

**Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society
Newsletter**

Incorporating



The Cheshire Moth Group Newsletter

October 2004
Number 1012

The newsletter is available to download in colour from the NWMoths group pages at www.yahoo.com

Welcome!

Autumn is now with us – what ever happened to the summer? The cold, wet and windy weather has curtailed many of my planned mothing expeditions this year. However, it has still been an excellent season during which a number of new moths have come my way. How has your season been? Excellent or disastrous, why not come along to the first of the winter indoor meetings (19th October) and let us all know. Please note that the dates of the indoor meetings in the membership card are in error – see the corrections later in this issue.

The BAP process has had a large impact on moth recording and has led to a great deal of targeted survey effort. Many field trips have been organised specifically in order to survey for BAP species. As detailed later, the BAP list is under review and all LCES/CMG members can contribute to this process. Steve Judd has agreed to coordinate contributions from the Society. This is an important process with which we should all try and get involved.

On the subject of conservation, please take note of the Code of Conduct for insect collecting attached in the appendix reproduced from the Buglife web site. The full code can be viewed at <http://www.buglife.org.uk/html/a-code-of-conduct/a-code-of-conduct.htm>

The next newsletter is due in December. As usual contributions should be sent to me. Contact details are at the end of this issue.

Adrian Wander

Society Meetings – A Reminder

The programme of monthly winter meetings at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, begins on Tuesday 19th October at 7.30 pm. The theme of the first evening is to be; *Review of the 2004 season.*

Contributions can be a few informal words, or a small prepared paper or exhibit, whichever you prefer. All are welcome to contribute. Please note that slides should be saved for the meeting on November 17th.

The usual opportunity for other comments and exhibits will be available, as usual, and will include a demonstration of how to make, in 10 minutes and nil expense, an effective assembling trap for use with pheromone lures or an unmated female macro or micro-moth.

Members and visitors are welcome to attend.

Date Corrections

The dates of the indoor meetings given on the Society Programme Cards are in error. They are down as 20 Oct, 17 Nov & 15 Dec and should be the 19th, 16th and 21st respectively. The Programme is therefore;

19th October – Review of the Season

16th November – Members' slide evening

21st December – Members' videos and Christmas Social

As per usual we meet on the third Tuesday of the Month. Many thanks to Don Stenhouse for alerting us to this problem.

Council Meeting

The next LCES Council meeting will be held on the 3rd November. Venue: TBA

Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Entomological Society

Insect Show 2004

DaNES will be holding their annual exhibition on Saturday 6th November 2004 from 11am to 4 pm at Broomfield Hall, Derby College, Morley, Derbyshire, which is located on the A608 just north of Derby, Grid Reference SK385401.

The Show is a well attended, lively and enjoyable event, and the venue is set in attractive grounds with mature trees worth examining for leaf mines. The student refectory serves meals and drinks at modest prices.

Non-DaNES members are made welcome. A small admission charge is made of £1-00 to adult visitors, children free.

For further information contact Glynis Harris Tel 0115 937 6043

RES Northern Meetings

The RES would like to announce two North Region meetings.

- Oct. 20th 2004 RES Postgraduate Forum at University of Newcastle. Convenor Harprit Chhokar, tel 0207 594 2534 email harprit.chhokar@imperial.ac.uk
 - Nov 17th 2004 RES meeting at University of Durham "Management of Mosquitoes and other vectors" Convenor Dr Gordon Port, tel 0191 222 6894 email gordon.port@newcastle.ac.uk
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BENHS Annual Exhibition

On the subject of meetings don't forget the Annual Exhibition Meeting of the BENHS which will be held on the 13th November at Imperial Collage, South Kensington, London

Invitation to Contribute to Invertebrate Biodiversity Prioritisation

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a key part of the nature conservation effort towards ensuring that the UK fulfils its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). Under the BAP, target driven Species Action Plans (SAPs) and Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) are prepared for those species and habitats that could face extinction or dramatic decline without concerted efforts.

Currently BAP lists 391 Priority species, 44% of which are invertebrates. Listing has succeeded in greatly raising the profile of such species, together with the funding for survey and monitoring, autecological research and site management.

