

Shropshire Moth Group

peperouda@btinternet.com

January 2005 newsletter

REVIEW OF 2004

Hello All,

Shropshire Moth Group: Indoor Meeting at Ludlow Resource Centre to view the Lepidoptera collection currently being re-housed by Adrian Miles.

All welcome – Saturday February 5th 2005 from 12.00 midday

Please could you contact me if you intend to come to the meeting so we can have an idea of numbers for the venue?

Last year was the first real year of activity for the Shropshire Moth Group and so I have decided to put together a review of 2004 to encompass what happened during the year, summarise the range of species seen, and records received, as well as to act as a spring board into the 2005 recording season. It is also hoped that this review might be spread around to encourage others to get involved, submit records, arrange recording trips, and to generally stimulate more interest in the moths and other invertebrates within our large, and under-recorded County. So if you can think of anyone who would like to receive this review please pass it on by whatever format suits you. Also if you know anyone who would like to get the monthly review in the spring and summer months please let me know, or ask them to contact me – my details are at the end.

I must start by again thanking everyone who has contributed towards this review. During 2004 I received over 2000 Macro-moth records from a total of 27 people (so far). By far the most records came from Howard Davies and Caroline Uff at Brokenstones, but all records are welcome, from a single sighting to a thousand records and they all help build up a picture of what is going on. Also at this point I must again thank Godfrey Blunt for volunteering to take on the Micro-moths and all they entail. Godfrey's contact details can be found at the end of this communication for all your Micro-moth records including pesky Pyralids and troublesome Tortrix moths!

What happens to these records? Well currently not very much. All records of National and Regional Priority BAP species get fed into Butterfly Conservation and Shropshire's Biodiversity process. Until the National Macro-moth Recording Scheme is properly up and running, all the records you have sent me are on an Excel database (plus some in Mapmate) on my computer waiting so that they can be passed on when

requested (approx 8,500 records). Once this does happen I'm sure the National Scheme will really move things forward with distribution maps, atlases, and more information. There are also a number of paper records awaiting conversion to electronic format on a day that I'm snowed-in or some such. It would help me if as many of you as possible can enter your own records onto either an Excel file (in the format below; note – you only need to use one of the first three columns as a minimum), or as a Mapmate sync file as an email attachment or on disk (my cuck is 1ha).

Scientific Name	English Name	BF No.	Site	Grid Ref	Date	Recorder
<i>Acrionicta alni</i>	Alder moth	2281	87 Watling Street South, Church Stretton	SO456933	04/06/2004	I. Cheeseborough

2004 records

Records of around 320 species of Macro-moths were sent to me during the year.

UK BAP Priority Species

Dave Grundy has been studying both **Common Fan-foot** and **Drab Looper** as part of a project in the Wyre Forest. Both species were recorded in 2004 within the Shropshire part of the Forest.

Argent & Sable was recorded on, Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR by me from late May until mid-June. Jenny Joy also recorded the moth in both adult and larval forms at another site in North Shropshire. It is hoped that we will be able to look for larvae on Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR during 2004 with Jenny's knowledge of the larval requirements.

Butterfly Conservation and Shropshire County Council funded a search for **Square-spotted Clay** during 2004; however the target species remained unrecorded. All records of the species known from Shropshire were mapped (Fig.1) based upon historical records (Table 1.).

