

Moth Trapping In Under-recorded Areas 2012

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In an attempt to target moth recording to under-recorded areas, funding became available to the Highland Branch via SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) part way through the 2012 season. This enabled expenses to be paid to volunteers to cover the cost of travel and running generators etc. Although the money was limited, all those who took part were able to receive some expenses.

Under recorded areas were defined as 10km squares where less than 20 species of macro-moth had been recorded or squares where one of Scotland's commonest macro-moths, Large Yellow Underwing, had not been, suggesting that little or no moth trapping had occurred in that square.

Most of these squares were in remote areas, with few or no roads through them, some had no previous records at all. There follows a summary of the results. The location of each targeted square is plotted on the accompanying map. (NB. The green dots mark the centre of each square, which is why some of the dots are located in the sea!).

NC56 – North coast between Loch Eriboll and Tongue Bay

198 records of 76 species were recorded in a square which previously had no records at all. Highlights for the recorder were Northern Rustic and Archer's Dart.

NG89 – North of Aultbea

Prior to 2012 only 8 species had been recorded in this square, the repeat visits recorded 53 species, 50 of which were new for the square. 5 of these hadn't been trapped in nearby squares, Beautiful Carpet, Beech-green Carpet, Tawny-barred Angle, Pale Prominent and Old Lady. The Old Lady was only the 4th record of that species for the whole of VC105. Large numbers of Bordered Whites were found exceeding the previous maxima recorded by the VC recorder.

NC00 – Achiltibuie area

No species previously recorded in this square, 8 species recorded.

NC03 – Clashmore, Point of Stoer

There were 2 species previously recorded in this square, one new record added making 3 species in total.

NC15 – Ardmore Point area

There were 3 species previously recorded in this square, a further 12 species were recorded making a total of 15 species.

NC16 – Chigra area

There was 1 species previously recorded in this square, a further 16 species were recorded making 17 species in total.

NH84 - Assich

56 species in total were recorded, one of which was the micro-moth *Catoptria permutatellus* which is a new record for VC96.

NH71 – Coignafearn & Coignafeuinternich

53 species in total were recorded, of particular note is the Cousin German, a UKBAP species, this is a new 10km square for it.

NC41 – Glen Cassley & Fiag Bridge

6 species had previously been recorded in this square, 45 species were recorded, all of which were new for the square making a total of 51 species.

NC82 – Borrobol

4 species had previously been recorded in this square, 61 species were recorded, all of which were new for the square making a total of 65 species.

NC91 – Strath of Kildonan; Kilphedir

13 species had previously been recorded in this square, 64 species were recorded, 55 of which were new for the square making a total of 68 species.

NC92 – Strath of Kildonan; Suisgill Lodge

45 species were recorded, all of which were new to the square as there were no previous records.

Records were received from twelve under-recorded 10km squares with the total number of new species added to all squares being 478.

All of these records have been passed to the appropriate Vice County recorders for inclusion in the National Moth Recording Scheme.

Many thanks to SNH, and Brigid Primrose in particular, for funding this project.

It is hoped that Highland Branch can find further funding for the 2013 season and possibly widen the project to include butterflies as well as moths. If funding is secured, details of how to take part will be posted on the Highland Branch website or for those without computers you can phone Pete Moore on 01479 872261 or 07866 578079 for details.