The list of BAP Priority Species is to be reviewed in 2005. This includes a full review of the existing priority list and is an opportunity to put forward species to be listed that are in urgent need of action.

To ensure that the conservation needs of invertebrates are represented in the review process, Invertebrate Link (JCCBI) has contracted Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust to help co-ordinate relevant input to the review by:-

- identifying 'coordinators' for groups of invertebrate taxa, who will liaise with other relevant experts in reviewing the conservation status of British species and suggesting what changes should be made to the current list of BAP Priority Species.
- assisting coordinators in the review process as far as possible. For example, through JNCC, raw lists of British species for each group of invertebrate taxa will be produced, showing their current conservation designations (where this information is readily available), providing a template against which coordinators can work.

- collating a proposed list of invertebrates to be put forward in the BAP review process.
- presenting the list to Defra by early 2005 after which there will be two further stages of Government led prioritisation applied.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PRIORITY SPECIES

The general criteria for selection are unlikely to differ from those used for the original BAP lists published in 1995. These were based on international conservation status, rarity and rates of decline. However, the available data for many invertebrate taxa are not sufficient to establish whether, for example, a species has declined by more than 25% in the last 25 years. For this reason, we are keen to encourage a pragmatic approach to the selection of invertebrate Priority Species, drawing on the knowledge of relevant experts to make judgments within the bounds of the selection criteria and available data. More detailed guidance on the criteria is in preparation.

The UK's Biodiversity Action Plans are critically important to the conservation process. It is essential that invertebrates – 64% of all species - are properly incorporated. This project aims to achieve that and we look forward to working with all those who will be involved.

Specialist societies have been asked to nominate an individual/individuals to coordinate their inputs, but anyone is welcome to put forward what they regard as the best new candidates for Priority Species status.

If you would like to have an input into the process please contact us and indicate which species or taxonomic group you would like to be involved with. Send your contact details to:-

Matt Shardlow

Conservation Director, Buglife, 170A Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UF.

E-mail matt.shardlow@buglife.org.uk

Steve Judd has agreed to act as the BAP coordinator for the Society and should be contacted with suggestions. He can be contacted via snail mail at Dr Steve Judd, Head of Zoology, Liverpool Museum, National Museums Liverpool L38EN. Tel 0151 478 4011 or by e-mail at steve.judd@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

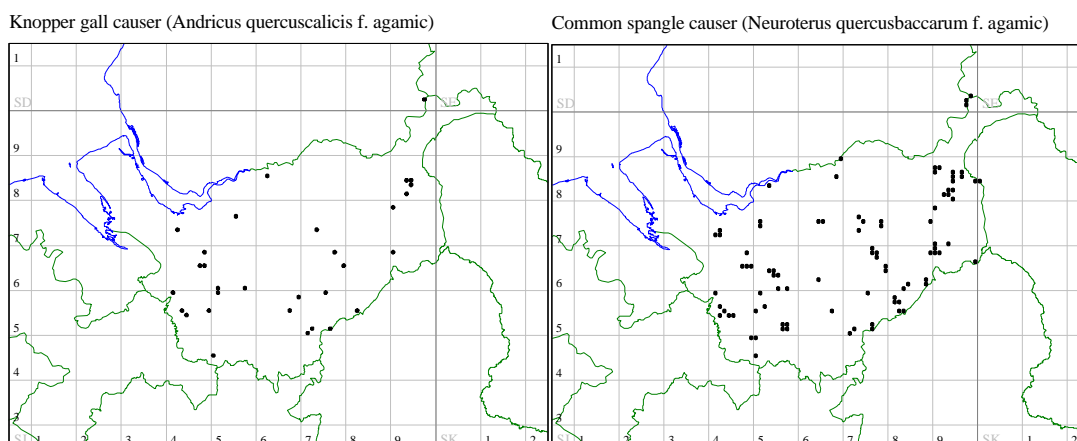
Plant Galls – A Request

By its very nature, searching for the early stages of micro moths that mine leaves involves close study of plants. If you study plants in this way, you can not help noticing plant galls. Over the past few years those of us who indulge in leaf-mining have also been recording the plant galls we could identify. This process has been greatly simplified by the publication of the AIDGAP key 'British Plant Galls' by Redfern and Shirley (published in 2002 by the Field Studies Council).

