

## 2022 VC37(Worcestershire) Moth Review

Tony Simpson & Oliver Wadsworth

The annotated list below provides a record of the highlights of moth recording in Worcestershire in 2022 and has been compiled by Tony Simpson (ANBS) and Oliver Wadsworth (OW) from 39,700 records. The total number of records received was down slightly from 2021, but it includes a few more species with 1,060 in 2022 against 1,036 recorded in 2021.

### New Species:

There were nine new species of moth recorded in VC37 Worcestershire in 2022 and two new species recorded in 2021 which were only confirmed since the 2021 review. 2022 was a remarkably good year for many migrant species associated with the unusually long very hot summer weather.

### 2021

*Zimmermania amani* Svensson

Rick Benson-Bunch passes moths caught at light in Darkham Wood SO738299, and which need dissection for identification, to Peter Hall. He identified a female *Z. amani* from there caught on 07/07/21. This species had previously only been recorded from Huntingdonshire in 1994-96 and Bedfordshire in 2010. Then from Buckinghamshire and West Gloucestershire in 2021. (Buckton 2022). Larval mines under the bark of Elm *Ulmus* spp. and is probably an overlooked resident rather than a new arrival in the U.K.

*Coleophora prunifoliae* Doets

Similarly, Peter identified a male of this species from there caught on 27/07/21. Previously recorded in nearby Herefordshire

### 2022

*Haplotinea insectella* (Fabr.)

Gavin Peplow caught one of these detritus feeding Tineidae at light on 02/08/22 at Abberton SO995536.

Previous records from West Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

*Acompsia schmidtellus* (Heyd.)

One at light at Stourport SO803728 on 29/07/22 by Ian Machin was probably a vagrant at a time of very hot weather. There are old records from Herefordshire of this Marjoram *Origanum vulgare* feeding species but this one could well have come from much further afield.

*Scrobipalpa ocellatella* (F. v R) (01)

2022 saw large numbers of this moth turning up at light right across the U.K. Usually coastal and confined to Sea Beet *Beta vulgaris* subsp. *maritima* in localities in the south and east. It is suspected that the 2022 influx were all migrants but their origin is uncertain. There were 96 specimens recorded from 16 different sites right across the county between 12/08/22 and 08/09/22.



01. *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* Childswickham 12.08.22. Oliver Wadsworth.

*Acleris umbrana* (Hubn.) (02)

Nicki Rowberry recorded one at light at Malvern SO77764778 on 08/03/22. Then Martin Skirrow retrieved one from his washing up bowl in his house at Carpenter's Farm SO777339 on 09/07/22, confirmed by dissection by Oliver Wadsworth. Following this Peter Holmes caught one at light on 12/07/22 (confirmed by dissection) and another on 20/12/22 in Malvern Wells SO773420. This is a very local and uncommon Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* feeding species, with two old Herefordshire records, which has been occurring more frequently in the U.K. in recent years.



02. *Acleris umbrana* Malvern 08.03.22. Nicki Rowberry.

*Ancylosis oblitella* (Zell.) (03)

A single specimen of this uncommon migrant was recorded at light at Norchard SO84686849 by Mike Southall on 14/08/22.



03. *Ancylosis oblitella* Norchard 14.08.22. Mike Southall.

*Uresiphita gilvata* (Fabr.)

This uncommon U.K. migrant was caught at light at Worcester SO883570 by Steve Whitehouse on 26/10/22.

**Tunbridge Wells Gem** *Chrysodeixis acuta* (Walk.) (04)

Our first record of this rare and beautiful migrant turned up in Gillian Thompson's moth trap at Hall Green SP10758005 on 29/10/22.



04. Tunbridge Wells Gem Hall Green 29.10.22. Gillian Thompson.

**Tree-lichen Beauty** *Cryphia algae* (Fabr.) (05)

This formerly migrant lichen feeding species has become resident in south-east England and has been spreading northwards, with two reaching eastern VC37 last year. Gavin Peplow had one at light at Abberton SO995563 on 02/08/22 and Alan Prior another at Hall Green SP10478292 on 07/08/22. This species may well continue to spread further into the county.