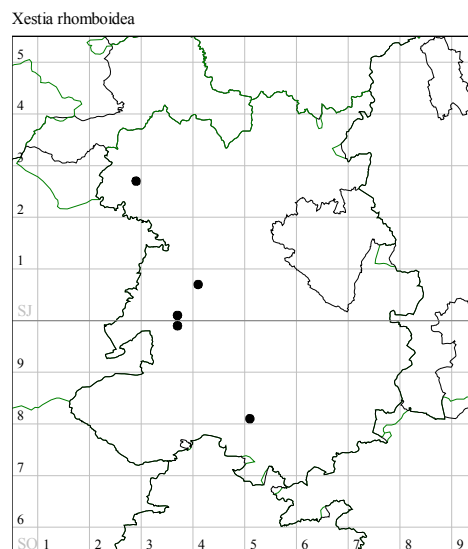


Fig. 1 – Square-spotted Clay *Xestia rhomboidea* records for Shropshire

Date	Site	Gridref	Recorder	Source
01/08/1931	Llanforda	SJ2927	Hignett	via Riley, 1991
01/08/1982	Hopton Titterhill	SO5080	Hicks	via Riley, 1991
01/08/1982	Pontesbury	SJ4006	Dave Smith	via Riley, 1991
10/07/1998	Perkins Beach	SO364999	Jenny Joy/ Craig Yates	via Jenny Joy
05/08/1998	Mytton Dingle	SJ370004	Jenny Joy/ Craig Yates	via Jenny Joy

Table 1. – Historical Records of Square-spotted Clay *Xestia rhomboidea* from Shropshire

If you know of any further records or would like to help with further searches for the moth in late summer 2005 around the Stiperstones area please let me know.

Priority Targets Within The West Midlands

Angle-striped Sallow was recorded by Dave Grundy at the Wyre Forest on 13th August 2004. I have records from previous years from Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR, Pennerley, Quatford and The Ercall.

Blomer's Rivulet as found at Brokenstones (near Craven Arms) by Howard Davies in late July. I have one other record from The Ercall from 2000.

Cloaked Carpet records came from Brokenstones (several between 12/7/04 – 13/8/04), Wyre Forest and Earl's Hill. This suggests it is becoming relatively common within the south of the County.

Devon Carpet was found once more in the Wyre Forest by Dave Grundy. I have one other location for Shropshire (Earl's Hill 2003).

Forester was searched for under the same Butterfly Conservation / Shropshire County Council funded survey as Square-spotted Clay. Again all records were mapped (Fig 2) and a table of data is listed (Table 2). A training day is currently being arranged for anyone who would like to know more about this moth around the Stiperstones area in 2005 – details to follow in the next newsletter. Again if anyone has any further records for this species from VC40 I would be very grateful to receive them.

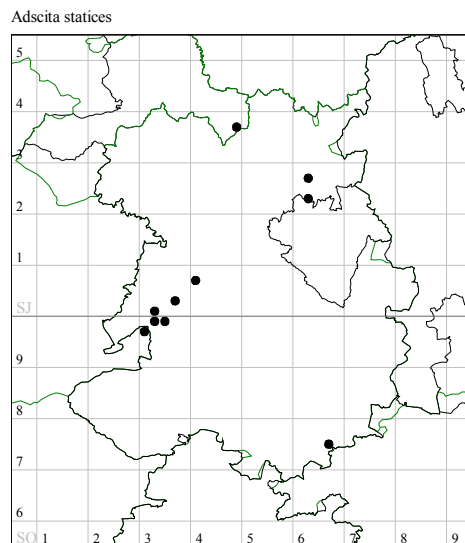


Fig. 2 – Forester *Adscita statices* records for Shropshire

Date	Site	Gridref	Recorder	Source
01/06/1921	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Smith, S.G.	EN archive
01/06/1922	Cleobury Mortimer	SO6775	Woodward, Comm. J.C.	via Riley, 1991
01/06/1934	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Lewis, E.S.	EN archive
01/06/1950	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Pugh via Pendlebury.	EN archive
01/06/1970	Pennerley	SO3598	Dave Poynton	via Riley, 1991
28/06/1975	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Hull, M.	EN archive
01/06/1978	Pontesbury	SJ4006	Dave Smith	via Riley, 1991
14/07/1979	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Hull, M.	EN archive
27/08/1979	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Wallace, I.D. & B.	EN archive
01/06/1980	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Newstead, M.	EN archive
20/06/1982	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Wallace, I.D. & B.	EN archive
01/06/1992	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Wallace, I.D.	EN archive
01/06/1993	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Yates, C.	EN archive
01/06/1994	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Yates, C.	EN archive
01/06/1995	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Yates, C.	EN archive
01/06/1995	Hodnet Heath	SJ620262	Yates, Mr C.	via Alex Lockton
01/06/1995	Peplow Railway Line	SJ626239	Yates, Mr C.	via Alex Lockton
01/06/1996	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Yates, C.	EN archive
30/06/1996	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Gateley P.	EN archive
01/06/1997	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Yates, C.	EN archive
17/06/1997	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Boardman, P. J.	EN archive
31/05/1998	Roman Gravels	SJ337004	Steve Hind, Dave Poynton & Ian Smith	via Jenny Joy
01/06/1998	Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR	SJ4936	Yates, C.	EN archive
01/06/1998	Snailbeach	SJ374023	Jenny Joy	via Jenny Joy
06/06/2004	Stapeley Common Spoil	SO3197	Bill Davidson	via Bill Davidson
07/06/2004	Bog Mine	SJ374023	Stephen Lewis	Stephen Lewis
15/06/2004	Shelve	SO3399	Peter Boardman & Ian Cheeseborough	BC survey

