



MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 102 June 2014.

A monthly newsletter covering

Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35

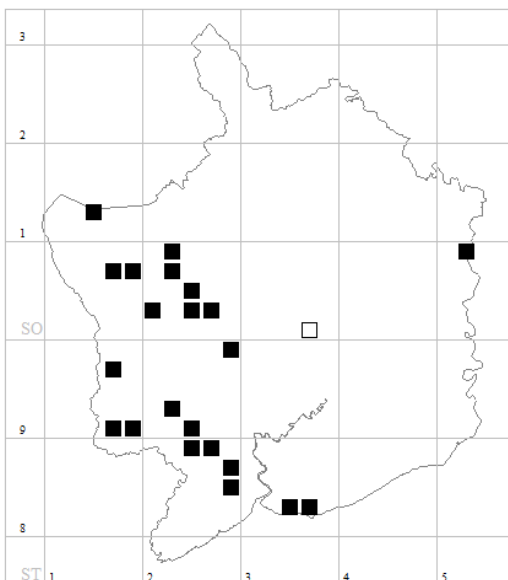
Editor: Martin Anthony

Double Line Moth

The Double Line moth, *Mythimna turca*, is a large noctuid with easily recognised wing markings. The larva feeds on various grasses, with the adult flying in June and July. Until the 2007 revision it was on the UK Priority List (Wales Section 42 list) of species at risk. In 2007 it was taken off the main list as more sites were discovered, but it remains in a separate appendix to Wales Section 42.

Neighbouring Glamorgan has long been a stronghold for Double Line, but the moth was unknown in Gwent until 1969 when a specimen came to light at Usk Castle. It was another thirty years before the second county record at Newport in 1999. The new millennium has produced one or two records most years, usually at new sites, showing clearly that its distribution was slowly extending eastwards. This in itself is unusual, since new species normally extend their range into Gwent northwards or westwards. Then suddenly, 2013 and 2014 have produced thirty records, with part of this year's season still to go. Not only has Double Line spread over the west of the county, but one at Penallt in June was the first record for the east of Gwent. Is this the start of it infilling the rest of the county? The map below shows the current distribution. The open square is the original 1969 record.

2191 Double Line (*Mythimna turca*)



Double Line



It is not obvious what has sparked the spread of Double Line. Traditionally, in south Wales it has been associated with Rhos pasture, rough grassland in damp situations. The new Gwent sites are a mixture of upland and valley bottoms, some apparently with only minimal damp areas. Is Double Line adapting to become more catholic in its choice of habitat?

Martin Anthony

Recent Highlights

The seventh successive month with above average temperatures, plenty of sunny days and muggy nights, interspersed by a few showery days, sometimes thundery, led to good numbers of both butterflies and moths. In addition to Double Line, already mentioned above, other species having an exceptional season include Beautiful Snout, Elephant Hawk and Miller moths. The main exceptions have been Common Blue butterfly, which is still depressingly uncommon this year, and to a lesser extent Marbled White which is also having a year of low numbers at many sites.



Miller moth
(*Acronicta leporina*)

(Ray Armstrong)

- 30th May Puss Moth at Penallt (Stephanie Tyler)
- 31st May Chamomile Shark at St Brides (Mel Oxford)
- Little Thorn at Park Wood, Bassaleg, and at Penallt. (Richard Clarke, Ian Rabjohns)
- 1st June Two Drab Looper moths at Limekiln Wood, Hendre. Also the micros *Incurvaria praelatella*, a new species for VC35, and *Mompha locupletella*. (George Tordoff)
- The micros *Pancalia leuwenhoekella*, two *Aethes tesserana* (scarce in VC35), and *Adela fibulella* found in the quarry at Slade Wood (George Tordoff)



Incurvaria praelatella
(George Tordoff)

- 1st June 4 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies and 6 Speckled Yellow moths at Blackrock Quarry, Clydach. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- Little Thorn and Brindled White-spot at Tintern. (Will Kirby)
- Cypress Carpet at St Brides. (Mel Oxford)
- 15 Dingy Skipper, a UK Priority butterfly, at Whistle Inn, Blaenavon and 13 at Llanelly Quarry, Clydach. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 2nd June Grass Rivulet and Seraphim to light at Risca. (Martin Anthony)
- Painted Lady at Rogiet Country Park. A poor year for this immigrant. (Keith Jones)
- 3rd June Marbled Brown to light at the Cwm. A new site. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- Two Brown Argus butterflies at Rogiet Country Park. (Nick Felstead)
- The UK Priority micro *Anania funebris* at Aberbargoed Grasslands. (Bill Jones)
- 5th June 11 Dingy Skipper at Markham Tip. (Nick Felstead)
- 11 Dingy Skipper at Wyllie. (Nick Felstead)
- Brindled White-spot at Slade Wood. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 6th June A Marsh Fritillary sitting on a bramble leaf at Blaenserchan. There is very little foodplant in the area, so presumably this is a wanderer from a colony elsewhere. Also recorded were 15 Dingy Skipper and 8 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. (Rupert Perkins)