05. Tree-lichen Beauty Hall Green 07.08.22. Alan Prior.

**Porter's Rustic** *Athetis hospes* (Freyer) (06)

A single specimen of this rare migrant was recorded at light by Mike Southall at Norchard SO84696851 on 04/09/22



06. Porter's Rustic Norchard 04.09.22. Mike Southall.

**Other records of note**

*Nemophora cupriacella* (Hubn.) an individual netted in the day at Burlish Meadows SO810734 by Ian Machin on 22/06/22 is a new site record for this local species.

*Phyllonorycter distentella* (Zell.) Ian Machin caught and released a moth of this rare species at Kingsford Country Park SO825820 near where he found the first specimen at light in 2020, and from where Patrick Clement found leaf mines in oak *Quercus* sp. 2021.

**Pheromones**

There have been a number of records of Tineidae and Tortricidae recorded at pheromone lures in 2021 and 2022 considerably increasing the known distribution of several otherwise difficult to record species:

*Nemapogon ruricolella* (Staint.) from five sites attracted to VES lures.

*Nemapogon variatella* (Clem.) attracted to API lure on 08/06/22 at Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 by Steve Whitehouse is only our third VC37 record.

*Nemapogon koenigi* Capuse attracted to VES, FUN and *Plodia/Ephestia* lures (e.g. by P.G. Smith Dodford SO936731 29/06/22 and 12/08/22, Patrick Clement Black Meadow SO943746 on 09/07/22).

*Nemapogon cloacella* (Haw.) sometimes to *Plodia/Ephestia* lure and *N. clematella* (Fabr.) to VES lure.

*Triaxomera fulvimitrella* (Sodof.) has been frequently attracted to CUL and TIP lures in Wyre Forest.

*Triaxomera caprimulgella* (Staint.) attracted to LUN lures from three sites following the first county record to a *T. bisselliella* lure in 2021 (Dodford SO936731 P.G. Smith 22/06/22, Abberton SO995536 Gavin

Peplow 29/06/22, Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 5 moths 29/06/22 and one on 01/07/22 and one on 04/07/22 Steve Whitehouse).

*Pammene giganteana* (Pey.) has been found to be widespread and attracted to FUN lures.

*Pammene suspectana* (L. & Z.) (07) attracted to FUN lure at Halesowen SO948836 by Patrick Clement and one to light in Wyre Forest SO75827465 on 21/05/22 by Mike Southall, as well as other 2021 records.



07. *Pammene suspectana* Wyre Forest 21.05.22. Patrick Clement.

*Pammene albuginana* (Guen.) to FUN lures in 2021 and 2022.

*Grapholita tenebrosana* Dup. attracted to SUM, FUN and Goat Moth *Cossus cossus* lures.

*Grapholita molesta* (Busck) is usually regarded as an adventive species of which a number have been bred in VC37 from larvae found in imported Nectarines and Peaches. Patrick Clement attracted one outdoors to an LUN lure at Halesowen SO948836 on 23/06/22.

*Ypsolopha horridella* (Treits.) There have been further records of this species at Stourport SO803728 Ian Machin on 27/07/22 and at Abberton SO995536 Gavin Peplow on 28/08/22 and 01/09/22.

*Ypsolopha lucella* (Fabr.) Jason Waine recorded one of this very local species at light in Trench Wood SO92735872 on 20/07/22

*Batrachedra pinicolella* (Zell.) this taxon has now been found to contain another species, *B. confusella* Berggren, Aarvik, Huemer, Lee & Mutanen. only certainly distinguishable by dissection (Hall & Plant 2022). Looking back at some retained specimens and dissections confirmed that *B. confusella* (a Pine *Pinus* feeding species) as the species recorded from Hartlebury Common (ANBS) and at Halesowen by Patrick Clement, but other records should now be recorded as an aggregate unless dissected.

*Oncocera semirubella* (Scop.) one of these recent arrivals has now been recorded at light by Gavin Peplow at Abberton SO995536 on 21/07/22.

*Sitochroa palealis* (D.&S.) one at Ripple Gravel Pits SO866370 by R. Newton on 20/07/22

**Large Red-belted Clearwing** *Synanthedon culiciformis* (L.) (08) Brett Westwood saw five around birch stumps in the day at Devil's Spittleful SO805748 on 17/05/22, confirming its presence at this site after possible old emergence holes were found there in the past.



08. Large Red-belted Clearwing. Devil's Spittleful 17.05.22. Brett Westwood.

**Festoon** *Apoda limacodes* (Hufn.) one at light at Slade Wood SP024540 Steve Whitehouse on 17/07/22 and one seen in daylight by Carol and John Taylor at Grafton Wood SO97255564 on 13/07/22.