This is an interesting addition to our usual moth based activities and has led to us recording many orders; fungi, nematodes, mites, Diptera, Hymenoptera, and Hemiptera. We have even recorded a few Lepidoptera that make galls as well! The maps show the current distribution of records we have for two relatively common wasps that galls Oak – the Common Spangle Causer and the Knopper Gall Causer. Clearly, the County is somewhat under recorded.

We are not aware that VC58 currently has a plant gall recorder. If there is a recorder could you please send us contact details so we can pass on our records. In the meantime we would be delighted to receive details of VC58 records of plant galls. Please send them to Adrian Wander (address in the contacts section). The records should include the following information; Species Name, Vernacular Name, Date, Site, Map Reference, Recorder, Determiner and Host Plant. Records as Excel files are preferred – please note that several of the gall causing taxa are

not in the species lists distributed with MapMate (e.g. mites, fungi) and therefore that package can not currently be used to record all galls.



A typical recent record;

Name	Vernacular	Date	Site	OS Ref	Recorder	Host
Neuroterus quercusbaccarum f. agamic	Common Spangle Gall	26/09/2004	Anderton Nature Park	SJ6475	Adrian Wander	Oak

In addition to building up a database of plant gall records we will also ensure that records are passed on to the relevant recorder for the order of the gall causer (hymenoptera in the above example).

If you are interested in learning more about plant galls there is a lot of excellent introductory material available on the British plant Gall society web site at <http://www.btinternet.com/~bpgs/index.html>

Note: There are additional records on the rECORd database of many plant galls. We will attempt to rationalise these records in the coming months.

Adrian Wander and Steve Hind

Butterflies in NE Wales (VC's 50 & 51) in 2004

I am writing this at the end of September when I have had few reports from other recorders. After a decent spring and good spells of sunny weather in May and early June, the summer months seemed to have more dull and wet than usual.

Species overwintering as adults appeared in March and April but it was not until 19 April that I saw my first Orange Tips, followed two days later by Speckled Woods.

Large, Small and Green-veined Whites appeared as the season got going and they all continued in good numbers and at the end of the summer were often seen flying on very dull and even wet days. The occasional Brimstone was seen but I only have one record of a Clouded Yellow, near Ruthin on 16 June.

Green Hairstreak was only seen in small numbers except at Penycloddiau on the Clwydian Range. Purple hairstreaks could not be found at a couple of established sites I visited but were recorded from a few new locations in the area. Of the three sightings of White-letter Hairstreak I have, one was a new record from Trevor Uchaf and another was of five at Bryn Meiriadog where previous sightings have only been of singletons. Did a good year go largely unnoticed ?

Small Coppers were noticed more frequently than of late, including records from sites where there have been no sightings for two or more years.

My only sighting of Silver-studded Blues was of eleven rather old specimens at Mynydd

Marian on 13 July. A reasonably good season is indicated by David Hinde's count of seventy-two at Cefn yr Ogof Quarry on 10 June. Brown Argus were present on the known sites I visited but in rather low numbers. In contrast Common Blue numbers seemed higher at most sites this year, although I could not find any when in SJ16 (around Denbigh). Holly Blue seem to be increasing again and there may be a third brood, sightings being made in the last few days.

Red Admirals never appeared in great numbers and Painted Lady didn't breed as successfully as hoped for after a good invasion in early June. Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks were generally disappointing but Commas, at least in my locality near Ruthin, had a good season. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries had a mixed season, depending on the site, but one new colony was found. The Pearl-bordered Fritillary was in record numbers at Eyarth Rocks and, perhaps more exciting, was the report of one in Llandegla Forest by Bryan Formstone; a site with no previous known records. Dark Green Fritillary sightings have all been of singletons.

