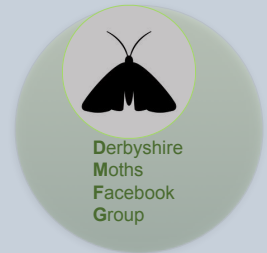


NO:22 FEBRUARY 2025

MOTH NEWS

FOR DERBYSHIRE 2025

Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group (DMFG)



VC57

I have to make an apology regarding the January Moth Bulletin. I incorrectly published in the moth round-up a **Pale Brindled Beauty** of the melanic form **monacharia**, when in fact it was a **Dotted Border** of the melanic form **fuscata**. It was first spotted by one of our verifiers, Christian Heintzen, and got missed by myself and incredibly, during post publication proof-reading. My thanks go to Christian for kindly put together an ID Plate to show the differences of the two melanic forms, and for picking up on the miss ID.

Dotted Border *Agriopsis marginaria* f. *fuscata* Longdendale, Wildboar Clough, 15 Feb 2024



Pale Brindled Beauty *Phigalia pilosaria* f. *monacharia* Glossop, Long Clough, 03 Feb 2025



February Moth News

Jim Alder recorded two species of hibernating moths at Barlborough CP on 2nd - **Tissue** (6) and **The Herald** (49). (iRecord).

Christian Heintzen ran his first moth trap of the year at Long Clough on 3rd and recorded some good species and numbers - ***Acleris ferrugana/notana*** (1); ***Tortricodes alternella*** (10); **Chestnut** (2); **Dotted Border** (2); **March Moth** (7); **Spring Usher** (4) and **Pale Brindled Beauty** (32). (iRecord).



Spring Usher - Christian Heintzen©



Tortricodes alternella - Christian Heintzen©

The larva of a **Fox Moth** was discovered in the carpark at Surprise View on 3rd by Steven Bell. (iRecord). Matt Leedell discovered a dead **Oak Beauty** outside his place of work at Pride Park on the 4th, an early account of this species. (DMFG)

Mark Radford recorded several micro species during January at Markham Vale. First a pupal case of a ***Coleophora*** species was found on Juncus (Rush), which was most likely one of two, ***C. alticolella/glaucicolella***. Then the mine of ***Exoteleia dodecella***, (**Tufted Pine Moth**) in the tip of a pine needle. (DMFG).

On the 5th Rob and Sharon Thatcher visited 3 tunnels on the Monsal Trail and found **Herald Moth** (7); **Tissue** (5) and **Early Moth** (1), all hibernating.

February Moth News



***Exoteleia dodecella* - Tufted Pine Moth -**
Mark Radford©



***Exoteleia dodecella* - Tufted Pine Moth -**
Mark Radford©



***Agonopterix assimilella* - Speckled Broom Buff -** Mark
Radford©



***Agonopterix assimilella* - Speckled Broom Buff -**
Mark Radford©



***Phyllonorycter leucographella* -**
Firethorn Leaf Miner - Mark Radford©



***Phyllonorycter leucographella* -**
Firethorn Leaf Miner - Mark Radford©

February Moth News

On the 13th February also at Markham Vale, Mark Radford recorded the mine, with larvae enclosed, of ***Agonopterix assimilella***, (**Speckled Broom Buff**) found in Broom. (DMFG)

On 15th Mark also discovered the Blister Mines of ***Phyllonorycter leucographella*** - (**Firethorn Leaf Miner**), on his Pyracantha in his Staveley garden. It just goes to show that even when the weather is poor for Light Trapping, you can still find good species of moth, hidden away! (DMFG)



Coleophora alticolella/glaucicolella - Mark Radford©

Christian Heintzen found the casing of ***Coleophora vitisella***, a Cowberry specialist, on the underside of a Cowberry leaf at Longdendale, Derbyshire. Unfortunately the exact location was in VC58, but was still in Derbyshire, but not in the VC57 recording area, however a good record nevertheless of a nationally Scarce A species.

A spell of mild weather arrived on 20th and a number of recorders managed to trap their first moths for 2025. Sid Morris hit Markham Vale and recorded 9 species including **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **Water Carpet**, **Yellow Horned** (A classic spring species), **Clouded Drab** and **Oak Beauty**. The traps from the 20th proved good, with Dave Evans from Belper recording **Pale Brindled Beauty** (2), **Spring Usher** (2) and an **Early Moth**. (DMFG)

February Moth News



The casing of *Coleophora vitisella* - Christian Heintzen©

Pale Brindled Beauty was also recorded from Breaston (Steve Thorpe), Staveley (4), as well as **Dotted Border** and **Chestnut** (Mark Radford), Mickleover, as well as **Chestnut**, **Dotted Border** and **Common Quaker** (Christine Maughan) and Sandiacre (2) (Paul Buxton). (DMFG)

