

**Dotted Fan-foot *Macrochilo cribrumalis* (Erebidae) – new to VC37 Worcestershire.**

Richard Stott  
[richardestott@gmail.com](mailto:richardestott@gmail.com)

A specimen of this species was taken during a regular moth trapping session on Avon Meadows, Pershore on 7 July 2019. On this occasion we were running a single Skinner trap at SO 95090 46570 in an area surrounded by reedbeds, mostly *Phragmites* and *Typha* and scrub dominated by Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* with willow *Salix* sp. and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* dotted around nearby. We were having a good night with over 70 species logged with more to consider when Steve Whitehouse spotted something unusual in the trap. He potted it and gave an initial identification as *Macrochilo cribrumalis*. As this was such an unusual find, he took the specimen, and his identification was later confirmed by Oliver Wadsworth and Tony Simpson.



01. Dotted Fan-foot *Macrochilo cribrumalis* Avon Meadows 5 July 2019. S. M. Whitehouse.

In the UK this species is Nationally Scarce B and generally restricted to the eastern counties, particularly the counties of East Anglia where it is local. There have been recent records as far west as south Oxfordshire and Huntingdonshire and there are 19th century records from Dorset and Somerset. It is a species of wetlands, sedge beds, fens and bogs and the larval host plants reported include *Carex sylvatica*, *Luzula campestris* and *Luzula pilosa*. Although none of these species has been found on Avon Meadows, ten species of *Carex* have been recorded there.

With a single record it is hard to be sure of its significance. It may be relevant to point out that a few days before this record the African dragonfly species, Vagrant Emperor *Hemianax ephippiger*, was found at Ryall Pits only 6½ miles southwest of Avon Meadows following a period of hot southerly winds from North Africa. (see paper by Andy Warr in this issue of *Worcestershire Record*).

**Acknowledgements**

My thanks to Steve Whitehouse and Tony Simpson for their assistance with the identification.

**Reference:**

Waring, P., Townsend, M. & Lewington, R. 2017. *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*. 3rd Edition. Bloomsbury Publishing.