Speckled Wood have been recorded in every week since late April and in at least average numbers. The Wall also appeared to have a good year although it is still scarce east of the Clwydian Range. I presume the Grayling had a good year as one made an appearance in my garden for the second year running. Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns had an unremarkable year and Ringlets were found at some new sites. Small Heath were seen in better than average numbers at some sites but Large Heath were not seen on the Llandegla Moors despite a search of the last known site.

I have prepared a spreadsheet showing the 10km squares in which each species has been recorded in the last five years (2000-04). Squares where records exist for earlier years are highlighted. (Not all the squares for VCs 50&51 are included). (*The spreadsheet is attached at the end of the newsletter – Ed*)

As this is the final year of the period for review of the BNM project any records you have which will add to the recorded distributions will be gratefully received. Please send any records to Rob Whitehead - Haulfryn, Graigfechan, RUTHIN LL15 2HA (e-mail: robaud@haulfryn99.fsnet.co.uk).

Rob Whitehead

VC58 Moth Species Breakdown

The last two issues of the newsletter have included details of the micro and macro moths of Cheshire given in terms of ten kilometre grid squares. I was interested in an over view of that data to answer questions such as which grid square has the highest species total? Which grid square has the lowest total (and therefore needs more recording effort)?

Before looking at the table can you answer these questions? In particular what are the species totals for the best and worst recorded squares in VC58? According to our current mapmate data base, the total species lists for VC58 is 1428.

Our best recorded square is SJ98 with 889 species (just over 62% of the total), closely followed by SJ88 with 861 species (60.3%). In the table, our best squares (with over 500 species) are shown in bold type face. Our worst squares (with under 100 records) are shaded. So, what is the worst recorded square of all? Well, it is SJ63. VC58 does just extend into this square and we have no records at all!

The extension of VC58 into SJ63 lies to the west of the River Duckow, west of the A529 in the Adderley area. There is a short stretch of minor road near Yew Tree Farm which is in SJ6339 and is also in VC58. A challenge – who can be the first observer to add a new ten kilometre grid square to the VC58 database! If you fancy a visit, make sure you are in VC58 and let us know how you get on!

Notes: Grid squares are read horizontally then vertically. All squares lie in SJ except on the top right of the table (numbers underlined). 90 is in SD, 00 and 01 are in SE, 06-09 and 19 are in SK.

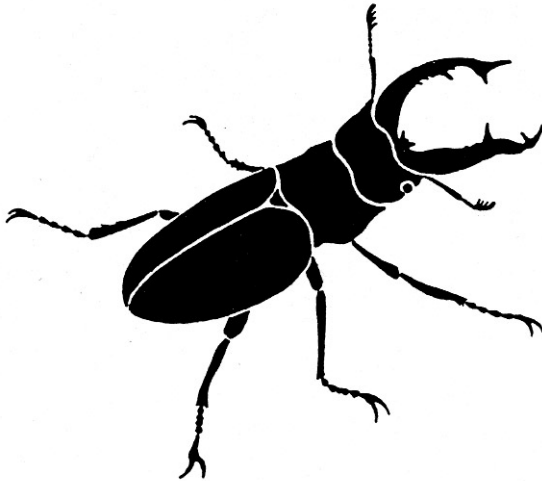
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1
0									<u>66</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>11</u>
9		515	59			34	357	157	693	<u>317</u>	<u>9</u>
8	179	721	612	32	674	352	753	861	889	<u>296</u>	
7		384	623	626	741	766	603	612	711	<u>274</u>	
6			285	542	608	647	456	515	246	<u>50</u>	
5			86	413	431	505	443	562			
4				350	391	443	101				
3						0					

