



**Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society
Newsletter**

Incorporating



The Cheshire Moth Group Newsletter

February 2005

Number 1014

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

Welcome!

The AGM is behind us and I'm sure we would all like to thank the outgoing members of Council and welcome the new people to their roles. A brief report of the AGM is included in this issue – full details will be published in the Society's Journal in due course.

The big up-coming event is the annual exhibition meeting on the 5th March. Note that we are starting earlier this year at 11:00am to provide more opportunity for informal discussions. Please come along. If you haven't been before the event is always excellent and provides a great opportunity for us all to get together and talk to each other about the subject that interests us – entomology. There is always lots of chat about previous seasons and about the season to come. Please consider bringing an exhibit along – any thing of interest to other members is always welcome. However, most important is for you to bring yourself along! I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Adrian Wander

LCES Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham on Tuesday 18th January 2005.

Election of Officers and Council Members.

The following were nominated and duly elected:

President Alan Creaser

Vice Presidents Mike Hull, Steve McWilliam, Ian Rutherford, Geoff Wotherspoon

Treasurer Rob Whitehead

General Secretary Bob Letsche

Meetings Secretary Dave Edwards

Journal Editor & Curator Steve Judd

Newsletter Editor Adrian Wander

Librarian Carl Clee

Programme Editor Bob Letsche

Exhibition Coordinator Shane Farrell

Ordinary Council members Paul Hill, David Poynton, Don Stenhouse

On behalf of the Council and members of the Society, I would like to thank retiring members of the council for their sterling efforts in past years, in particular, Steve McWilliam as outgoing President, Julia Hancell (Exhibition & Meeting Coordinator) and Ian Smith (Secretary).

The full report for the LCES Annual General Meeting 2005 will be available shortly, by email and published in the next Journal.

Bob Letsche, LCES General Secretary

LCES Exhibition Meeting: A Reminder

Our annual Exhibition is on SATURDAY 5th MARCH 2005 from 11.00 am until 4.00 pm (Open 10.00 am for exhibitors to set up) at Frodsham Community Centre (see map below & on programme card) Fluin Lane, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7QN (01928) 732222, SJ521777

Please bring an exhibit, if possible. It need not be large or professionally produced; anything that might interest others and promote discussion is welcome. Field equipment, photographic apparatus, display boards, computer demonstrations, record files, larval rearing items, livestock, study equipment, books, photographs, videos and specimens, including unidentified

species, are some possibilities. There will be an L&CES table attended throughout the day to assist new and existing members if required.

Ian Kimber will be present again to demonstrate his website: www.ukmoths.force9.co.uk and also the British Leaf-Miners website www.leafmines.co.uk. He will have CDs, with many additions since last year, for those without web access, or who wish to browse the illustrations off line. For the first time Paul Talbot of Pennine Books will also be attending and will have a wide range of Natural History books. (Paul Talbot, Pennine Books, 133 Park Road, Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9HZ Tel: 01422 370664 Website www.penninebooks.co.uk Email: Penninebooks@blueyonder.co.uk).

Jon Clifton and Adrian Wander of Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies will have a trade stall selling entomological equipment. (A.L.S., PO Box 232, Northwich Delivery Office, CW8 3FG. Tel: 01606 783 371 or 01263 862 068. Email: jon.clifton@btinternet.com Website: www.angleps.btinternet.co.uk.)

For both ALS and Pennine Books you are advised to view their catalogues or websites and inform them of your requirements before the exhibition if you wish to ensure the items you want to inspect or buy are brought along.

Malcolm Simpson of The Simpson Collection of Entomological Memorabilia will also be attending for the first time. Malcolm will show photographs of equipment and other memorabilia associated with Dr Neville Birkett, LCES, and should prove to be a most interesting display, especially to our more senior members.

This year we have again hired the large hall. If you exhibited last year, we hope you will do so again this year. If you did not, please consider bringing along something of interest that will generate discussion with other members. Please encourage interested non-members to come along. It will be greatly appreciated if you can avoid disappointment by pre-booking a display table. Please contact the Exhibition Co-ordinator, Shane Farrell on 0161-355 6919 or shane.farrell@ntlworld.com.

Let's make 2005 memorable for a well attended and enjoyable Exhibition.

Shane Farrell

Subscriptions – A Reminder

Subscriptions are now overdue. If you haven't paid yet please send Rob a cheque for £10-00 as soon as possible. Contact details are at the end of this issue.

The Abundance of *Bedellia somnulentella* in 2004

The first Cheshire records of *Bedellia somnulentella* were in 1998 when it was abundant in several areas of the county. At that time Ian Smith postulated in the LCES News (Volume 9: Issue 2) that the insect could prosper in wet summers, with this theory gaining credence in 2004 when it was again widespread in the county.

Three of the principal larval foodplants of this insect occur in my local 10km. square of SJ88 – Large Bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*) and Hedge Bindweed (*C. sepium*) grow abundantly in all 25 tetrads, whereas Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) only occurs in five tetrads.



