

Moth-trapping In Under-recorded Areas 2013

Audrey Turner

Once again SNH provided support in the form of funding for travel expenses incurred by volunteers moth-trapping in under-recorded areas. 10KM squares with less than 20 recorded species of macro-moths were targeted. Most of these squares are in remote areas, with few or no roads through them. Below are brief summaries of the numbers of species added to existing records, along with any notable species found. I'd like to thank Brigid Primrose of SNH for her invaluable assistance in securing funding.

NG96 – Beinn Eighe NNR

Several visits were made to this site by the recorder and traps were set up in both an area of mature Scots Pine and of mature Birch woods. Previously there were only 6 species of moth recorded from this 10km square. A total of 360 moths of 63 species were recorded, with 23 species only caught in the Pine wood sites, 18 species only caught in the Birch wood sites, 22 species common to both habitats.

Notable species were Flounced Chestnut, found only in the Pine wood site, only the 2nd record for VC105 and the Scarce Silver Y, though not as scarce, is the recorder's only record, it was also found in the Pine wood.

NJ32 – Cabrach, near Dufftown

There was only 1 species previously recorded from this 10km square. 52 species of macro moth and 13 species of micro moth were recorded on the 1 visit made to the square. Notable species were Rannoch Looper and Northern Arches, both nationally scarce Na.

NN49 – Glenshirra

There were only 5 species of macro moth previously recorded from this 10km square, and no micro moths. 1 visit was made and a total of 40 species of macro moth and 12 species of micro recorded, Notable species were Northern Arches, Sweet Gale and Great Brocade, all nationally scarce Na and Scotch Annulet, nationally scarce Nb. Micros of note were *Cnephasia stephensiana* which was the third VC record and *Epinotia mercuriana* which was the fourth VC record for VC96.

NN37 – Fersit

This 10km square had only 1 species of macro moth recorded previously and no micro moth records. 1 visit was made and 3 light traps run overnight. Along with daytime observations, 45 species of macro moth were recorded and 19 species of micro moth. The only notable species was Great Brocade, nationally scarce Na.

NH83 – Shenachie

This 10km square had 12 species previously recorded. 1 visit was made and 41 species of macro moth and 2 species of micro moth were recorded, 278 individuals were caught. Northern Dart, nationally scarce Na was the only notable species.

NN57 – Loch Pattack

There was only 1 species previously recorded from this 10km square. 1 visit was made and although no notable moths were trapped a total of 353 individuals were recorded consisting of 23 species of macro moth and 4 species of micro moth.

NH50 – Stronelairg Lodge

5 species had previously been recorded in this 10km square. 1 visit was made and 18 species of macro moth and 2 species of micro moth were recorded. Although only 95 individual moths were trapped 6 of these were Cousin German, nationally scarce Na.

NH11 – Glean na Ciche

16 species had previously been recorded in this 10km square. 1 visit was made and 28 species of macro moth and 2 species of micro moth were recorded from 114 individuals. 3 of these were Cousin German, nationally scarce Na.

Many thanks to those who contributed their time to add to our knowledge of the distribution of moths in the Highlands.

It is intended to carry out this project again in 2014, and also to extend it to cover butterfly recording in under-recorded areas. Funds for expenses will be available through the branch, please contact me for details of what is covered and how to claim.

Audrey Turner unicorn64@btinternet.com 07450 548862