



Micro-moths of Bankhead Moss

S.T. Buckland

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I have included images of all the species that I have recorded at Bankhead Moss. All of these images were taken at Bankhead Moss. My thanks go to Nigel Voaden for identifying the more difficult species—and some of the less difficult ones!

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Contents

<i>Acleris emargana</i>	5	<i>Bactra lancealana</i>	30	<i>Diurnea fagella</i>	50
<i>Acleris hyemana</i>	6	<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>	31	<i>Ectoedemia occultella</i>	51
<i>Acleris laterana</i>	7	<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>	32	<i>Elachista atricomella</i>	52
<i>Acleris notana / ferrugana</i>	8	<i>Bryotropa affinis</i>	33	<i>Elachista luticomella</i>	53
<i>Acleris sparsana</i>	9	<i>Bryotropa senectella</i>	34	<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	54
<i>Acrobasis advenella</i>	10	<i>Carpatolechia proximella</i>	35	<i>Endothenia quadrimaculana</i>	55
<i>Aethes cnicana</i>	11	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	36	<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	56
<i>Agonopterix angelicella</i>	12	<i>Catoptria margaritella</i>	37	<i>Epiblema scutulana</i>	57
<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	13	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	38	<i>Epinotia immundana</i>	58
<i>Agonopterix heracliana</i>	14	<i>Celypha rivulana</i>	39	<i>Epinotia nisella</i>	59
<i>Agonopterix nervosa</i>	15	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	40	<i>Epinotia ramella</i>	60
<i>Agonopterix ocellana</i>	16	<i>Cnephasia asseclana</i>	41	<i>Epinotia tenerana</i>	61
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	17	<i>Cnephasia incertana</i>	42	<i>Epinotia tetraquetra</i>	62
<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	18	<i>Cnephasia longana</i>	43	<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>	63
<i>Anania fuscalis</i>	19	<i>Cnephasia stephensiana</i>	44	<i>Esperia sulphurella</i>	64
<i>Anania hortulata</i>	20	<i>Coleophora alticolella /</i>		<i>Eucosma cana</i>	65
<i>Ancylis badiana</i>	21	<i>glaucicolella</i>	45	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	66
<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>	22	<i>Coleophora caespititiella</i>	46	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	67
<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	23	<i>Coleophora seratella</i>	47	<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>	68
<i>Apotomis betuletana</i>	24	<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>	48	<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>	69
<i>Argyresthia bonnetella</i>	25	<i>Crambus pascuella</i>	49	<i>Exoteleia dodecella</i>	70
<i>Argyresthia brockeella</i>	26				
<i>Argyresthia conjugella</i>	27				
<i>Argyresthia goedartella</i>	28				
<i>Argyresthia retinella</i>	29				

Contents

<i>Gillmeria pallidactyla</i>	71	<i>Nemapogon cloacella</i>	83	<i>Rhopobota naevana</i>	97
<i>Glyphipterix simpliciella</i>	72	<i>Neofaculta ericetella</i>	84	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	98
<i>Gracillaria syringella</i>	73	<i>Nymphula nitidulata</i>	85	<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>	99
<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	74	<i>Orthotaenia undulana</i>	86	<i>Scoparia subfusca</i>	100
<i>Heliozela hammoniella</i>	75	<i>Pammene aurana</i>	87	<i>Swammerdamia caesiella</i>	101
<i>Hofmannophila</i>		<i>Pammene obscurana</i>	88	<i>Syndemis musculana</i>	102
<i>pseudospretella</i>	76	<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	89	<i>Thyraylia nana</i>	103
<i>Hypatima rhomboidella</i>	77	<i>Pandemis heparana</i>	90	<i>Tinea semifulvella</i>	104
<i>Limnaecia phragmitella</i>	78	<i>Parornix</i> sp.	91	<i>Udea lutealis</i>	105
<i>Metzneria lappella</i>	79	<i>Patania ruralis</i>	92	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	106
<i>Micropterix aruncella</i>	80	<i>Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella</i>	93	<i>Ypsolopha parenthesesella</i>	107
<i>Mompha propinquella</i>	81	<i>Phylloporia bistrigella</i>	94		
<i>Monopis laevigella</i>	82	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	95		
		<i>Pterophorus pentadactyla</i>	96		



Scalloped tortrix *Acleris emargana*

A fairly common species of woodland and hedgerows. It cannot be reliably distinguished from the rarer *Acleris effractana* from images.





Heath tortrix *Acleris hyemana*

A species of heathland and moorland that is rare in east Fife. These were at Bankhead Moss in mid-April 2024 and 2025.





Dark-marked tortrix *Acleris laterana*

A common woodland species.