Marsh Fritillary
At Blaenserchan

(Rupert Perkins)



- 6th June Beautiful Snout, Brindled White-spot, Marbled Brown and Red-necked Footman among 60 macro moth species to light at Chepstow Park Wood (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- Wall Brown butterfly at Phillipstown, New Tredegar. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- Sycamore moth at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)
- 9th June Beautiful Carpet to light at Tintern. The first of three specimens in a week. (Will Kirby)
- Small Yellow Underwing at Cwm Big, Aberbeeg. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 4 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Blaenserchan. (George Tordoff)
- 2 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Cwm, above Marine Colliery site (Martin Anthony)
- 10 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Garden City, Ebbw Vale (Nadine Morgan)
- 10th June Painted Lady at Beacon Hill, Trellech (Ray Armstrong)
- 11th June Another Painted Lady, at Pentwyn Farm, Penallt. Hopes of numbers starting to build? (Simon Phipps)
- Cypress Carpet and Broad-barred White among 50 species to light at Melbourne Way, Newport. (Roger James)
- Lilac Beauty at Llandogo. (Simon Phipps)
- 12th June Oblique Carpet at Newport Wetlands Reserve. (Kevin Dupé)
- Waved Carpet and Brindled White-spot at The Cwm, Caerwent. (Martin Anthony)
- 13th June Humming-bird Hawk at Newbridge. (A Gingell)
- Little Thorn at Llandogo. (Simon Phipps)
- 14th June Great Oak Beauty (ninth county record) and Blotched Emerald among 69 macro moth species to light at Kingcoed Farm, Raglan. (John Walshe)



Great Oak Beauty

(John Walshe)

15th June Beautiful Snout at St Brides (Mel Oxford)
 Humming-bird Hawk at Pentrepiod, Pontypool. (Rupert Perkins)
 Red-necked Footman at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)

17th June Beautiful Brocade (only second record this millennium), 6 Striped Wainscot (first records for five years) and Double Line among 52 species to light at Penllwyn Grasslands, Pontllanfraith. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)



Beautiful Brocade



Striped Wainscot

Chocolate Tip at St Brides (Mel Oxford)
 Double Line at Imperial Park, Newport. (Mel Oxford)
 Double Line at Newport Wetlands Reserve. (Kevin Dupé)
 2 Dingy Skipper at Coity Tip, Blaenavon. (Steve Williams)
 First Marbled Whites of the season at MoD Caerwent and Penhow Quarry
 (Martin Anthony and Roger James, Nick Felstead)

18th June Double Line at Gordon Road, Blackwood. The first of three at this site in June. (Kevin Hewitt)
 A count of 42 Forester moths flying at Flatwood Meadows, Cross Keys, by some distance the highest ever count for this day-flying moth in Gwent. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)

19th June Beautiful Snout at Tintern (Will Kirby)
 Double Line and Sycamore to light at Blackwood. (Kevin Hewitt)

10 Dark Green Fritillary at Blaenserchan

(Steve Williams)

20th June

Goat Moth to light at St Brides. Only the eighth county record, all but one in the Newport area.

(Mel Oxford)

Goat Moth

(Mel Oxford)



Double Lines at both Rogerstone and Risca

(Arthur Pitcher, Martin Anthony)

Double Line, Blackneck, Light Brocade and Haworth's Pug among 52 species to light at Cwmynyscoy Quarry, Pontypool.

(Martin Anthony and Roger James)

2 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Small Argent and Sable moth at Aneurin Bevan Stones, Ebbw Vale.

(Martin Anthony and Roger James)

Sycamore to light at Chepstow.

(Nick Felstead)

Painted Lady at Chepstow Park Wood.

(Nick Felstead)

White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary at Bishop's Barnets Wood, Chepstow.

(Nick Felstead)

21st June

Waved Carpet, Orange Moth and Small Seraphim to light at The Cwm, near Caerwent.

(Martin Anthony and Roger James)

22nd June

Beautiful Snout among 52 species to light at Sirhowy Hill Woodland, Ebbw Vale.

(Martin Anthony and Roger James)

The micro *Argyresthia cupressella* at Undy - new for VC35 and one of the first Welsh records.