*Scopula minorata* (Boisd.) Dodford SO936731 on 08/08/22 P.G. Smith had a second example of this Mediterranean species to light. He previously had recorded the second U.K. specimen there on 08/06/2018. It was then thought it may have come from a nearby garden centre which imports cacti and other plants and perhaps this is the source of this presumed adventive species.

**Light Orange Underwing** *Boudinotiana notha* (Hb.) at Moseley Bog SP0918203 by D. Jennings on 10/04/22 is a new site for this local Aspen *Populus tremula* feeding moth.

**Brown-tail** *Euproctis chrysorrhoea* (L.) one at Ravenshill Green SO739543 on 17/07/22 by Andy Pearce is our most westerly record to date.

**Clifden Nonpareil/Blue Underwing** *Catocala fraxini*(L.) there were fewer recorded from only six sites in 2022.

**Toadflax Brocade** *Calophasia lunula* (Hufn.) one to light in Worcester SO86485314 by S. Rushall on 08/05/22 shows it may well have begun to spread and this is well away from previous records in Hall Green, Birmingham.

**Chamomile Shark** *Cucullia chamomillae* (D. & S.) one on 20/04/22 at Stourport SO803728 by Ian Machin and one on 04/05/22 at Bromsgrove SO92347388 by J. Beasley. This is a species which has been a rarely recorded in recent years.

**Bordered Sallow** *Pyrrhia umbra* (Hufn.) one in Malvern SO783452 R. Newton on 07/07/22 and one at Pennyhill Landfill Site SO751613 also

on 07/07/22 by Patrick Clement. He had also found it there in 2020 and it is uncertain if this species is a transient resident or a migrant in Worcestershire with only a few irregular records. However as a restharrow *Ononis* feeder the Pennyhill site on calcareous grassland might suggest it could well be resident there.

**L-Album Wainscot** *Mythimna l-album* (L.) one at light at Welland SO793403 on 24/09/22 by Neil Harris was his second record from there and it may have been a migrant but possibly now moving in and becoming resident in the south of the county

**Dotted Rustic** *Rhyacia simulans* (Hufnagel, 1766) one at Norchard SO84726849 Mike Southall on 12/09/22. This is a rarely recorded species recently

**Kent Black Arches** *Meganola albula* (D.&S.) Abberton SO995536 Gavin Peplow on 17/07/22, previously recorded there in 2021 and so also probably now becoming resident.

There were large numbers of most of the commoner migrants:

**Diamond-Back** *Plutella xylostella* (L.) 200+

**Rusty-dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugalis* 30+

**Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella* (D.&S.) 170+

**Hummingbird Hawk-moth** *Macroglossum stellatarum* (L.) 120+

**Vestal** *Rhodometra sacraria* (L.) 47

**Silver Y** *Autographa gamma* (L.) 370+

**Bordered Straw** *Heliothis peltigera* (D. & S.) 16

**Scarce Bordered Straw** *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hb.) 10

**Small Mottled Willow** *Spodoptera exigua* (Hb.) 7

**Pearly Underwing** *Peridroma saucia* (Hb.) only two at Sparkbrook SP081845 by Dave Grundy on 06/09/22 and 08/09/22

**Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufn.) 24

Uncommon migrants other than those mentioned as new to county above:

*Loxostege sticticalis* (L.) (09) there were four records of this uncommon migrant which had only been seen once in the county previously. Ian Machin at Stourport SO803728 on 01/09/22, T. Vorsterman at Malvern Link SO7748 on 02/09/22, Mike Southall at Norchard SO84696851 on 04/09/22, Carol and John Taylor at Sale Green SO93115813 also on 04/09/22.



09. *Loxostege sticticalis* Norchard 04.09.22. Mike Southall.

**European Corn-borer** *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hb.) one at Norchard SO84686849 Mike Southall on 29/07/22

*Palpita vitrealis* (Ross) Abberton SO995536 Gavin Peplow on 21/07/22, Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 Steve Whitehouse 26/10/22/and 29/10/22.

**Convolvulus Hawk-moth** *Agrius convolvuli* (L.) apart from two as usual at Norchard SO84696851 by Mike Southall on 03/09/22 and 16/09/22, the only other was one found caught up in sheets outdoors on a washing line on 29/08/22 at Hanley Broadheath SO662652 by N. Jablonski and seen by Tony Simpson.