During this autumn I made a concerted effort to find *B. somnulentella* in SJ88 and was successful in recording larvae in 47 of the 1km squares between 4th September and 13th October. Signs of larval workings did, however, become more difficult to find during the latter half of this period.

Statistics revealed that the insect showed little preference between the two main foodplants with larval workings being recorded on Large Bindweed in 27 squares, against Hedge Bindweed in 20 squares. During this period only two large patches of Field Bindweed were checked, but without success.



Larval workings and adult of *B. somnulentella* Photo: Ben Smart

Barry T. Shaw

***Phyllonorycter dubitella* in Lancashire**

This fairly recently discovered *Phyllonorycter* had never previously been recorded in Lancs (VC59 or VC60), so when I found an underside leaf mine on Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) in Chorlton, Manchester on the 4th of July 2004, I expected it to be *Phyllonorycter salicicolella* or maybe *P. hilarella*. According to MBGBI2 the mines of rough-leaved *Salix* feeders are virtually indistinguishable, although there are some small differences in cocoon colour and placement. Even when the moth emerged on the 17th of July, I initially thought it to be *P. salicicolella*, but on closer inspection felt the moth looked more like *dubitella*. According to MBGBI2 the first pair of streaks meet at an acute angle in *dubitella*, and at an obtuse angle in *salicicolella*. A photo on ukmoths egroup elicited the following comments from Martin Corley: "This looks fairly close to one I had in my trap a few days ago which I identified as *dubitella*. Mine had a longer black margin to the basal streak on its costal side, and less black in the middle of the wing towards the apex, otherwise very similar". Obviously as this would be a new county record I passed the moth and its vacated mine on to Steve Palmer, the Lancs micro-moth recorder.

Steve Palmer confirmed the identify the moth as *P. dubitella* with the following comments: "The features used to identify this species were the form of the cocoon, the placement of the frass in the cocoon, the shape and angling of the first pair of strigulae and the setae length (long) on the abdominal segments on the pupal exuviae – this last was the best feature to separate it from the other *Salix* feeders".

This mine was the only one I collected from Goat Willow, so whether it was a lucky choice or whether this moth is commoner than the previous absence of records suggests, I do not know.

It's certainly worth collecting more of these mines next year and closely examining the emerged adults. This will also apply in Cheshire where the three recorded findings seem to relate to the mine of the species alone. As this seems to be a difficult species to identify from the larval stages alone it may be best to at least qualify records identified on the basis of these features.



Larval workings and adult of *P. dubitella*. Photo: B Smart

Thanks to Steve Palmer, Martin Corley, Shane Farrell and Steve Hind for their assistance with this species.

Ben Smart

Update - Provisional Matrix for Macro-moths in VC58 (Cheshire)

Just under a year ago I produced a provisional 10km square matrix for Macro-moths in VC58 Cheshire that provided a summary of the records as far as the Cheshire Moth Group database showed at that time. I referred to various gaps in both the species list and the number of 10km squares in which species had been recorded and confirmed the group's intention to improve this completeness over time.

I have now produced a new and updated version that shows a far fuller (yet still far from complete) picture. I have managed to import the bulk of the data from a similar matrix produced by Ian Rutherford as at the end of 1996 and this is reflected in the data shown here. In addition I have reviewed the publications by Ellis (1887 and some of the subsequent updates including those by Mansbridge), Day (1903), Smith (1948) and of course, Rutherford (1994). Information relating to species not on the database species list has been extracted and input; I am also currently working through the data for the other species and this will be entered over time. The fine data behind the Rutherford book will also be entered over time (hopefully with help from my fellow moth'ers!) after I have met with Ian Rutherford (planned for end of January/early February 2005) to establish the way in which the data was recorded. This will ensure the utmost accuracy when entering this data so that the efforts of all concerned in that substantial project will be recognised.

A summary of the data within the matrix is shown below. This confirms, according to the database, the number of macro-moths on the Cheshire list, the number of species recorded within each 10km square and also the percentage of the total species list recorded in each 10km square.

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>11</u> 2%	<u>26</u> 4%	<u>1</u> 0%
9		264 46%	3 1%				175 30%	31 5%	331 57%	159 28%	4 1%
8	99 17%	403 70%	304 53%	39 7%	332 57%	270 47%	362 63%	399 69%	382 66%	195 34%	
7		278 48%	336 58%	351 61%	390 67%	368 64%	343 59%	361 62%	351 61%	103 18%	
6			123 21%	319 55%	289 50%	302 52%	253 44%	284 49%	67 12%	13 2%	
5			16 3%	262 45%	256 44%	362 63%	285 49%	311 54%			
4				248 43%	289 50%	336 58%	17 3%				
3						0 0%					

As can be seen above there are a number of squares where a large number of species have been recorded and these undoubtedly reflect recorders' normal haunts rather than true species distribution. The smaller table below shows the breakdown of squares that fall into various bands. It will be noted that no square seems to contain more than 75% of the total county list and although in truth the 'missing' species are likely to be those that are not expected to be recorded again, there can be little doubt that there are a large number of squares in which new species for that square could readily be found.