Table 2 – Records for Forester *Adscita stacies* from my database

Manchester Treble-bar was seen by Nick Greatorex-Davies upon Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR on 14/7/04. As far as I am aware this species has only ever been recorded from this site in Shropshire. I have 8 records, mostly from the 1970's and 1980's.

Orange Footman was found by Adrian Miles at Dudmaston on 9/5/04. Unless anyone can tell me differently this appears to be a new County record.

Purple-bordered Gold was seen over the period 16/6/04 – 26/6/04 from Wem Moss NNR and Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR. It is seemingly becoming a more common sighting upon the Mosses. I do however have a record from elsewhere in the County from 1995 at the same site that Argent & Sable was recorded by Jenny but I am unable to name the site due to access reasons.

Satin Lutestring was trapped at Brokenstones on the 28/7/04. I have records from one other site for Shropshire (Earl's Hill 2003).

Six-belted Clearwing was swept from Birdsfoot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* by Nigel Jones at Maddock's Hill Quarry on 25/6/04. This appears to be a new County record. I

was lucky enough to see the same species in Warwickshire during 2004 and so can empathise with Nigel to how pretty this insect is. Other limestone grassland locations might be worth searching!

Other interesting records

2004 seems to have been an interesting year for species of Footman moths with the apparent increase of a few species around the County. **Scarce Footman** (Bettisfield Moss seen by Roy Hilton, Brokenstones seen by Howard Davies, Manor House Whixall by me and Ian Cheeseborough and Wyre Forest by Dave Grundy) and **Buff Footman** (Brokenstones, Ipikins Meadow from Caroline Uff, Manor House Whixall, Wyre, Earl's Hill and Shelve Wood by me and Ian Cheeseborough) are the prime movers but also **Dingy Footman** (Earl's Hill) was a nice record, as was **Red-necked Footman** from Dudmaston by Adrian Miles. I had the same species just over the Welsh border on Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR, as well as **Beautiful Snout** at the same location in a Malaise trap. **Four-dotted Footman** was found on Bettisfield Moss and in the Wyre, which represent the traditional haunts for what is a County scarcity.

Two larval-feeders on Wild Clematis *Clematis vitalba* **Pretty Chalk Carpet** and **Haworth's Pug** were noted by Godfrey Blunt on a Shropshire Invertebrate Group field trip at The Greenwood Trust at Ironbridge in mid-July. Ron Douglas had **Svensson's Copper Underwing** at Cleobury Mortimer. **Old Lady** was recorded by Alan Holder from Baschurch and Dave Grundy in the Wyre Forest. The widespread, but uncommon **Smoky Wave** was recorded by Caroline Uff at Roundhill Flush on 12th June. **Blackneck** was recorded by Adrian Miles at Linley in June and July. It is not known whether these represent part of the "native" Shropshire population traditionally centred upon the Wyre Forest, or were migrant moths. Definite migrants were **Pearly Underwing** from Brokenstones and **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** from The Cliffe and Wenlock Edge seen by Ian Cheeseborough, and at Broseley by Peter Branson.

