

***Argolamprotes micella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller],  
1775). in Childswickham. New for VC33 East  
Gloucestershire**

Oliver Wadsworth

On the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, I ran moth traps in Childswickham at a private site on the edge of the village. The site is a large, well planted garden bordering arable farm land with a brook running along its border. Childswickham lies within the VC33 East Gloucestershire boundary but is in modern Worcestershire.

Two 125w MV Skinner traps were deployed from dusk until around 2a.m. The night was warm, overcast and quite productive with a total of 86 moth species recorded. One moth caught my eye as something not immediately familiar; a dark Gelechiid with silver dots. It was potted for closer examination in daylight. The moth was later identified as *Argolamprotes micella* (01). I knew we did not have this species on the VC37 Worcestershire list and a little online research suggested that it was not known from VC33 either. The closest record I have been able to find is from VC34, north of Bristol.



01. *Argolamprotes micella* Childswickham 16.06.22.  
Oliver Wadsworth.

The moth was first found in the UK in Devon in 1963 and has since spread slowly north, reaching South Gloucestershire and Wales. The known larval foodplants in the UK are Raspberry *Rubus idaeus* and Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* agg. This is certainly a species to look out for as moths tend to wander over greater than normal distances during prolonged warm and dry weather. Given the summer we had in 2022 I will not be surprised to see records of this species turning up in Worcestershire next year.

**Images**

01. *Argolamprotes micella* Childswickham 16.06.22.  
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