

The micro-moth *Depressaria albipunctella* (Elachistidae) and a second record of the micro-moth *Dichomeris alacella* (Gelechiidae) at Carpenter's Farm in southwest Worcestershire

Martin B Skirrow

***Depressaria albipunctella* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) (Elachistidae).** A specimen of this micro-moth (determined by Tony Simpson) was found in a Robinson 125 watt light trap run all night at Carpenter's Farm near Berrow (SO777339) on 10th May 2015 (01). It is an uncommon and locally distributed species in southern Britain with recent records from East Anglia. Traditionally, south Worcestershire and southeast Herefordshire are regarded as 'hotspots' for this species although there are not many records. In this instance it gave me satisfaction to compare this recent catch with a 66-year-old preserved specimen I collected in Upper Welland (SO779411) on 14th April 1949 (02). In those days moth traps such as we have today did not exist, but I used to run a lamp in an open window in an upper room of a house overlooking St Wulstans, which was then a wartime-built hutted hospital (now a nature reserve). At that time I had not the knowledge to identify it, but many years later it was identified by Tony Simpson. This is a good illustration of the value of preserved and labelled specimens.



01. *Depressaria albipunctella* caught in May 2015; wing length 8 mm. Martin Skirrow



02. *Depressaria albipunctella* caught at Upper Welland in April 1949. Martin Skirrow

***Dichomeris alacella* (Zeller, 1839) (Gelechiidae).** This micro-moth is a nationally scarce Notable B species about which little is known, but it is established that its larvae feed on lichens on trees. My first encounter with this species was on 7th July 2011, again at Carpenter's Farm (SO777339) in a Robinson light trap run all night. On that occasion the trap was set in an open situation but near a few fruit trees and other mature trees, some of which had good coverings of lichens. A second specimen turned up in the same trap on 15th August 2015 (03). This time it was set about 100 metres from the first site near a pond flanked by hazel *Corylus*, willow *Salix caprea*, elderberry *Sambucus* and other shrubby trees, but they had few lichens on them. To have caught another specimen four years after the first strongly suggests that the species breeds on the farm.



03. *Dichomeris alacella* caught in August 2015; wing length 7 mm. Martin Skirrow

Acknowledgements

I thank Tony Simpson for determining and commenting on the *D. albipunctella*.

Images

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