Mothing in Montgomeryshire – 2025 Annual Report

New Species Recorded in Montgomeryshire During 2025

In general, 2025 was a better year for moths than 2024, with many recorders getting better numbers in their traps, or out doing field work. The species count and quantities were generally better across the whole of the UK. Montgomeryshire did manage to record 9 New County Records (NCR's), with two macro and seven micro species added to our county lists, so in general the year was pretty good.

The details of the 7 new micro species recorded are: Old bf log number in brackets: -

20.007 (409b) Argyresthia cupressella, 29-06-25. (SAL), This North American species first arrived on our shores in 1997 and although still local, has been spreading north and west since then. It was recorded at Cemmaes, in the far west of the county.

ARGYRESTHIA CUPRESSELLA

28.008 (624a) *Metalampra italica*. 11th June 2025 and 11/08/25, Llandyssil (MEG. A new county record for Montgomeryshire and is also only the second record for North Wales. This is a very local species, first recorded in 2003 in the UK, previously only known in Italy

METALAMPRA ITALICA

35.064 (0734) *Argolampotes micella*, 8th July 2025 Commins Coch (PRW). NCR for Montgomeryshire and a first for North Wales. This very local species has up until now only been found in south-west England and coastal areas of south Wales.

Argolampotes micella

37.039 (0528) Coleophora hemerobiella. 12th July 2025 Aberhafesp (MB4). This species is locally distributed mostly in the south-east of England. Therefore, it was big surprise when it turned up in Montgomeryshire at Aberhafesp and it is the first record for Wales.

COLEOPHORA HEMEROBIELLA

49.296 (1179) *Notocelia incarnatana. 29th July 2025 Cemmaes (SAL).* NCR for Montgomeryshire. A very local species, mainly found in coastal areas of England and Wales.

NOTOCELIA INCARNATANA

62.006 (1425) *Galleria mellonella* Wax Moth. 13th August 2025 Ardleen (PT). NCR for Montgomeryshire and the 9th record for North Wales. A common species over much of England and South Wales, but seemingly uncommon or absent from other areas of the UK.

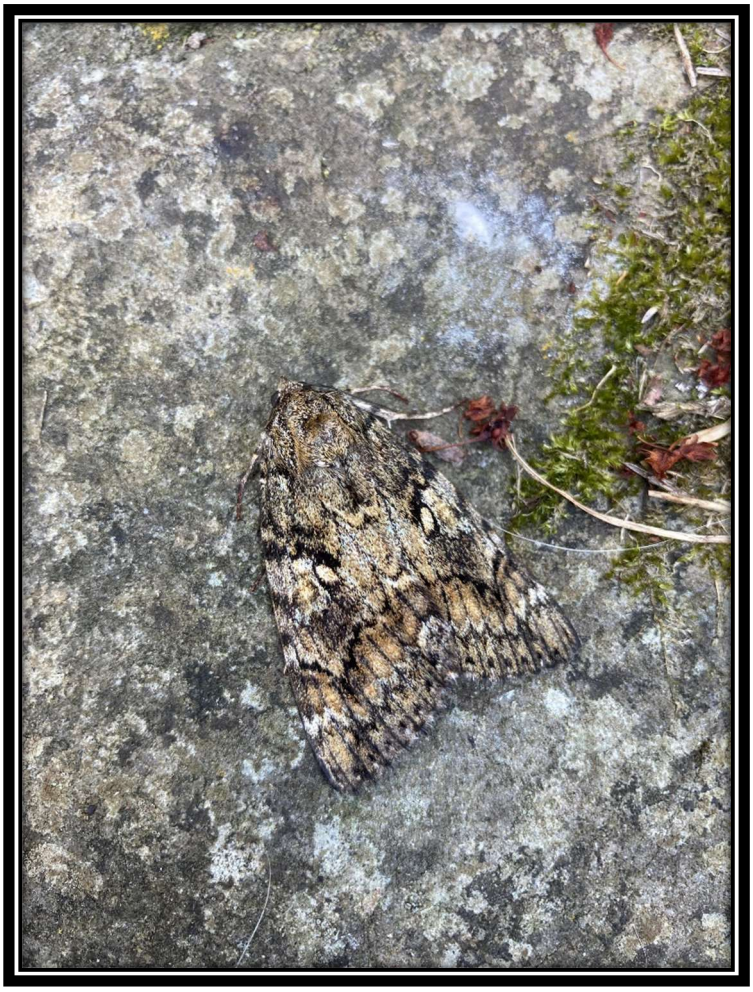
GALLERIA MELLONELLA

63.044 (1403) *Diasemiopsis ramburialis*. 29th June 2025 Cemmaes (SAL). This is a scarce migrant species found in the UK, mainly in south coast counties of England. It was recorded at Cemmaes and is only the 3rd record for North Wales