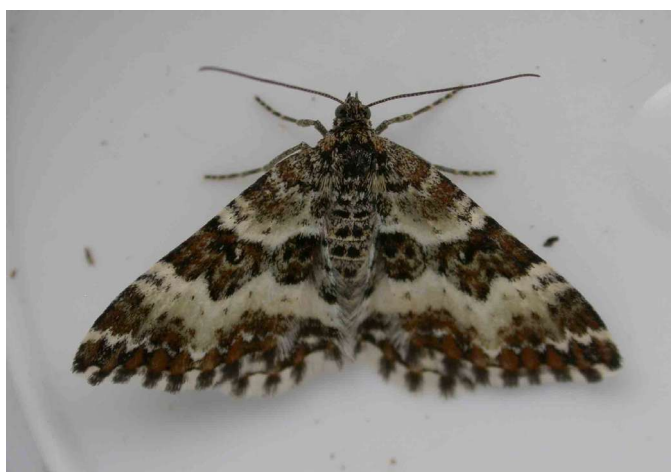


Fig 3 – Small Argent & Sable – Peter Boardman

Of the day-flying moths recorded **Burnet Companion** was found at Benthall Edge and two other locations by Peter Branson, at Lawley by Jenny Joy and Rough Park in Telford by me. **Mother Shipton** was seen at The Ercall by Stephen Lewis, Granville

Country Park by Peter Branson, The Bog Mine by Ian Cheeseborough and me. **Chimney Sweeper** was found by Bill Davidson on Long Pike Hollow and from the Wyre Forest by Dave Grundy. Dave also had **Latticed Heath** and **Grass Wave** from the Wyre, whilst John Bingham had **Wood Tiger** from the same site. The widespread but local **Small Argent & Sable** (fig.3) was noted by Peter Branson at The Dearleap. I noted **Marbled White-spot** from Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR on 16th June, whilst Adrian Miles had it twice from Dudmaston in June and early July. The only other location I know about in the County is the Wyre Forest. **Speckled Yellow** was noted frequently at Shirtlett Common on three occasions in May and one in June by Peter Branson, and from the Wyre Forest by Dave Grundy.

A complete summary of all records received for 2004 is listed below;

Alder moth	2	Brown Silver-line	16
Angle Shades	4	Brown-line Bright Eye	3
Angle-striped Sallow	1	Brown-line Bright-eye	1
Antler	5	Brown-spot Pinion	1
Argent & Sable	4	Buff Arches	6
August Thorn	1	Buff Ermine	11
Autumn Green Carpet	1	Buff Footman	10
Autumnal Rustic	2	Buff-tip	8
Barred Chestnut	1	Bulrush Wainscot	1
Barred Red	4	Burnet Companion	5
Barred Sallow	1	Burnished Brass	2
Barred Straw	9	Canary-shouldered Thorn	1
Barred Umber	1	Centre-barred Sallow	2
Barred Yellow	1	Chestnut	12
Beaded Chestnut	4	Chevron	3
Beautiful Brocade	1	Chimney Sweeper	3
Beautiful Golden Y	4	Chinese Character	12
Beautiful Hook-tip	6	Chocolate-tip	5
Birch Mocha	1	Cinnabar	16
Birds Wing	1	Clay	10
Black Arches	1	Cloaked Carpet	10
Black Rustic	4	Cloaked Minor	5
Blackneck	2	Clouded Border	13
Blomer's Rivulet	1	Clouded Drab	27
Blood-vein	6	Clouded Silver	7
Bordered White	2	Clouded-bordered Brindle	6
Bright Line Brown Eye	2	Clouded-bordered Brindle [melanic form]	2
Bright-line Brown eye	1	Common Marbled Carpet	1
Bright-line Brown-eye	6	Common Carpet	31
Brimstone Moth	27	Common Footman	20
Brindled Beauty	4	Common Heath	7
Brindled Pug	6	Common Lutestring	3
Broad-barred White	1	Common Marbled Carpet	15
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	7	Common Pug	5
Broken-barred Carpet	5	Common Quaker	20
Broom Moth	6	Common Rustic agg.	24
Brown Rustic	6	Common Swift	10

