

THE WILDLIFE ROAD SHOW

MOTH SURVEY

The Elephant Hawk-moth is so-named due to its caterpillar's resemblance to an Elephant's trunk!



Key to symbols



Angle Shades

Phlogophora meticulosa



The larvae feed on a variety of herbaceous and woody plants.

Elephant Hawk-moth

Deilephila elpenor



Adults visit Honeysuckle for nectar. Larvae feed mainly on Willowherbs & Bedstraws.

Hummingbird Hawk-moth

Macroglossum stellatarum



The larvae feed on Bedstraws.

Garden Tiger

Arctia caja



The larvae feed on a number of herbaceous plants.

Six-spot Burnet

Zygaena filipendulae



The larvae feed mainly on Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*).

Silver Y

Autographa gamma



In the centre of each forewing there is a silver-coloured mark shaped like a letter 'Y'.



The larvae feed on a wide range of low growing herbaceous plants.

The Vapourer

Orgyia antiqua



The larvae feed on a range of deciduous trees and shrubs.

The Cinnabar

Tyria jacobaeae



The larvae generally feed gregariously on Ragwort and other related plants.

Not to be confused with...

Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet



The hairy caterpillar is spectacular, with "humps", "horns" and a "tail" in a combination of dark grey, red and yellow



THE WILDLIFE ROAD SHOW MOTH SURVEY

Name	Description	Habitat & Ecology	Distribution
 Angle Shades <i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	A highly-distinctive moth, which rests with the wings folded, looking like a withered autumn leaf. Olive green and pinkish brown when fresh though colours tend to fade.	The adults usually fly between May and October, in at least two generations. Though may be seen all year round. Resident and Immigrant. The Angle Shades moth flies mainly at night but may often be seen during the day resting on fences, walls or vegetation. It occurs in a wide range of habitats and it is frequent in gardens, hedgerows and woodland.	It occurs throughout England, being common in places, more so in the south. 
 Elephant Hawk-moth <i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	The adults are pink and olive green with a clearly defined pink pattern on the olive green thorax and abdomen, including a pink stripe along the abdomen.	The adult flies from May to July, early August, and feeds at night, often taking nectar from garden plants such as Honeysuckle and other tubular nectar flowers. In late summer the larvae which is quite large (8cm in length) can be seen resting on plants. Present in a wide variety of habitats.	It is a common species in most of England. 
 Hummingbird Hawk-moth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	It resembles a Hummingbird, flitting rapidly between plants and hovering as it feeds on tubular flowers such as Jasmine, Viper's-Bugloss and Budleia.	This is a day flying, immigrant species which sometimes occurs in large numbers. Most migrants arriving from April to December, especially in August/September. This species is now suspected to be resident in south-west England. It flies in the sunshine and hovers in front of flowers, sipping the nectar with its long proboscis. Can occur anywhere.	When an influx occurs, the species can be observed all over England. 
 Garden Tiger <i>Arctia caja</i>	The adult's front wings are brown with a white pattern while the back wings are orange with a pattern of black dots.	The adult flies in July and August late at night and comes to light. It can be seen in a wide range of open habitats including gardens. In most areas numbers have declined since the mid-1980s.	Once quite common in most of England, numbers have declined in the last few years. 
 Six-spot Burnet <i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	This is the only British Burnet moth with 6 separate red spots on forewing.	The adult flies from late June to August, visiting flowers such as Creeping Thistle or Common Knapweed. Occur in flowery grasslands, including roadside verges, woodland clearings, sand dunes and other grassy coastal habitats.	This is the commonest of Britain's day-flying Burnet moths. 
 Silver Y <i>Autographa gamma</i>	The Silver Y is a medium-sized moth whose wings are intricately patterned with various shades of brown and grey providing excellent camouflage. It has a clear, unbroken, metallic silver Y mark on forewing.	Adults can be seen both during the day and night and can be seen flying from spring, when the species arrives from southern Europe, through till late autumn (most frequently from May to September). Occurs in most habitats and regularly visits gardens to take nectar from the flowers.	Species can occur anywhere across England, sometimes in large numbers. 
 The Vapourer <i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	The male is orange-brown with indistinct darker lines and a noticeable white spot. The female is flightless. The larva of the Vapourer is very distinctive.	The adults are out from July to October. Males fly by day. The larvae feed on a wide range of deciduous trees and shrubs, such as Birch, Hawthorn, Lime, Cherry and Bramble. The Vapourer is frequent in gardens and parks but also in other habitats such as open woodland and heathland.	This species is fairly common, especially in suburban habitats, over much of England, but more so in the south. 
 The Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	The Cinnabar moth is unmistakable with red patches on its predominantly black wings. The larvae is also very distinctive with yellow and black hoops.	The adult flies from May till July/early August. It is generally nocturnal, but is quite often disturbed during the day from long grass, low herbage etc. and flies in sunshine. At night, it comes to light occasionally in high numbers. The larvae feed gregariously on Common Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaeae</i>) and other related plants. The larvae can eat both the leaves and flowers of the plants.	Fairly common in much of England. 



Egg

The egg is a tiny, round, oval, or cylindrical object, usually with fine ribs and other microscopic structures. The female attaches the egg to leaves, stems, or other objects, usually on or near the intended larval food.



Larva

The larva (or caterpillar) is the long, worm-like stage of the moth. It often has an interesting pattern of stripes or patches, and it may have spine-like hairs. As it grows, it sheds its skin four or more times so as to enclose its rapidly growing body.



Pupal stage

The pupa (or chrysalis) is the transformation stage within which the caterpillar is transformed into the adult insect. The chrysalis of most species is brown or green and blends into the background. Many species spend the winter in this stage.



Adult moth

The adult (or imago) is the reproductive and mobile stage. The adults undergo courtship, mating, and egg-laying. The adult moth is also the stage that migrates or colonizes new habitats.



Egg

Information sources: ukmoths.org.uk, Waring P., Townsend M. (2011). Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland. British Wildlife Publishing Ltd., kidsbutterfly.org

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