Adrian Wander

Contacts and Web Sites

- The Lancashire and Cheshire Entomology Society (LCES) can be found at: <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/lces>
- Lancs. & Chesh. Ent. Soc. can be contacted through The Hon. Sec., Ian Smith, 12 Fernhill, Mellor, Stockport, SK6 5AN. Tel. 0161 427 3887. or at ifsmith@onetel.com or, for subscriptions and membership, through The Hon. Treasurer, R.W. Whitehead, Haulfryn, Graigfechan, Ruthin, Denbs., LL15 2HA or at robaud@haulfryn99.fsnet.co.uk
- **rECOrd** – The Local Records Centre for Cheshire, Halton, Runcorn, Warrington and the Wirral can be found at: <http://www.record-lrc.co.uk>
- All records of macro and micro moths for Cheshire (VC58) should preferably be submitted to the Cheshire Moth Group Data Officer, Shane Farrell shane.farrell@ntlworld.com or via post to 15 Westover, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 3ER
- Records of micros in Cheshire can also be sent to Steve Hind by e-mail to: steve@hind1.fsnet.co.uk
- Records from Shropshire should be sent to Peter Boardman, 7 High Street, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, SY10 7RP or e-mail at peperouda@btinternet.com
- Submission of all biological records can be made to **rECOrd** at: manager@record-lrc.co.uk
- Butterfly Conservation can be found at: <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>
- The Lancashire Moth Group now has a web page at <http://www.lancashire-moths.org>
- The Cheshire Moth Group also has web pages at <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/lrc/cmzg/cmzg.htm>
- I can be contacted regarding field trips, items for the next newsletter etc. at: a.wander@dl.ac.uk or by post to 16 Bramhalls Park, Anderton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 6AH

A CODE FOR INSECT COLLECTING



PREPARED BY INVERTEBRATE LINK
Joint Committee for the Conservation
of British Invertebrates

INVERTEBRATE LINK

Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Invertebrates

A Code of Conduct for Collecting Insects and Other Invertebrates: Summary¹

This Committee believes that the study of invertebrates and the formation of reference collections, complete with their inherent recorded data, are important sources of information which make a vital contribution to the conservation of the invertebrate fauna and to conservation in general. To this end, accurate identification of species is essential and often requires the examination of dead specimens.

Available evidence indicates that invertebrate populations are not generally harmed by the collection of specimens. Collecting may, however, have some potential to harm populations that are very localised or that have been seriously affected by the loss and fragmentation of habitats, caused by changes in land use. Such changes include the decline of traditional farmland management, urban expansion and road development.

In view of these considerations, the Committee believes that collecting should always be limited to the minimum necessary for the purpose intended, as well as by full compliance with legal requirements relating to particular sites and species. This principle is enshrined within the following code of conduct, together with guidance on the safeguarding of collections and associated data.

The Committee acknowledges the restraint that is already exercised by most people who study invertebrates in the field. Furthermore it believes that by subscribing to this code they can show themselves to be a concerned and responsible body of committed naturalists who wish to maximise the value of their data for conservation.

1 Collecting - general

- Never take more specimens from the wild than you need for your specific purpose.
- Avoid killing or removing invertebrates from the wild without good reason (e.g. if essential for scientific study or identification, but not for trade).
- Do as little damage to the habitat as possible.
- Take care of your collection and try to ensure its availability for study in perpetuity.

2 Collecting - rare, local and endangered species

- Obey all laws and bylaws that prohibit or control collecting on protected sites or the collection of protected species².
- Exercise the utmost restraint if collecting taxa listed as being of 'Conservation Concern'³.

1 The full version of this code is available as follows: on most invertebrate conservation websites, in volume 15 of *Journal of British Entomology and Natural History* (2002), and on sale from AES Publications, PO Box 8774, London SW7 5ZG.

2 In Great Britain, these taxa are protected under Section 9 (1) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and are listed within Schedule 5 of the Act. The licensing authority at the time of writing is DEFRA; applications can be made via the national conservation agencies (e.g. English Nature). The authority for Northern Ireland is the Environment & Heritage Service of DoE(NI).

3 These taxa are listed in CITES schedules, Biodiversity Action Plans, Red Data Books and reviews of nationally or locally notable species, as updated on the websites of UK government conservation agencies: e.g. www.english-nature.org.uk and www.citesuk.gov.uk

- If, for reasons of *bona fide* scientific study, you need to sample populations of listed taxa, do so only if the proposed sampling is known not to be damaging.
- Always report new findings of rare species to the appropriate conservation agencies, records centres and organisers of recording schemes (see item 6).

