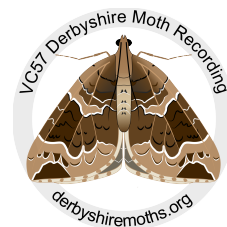


## IDENTIFICATION GUIDANCE NOTES ON EPIRRITA GROUP

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The ***Epirrita*** season is upon us and to encourage you to ID to species level, contrary to the many, many statements one finds online, it is actually quite easy to do.



**Small Autumnal Moth** (above) **November Moth** (below) Christian Heintzen©

The top row are all **Small Autumnal Moth** that I trapped at the end of September 2025. This is a bit at the rear end of their flight times but the habitat on heather moorland is distinct and the only other ***Epirrita*** that looks similar is **Autumnal Moth** which will be starting to fly in mid October.

**Small Autumnal Moths** have a distinct silvery-grey sheen to them and are usually well marked and on average are distinctly smaller than **Autumnal Moth**. The genitals and octavals are too similar to distinguish between them.

The bottom row shows **November Moths** that start to fly in early October. They are typically very drab but some exceptions occur. In **November Moth** the octavals are relatively long and straight and generally poke out beneath the scales. So all that's needed is to look for the octavals on the underside of a moth (kept in a pot or flat transparent dish).

In Glossop **Autumnal Moth** should start flying from mid October onwards. They look like a larger version of **Small Autumnal Moth**. The octavals of **Autumnal Moth** are short and stubby and in fresh moths are usually completely hidden beneath scales. As the season progresses things get even easier as often scales will have been naturally lost (especially on the underside of the abdomen) and octavals become even more obvious.

I do not (seem to) get **Pale November Moth** here, so have no experience with it, except for one that I caught in Scotland. The octavals are much more closely spaced and when seen it is very obvious that it is a **Pale November Moth**.