

**THE MOTHS OF CAITHNESS**

**THE MOTHS OF DUNNET FOREST  
CAITHNESS**

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SUPPLEMENT NO.1

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A REPORT OF THE MOTH SPECIES  
RECORDED IN  
DUNNET FOREST CAITHNESS  
IN 2019

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE REVIEW OF  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018

**NEIL MONEY  
COUNTY MOTH RECORDER  
CAITHNESS**

## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to detail the species of moth recorded in Dunnet Forest in 2019.

## OVER VIEW

After a mild start to the year in the early Spring, the weather in Summer and Autumn was generally wet and not conducive to moth recording, particularly the use of light traps.

96 moth species were recorded in the year of which 15 had not been previously recorded in the forest, taking the total number of species recorded to 163.

## RECORDING METHODS USED

Records have been sourced through light trapping (Robinson MV250W), daytime visits for day flying species and pheromone lures for Emperor Moth.

## SPECIES RECORDED IN THE FOREST FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2019

A classified<sup>1</sup> and notated illustrated list of species follows below including a boxed note on the species status in Caithness and larval food plants<sup>2</sup> which will give an indication of habitat requirements of each species. The numbers in parenthesis give the number of records in the forest and the number of moths recorded.<sup>i</sup>

## TORTRICIDAE

49.035 *Clepsis senecionana* (1 record 1 moth)



Common, probably under recorded - larvae feed on conifers, bilberry and goldenrod

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<sup>1</sup> Reference: Agassiz D.J.L, Beavan S.D. & Heckford R.J. 2013: A Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles

<sup>2</sup> Reference: Waring P, Townsend M & Lewington R: Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland

Reference: Sterling P, Parsons M & Lewington R: Field Guide to the Micro Moths of Great Britain & Ireland

Reference: Langmaid J.R., Palmer S.M. & Young M.R. A Field Guide to the Smaller Moths of Great Britain and Ireland

**49.063** *Acleris bergmanniana* (1 record 1 moth)



Common in the north of the County & probably overlooked in the south – larvae feed on *Rosa* spp.

**49.120** *Aethes smeathmanniana* (1 record 1 moth)



Scarce but possibly under recorded as food plants are common. – larvae feed on Yarrow and Common Knapweed

### **PYRALIDAE**

**62.001** **Bee Moth** *Aphomia sociella* (1 record 1 moth)



Only 1 other record – larvae feed on the comb in nests of wasps or bumblebees

### **CRAMBIDAE**

**63.037** *Udea olivalis* (1 record 8 moths)



Common – larvae feed on a wide range of herbaceous plants including Red Campion

**63.062** *Scoparia subfusca* (1 record 4 moths)



Widespread and probably under recorded – larvae feed on Colt's Foot

**63.118 Beautiful China-mark** *Nymphula nitidulata* (1 record 2 moths)



Fairly common - larvae feed on Bur-reeds just below the surface of the water

### LASIOCAMPIDAE

**66.010 Drinker** *Euthrix potatoria* (2 records 2 moths)



Recent colonist becoming common – larvae feed on coarse grasses, reeds and sedges

### SPHINGIDAE

**69.016 Elephant Hawk-moth** *Deilephila elpenor* (1 record 1 moth)



Recent colonist becoming more frequent – larvae feed on Willowherbs and Bed-straws

### GEOMETRIDAE

**70.270 Engrailed** *Ectropis crepuscularia* (1 record 1 moth)



Local – larvae feed on a range of woody plants including oaks, birches, Hazel, Hawthorn, sallows, Broom and Buckthorn

## EREBIDAE

**72.020 White Ermine** *Spilosoma lubricipeda* (1 record 1 moth)



Common – larvae feed on a wide range of herbaceous plants including Common Nettle and docks

## NOCTUIDAE

**73.038 Grey Dagger** *Acronicta rumicis* (1 record 1 moth)



Widespread but not common – larvae feed on a wide range of broadleaved trees including Blackthorn, birches, Hawthorn and Rowen

**73.249 Hebrew Character** *Orthosia gothica* (1 record 2 moths)



Common – larvae feed on a wide range of trees and herbaceous plants including birches, willows, Hawthorn, Meadowsweet and Common Nettle

**73.290 Brown-line Bright-eye** *Mythimna conigera* (1 record 1 moth)



Common – larvae feed on grasses including Cocks-foot and Common Couch

**73.336 Red Chestnut** *Cerastis rubricosa* (1 record 1 moth)



Widespread and fairly common in small numbers – larvae seldom found but recorded feeding on herbaceous and woody plants including bedstraws and sallows

