at Blackrock Quarry, Clydach. (Mike Hoult and Val Deisler)
23 rd Oct	Vapourer moth to light at Risca (Martin Anthoney)
26 th Oct	2 Red Admiral flying at Newport Wetlands. The latest date so far this year. (Kevin Dupé)
27 th Oct	Clifden Nonpareil at Melbourne Way, Newport. (Roger James)
29 th Oct	First December Moth of the season to light at Tintern. (Hazel Mitchell)
	Sprawler moth to light at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)

30th Oct Another Sprawler at Great Crwys, Hendre. (Wendy Tyler-Batt)

A Streak moth to light at Abergavenny. (Andrew and Janet Cormack)

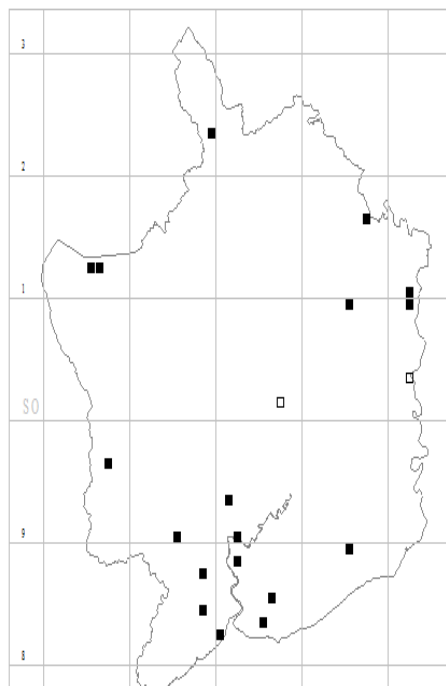
December Moths at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet), Penallt (Stephanie Tyler)
and Tintern (Hazel Mitchell).

Juniper Carpet to light at Blackwood. A known site. (Kevin Hewitt)

31st Oct Dark Sword-grass at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)



Red Sword-grass

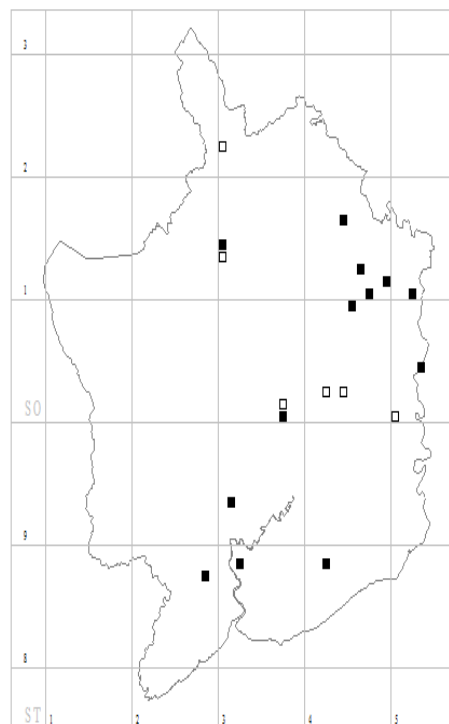


Red Sword-grass distribution



Sprawler

*Sprawler
distribution*



Dates for your Diary 2020

Keep up to date with the MMBG blog/ website

<http://gwentmothing.blogspot.co.uk/>

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Unless you tell us otherwise, the records you submit may be collated and disseminated manually or electronically, including via the internet, for conservation, environmental decision-making, education, research and other public benefit uses in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's data access policy. Records are added to Butterfly Conservation's UK butterfly and moth recording schemes (BNM and NMRS) and to the South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre (SEWBReC). Names and contact details of recorders will be used for administration and verification purposes only. Your name and contact details will not be passed to other parties without your consent, whilst your name will form part of the record that is collated and disseminated in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's privacy policy.