Common Wainscot	16	Gold Spot	3
Common Wave	6	Golden-rod Pug	3
Common White Wave	10	Gothic	2
Copper Underwing	12	Grass Emerald	1
Coxcomb Prominent	8	Grass Wave	1
Currant Pug	2	Great Prominent	7
Dark Arches	33	Green Arches	2
Dark Brocade	1	Green Carpet	11
Dark Marbled Carpet	5	Green Pug	2
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	2	Green-brindled Crescent	3
December Moth	4	Grey Chi	2
Devon Carpet	1	Grey Pine Carpet	2
Dingy Footman	1	Grey Pug	8
Dingy Shell	1	Grey Shoulder-knot	3
Dot Moth	1	Grey/Dark Dagger	2
Dotted Border	4	Haworth's Pug	1
Dotted Clay	9	Heart and Dart	30
Double Dart	1	Hebrew Character	33
Double Square-spot	15	Herald	4
Double-striped Pug	10	Hummingbird Hawk Moth	3
Drab Looper	2	Ingrailed Clay	15
Drinker	9	Iron Prominent	9
Dun-bar	9	July Highflyer	7
Dusky Brocade	1	July Highflyer	14
Dusky Sallow	2	Knot Grass	1
Dusky Thorn	3	Larch Pug	2
Dwarf Pug	2	Large Emerald	5
Ear sp.	2	Large Yellow Underwing	42
Early Grey	14	Latticed Heath	1
Early Moth	1	Least Black Arches	3
Early Thorn	16	Least Yellow Underwing	2
Elephant Hawk-moth	11	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	18
Engrailed	9	Lesser Cream Wave	1
Eyed Hawk-moth	1	Lesser Swallow Prominent	15
Fan-foot	3	Lesser Yellow Underwing	12
Feathered Gothic	3	Light Arches	5
Feathered Thorn	3	Light Emerald	5
Figure of Eighty	3	Lime Hawk-moth	1
Five-spot Burnet	3	Lime-speck Pug	2
Flame	13	Little Emerald	2
Flame Carpet	13	Lobster Moth	5
Flame Shoulder	27	Lunar Marbled Brown	3
Flounced Rustic	12	Lunar Underwing	4
Forester	4	Magpie Moth	13
Four-dotted Footman	3	Maiden's Blush	1
Fox Moth	5	Manchester Treble-bar	1
Foxglove Pug	4	Map-winged Swift	3
Frosted Green	1	Marbled Beauty	7
Frosted Orange	1	Marbled Minor	4
Gallium Carpet	1	Marbled Minor agg.	13
Garden Carpet	20	Marbled White Spot	4
Garden Tiger	2	March Moth	2
Ghost Moth	3	Merveille du Jour	2
Gold Spangle	1	Middle-barred Minor	7

