

LEPIDOPTERA RECORDS IN WALES AND SCOTLAND

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THIS article is an attempt to update a few of the more interesting records from Wales and Scotland that have followed several fieldtrips during the 1980s, together with some corroborative observations by Dr Mark Young and Col A.M. Emmet.

WALES

Stigmella acetosae (Staint.). The attractive tenanted reddish mines were found on *Rumex acetosa* in one small area of coastal clifftop grassland between Aberystwyth and Borth (v.c. 46) on 15.10.1982. I have found the mines in the same location on a number of occasions since without finding the species anywhere else. The area is unusual in being almost entirely ungrazed by either sheep or even rabbits. This is new for this vice-county, although recorded from neighbouring v.c. 48.

Pyrilidae on *Borth bog*. On 19.7.1981 at dusk a number of *Eudonia pallida* (Curtis) were observed flying close to the ground together with *Endotricha flammealis* (D. & S.), both uncommon species in the west. An unusual form of *Chrysoteuchia culmella* (L.), a normally widespread and abundant species, was represented on Borth bog by a diminutive form and quite unlike the typical form flying only half a mile away off the bog. A single *Crambus silvella* (Hübner) was seen flying in the daytime on the hottest day in 1988 (7.8.1988); this is a very local species associated with *Carex* spp., growing on acid wet moorland.

Perizoma taeniatum (Steph.). A single male moth was disturbed from wet moss covered rocks in a shaded valley near the village of Furnace (v.c. 46). Recorded from North Wales and Gwent, this may be the first record for mid Wales.

SCOTLAND

Stigmella serella (Staint.). A single tenanted mine was found on Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) growing in shade within oak woodland near Salen, Ardnarmurchan on 14.10.1986. No other tenanted or vacated mines were seen but on 26.5.1987 a moth was reared from this one mine. Dr Mark Young tells me he has also found the mines near Strontian, Argyll in the autumn of 1988. Both these records are new for v.c. 97.

Stigmella continuella (Staint.). A vacated mine of this species was found in a leaf of *Betula pubescens* ssp. *odorata* near Acharacle, Ardnarmurchan in v.c. 97 on 15.10.1986. Apparently new to Scotland, I later discovered that Col A.M. Emmet found a mine at Lackar moss, near Dumfries on

17.9.1976 in v.c. 72. Dr Young also informed me that he has recorded the species from Glen Strath Farrar in v.c. 96 on 25.9.1988.

Coleophora lixella (Zell.). During a visit to the picturesque Talisker bay on Skye on 22nd and 24th June 1983, several imagines were seen flying over well-grazed grassland containing *Thymus drucei*. This uncommon species recorded from only a few Scottish sites mainly on the east coast is a new record for v.c. 104.

Exaeretia ciniflonella (L. & Z.). While investigating the ancient birch and juniper woodland at Crathie, Deeside in the late autumn of 1986 (15.10.1986), I was surprised to disturb a male moth at rest on a large birch trunk. This was a new record for v.c. 92 and also the only record in the country for over thirty years when single records were observed in v.c. 96 in Glen Affric (1955; E.C. Pelham-Clinton) and Newtonmore (1952; M.W. Harper). Prior to this most of the records emanate from Rannoch from 1850-1920, when a large number of records appeared but I do not know of any recent sightings.

Aphelia unitana (Hübner). I have known of a very small colony of this species at Beattock (v.c. 72) since 1979 well within the known distribution in northern England, the borders, and the Scottish lowlands. Recently the species has been noticed further afield but I was surprised to find a flourishing colony in two adjacent *Molinia* dominated bogs much further north near Dalmally, Argyll (v.c. 98), near the head of Loch Awe at a moderately elevated altitude of 800-1000 ft.

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Euonymus japonicus — yet another foodplant of the Holly Blue butterfly *Celastrina argiolus* (Linnaeus) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in the London Area.

Further to my note on *Pyracantha* as a possible foodplant for the larvae of spring brood *C. argiolus* (*antea* 41-43) and the subsequent notes by Owen and Allen confirming this (*antea* 145-146) it may be of further interest to record that on 3rd May 1990 at this museum's nature reserve at St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, London (O.S. ref TQ 429823) I witnessed a number of the butterflies laying eggs on *Euonymus japonicus*.

In all, some twenty butterflies were under observation for around 30 minutes in the area immediately in front of the window of the Interpretative Centre — itself a remarkable event as most years we seldom see more than two at once. This area of the nature reserve is mown and apart from some dense patches of ivy, *Hedera helix*, on some of the graves



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