DIASEMIOPSIS RAMBURIALIS

<u>The details of the 2 new macro species recorded are: Old bf log number in brackets: -</u>

72.081 (2455) *Catocala sponsa* Dark Crimson Underwing. 19th Aug 2025 Tylwch (DH). This species has up until recent times been restricted to a few known sites in the far south of England, therefore it was a great surprise for it turn up in Montgomeryshire. A first for Wales, a remarkable NCR, probably a migrant wanderer.



CATOCALA SPONSA DARK CRIMSON UNDERWING

73.196 (2259a) *Conistra rubiginosa,* Black-spotted Chestnut. 16th Dec 2025 Ardleen (WT). This resident colonist has been moving steadily westwards across the UK from Kent, where it was first recorded in 2011 and it was only a matter of time before it reached us. It's quite a striking species and one which many of us will record in due course.

***CONISTRA RUBIGINOSA,* BLACK-SPOTTED CHESTNUT**

<u>Other notable macro records recorded during 2025 (where there are 5 or less records in the database).</u>

380, 52.008, Red-tipped Clearwing, *Synanthedon formicaeformis*, SS; CBo; PMG Ola Lluest on 19/06/25 and CBo Middletown on 21/06/25. 3rd. and 4th. County records.

1705, 70.006, Dwarf Cream Wave, *Idaea fuscovenosa*, 31/05/2025, SS; AA, Pentre Llanfechain. 17/09/2025. 4th. County record.

1710, 70.014, Weaver's Wave, *Contiguaria contiguaria,* Llangynog, SS, PMG 23/08/2025. 2nd. County record.
2202, 73.3, L-album Wainscot, *Mythimna l-album*, 06/09/2025, MB4, Aberhafesp and SAL, Cemmaes on 17/09/25. 2nd. and 3rd. county records.
2432, 73.003, Ni Moth, *Trichoplusia ni*, 25/08/2025, MEG, Llandyssil. 2nd. County Record.

Other notable micro species recorded during 2025 (where there are 5 or less records in the database).

1, 1.001, Red-barred Gold, *Micropterix tunbergella*, 15/06/2025, SOS; PR, The Hill. 4th. County record.
228, 12.037, Carrion Moth, *Monopis weaverella*, 28/05/2025, PMG, Waen Cilgwyn; Tylwych. 4th. County record
755, 35.16, Black-dotted Groundling, *Stenolechia gemmella*, 01/09/2025, JP, Llanllwchaiarn. 2nd. County record.
802a, 35.101, Dark-striped Groundling, *Gelechia sororculella,* 12/07/2025, SAL, Cemmaes. 3rd. County Record.
814, 35.118, Beet Moth, *Scrobipalpa ocellatella*, 18/08/2025, JP4, Hirros Hall and 19/08/2025, 25/08/26, SAL. Cemmaes. 3rd. and 4th. County records.
887, 40.003, Rust-blotch Mompha, *Mompha lacteella*, 18/08/2025, PRW, Commins Coch. 5th. County record.
981, 49.016, Rose Tortrix, *Archips rosana*, 24/06/2025, PRW, Commins Coch. 3rd. County record.
1130, 49.246, Dingy Spruce Bell, *Epinotia pygmaeana*, 15/07/2025, PRW, Commins Coch. 2nd. County record.
1207, 49.304, Pine Leaf-mining Moth, *Clavigesta purdeyi,* 13/07/2025, AH, Guilsfield. 2nd. County record.
1212, 49.307, Spotted Shoot, *Rhyacionia pinivorana*, 19/05/2025, MEG, Llandyssil. 4th. County record.
1259, 49.342, Large Beech Piercer, *Cydia fagiglandana*, 11/05/2025, SAL, Cemmaes. 5th. County record.
1375, 63.028, European Corn-borer, *Ostrinia nubilalis*, 25/08/2025, SS, Linden Lea Llanfyllin. 3rd. County record.
1403a, 63.046, Dark Marbled Tabby, *Duponchelia fovealis*, 24/08/2025 and 09/10/25, LG4, Guilsfield. 3rd. County Record.
1473, 62.064, Cacao Moth, *Ephestia elutella*, 16/06/2025, PRW, Commins Coch. 3rd.County record.
1517, 45.043, Hemp-agrimony Plume, *Adaina microdactyla*, 29/07/2025, PRW, Commins Coch. 4th. County record.