Tawny birch tortrix *Acleris notana* /

Tawny oak tortrix *Acleris ferrugana*

Two species that cannot be separated, and which are not common in Fife. These shots were taken in the birch wood in late April 2025, and probably are of *A notana*, as its food plant is birch. The food plants of *A ferrugana* are oak and goat willow.





Lead-coloured tortrix *Acleris sparsana*

A common species of woodland and gardens, from late summer into winter.





Hawthorn knot-horn *Acrobasis advenella*

A fairly common species where hawthorns grow.





Thistle straw *Aethes cnicana*

A common species in areas with thistles.





Angelica brown *Agonopterix angelicella*

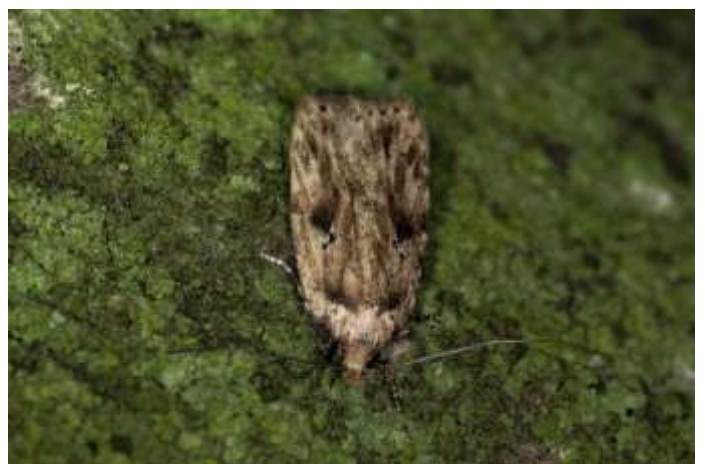
A scarce species of fens and marshes where angelica grows.





Brindled buff *Agonopterix arenella*

Common across a range of habitats.





Common brindled brown *Agonopterix heracliiana*

A very common species that often overwinters in garages, garden sheds and woodsheds. The one bottom right was one of seven hibernating in the bird hide.





Burnt-tip buff *Agonopterix nervosa*

Common where broom or gorse grows.





Red-eyed buff *Agonopterix ocellana*

Occurs through most of the year where willows grow.





Straw grass-moth *Agriphila straminella*

An abundant grass moth. The one below is covered in dew droplets.





Common grass-moth

Agriphila tristella

An abundant grass moth.





Rattle pearl *Anania fuscalis*

Common in grassland habitats.





Small magpie *Anania hortulata*

A fairly common moth where nettles grow.



Meadow hook-wing *Ancyli badiana*

A widespread but not numerous species, mostly of grassland.





Nettle-tap *Anthophila fabriciana*

A very common day-flying moth where nettles grow.





Bee moth *Aphomia sociella*

A common species. Its caterpillars feed on detritus and larvae inside bee or wasp nests.





Birch marble *Apotomis betuletana*

This species is associated with birch trees. It is not widely recorded in Fife. These were at Bankhead Moss in August 2023.





Hawthorn tip moth *Argyresthia bonnetella*

A common species in areas with hawthorn.



Gold W *Argyresthia brockeella*

Common where birches or alders grow.





Apple fruit moth *Argyresthia conjugella*

Common where apple or rowan trees grow.



Brassy Y

Argyresthia goedartella

Common wherever birches or alders grow.





Speckled tip moth *Argyresthia retinella*

A tiny species of birch woods that is rarely recorded in Fife. These were at Bankhead Moss in late June 2024 and early July 2026.





Common lance

Bactra lancealana

Common in areas where rushes grow.





Common masoner *Blastobasis adustella*

A common summer and autumn species.





Large pale masoner *Blastobasis lacticolella*

A common non-native species that has rapidly spread through the country.





Dark moss-moth *Bryotropha affinis*

A locally-distributed species. Its caterpillars feed on mosses.





Grizzled moss-moth *Bryotropa senectella*

A locally-distributed species of open habitats, with moss available growing on walls.





Spotted birch grey *Carpatolechia proximella*

A locally-distributed species, occurring where birches or alders grow. These were at Bank-head Moss in late May.





Chequered grass-moth *Catoptria falsella*

A locally-distributed species, occurring where thick mosses grow. This one was at Bank-head Moss in mid-July 2024.





Pearl-banded grass-moth *Catoptria margaritella*

A locally-distributed species of wet heathland and moorland.



Common marble *Celypha lacunana*

A very common species in a range of habitats.





Silver-striped marble *Celypha rivulana*

A scarce species that occurs in a variety of habitats. This one was on the moss at Bankhead Moss in mid-July 2024.



Garden grass-moth *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

A very common moth, occurring in grasslands.





Flax tortrix *Cnephasia asseclana*

A common summer species.





Light grey tortrix *Cnephasia incertana*

A common summer species.