Total number of squares or partial squares within VC58 = 48

Number of squares that have:

<10% of county species list	11
10% to 25% of county species list	4
26% to 50% of county species list	14
51% to 75% of county species list	19
>75% of county species list	0

Whilst it has not been possible to distribute the full version with this newsletter in a paper form I can of course provide a copy upon request. Online members will automatically be sent a copy that should hopefully be circulated at the same time as this newsletter. If a paper copy is required, please contact me direct and I will (preferably) bring one along to a L&CES meeting (or the Exhibition where copies will be available) or post one to you.

As always, I am confident that the data reflected in the matrix is correct but if anyone finds any errors or obvious omissions to this list I will be grateful of a call/email. Whether or not you received the last version of this matrix there are a few of changes that I should point out. The

date bands for the key have been changed so they are in line with Steve Hind's Provisional Matrix for Micro-moths in VC58 (Cheshire) and many other publications. The general principle is still that the darker the square on the matrix, the more recent the record and vice versa. Also, I have added a summary box (similar to that shown above) at the end. Hopefully this will provide further indications to enable recorders to target poorly recorded 10km squares. I stress that this data is provisional and if anyone requires formal confirmation regarding the status of specific species please contact me so I can provide full and current data before publication.

It is still our intention to retain the cut-off date of 31/12/2005 for records to be included in the planned atlas but we will continue entering historic records for some time after that date to ensure we can report the current and historic status of our lepidoptera as fully as possible when the publication is produced.

Finally, a big 'thank you' as always to all recorders that supply their records - past and present. The way the database is building is excellent and whether it be a single record of a Silver Y *Autographa gamma* or a full daily tally of species each year, all records count and are valued.

I will soon start work on my sections of the 2004 Lepidoptera Report and will appreciate the submission of records for all lepidoptera for that year as soon as possible. The deadline for records to be included within the report will be 30/4/2005 but the sooner I get the records the better please. A further reminder will be sent round to online recorders in a month or so.

Shane Farrell, VC58 Macro-Moth Recorder

References

Cheshire Moth Group database

Ellis, J.W., 1887, The Lepidopterous Fauna of Lancashire and Cheshire

Day G.O., 1903, A List of Lepidoptera Found in the Counties of Cheshire,

Flintshire, Denbighshire, Carnarvonshire and Anglesea

Smith S.G. 1948, *The Butterflies and Moths of Cheshire, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Carnarvonshire, Anglesey and Merionethshire.*

Rutherford C.I. 1994, *Macro-moths in Cheshire 1961 to 1993*

Rutherford C.I. 1997, *Macro-moth Matrix to 1996 (unpublished)*

Farrell S., (2004), *Provisional Matrix for Macro-moths in VC58 (Cheshire)*

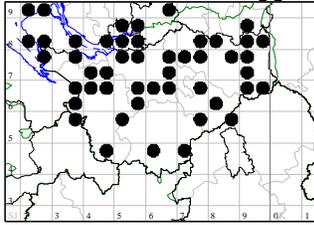
Hind S.H., (2004), *Provisional Matrix for Micro-moths in VC58 (Cheshire)*

Orthoptera Records for 2004 – a request

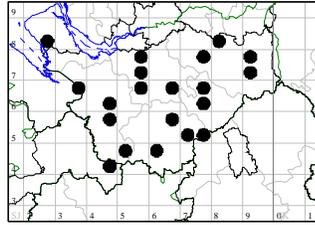
I would be pleased to receive any Orthoptera records for 2004 (or previous year's for that matter). Although it is thought that this order is quite common, we have very few records of even the commoner species. Of the records received for last year, Steve Hind has increased the number of 10 km squares in which *Tetrix undulata* – Common Ground Hopper – has been recorded by 20%, or in absolute terms by 1 10 km square when he recorded two at White Moss on 15th May. His record of *Chorthippus parallelus* – Meadow Grasshopper – at Crewe was new for SJ65 – surely our Orthoptera are not as rare as that!!

The maps below show the distribution as at the end of 2004 for the species for which we hold more than three records!.

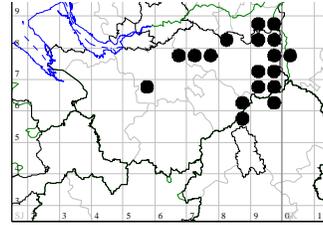
Records can be sent in excel format to me via email at pmh@biota.co.uk or by snail mail to 1 Clive Cottage, London Road, Allstock, KNUTSFORD, Cheshire WA16 9LT



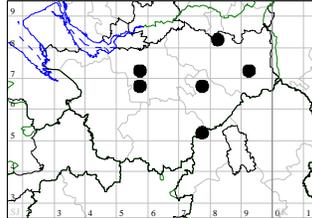
Chorthippus brunneus



Chorthippus parallelus



Omocentus viridulus



Tetrix undulata

Paul Hill

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 Gen. Sec., Bob Letsche, 46 Rossett Road, Crosby, Merseyside, L23 3AW, Tel: 0151 931 4376, email: bob.letsche@blueyonder.co.uk. 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/cmgroup/cmgroup.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