

**THE MOTHS OF CAITHNESS**

**THE MOTHS OF DUNNET FOREST  
CAITHNESS**

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SUPPLEMENT NO.2

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A REPORT OF THE MOTH SPECIES  
RECORDED IN  
DUNNET FOREST CAITHNESS  
IN 2020

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE REVIEW OF  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018

**NEIL MONEY  
COUNTY MOTH RECORDER  
(MACRO MOTHS) CAITHNESS**

## **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to detail the species of moth recorded in Dunnet Forest in 2020.

## **OVER VIEW**

Government imposed Covid-19 travel restrictions at various times during the year impacted on the number of visits to the Forest so trapping was mainly confined to the Summer months.

84 moth species were recorded in the year of which 5 had not been previously recorded in the forest, taking the total number of species recorded to 168.

## **RECORDING METHODS USED**

Records have been sourced through light trapping (Robinson MV250W) and daytime visits for day flying species.

Light trapping targeted the north-west corner of the Forest where the native deciduous trees planted by the Trust are maturing and create a mix habitat with conifers from the original planting.

Recording in this area now will provide a base line against which to monitor any changes in moth species as the deciduous trees become more dominant and will enable the Trust to evaluate the environmental effect of its development plan.

Interestingly 4 of the 5 newly recorded species have a preference for the type of habitat that has been created in this corner of the Forest.

## **SPECIES RECORDED IN THE FOREST FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2020**

A classified<sup>1</sup> and notated illustrated list of species follows below including a boxed note on the species status in Caithness and larval food plants<sup>2</sup> which will give an indication of habitat requirements of each species. The numbers in parenthesis give the number of records in the forest and the number of moths recorded.<sup>i</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Reference: Agassiz D.J.L, Beavan S.D. & Heckford R.J. 2013: A Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles

<sup>2</sup> Reference: Waring P, Townsend M & Lewington R: Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland

Reference: Sterling P, Parsons M & Lewington R: Field Guide to the Micro Moths of Great Britain & Ireland

Reference: Langmaid J.R., Palmer S.M. & Young M.R. A Field Guide to the Smaller Moths of Great Britain and Ireland

## TORTRICIDAE

49.230 *Epinotia trigonella* (1 record 1 moth)



Scarce in Caithness reflecting paucity of food source - larvae feed on *Betula* spp.

## GEOMETRIDAE

70.075 May Highflyer *Hydriomena impluviata* (1 record 1 moth)



Local and Scarce in Caithness - larvae feed on Alder

70.090 Chevron *Eulithis testata* (1 record 1 moth)



Common – larvae feed on Sallows, Creeping Willow, Aspen, birches and Hazel.

70.147 Slender Pug *Eupithecia tenuiata* (1 record 2moths)



Scarce in Caithness & mainly recorded from “new” woodland – larvae feed on catkins of *Salix* spp. Including Goat Willow, Grey Willow and Ear Willow

## NOCTUIDAE

### 73.114 Small Angle Shades *Euplexia lucipara* (1 record 1 moth)



Fairly common – larvae feed on a wide range of herbaceous and woody plants

## OTHER MOTH SPECIES RECORDED IN THE FOREST IN 2020

These species have been previously recorded in Dunnet Forest. The number of records and number of moths refers only to 2020

Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Moths
<i>Hepialus fusconebulosa</i>	Map-winged Swift	1	1
<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Ghost Moth	1	1
<i>Depressaria radiella</i>	Parsnip Moth	1	1
<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>		2	5
<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>		3	9
<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	1	3
<i>Clepsis senecionana</i>		1	1
<i>Aethes cnicana</i>		2	9
<i>Eucosma cana</i>		2	7
<i>Eucosma campoliliana</i>		1	1
<i>Udea lutealis</i>		1	4
<i>Udea olivalis</i>		1	1
<i>Scoparia subfusca</i>		1	9
<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>		1	1
<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>		1	5
<i>Eudonia angustea</i>		1	1
<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>		1	1
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		1	22
<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	Drinker	1	2
<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Elephant Hawkmoth	1	1
<i>Idaea biselata</i>	Small Fan-footed Wave	1	12
<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Shaded Broad-bar	1	10

<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	Flame Carpet	2	2
<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>	Silver-ground Carpet	3	21
<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet	2	2
<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	July Highflyer	1	2
<i>Pennithera firmata</i>	Pine Carpet	1	4
<i>Thera obeliscata</i>	Grey Pine Carpet	1	14
<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix	1	2
<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	Red-green Carpet	1	1
<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	2	2
<i>Chloroclysta citrata</i>	Dark Marbled Carpet	2	5
<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	1	1
<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	Water Carpet	1	20
<i>Venusia cambrica</i>	Welsh Wave	2	2
<i>Perizoma affinitata</i>	Rivulet	2	4
<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>	Small Rivulet	1	3
<i>Perizoma flavofasciata</i>	Sandy Carpet	1	2
<i>Eupithecia virgaureata</i>	Golden-rod Pug	1	1
<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	Common Pug	1	6
<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	Magpie	1	1
<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	1	3
<i>Macaria liturata</i>	Tawny-barred Angle	1	1
<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	1	2
<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	1	1
<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	Scalloped Hazel	1	29
<i>Alcis jubata</i>	Dotted Carpet	1	1
<i>Bupalus piniaria</i>	Bordered White	1	1
<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	Common White Wave	4	19
<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	Common Wave	2	2
<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	Light Emerald	2	12
<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>	Barred Red	3	5
<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	Lesser Swallow Prominent	1	1
<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine	1	2
<i>Schrankia costaestrigalis</i>	Pinion-streaked Snout	1	1
<i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>	Burnished Brass	1	1
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	2	4
<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	Beautiful Golden Y	3	11
<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	1	3
<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic	1	4
<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Ear Moth	1	1
<i>Denticucullus pygmina</i>	Small Wainscot	1	1
<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	1	1

<i>Apamea crenata</i>	Clouded-bordered Brindle	1	2
<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	1	5
<i>Apamea lithoxylaea</i>	Light Arches	1	1
<i>Litoligia literosa</i>	Rosy Minor	1	2
<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	Middle-barred Minor	1	1
<i>Lacanobia thalassina</i>	Pale-shouldered Brocade	1	2
<i>Hadena rivularis</i>	Campion	1	1
<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	1	1
<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	2	24
<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	1	6
<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	2	8
	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow		
<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Underwing	2	4
<i>Xestia baja</i>	Dotted Clay	1	15
<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Square-spot Rustic	2	12
<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Autumnal Rustic	1	5
<i>Nola confusalis</i>	Least Black Arches	1	8
<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg	Common/Lesser Rustic	2	18

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