



Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society

Promoting the Study of Insects in the North West

Founded – 1877

Charities Registration No.: 508729



Incorporating



The Cheshire Moth Group Newsletter

Feb 2006

Number 1017

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

Welcome!

Spring is with us; well at least it hasn't been freezing for the last few nights, although there is still a distinct lack of moths in my garden trap! The AGM is behind us, and we can all start to look forward to the coming season. The exhibition meeting is rapidly approaching – always a great opportunity for a get together and a good old fashioned natter with like minded folk. Lets remember that we so all have a shared passion for the study of insects and one of the most enjoyable aspects of the Society's events, for me at least, is the chance to share that passion with others. OK, we all study different orders of insects but we should always remember what unites us rather than dwelling on the differences. The forthcoming indoor meetings cover a wide and diverse range of topics and are bound to be informative and enjoyable occasions. Hope to see you all at the exhibition and at the indoor meetings and lets hope everyone has a successful, productive and most of all enjoyable 2006 season. I look forward to hearing all about your exploits at the October and November indoor meetings!

Adrian Wander

Diary Dates

Dates for the remaining 2005/2006 Indoor Programme are:

Sat 4 Mar Exhibition at Frodsham Community Centre, starting at: - Exhibitors 10.00 a.m. Public 11.00 am to 4.00 p.m.

Tue 21 Mar *British Shield Bugs* by Steve Judd.

Tue 18 Apr *Caddis flies* by Ian Wallace.

Provisional dates for the first part of the 2006/2007 indoor programme are:

Tue 17 Oct Review of the 2006 Season Part I – Lepidoptera

Tue 21 Nov Review of the 2006 Season Part II – Other Orders

Tue 19 Dec Members Slide evening and Christmas Social

Tue 16 Jan Presidential Address, member's videos and digital photographs preceded by the AGM at 7:00pm

All meetings are held in the Frodsham Community Centre and open to the public. Guests are very welcome to attend. It looks like a very interesting and varied programme and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to these meetings.

In addition we have the following confirmed field meeting for 2006:

Sat 24th June - Bug Safari - a day of invertebrate recording at Marbury Country Park. Contact Paul Hill for details pmh@biota.co.uk Tel: 01565 722938

Sat 23rd /Sun 24th September - National Moth Night at Marbury Country Park. Contact Paul Hill for details pmh@biota.co.uk Tel: 01565 722938

Sat 23 Sept: National Moth Night. Chadkirk Country Park, Romiley. Meet 6pm at the small car park opposite the Farm, SJ940903. Ring Shane Farrell before 4pm on the day (or preferably earlier) if you wish to attend. 0161 355 6919, shane.farrell@ntlworld.com

A few other dates that may be of interest to Society members:

Sun 2nd April – The Kettering Insect Fair has been resurrected and will take place at Kettering Leisure Village, 10:30am (I think)

Sat 8th April – The AES are holding their first Northern Fair at York Racecourse 10:30am Start

Exhibition Meeting: A Reminder

Our annual Exhibition is on Saturday 4th March 2006 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 in line with the general theme of the day, '*Insect Interaction*'. 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.

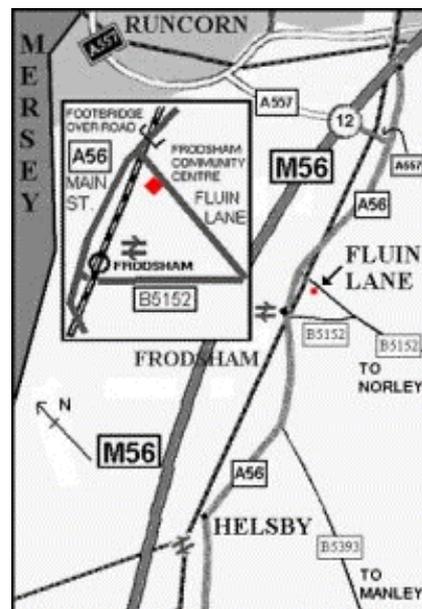
Ian Kimber will be present again to demonstrate his website: www.ukmoths.force9.co.uk and also the British Leaf-Miners website www.leafmines.co.uk. He will have CDs, with many additions since last year, for those without web access, or who wish to browse the illustrations off line.

Paul Talbot of Pennine Books will also be attending again 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).

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 contact them or 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 be attending to provide a talk on historical entomological equipment and for the first time, Margaret Redfern of the British



Plant Gall Society will speak about insectivorous plant galls.

This year we have again hired the large hall and the small hall where the talks will take place. 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 2006 memorable for another well-attended and enjoyable Exhibition.