**Dark Crimson Underwing** *Catocala sponsa* (L.) one in Redditch SP027668 Jason Waine on 01/09/22

**Four-spotted Footman** *Lithosia quadra* (L.) Malvern SO772443 Richard Comont on 19/07/22, Darkham Wood SO738299 R. Benson-Bunch on 18/07/22 and two at Hollywood SP089771 A. Grove on 20/08/22

**Dewick's Plusia** *Macdunnoughia confusa* (Steph.) Hall Green SP10758005 Gillian Thompson recorded one on 14/07/22, two on 15/07/22, two on 17/07/22, and one on 20/07/22, Norchard SO84696851 Mike Southall recorded one at light 20/07/22 and three to Ni lure on 29/07/22 and one to Ni lure on 29/08/22, Welland SO793403 Neil Harris one at light 15/09/22. These records suggest it is now becoming resident as well as a migrant.

**White-point** *Mythimna albipuncta* (D. & S.) Worcester SO830554 D. Martin on 26/07/22, Norchard SO84696851 Mike Southall on 14/08/22, Stourport SO803728 Ian Machin on 17/08/22, Hall Green SP10478292 Alan Prior on 27/10/22, Malvern SO77764778 Nicki Rowberry on 28/10/22, Inkberrow SP0179657520 Ian Blackmore on 29/10/22. These records suggest it may well also now be resident.

**Great Brocade** *Eurois occulta* (L.) Norchard SO84696851 Mike Southall one on 30/08/22 of the pale migrant form.

#### One to look out for in 2023

Last year, I (OW) recorded the attractive and reasonably distinctive Gelechiid *Argolamprotes micella* (10) just over the boundary in VC33. It has been slowly marching north since its arrival in Britain in 1963 and I suspect it will turn up in Worcestershire before long.



10. *Argolamprotes micella* Childswicham 16.06.22. Could be heading to VC37. Oliver Wadsworth.

*Caloptilia honoratella* has now been recorded in Gloucestershire and may well be found in Worcestershire before long. Any *Caloptilia*s that need confirming can be retained and sent to OW or TS if needed.

### Moth Dissections

If you have specimens that need dissection, there are several recorders who are willing to take specimens. In the first instance, please email ANBS or OW.

It may be possible to hold a moth dissection tutorial if there is enough interest. The details have still to be arranged, but OW is thinking of a half day course with demonstration and hands on practical covering the basic techniques and an overview of the equipment and literature.

Interested people should contact OW via email:

[oliver.wadsworth@sky.com](mailto:oliver.wadsworth@sky.com)

### Thanks and further information

As always, many thanks to all the recorders who sent in their records for 2022. The data you provide is greatly valued, not only at this county level, but also as it goes forward to the National Database held by Butterfly Conservation.

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Moth blog site is still active and is a useful place to report sightings of interesting moths and ask for ID help if needed. It can be found at:

<https://herefordandworcestermoths.blogspot.com/>

The West Midlands Moths Website is going from strength to strength and was successfully updated for the first time with the records from 2021. Photos are continually being added making it an excellent identification resource as well as a distribution atlas. If you make use of the site, do please consider subscribing to it. Subscribers gain more detailed information on the records and help keep the site going by covering the running costs.

Recorders should be aware that their name is associated with their records and will be visible on the website. If anyone is concerned about this do please let us know and we can remove your records if needed.

The website's data policy is available here:

[https://westmidlandsmoths.co.uk/West\\_Midlands\\_Moths\\_Data\\_Policy.pdf](https://westmidlandsmoths.co.uk/West_Midlands_Moths_Data_Policy.pdf).

### References

- Buckton, S. 2022. First record of *Zimmermannia amani* Svensson (Lep.: Nepticulidae) in West Gloucestershire (VC34) and a review of UK records. *The Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 135:24-27
- Hall, P. & Plant, C.W. 2022. *Batrachedra confusella* Berggren, Aarvik, Huemer, Lee & Mutanen, (Lep.: Batrachedridae) in Britain. *The Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 134:53-57
- Hereford & Worcester Moth Blog. Available at: <https://herefordandworcestermoths.blogspot.com/> [Accessed 27.04.23]
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### Images

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