Mark Radford had a productive morning at Markham Vale with Micro Moths - (100+) *Phyllonorycter leucographella*, (**Firethorn Leaf-miner**); (1000's) of *Coleophora alticolella/glaucicolella* on the seed heads of Juncus; *Stigmella aurella* (5) *Agonopterix assimilella* (3) and *Coleophora laricella* (5) (Pupal cases). (DMFG)

Steve Orridge recorded the leaf mine of *Stictea mygindiana* at Combs Moss on 21st along with **Chestnut** and **Pale Brindled Beauty** from his Buxton garden light trap also on 21st. (iRecord)

February Moth News



Early Moth - Dave Evans©



Spring Usher - Dave Evans©



Coleophora laricella - Mark Radford©



Chestnut - Christine Maughan©

Clive Ashton ran his first moth trap of 2025 overnight on 20th and recorded similar species - **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **Dotted Border**, **Chestnut** and the first **March Moth** of the year. A **Herald** was reported from Cotmanhay, Ilkeston on 21st and Angie Seymour reported the first ***Acleris cristana*** for 2025 from Whaley Bridge, also overnight on 21st.

Brian Hobby ran his garden moth trap from Kirk Hallam overnight on 21st and recorded **Beautiful Plume**, **Dotted Border**, **Chestnut** (3) and **Hebrew Character**. Matt Leedell recorded a **White-shouldered House Moth** in his kitchen at Belper on 22nd. Another **Oak Beauty** was recorded by Graham Pollock from Quarndon on 22nd

February Moth News

I ran my 20W Actinic moth trap in my garden overnight on 22nd and recorded 4 species - ***Agonopterix heracliana*** (first one for the year), **Dotted Border** (2), **Common Quaker** (1) and **March Moth** (1). (Derbyshiremoths.org)



Dotted Boarder - Tony Davison©



Agonopterix heracliana - Tony Davison©



Common Quaker - Tony Davison©



March Moth - Tony Davison©

February Moth News

A spell of cold weather finished off any chance of moth trapping at the end of the month. Nevertheless a few leaf mines were discovered including the tenanted mine of ***Phyllonorycter leucographella*** in Dave Evans' Belper garden on 24th, ***Coptotriche marginea*** (**Bramble Blotch Leaf-miner**) from Foxhole, Staveley by Mark Radford, and several reports of ***Stigmella aurella***. (DMFG)



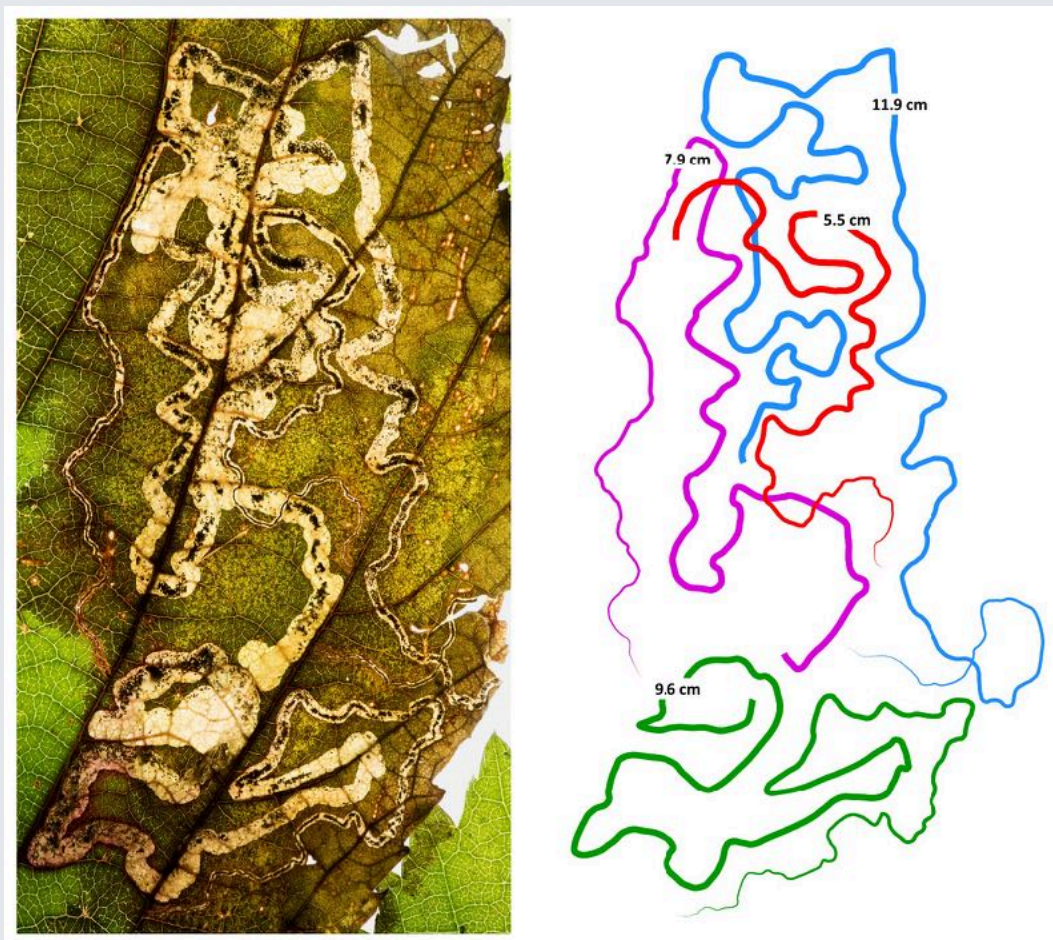
Phyllonorycter leucographella - Dave Evans©