Key to all recorders in this report

SS – Simon Sencer
JP4 - Justine Patton
SOS – Sue Southam
PMG - Phil McGregor
WT - Wendi Terry
PT – Peter Terry
PRW – Peter Williams
JP - Julie Pearce
MEG – Meurig Garbutt
SAL – Simon Layton
AA - Alison Alexander
LG4 - Lowri Geddes
PR – Paul Roughley
MB4 - Mick Bruton
CBo – Clare Boyes
DH - Dan Hodgkiss

End of Year Statistics for 2025

Summary of end of year statistics; figures in parenthesis show 2024 totals.

- The number of macro records for 2025 were up by over 3,800 records on the previous year. Both macro and micro records were well up over the previous year's figures.
- The breakdown is: - we added a total of 17,393 (13,614) of records to our database. The share between macro and micro records was; 15,086 (11,717) macro and 2,607 (1,924) micros. We now have 311,332 (296,244) macro records and 51271 (48,664) micro records, giving us a grand total of 362,603 (344,908) records in the database.
- Total number of species now held in our database is 548 (546) macro species and 692 (685) micro species giving us a total of 1240 species recorded in the county.

- Total species recorded in 2025 was 416 (398) macro species, 18 species up on 2024, so very good and 250 (256) micro species, 6 species own on 2024, which isn't bad either. Giving a grand total of 666 (649) species for the year – an overall rise of 17 species on the previous year, which is an excellent addition.

The following charts show the 2025 rank of the top five species in various categories recorded in Montgomeryshire.

Please note the previous year's rank/records are shown in parenthesis and a dash indicates that the species was not in top five the previous year. As usual I have separated the macro (left hand charts) from the micro moths (right hand charts) so that you get a better overview of how both groups are doing.

The two charts below show the top five most numerous species 'by records' for the year.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Records
1 (3)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	322 (207)
2 (2)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	300 (216)
3 (1)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	299 (185)
4 (4)	70.097	Common Marbled Carpet	251 (201)
5 (-)	70.1	Green Carpet	208 (-)

Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Records
1 (1)	63.025	Anania hortulata	94 (69)
2 (2)	63.038	Patania ruralis	93 (64)
3 (-)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	82 (-)
4 (-)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	77 (-)
5 (-)	63.031	Udea ferrugalis	71 (-)

In the macro moths the Flame Shoulder has moved to top spot. The Large Yellow Underwing has remained in 2nd place and the Green Carpet moved into 5th place. Again, none of the spring species did well in this category.

In the micros the top five species were all once again *Pyralidae,* with *Anania hortulata* holding onto the top spot. There were three new entries: *Agriphila tristella* in at 3rd. place; *Chrysoteuchia culmella* in at 4th place and *Udea ferrugalis* in at number 5.

The next two charts show the top five species by the 'quantities' recorded.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Counts
1 (1)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	1817 (1919)
2 (-)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	1223 (-)
3 (3)	72.044	Dingy Footman	1177 (996)
4 (5)	73.317	Heart & Dart	927 (822)
5 (-)	73.359	Setaceous Hebrew Character	857 (-)

Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Counts
1 (2)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	240 (144)
2 (5)	63.038	Patania ruralis	206 (121)
3 (1)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	188 (170)
4 (-)	63.074	Eudonia mercurella	187 (-)
5 (3)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	174 (136)

Quantities recorded for the macro moths were in general better when viewed against 2024 figures, with a bit of movement in the top five. Large Yellow Underwing held onto 1st place and the Flame Shoulder moved into 2nd place, the latter not being in the top five at all the previous year. One surprising addition was the Setaceous Hebrew Character moving into 5th. place.

