

A review of Monmouthshire Microlepidoptera recorded in 2020

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The number of Micro records produced in Monmouthshire in 2020 fell slightly again, to 4424, although given ongoing Covid lockdowns which limited fieldwork it is remarkable that so many records were made. More than 90% of the records came from eight recorders: Kevin Hewitt (1010 records), Sam Bosanquet (812), Nick Felstead (769), Hazel Mitchell (682), Bob Roome (355), Lee Gregory (208), Keith Jones (136) and John Dawson (99). John is a new contributor, but scored two new species for the county – as a former County Moth Recorder from eastern England we can expect more additions from him! Species diversity was also down slightly, but the 458 species recorded during the year is still 54% of the county Micro total. Most records came from light trapping, including my own, but nearly 900 records were made by day with Nick Felstead and Lee Gregory recording quite widely in their parts of SE and NW Monmouthshire, and me continuing to beat and sweep at Dingestow.

The county Micro total now stands at 855 species, following 10 additions in 2020 and the late addition of *Phyllonorycter dubitella* collected by George Tordoff in Highmeadow Woods in October 2019 which emerged from a mine in April 2020. The 2020 additions were: **4.076** *Ectoedemia decentella* (photo) – Chepstow 27 v 2020 – Nick Felstead (NF); **12.025** *Trichophaga tapetzella* (photo) – Magor Marsh, 4 disturbed from dog bed 10 viii 2020 – Petra Mitchard; **15.0931** *Phyllocnistis citrella* (photo) – Monmouth, on imported tangold leaves in Waitrose 24 ii 2020 – Sam Bosanquet (SB); **37.070** *Coleophora tamesis* (photo) – Dingestow Court, male gen. det. 30 vii 2020 – Sam Bosanquet; **35.148** *Carpatolechia fugitivella* (photo) – Traphill Wood, Mounton 20 vi 2020 – Nick Felstead; **35.010** *Aproaerema anthyllidella* (photo) – Dingestow Court, male gen. det. 29 vii 2020 – Sam Bosanquet; **49.067** *Acleris abietana* (photo) – Ninewells Wood, Cleddon 5 i 2020 – Nick Felstead; **63.058** *Evergestis extimalis* – Tintern 29 vii 2020 – John Dawson; **63.015** *Sitochroa verticalis* – Tintern 29 vii 2020 – John Dawson; **62.057** *Phycitodes maritima* (photo) – Tintern gen. det. 07 v 2020 – Hazel Mitchell (HM). Some of these records are clearly resident species that have just been overlooked, but *A. anthyllidella*, *E. extimalis* and *S. verticalis* all arrived during the late July heatwave and are undoubtedly wanderers from the south-east. *Phyllocnistis citrella* appeared on citrus leaves in many British supermarkets in early 2020 and clearly had a good season in the Mediterranean. *Trichophaga tapetzella* was once a pest of tapestries, but is now extremely rare in Britain with very few Welsh record. *Acleris abietana* was largely restricted to Scotland until recently but appears to be spreading, whilst *Carpatolechia fugitivella* has been reinstated on the VC35 list following its deletion when a 1981 specimen was reidentified as *C. decorella*.





Ten species had just a single previous VC35 record and are almost as noteworthy as the additions:

- *Stigmella assimilella* mines were found on Aspen by NF at Greenmoor and Rogiet in ix 2020;
- *Coleophora coracipennella* was gen. det. from Dingestow on 4 vii 2020 by SB;
- *Coleophora betulella* was gen. det. from Dingestow on 25 vi 2020 (SB) and St Pierre's Great Wood on 4 vii 2020 (NF);
- *Stephensia brunnichella* (photo) was caught at Kemmys Graig by NF on 9 viii 2020;
- *Dichomeris alacella* (photo) was caught by HM in Tintern on 29 vii 2020 (that heatwave again!);
- *Argolamprotes micella* was seen by day near Penyclawdd on 10 vii 2020 (SB);

- *Diurnea lipsiella* (photo) was caught in Wentwood on 10 xi 2020 by NF, cementing this species on the county list as the only previous record is a specimen labelled "Monmouthshire" in the Natural History Museum collection.
- *Endothenia quadrimaculana* was caught at Dingestow on 13 viii 2020 by SB;
- *Pammene populana* (photo) was caught again at Blackwood by Kevin Hewitt on 9 viii 2020, and was tapped from a Sallow at Dingestow by SB on 23 viii 2020;
- *Dichrorampha plumbana* was seen again by Ian Rabjohns at Penallt on 25 vii 2020.



Some of the other species with five or fewer previous VC35 records seen during the year include:

- *Stigmella aceris* mines at 11 sites (NF, SB and Karen Wilkinson) including Dingestow, Monmouth, Chepstow, Caerwent, Caldicott, Mathern, Magor and Peterstone Wentlooge, indicating that this species is now widely established in the south and east of VC35, whereas the 4 previous records came only from Monmouth and eastern Cardiff;
- *Phylloporia bistrigella* (photo) at Ravensnest Wood, Devauden on 25 vii 2020 (NF), the 4th record;
- *Nemapogon koenigi* in Chepstow on 15 vi 2020 (NF), the 4th record;
- *Monopis obviella* at Chepstow on 27 v 2020 (NF) and Cwmbran on 2 ix 2020 (Bob Roome), the 5th and 6th records;
- *Phyllonorycter comparella* mines on White Poplar at Caldicot Castle on 19 ix and Portskewett on 26 ix 2020 (NF), the 3rd and 4th records;
- *Cedestis subfasciella* at Broad Meend on 25 vii 2020 (NF), the 4th record;
- *Ypsolopha alpella* (photo) at Dingestow on 13 viii 2020 (SB), the 6th record;
- *Elachista obliquella* swept in Penyclawdd Wood on 22 viii 2020 (SB), the 3rd record;
- *Carpatolechia decorella* at Tintern on 30 x 2020 (HM), the 4th record;

- *Teleiopsis diffinis* in Blaenavon on 29 v 2020 (Lee Gregory), the 6th record;
- *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* mines in Caldicot, Chepstow, Mathern and Monmouth (NF) representing the 3rd to 6th records and indicating this species is now established in VC35;
- *Clepsis senecionana* (photo) on the Bloreng on 27 iv and 12 v 2020 (LG), the 3rd and 4th records;
- *Philedonides lunana* near the Bloreng summit on 25 iii 2020 (LG), the 6th record;
- *Bactra furfurana* in Chepstow on 27 v 2020 (NF), the 5th record;
- *Grapholita jungiella* (photo) in Blaenavon on 14-16 v 2020 (LG) and at Dingestow on 9 v 2020 (SB), the 6th to 9th records;
- *Pammene albuginana* in Blackwood on 29 vi 2020 (Kevin Hewitt), the 6th record;
- *Assara terebrella* (photo) at Tintern on 26 vii 2020 (HM), the 4th record;
- *Delplanqueia dilutella/inscriptella* (not gen. det.) at Slade Wood on 6 vii 2020 (NF), the 6th record and the first in VC35 since 2007;
- *Mecyna asinalis* (photo) at Dingestow Court on 20 x 2020 (SB) during a strong SSW airflow, the 3rd record.