(Keith Jones)

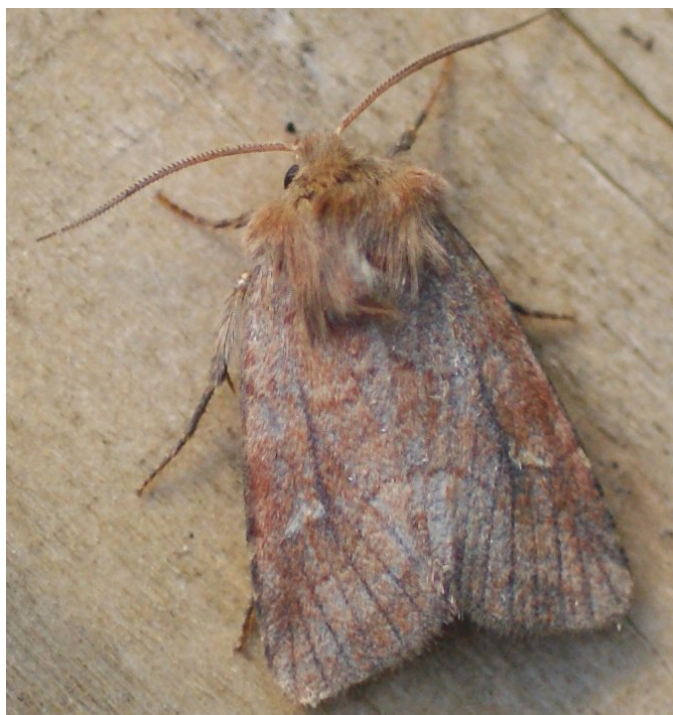
An immigrant Clouded Yellow butterfly flying at Llanwenarth (Steve Williams)

23rd June Great Oak Beauty at Tintern . The tenth county record. (Will Kirby)

2 White Admiral at Slade Wood (Hadyn Jones)

Painted Lady at Haisbro Avenue, Newport. (Sheila Dupé)

24th June Male Silurian moth to light in a Rassau garden close to the proposed Circuit of Wales site. There are areas of bilberry/heath bedstraw/grass on the site not dissimilar to other known Silurian sites, but the altitude (430m) is lower than the known sites. More work will be needed to establish the origin of this specimen. (Rodney Morris)



Silurian moth at Rassau

(Rodney Morris)

24th June Beautiful Snout, Beautiful Carpet and Double Line among 61 species to light at Cwm Big, Aberbeeg. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)

Leopard Moth at St Brides. (Mel Oxford)

Silky Wainscot at Caerleon . (Fiona Illing)

Another new micro for VC35. *Anania perlucidalis* at Penallt. (Ian Rabjohns)

25th June *Mompha conturbatella* at Undy was the fourth new VC35 micro in a month , and the second at this site within a week! (Keith Jones)

Beautiful Snout and Red-necked Footman at Beacon Hill, Trellech (Ray Armstrong)

Bordered Sallow and Obscure Wainscot at St Brides. (Diana Westmoreland and John Morgan)

Double Line at Penallt . The first record for the east of Gwent. (Stephanie Tyler)

26th June Beautiful Snout at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)

Reddish Light Arches (only the second county record) and Lunar-spotted Pinion at Newport Wetlands Reserve. (Kevin Dupé)

The micro *Ethmia dodecea* found at Slade Woods. Only the second county record. (David Gilmore and Mike Powell)

29th June 2 White Admiral and 2 Silver-washed Fritillary at Highmeadow Woods, Forest of Dean. Also two Drab Looper. (Nick Felstead)

Plain Pug found on a window at Dingestow Court. Only the sixth county record. (Sam Bosanquet)

Plain Pug

(*Sam Bosanquet*)



30th June A further 3 Drab Looper at Redding's Inclosure, Forest of Dean. This and the 29th June record are both known sites for Drab Looper, but are very late in the season. (Nick Felstead)

Blackneck at Haisbro Ave, Newport (Sheila Dupé)

Double Dart, Gold Swift, Grass Emerald and July Belle among 55 species to light at Rassau (Martin Anthony and Roger James)

Silky Wainscot, Obscure Wainscot and Round-winged Muslin Footman at Newport Wetlands Reserve. (Kevin Dupé)

In excess of 100 Dark Green Fritillary and 6 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Blaenserchan. Also 40 Marbled White and the first Grayling of the season. (Rupert Perkins)

First Gatekeeper of the season at Rogiet Country Park (Mark Goodwin)

Dates for your Diary 2014

Saturday 18th October

Butterfly Conservation (S. Wales Branch) Members' Day and AGM.
at Kenfig.

MMBG – Contact Names and Addresses.

Secretary: Kevin Dupé
44 Gaer Park Lane
Newport
NP20 3NE

Phone 01633 216599
e-mail the.dupes@virginmedia.com

Treasurer: Sheila Dupé
18 Haisbro Avenue
Newport
NP19 7HY
Phone 01633 256475

Newsletter Editor & Recorder for
Butterflies & Macro Moths
Martin Anthony
23 Malvern Close
Risca
Newport
NP11 6QY
Phone 01633 612272
e-mail martin@chemlep.demon.co.uk

Chairman: Roger James
44 Melbourne Way
Newport
NP20 3RF

Phone 01633 263374
e-mail smallranunculus@btinternet.com
or in case of problems julia.james@btinternet.com

Recorder for Micro Moths
Sam Bosanquet
c/o Dingestow Court
Monmouth
Monmouthshire
NP25 4DY

e-mail sambbryo@aol.com