Rediscovery of Campanula Pug *Eupithecia denotata* (Hubner) in Worcestershire

Tony Simpson

This moth is rarely recorded especially as an imago and seems local in England. The larvae feed in the seed capsules of Nettle-leaved Bell-Flower *Campanula trachelium* and Greater Bell-Flower *C. latifolia* at the end of August and in September.

In Worcestershire it was recorded from Hatt House Farm, near Clifton-on-Teme in 1910. I found larvae at The Knapp, in the Suckley Hills, at Southstone Rock, and in a lane near Hatt House Farm in 1992 & 1993. It seemed confined to the outcrops of Silurian Limestone in West Worcestershire and east Herefordshire in our area.

When I searched for it again post 2000 I found the Nettle-leaved Bellflower had largely gone from the previous sites being either smothered and overgrown with bramble, etc. or removed by hedge flailing.

Then Roger Maskew informed me of a site for both species of *Campanula* along the Severn in Eyemore Wood and I found larvae and bred out moths from both in 2010.

This year (2015) I have found larvae at Blackhouse Wood on *C. trachelium* along the rides (01 & 02) and also in a lane leading to Sapey Old Church not far from Clifton-on-Teme. I failed to find larvae in other plants along lanes in the Suckley Hills area which was perhaps explained by my finding they had been shortly afterwards cut off during hedge trimming. I found larvae along Wenlock Edge in Shropshire this September and I was told by the county moth recorder that there had been no other records in Salop since the 1970's.

It may well be more widely distributed, given the occurrence of its local food-plants, but unlikely to be found at moth traps and needs special larval searches to have a chance of being discovered.

01. Campanula Pug *Eupithecia denotata* larva. Tony Simpson

02. Campanula Pug *Eupithecia denotata* larva. Tony Simpson

Images
01. Campanula Pug *Eupithecia denotata* larva. Tony Simpson
02. Campanula Pug *Eupithecia denotata* larva. Tony Simpson