**OTHER MOTH SPECIES RECORDED IN THE FOREST IN 2019**

These species have been previously recorded in Dunnet Forest. The number of records and number of moths refers only to 2019

Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Moths
Hepialus humuli	Ghost Moth	1	1
Hepialus fusconebulosa	Map-winged Swift	1	1
Zygaena filipendulae	Six-spot Burnet	2	2
Glyphipterix simplicella	Cocksfoot Moth	1	20
Plutella xylostella	Diamond-back Moth	1	3
Endrosia sarcitrella	White-shouldered House Moth	1	1
Blastobasis adustella		1	2
Blastobasis laticolella		1	3
Aphelia paleana	Timothy Tortrix	1	1
Celypha lacunana		1	2
Eucosma campoliliana		1	10
Eucosma cana		1	2
Crambus lathoniellus		1	4
Agriphila straminella		1	13
Catoptria margaritella	Pearl-band Grass Veneer	1	1
Dipleurina lacustrata		1	18
Eudonia truncicolella		1	1
Opsibotys fuscalis		1	2
Udea lutealis		1	5
Platyptilia gonodactyla		1	1
Idaea biselata	Small Fan-footed Wave	1	10
Xanthorhoe designata	Flame Carpet	2	11
Xanthorhoe montanata	Silver-ground Carpet	1	7
Xanthorhoe fluctuata	Garden Carpet	1	5
Scotopteryx chenopodiata	Shaded Broad-bar	1	1
Epirrhoe alternata	Common Carpet	1	2

Camptogramma			
bilineata	Yellow Shell	1	1
Anticlea derivata	Streamer	1	2
Lampropteryx suffumata	Water Carpet	1	20
Cosmorhoe ocellata	Purple Bar	1	8
Eulithis populata	Northern Spinach	1	2
Eulithis pyraliata	Barred Straw	1	5
Ecliptopera silaceata	Small Phoenix	1	3
Chloroclysta siterata	Red-green Carpet	1	8
Chloroclysta truncata	Common Marbled Carpet	1	1
Thera obeliscata	Grey Pine Carpet	2	26
Thera britannica	Spruce Carpet	1	2
Colostygia pectinataria	Green Carpet	1	17
Hydriomena furcata	July Highflyer	1	1
Perizoma affinitata	Rivulet	1	3
Perizoma alchemillata	Small Rivulet	1	5
Perizoma albulata	Grass Rivulet	1	7
Perizoma didymata	Twin-spot Carpet	1	1
Eupithecia nanata	Narrow-winged Pug	1	2
Gymnoscelis rufifasciata	Double-striped Pug	1	2
Abraxas grossulariata	Magpie Moth	1	23
Lomaspilis marginata	Clouded Border	1	1
Macaria liturata	Tawny-barred Angle	1	1
Opisthograptis luteolata	Brimstone Moth	1	1
Selenia dentaria	Early Thorn	1	5
Odontopera bidentata	Scalloped Hazel	1	15
Deileptenia ribeata	Satin Beauty	1	5
Bupalus piniaria	Bordered White	1	6
Campaea margaritata	Light Emerald	1	2
Arctia caja	Garden Tiger	1	1
Nola confusalis	Least Black Arches	1	8
Noctua pronuba	Large Yellow Underwing	1	6
	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow		
Noctua janthe	Underwing	1	1
Graphiphora augur	Double Dart	1	2
Lycophotia porphyrea	True Lover's Knot	1	4
Diarsia brunnea	Purple Clay	1	2
Diarsia rubi	Small Square-spot	1	25
Xestia triangulum	Double Square-spot	1	2
Xestia baja	Dotted Clay	1	7
Xestia sexstrigata	Six-striped Rustic	1	2
Anaplectoides prasina	Green Arches	1	2
Hadena rivularis	Campion	1	1

<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	Antler Moth	1	9
<i>Panolis flammea</i>	Pine Beauty	1	1
<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	1	43
<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	1	14
<i>Apamea lithoxylaea</i>	Light Arches	1	6
<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	Middle-barred Minor	1	2
<i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>	Burnished Brass	1	4
<i>Plusia festucae</i>	Gold Spot	1	2
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	1	1
<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	Beautiful Golden Y	1	8
<i>Autographa bractea</i>	Gold Spangle	1	9
<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	Spectacle	1	1
<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	1	10
<i>Schrankia costaestrigalis</i>	Pinion-streaked Snout	1	3

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