Minor Shoulder-knot	1	Sallow	2
Mother Shipton	5	Sallow Kitten	2
Mottled Beauty	15	Sandy Carpet	3
Mottled Grey	3	Satellite	4
Mottled Pug	2	Satin Beauty	1
Mottled Rustic	7	Satin Lutestring	2
Mouse Moth	6	Scalloped Hazel	11
Mullein	2	Scalloped Hook-tip	2
Muslin Moth	6	Scalloped Oak	13
Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet	2	Scarce Footman	6
Narrow-winged Pug	6	Scarce Tissue	3
Northern Spinach	1	Scorched Carpet	2
Nut-tree Tussock	5	Scorched Wing	3
Oak Beauty	1	Setaceous Hebrew Character	7
Oak Eggar	3	Shaded Broad-bar	16
Oak Hook-tip	10	Shark	4
Old Lady	2	Shears	4
Orange Footman	1	Shoulder Stripe	9
Orange Swift	3	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	4
Pale Brindled Beauty	2	Shuttle-shaped Dart	13
Pale Prominent	6	Silver Y	14
Pale Tussock	6	Silver-ground Carpet	26
Pale-shouldered Brocade	8	Single-dotted Wave	16
Peach Blossom	3	Six-belted Clearwing	1
Pearly Underwing	1	Six-spot Burnet	4
Pebble Hook-tip	7	Six-striped Rustic	9
Pebble Prominent	11	Slender Brindle	2
Peppered Moth	13	Slender Pug	2
Phoenix	1	Small Angle Shades	7
Pine beauty	2	Small Argent and Sable	1
Pine Carpet	3	Small Blood-vein	8
Pink-barred Sallow	1	Small Clouded Brindle	1
Plain Golden Y	4	Small Dotted Buff	2
Poplar Grey	6	Small Elephant Hawk-moth	2
Poplar Hawk-moth	23	Small Emerald	2
Powdered Quaker	2	Small Engrailed	1
Pretty Chalk Carpet	1	Small Fan-foot	3
Purple Bar	5	Small Fan-footed Wave	14
Purple Clay	2	Small Phoenix	25
Purple Thorn	8	Small Purple-barred	1
Purple-bordered Gold	4	Small Quaker	11
Red Chestnut	7	Small Rivulet	15
Red Twin-spot Carpet	5	Small Square-spot	7
Red Underwing	2	Small Wainscot	1
Red-green Carpet	5	Smoky Wainscot	13
Red-line Quaker	1	Smoky Wave	1
Red-necked Footman	1	Snout	11
Riband Wave	22	Speckled Yellow	7
Rivulet	5	Spectacle	18
Rosy Minor	2	Sprawler	1
Rosy Rustic	10	Spring Usher	1
Ruby Tiger	11	Spruce Carpet	16
Rufous Minor	1	Square Spot	2
Rustic	6	Square-spot Rustic	8

Straw Dot	8	V-Pug	6
Straw Underwing	1	Water Carpet	4
Streamer	6	Waved Umber	4
Svensson's Copper Underwing	1	White Ermine	15
Swallow Prominent	11	White-line Dart	1
Swallow-tailed Moth	6	White-marked	5
Tawny Marbled Minor	4	White-spotted Pug	3
Tawny Shears	1	Willow Beauty	16
Tawny-barred Angle	9	Wood Tiger	1
Tawny-speckled Pug	8	Wormwood Pug	1
Treble Lines	5	Yellow Shell	13
Treble-bar	1	Yellow-barred Brindle	3
Triple-spotted Clay	2	Yellow-line Quaker	4
True Lover's Knot	12	Yellow-tail	7
Twin-spot Carpet	1		
Twin-spotted Quaker	9		
Uncertain	15		
Vapourer	1		
Varied Coronet	1		
V-Moth	1		
		Grand Total	2006

Contributors (in no particular order) Adrian Miles, Alan Holder, Alec Ridge, Bill Davidson, Caroline Uff, Howard Davies, Bill Davidson, Ian Cheeseborough, Peter Boardman, Craig Yates, Dave Grundy, Godfrey Blunt, Heather Slade, Jenny Joy, Alex Lockton, Sarah Wild, Jenny Streeter, Stephen Lewis, Peter Branson, Ron Douglas, Roy Hilton, Viv Geen, Nigel Jones, John Bingham, Dan Wrench.

Circulation list (in no particular order): All contributors plus Joan Daniels, Tim Coleshaw, John Mason, Sue Lewis, Nigel Stone, John Thompson,, Jonathan Blowers, Eric Steer, Sue Swales, Dave Smith, Mike Williams, Rosemary Winnall, Andrew Law, Neil Gregory, Mark Parsons, John Bingham, Ed Andrews, Mary Thornton, Allan Dawes, Roger Green, David Poynton, Christine Hughes, Charles Derry.

Please continue to send your macro-moth records for VC40 to;

Peter Boardman
7 High Street, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, SY10 7RP
peperouda@btinternet.com

Please send your micro-moth records for VC40 to

Godfrey Blunt, 8 Holmes Orchard, Alveley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 6NX
A.G.Blunt@wlv.ac.uk

Best wishes,
Peter Boardman