Shane Farrell, Exhibition Organiser

AGM Notes and Reports

The Annual General Meeting of the 130th Session (2005/2006) was held on Tuesday, 17th January, 2006, at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham.

The Election of Officers was conducted as a block election, as no Members chose to stand for election in place of the existing candidates. The following were elected; **President:** Alan Creaser, **Vice-Presidents:** Mike Hull, Ian Rutherford, Geoff Wotherspoon, S.J. McWilliam, **Hon. Treasurer:** R. Whitehead. **Secretaries:** duties divided between Bob Letsche (external correspondence) and Dave Edwards (internal affairs), **Newsletter Editor:** Adrian Wander, **Proceedings & Journal Editor:** S. Judd, **Librarian:** Carl Clee, **Curator:** S. Judd, **Exhibition Coordinator:** S. Farrell, **Programme Card Publications:** Bob Letsche, **Members Of Council:** Dr D.J. Poynton, P. Hill, D. Stenhouse.

Golden Twin-spot *Chrysodeixis chalcites* - a new moth for Cheshire?

On 8th October 2005 my wife was watering a recently purchased house plant when a freshly emerged (and very wet) moth crept out from amongst the leaves. At first glance I thought it was going to be the widespread and common Silver Y *Autographa gamma*, but on closer inspection I realised it was a much more interesting discovery – a male Golden Twin-spot *C. chalcites*. This moth is normally recorded as a scarce immigrant



to the U.K. mainly along the southern coasts of England. It breeds in southern Europe, North Africa and the Canary Islands, but there are also occasional records of it emerging from larvae on imported plants and produce – obviously the source of our insect.

The plant from which the Golden Twin-spot *C. chalcites* emerged was an African Violet *Saintpaulia* sp. – this is a genus of plants from which there are many cultivated hybrids. It had been

purchased at our local Sainsbury store in Cheadle on 25th September 2005, but enquiries at the outlet only revealed that they received their stock from another distributor in the U.K. As the moth was freshly emerged we immediately searched the plant for a pupal case, but as my wife had already disposed of some dead leaves nothing was found.

Over the next few days we carefully observed the African Violet at regular intervals in case a female moth had laid additional eggs on the same plant. On 11th October another pupa was discovered under a leaf and by the 17th there was also a caterpillar avidly munching through the leaves and another devouring the petals – at this stage I had to promise to buy my wife a replacement plant! Both caterpillars continued to feed until the 28th, before vanishing into the skeletal remnants of the plant. Nothing subsequently emerged from the original pupa or one of the caterpillars, but on 11th November an adult female Golden Twin-spot *C. chalcites* crept out of the plant.

Prior to the sighting of this moth the Golden Twin-spot had never been recorded in Cheshire. Whether these sightings can be classed as a first for the county is highly debatable, but as I am totally biased the moth has been added to my list.

Barry T. Shaw

Grapholita molesta (Busck, 1916) A New Species for VC58 Cheshire

I was going about normal tea-time chores on the evening of 29th October 2005 when I



noticed a small moth fly up towards and land on the ceiling of my kitchen in Romiley, Cheshire. Although I am of course normally interested in 'indoor moths', the time of year meant I was instantly curious about where this had originated especially as I had not run the trap for a few days.

Some time before, I had brought home some 'Hogweed' *Heracleum spp.* as I had found the exit holes of Parsnip Moth *Depressaria heraclei* (previously *pastinacella*) and initially assumed that the moth may have originated from this and emerged early. The moth was duly potted up and present a rather nondescript appearance on initial inspection. However, the dull graphite grey general colouring was complimented by various dots and swirls of colour when looked at through the lens. I took some photographs the next day and despite some searching through web pages and my



literature I could not put a name to it. The moth had a wingspan of approximately 13mm. One feature in particular (the white dot near the cell on the forewing) led to a suggestion of *G. molesta* as the possible identity of the moth. I carefully checked the description in the appropriate volume of British Tortricoid Moths and it matched well. However, my next concern was that this was apparently a new county record! I therefore retained the specimen and undertook a dissection of the moth which turned out to be a male. The dissected plate was a perfect match and the record has now been entered on the database as a permanent record.

This species is apparently occasionally seen in the UK as an accidental import in foreign fruit (usually in the larval or pupal stage) and I therefore assume it emerged from fruit bought from the local Morrison Store. Coincidentally, on 1st December 2004 I found a larva of Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* inside a lettuce bought from the same supermarket. If nothing else, this is a lesson to all entomologists that a healthy lifestyle, eating lots of fruit and vegetables, can have some advantages when it comes to finding lepidoptera!

Shane Farrell

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 County Macromoth Recorder, 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/cmng/cmng.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