Agriphila tristella moved into first place, in general it was a much better year for some species of grass moths. Moving into the top five places was *Eudonia mercurella* into 4th. and *Patania ruralis* moved up from 5th to 2nd place.

The last two charts show the top five all-time records in our database.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	All records
1 (1)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	5418 (5115)
2 (2)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	4884 (4560)
3 (3)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	4684 (4384)
4 (4)	70.097	Common Marbled Carpet	4226 (3974)

Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	All records
1 (1)	63.038	Patania ruralis	1566 (1473)
2 (3)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	1487 (1423)
3 (2)	63.064	Scoparia ambigualis	1479 (1433)
4 (4)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	1405 (1323)

5 (5)	73.249	Hebrew Character	4024 (3845)	5 (-)	63.025	Anania hortulata	1381 (-)

The top five species in our database 'by records' for Macro species were unchanged. However, there was a bit of movement in the micro species. *Eudonia lacustrata* 2nd and *Scoparia ambigualis* 3rd swapped places, while Anania hortulata moved into 5th place.

The 2025 Moth Group Events – MMG

Phil will be writing up his own report as regards the public events held during 2025 and he'll be putting on our website.

News as regards the 'Events team'.

A full programme of events will be published in early 2025. (Please see the 'Events' page of our website). Current members of the 'events team' are Julie Pearce, Mark Thomas, Paul Roughley, Phil Mcgregor and Simon Spencer.

MMG Fundraising

2025 has been a great year for the MMG as we were chosen to receive some funding of just over £2500 from 'Local Places for Nature' (LPfN). This grant will enable us to continue with the popular wild flower seed mix distribution this year and purchase extra equipment, expanding the engagement activities of the moth group. We will be purchasing three state-of-the-art Lepi LED traps which are 12v, all-weather and ultra lightweight. They will be ideal for engaging people in remote areas for overnight trapping in inhospitable, under-recorded environments such as mountains and moorland. We are also purchasing more Clearwing pheromone lures to build on the successes of last year's recording.

I would like to thank all those who have helped to put some funds in our kitty during the last year via donations and 'Easyfundraising'. Running a website, updating reference books and the upkeep of the mothing kit has to be paid from somewhere, so every bit of funding raised is very much appreciated.

To all those who sometimes shop on the internet but have not yet used 'Easyfundraising', please do so, as it costs you nothing extra to go via 'Easyfundraising' and you may be able to purchase your goods even cheaper with some of the deals on offer. If you use the Montgomeryshire Moths link at the bottom of our home page of our website, you can contribute to our funds - every little bit helps!

MMG cash flow from 01/01/25 to 31/12/25

Simon Sencer will be writing up our financial report for 2025. This report will be posted on our website.

The Website

There weren't any major changes to the website during 2025, but it carries on being an excellent tool for id and for keeping an eye on events. Also, the Blog, for articles and event reports and the group Facebook page for id and sharing information and photos and finally the Stop Press for any interesting and new species as they are recorded, and, just generally promoting everything 'mothy' the best way we can.

So, I would again, like to say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his continued hard work during the year with the website, and for updating and maintaining our database. Also, many thanks to Phil McGregor for taking on the role of 'events coordinator' and to Simon Spencer for looking after our finances and finally to Julie Pearce for overseeing our 'Facebook group' page and finally thanks go to all the other members of the 'Events Team', who helped at all the events throughout the season.

Lastly, thanks to all you moth-ers out there for sending us your records each year and I hope that using the MMG facilities has proved helpful to you all.

I hope you all have a great mothing year in 2026.

On a personal note - Due to some age-related health issues, I have decided it's time for me to pass the baton of county moth recorder onto another well qualified moth-er in the county, his name is Simon Layton and he lives in the west of the county (not far from me) at Cemmaes. The 'hand over' is taking place right now (June 2026), so please send any id requests, your records at the end of the year and any other mothy bits and bobs to Simon at; laytonsimon@hotmail.com from now on, thanks.

It's been a great privilege to have been your county moth recorder for the past 20 years, getting to know so many of you and dealing with your 'mothy issues', but as they say, all things must come to an end. I really hope you will continue with your moth recording and support Simon in his new role, thank you – now I'm off to check my moth trap!

Peter.