3 Collecting - traps and lights

- Always use live trapping (without anaesthetics) if possible and release the catch in cool, shady conditions near the trap site after examining, recording and retaining voucher specimens if essential.
- If a trap used for repeated sampling is found to be catching rare or local species unnecessarily it should be re-sited.
- Traps and lights should be sited with care so as not to annoy or confuse other people.

4 Collecting - permissions and conditions

- Always seek permission from the landowner or occupier before collecting on private land, or obtain appropriate permit(s) for access and/or collecting on any site controlled by a statutory or conservation body. (Collecting on a Site of Special Scientific Interest requires permission from both the owner and the national conservation agency⁴.)
- Always comply with any conditions laid down with the granting of access and the permission to collect.
- Always report your findings to the person who gave you permission, at least by commenting orally on the ecological requirements of a few species of interest. If the site is protected or managed for wildlife, send the organisation(s) concerned a full list of the species recorded, annotated with habitat data.

5 Collecting - protecting the environment

- Protect the environment and do as little damage as possible; remember the interests of other naturalists and avoid harm to nesting birds and vegetation, particularly rare or fragile plants.
- If you must collect or dismantle any habitat items (e.g. seed heads, loose bark or dead wood), always leave a good proportion intact.
- If you move habitat items (e.g. water-weed, moss, stones or logs) while searching, replace them unless there is good reason to do otherwise.
- Avoid damage to aquatic habitats from over-vigorous use of water nets or kick-sampling.
- Do not apply 'sugar' to tree trunks or other surfaces that support lichens or that would appear unsightly (e.g. in sight of roads, rides etc.). Consider using 'wine ropes' instead.
- Do not uproot plants or dig up turf without permission from the landowner, as this is generally illegal in the UK. Also, observe the law regarding protected plant species.
- If collecting litter from vertebrate nests or roosts, do so only in compliance with the laws applying to the species concerned.
- Follow the Country Code and comply with all bylaws that apply to the site concerned.

4 In Great Britain these agencies are: English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and Countryside Council for Wales.

6 Recording - general

- Keep full and relevant data together with all specimens, even if you also duplicate the data in databases, notebooks and other media.
- Species lists, together with habitat and other data, should be sent to the relevant county and national recording schemes⁵, if possible in a database format compatible with the National Biodiversity Network.

7 Rearing and breeding

- If obtaining breeding stock of scarce species, try to do so from established captive colonies, rather than from wild-caught sources.
- If taking larvae or other livestock from the wild, never take more than you can adequately feed and maintain in captivity.
- If you have surplus invertebrates from rearing or breeding, observe genetic and ecological precautions, i.e. do not release them except into their parental population and do not release large numbers back into the population if it is small and localised. (But see the next item regarding properly planned reinforcement or re-introduction.)
- Do not attempt to establish new populations or to reinforce existing ones except within an ecologically sound programme. This would have to be well prepared in consultation with the appropriate conservation agencies, agreed with the owner or occupier of the site concerned and notified to other appropriate organisations, including wildlife trusts and recording schemes. Also, consult *Insect Re-establishment - a Code of Conservation Practice* issued by this Committee.
- Obey any laws relating to the release of invertebrates into the wild; the release in the UK of any non-native kinds is illegal, except under special licence. The licensing authorities are the same as those named in footnote 2.

8 Health and safety

- Always look after your own safety and that of anyone else who may be affected by what you are doing.
- Be aware of any liabilities for personal injury or damage to property that you or others may have in connection with fieldwork, especially organised events. Obtain appropriate insurance cover if necessary.
- If you might cause suspicion or confusion through any activity (e.g. the use of light traps in certain localities), give prior notice to the police and other relevant authorities.

⁵ Relevant schemes and databases may be listed on invertebrate conservation websites.

INVERTEBRATE LINK

Joint Committee for the Conservation
of British Invertebrates
c/o Royal Entomological Society
41 Queen's Gate
LONDON
SW7 5HR
Tel. 020 7584 8361

FORESTRY COMMISSION

Forest Research
Alice Holt Lodge
Wrecclesham
Farnham
Surrey GU10 4LH
Tel. 01420 22255

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