



Moth Trapping Report: Crossways @20th August 2022

David and Anna kindly hosted a moth trapping event on the morning of 20th August. Two traps were used; a home-made actinic light trap supplied by Chris Chapman and a mercury vapour light trap supplied by Nick Ostler.

In total 133 moths were recorded of 44 species as shown in the table below.

The highlight was the rare Porter's Rustic, which you can read a bit more about below. The relatively large number of Rush Veneer was also notable. Amongst other highlights were the Dark Sword-grass, Feathered Gothic, Chinese Character, Brussels Lace and Tawny Speckled Pug.

English Name	Scientific Name	Count
Black Arches	<i>Lymantria monacha</i>	1
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	3
Brussels Lace	<i>Cleorodes lichenaria</i>	1
Canary-shouldered Thorn	<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>	1
Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Pandemis corylana</i>	1
Chequered Grass-Veneer	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	1
Chinese Character	<i>Cilix glaucata</i>	1
Clay Triple-Lines	<i>Cyclophora linearia</i>	1
Common Grass-veneer	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	10
Common Marble	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	2
Common Purple and Gold	<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>	5
Common Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	6
Common/Lesser Rustic	<i>Mesapamea secalis/didyma</i>	2
Copper Underwing agg.	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i> agg.	1
Coronet	<i>Craniophora ligustri</i>	1
Dark Sword-grass	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	1
Dingy Footman	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	1
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	5
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	1
Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	10
Flounced Rustic	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	2
Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Archips podana</i>	1
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	1
Light Brown Apple Moth	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	1
Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritaria</i>	1
Lime-speck Pug	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	1
Magpie	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	2
Maiden's Blush	<i>Cyclophora punctaria</i>	2
Marbled Piercer	<i>Cydia splendana</i>	1
Porter's Rustic	<i>Athetis hospes</i>	1
Rosy Footman	<i>Miltochrista miniata</i>	1
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	1
Rush Veneer	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	25
Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	13
Six-striped Rustic	<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>	5
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	1
Square-spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	1
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	1
Straw Underwing	<i>Thalpophila matura</i>	11
Swallow Prominent	<i>Pheosia tremula</i>	1
Tawny Speckled Pug	<i>Eupithecia icterata</i>	1
Vagrant Piercer	<i>Cydia amplana</i>	1
Vine's Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>	2
White-point	<i>Mythimna albipuncta</i>	1

	<p>Porter's Rustic (<i>Athetis hospes</i>) Undoubtedly the most unusual moth caught on the night and star of the show, although it clearly won't win any prizes for beauty being quite a dour moth. Nonetheless this is a nationally rare immigrant moth that has only been recorded in Sussex 17 times up to and including 2020. All these records date from 2006. As far as we are aware this is the first record in the 10 km square that Plumpton resides.</p> <p>Nationally this moth was only first recorded in the UK in Cornwall in 1978 and there have been less than 200 sightings since.</p> <p>The moth normally lives in Southern Europe and seems to be spreading north. There has been no evidence of breeding yet in the UK.</p>
	<p>Rush Veneer (<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>) Another immigrant moth that often turns up in the UK but seems to be having an irruption this year, perhaps because of the unusually hot weather.</p> <p>At least 25 were caught in the traps, but that is likely to be an underestimate as quite a few flew off before they could be properly counted.</p> <p>They can be currently quite easily encountered during day-light amongst the butterflies, especially on the downland as they flit amongst the grasses.</p>
	<p>Canary-shouldered Thorn (<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>)</p> <p>The brightly coloured yellow thorax makes this pretty moth relatively easy to identify. It is common throughout the UK and a very welcome addition to the moth traps during its single flight period from late July to the middle of October.</p>
	<p>Brussels Lace (<i>Cleorodes lichenaria</i>)</p> <p>This individual was found beside the actinic light trap. It's a fairly late season specimen as its usual flight period is between June and mid-August.</p> <p>This species has a chequered history in Sussex with it once being quite common up until the 1940's when it then started to decline and became close to a county-wide extinction in the 1970's. It then started to recover in the 1980's and today it's now at its highest level since the 1940's.</p> <p>The Brussels lace recovery may have been aided by migrants from the continent.</p> <p><small>(Info sourced from "A Revised History of The Butterflies and Moths of Sussex" by Colin R. Pratt)</small></p>
	<p>Six-striped Rustic (<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>)</p> <p>This is a medium-sized, resident, common moth that is found throughout the UK.</p> <p>It is primarily found in traps during August, with numbers peaking towards the end of the month.</p>