

## British Macrolepidoptera

Since our 2022 Virtual Exhibition there has been a further extension to the range of species and forms of Macrolepidoptera recorded for the first time at my coastal garden in Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, (SU 982004 [VC13]). These, together with other newly identified species for the site from previous years, are exhibited.

Unless stated otherwise, all the Middleton-on-Sea specimens came to a 125w MV trap.

### New species in 2023

***Dendrolimus pini* (L.) Pine-tree Lappet**, [66.009], 15.viii.2023. This specimen arrived during a period notable for the appearance of several immigrant species. It is only the second record of ***D. pini*** for Sussex and is the first for VC 13; its predecessor is the 3.ix.1894 Brighton, East Sussex [VC 14] specimen which is in the Natural History Museum collection (Colin Pratt, Sussex Lepidoptera recorder, *pers. comm.*)

***Leucania loreyi* (Dup.) Cosmopolitan**, [73.304], 23.x.2023. (*Not in main display, see separate image*)

### New forms and aberrations in 2023

***Xanthorhoe fluctuata* (L.) f. *thules* (Prout) Garden Carpet**, [70.049], 5.vi.2023

***Lymantria monacha* (L.) Black Arches**, [72.010], 27.vii.2023. In this asymmetrical aberration the left forewing approaches f. ***nigra* (Freyer)** and the right forewing approaches f. ***mediofasciata* (Lemke)**

***Diaphora mendica* (Clerck) Muslin Moth**, [72.022], 15.v.2023. This male is an unusual symmetrical aberration; both forewings have a white lunule-shaped marking at their centre. A typical example which came to a 125w MV trap in Wimbledon (TQ 25887078) on 30.iv.1977 is also exhibited for comparison

***Orthosia gothica* (L.) Hebrew Character**, [73.249], 14.iv.2023. In this asymmetrical aberration the left wings are reduced in size and the characteristic 'hebrew character' marking on the left forewing is almost completely missing

### Other 2023 highlights

***Lymantria dispar* (L.) Gypsy Moth**, [72.011], 17.viii.2023. This is the second record of the species for site; it was previously recorded on 24.viii.2017

***Chrysodeixis chalcites* (Esp.) Golden Twin-spot**, [73.008], 17.viii.2023. This is the second record of the species for the site and it has been followed by another four individuals (on 4.x, 21.x, 22.x and 24.x). It was previously recorded on 11.viii.1994 at a 40w Actinic trap

### 2022 highlight

***Cirrhia ocellaris* (Borkh.) Pale-lemon Sallow**, [73.184], 2.x.2022. This is the second record for site; it was previously recorded on 12.x.2012

### Recently identified species from previous years which are new for the site

***Thera britannica* (Turner) Spruce Carpet**, [70.079], 1.vii.2021. A second specimen arrived on 9.vi.2023. Both are exhibited

***Amphipoea oculea* (L.) Ear Moth**, [73.128], 21.vii.2020. A second specimen arrived on 26.vi.2023. Both are exhibited. The identification of these specimens was determined by dissection of the genitalia. Until this confirmation of the presence of ***A. oculea***, previous dissections of five specimens retained from 2009, 2010 and 2011 had all resulted in evidence of the presence of ***Amphipoea fucosa fucosa* (Freyer) Saltern Ear**, [73.126]