Coptotriche marginea - Mark Radford©

February Moth News

Here is a very interesting image by Christian Heintzen, which shows how complex the leaf mines can be of some leaf miner species. Christian comments as follows - "This particular bramble leaf must have held some attraction, as it was mined by 4 ***Stigmella aurella*** larvae. Following their paths was easy at first but got more difficult when the paths criss-crossed".



Stigmella aurella - Christian Heintzen©

February Moth News

Archie Braddock sent in some more notes and thoughts from his "Moths Now and Then" writings.

"One of the aims of this series is to try and get more entomologists out into the field, rather than just relying on their individual garden light traps. (*This is something that I have muted on from time to time - Editor*). Many moths can be shy of strong light, thus being considered as scarce, yet out in the field they can be abundant.

The **Yellow-legged Clearwing** is currently categorised as rare, and it probably always will be, as it requires two year old oak stumps as its preferred food plant. It may well be more common in some woods than others, especially if the wood contains the required two year old oak stumps. If these stumps can be found, the chances are the moth larvae may well be present in numbers, in these isolated colonies.

Currant Clearwing is another species that can be found easily, especially on allotments which have an abundance of currant bushes, and very often the moth is in good numbers in these places. Abundant around its food-plant but scarce elsewhere."

Archie makes some good points in his writings, especially in relation to looking for species in the field. A lack of sufficient data on a wide range of moth species can significantly affect the accuracy of predicting the status of many of our county's moths.

Well that brings the February edition of Derbyshire Moths to an end. Hope you enjoy this bulletin and with luck, we can now start to look forward to an increase in our moth-ing activities, with the onset of Spring.

"Good Moth-ing"

Tony Davison

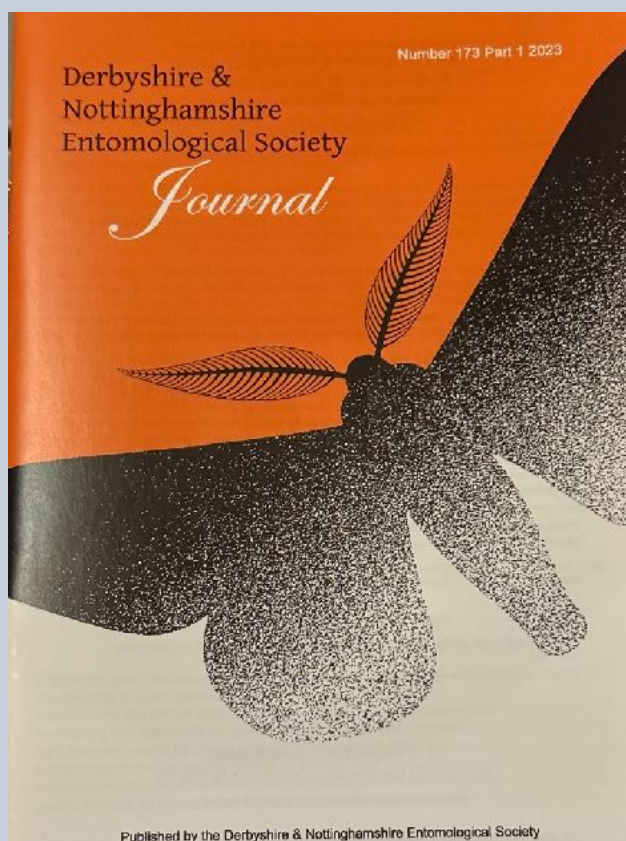
February Moth News

I am very pleased to announce that the long awaited **Derbyshire Macro Moth Report for the years 2019-2023** has been published in the latest DaNES Journal number 173 Part 1 2023. Out of interest, part two contains the Nottinghamshire Macro Moth Report for 2023.

The **Derbyshire Macro Moth Report** can be viewed/downloaded here:-

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/the-vc57-derbyshire-macro-moth-report-2019-2023/>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in helping me to put this report together, including proof-reading, producing maps and general statistics, photographers for allowing the use of their excellent images, DaNES for publication and last but not least, you the county moth recorders. Without your valuable records there wouldn't be a report, so a massive thank you from me and on behalf of all the members of the verification team.



DaNES Journal No:173 Part 1 2023.