Buff grey tortrix *Cnephasia longana*

Sparsely distributed in Fife, and seldom recorded elsewhere in Scotland.





Common grey tortrix *Cnephasia stephensiana*

A common species. These two are 'northern form' with distinctive markings, allowing them to be identified from photos.





Common rush case-bearer *Coleophora alticolella* /
 Grey rush case-bearer *Coleophora glaucicolella*

These tiny moths are all probably one of the above species, both of which are common where rushes grow.





Buff rush case-bearer *Coleophora caespititiella*

A scarce species in Fife.



Common case-bearer *Coleophora serratella*

A locally-distributed species in Fife.





Meadow grass-moth *Crambus lathoniellus*

A common moth of grassland.





White-banded grass-moth *Crambus pascuella*

A fairly common species of damp habitats.



Early reveller

Diurnea fagella

A common spring moth in deciduous woodland.





Large birch dot *Ectodemia occultella*

A common species where birches grow.



Cock's-foot miner *Elachista atricomella*

A locally-distributed species of grassland in Fife.





Yellow-headed grass-miner *Elachista luticomella*

A scarce grassland species.



Brown china-mark *Elophila nymphaeata*

A fairly local species in Fife, occurring in wet habitats.





Marsh marble *Endothenia quadrimaculana*

A locally-distributed species of damp habitats.





White-shouldered house-moth *Endrosis sarcitrella*

A very common species. Like these, often found far from the nearest house.





Thistle root-borer *Epiblema scutulana*

A species of damp habitats. This one was at Bankhead Moss in mid-May 2024.



Birch tortrix *Epinotia immundana*

This species occurs in damp habitats with birches or alders. They can be quite common at Bankhead Moss.





Brindled poplar tortrix *Epinotia nisella*

A common species where willows or poplars grow.





Black-marked tortrix

Epinotia ramella

A variable species of birch woodland. Around 80 were recorded at Bankhead Moss in August 2023, when bottom three images were taken.





Nut bud moth

Epinotia tenerana

A woodland species associated with hazel and alder, not widely recorded in Fife.





Birch-borer tortrix *Epinotia tetraquetra*

A fairly common species where alders or birches grow.





White-blotched roller *Epinotia trigonella*

A species of birch woodland.





Sulphur bark moth *Esperia sulphurella*

A locally-distributed species whose caterpillars feed on decaying wood. This one was at Bankhead Moss in mid-May 2025.



Hoary tortrix *Eucosma cana*

A common species where thistles or knapweed grow.





Tawny grey *Eudonia lacustrata*

A common species in woodland and open habitats.





Garden grey *Eudonia mercurella*

A fairly common species, associated with mosses.





Peppered grey *Eudonia truncicolella*

A fairly common species, mostly in woodland and heathland.





Chequered pearl *Evergestis pallidata*

A locally-distributed species of damp habitats in Fife. The species is scarce in Scotland, but thought to be increasing.





Tufted pine moth *Exoteleia dodecella*

A locally-distributed species whose caterpillars mine scots pine needles.





Yarrow plume *Gillmeria pallidactyla*

A fairly common plume in habitats where yarrow grows.





Cocksfoot moth *Glyphipterix simplicella*

A tiny and very abundant moth of grassland.





Garden stilt *Gracillaria syringella*

A common woodland species.





Marbled orchard tortrix *Hedya nubiferana*

This species occurs in areas with hawthorn or blackthorn. It can be fairly common in suitable habitat.





Birch cutter *Heliozela hammoniella*

A scarce species of birch woods. It is tiny, with a wing length of around 3mm.





Brown house moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*

Common in urban habitats and woodland.





Black rhomboid grey *Hypatima rhomboidella*

A fairly common species in birch woodland.





Bulrush down moth *Limnaecia phragmitella*

A locally-distributed species in Fife, occurring in wetlands with bulrushes.





Burdock seedhead moth *Metzneria lappella*

A species recorded from very few locations in Fife. This one was at Bankhead Moss on 7 July 2023.



White-line pollen-moth *Micropterix aruncella*

A common moth that is sometimes abundant on herbaceous flowers. This females was on bedstraw.



White-headed mompha *Mompha propinquella*

A locally-distributed species in Fife. Its caterpillars feed on willowherb. This one was at Bankhead Moss in early July.





Skin moth *Monopis laevigella*

A fairly common species. The caterpillars feed on bird droppings, carcasses and similar.





Cork moth *Nemapogon cloacella*

A fairly common woodland species whose caterpillars feed in bracket fungi.



Heather grey *Neofaculta ericetella*

A common species of moorland and heathland.





Beautiful china-mark *Nymphula nitidulata*

A locally-distributed species. The one above was at Bankhead Moss in June 2023, and the one below was one of two there in mid-July 2024.





Dusky marble *Orthotaenia undulana*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland. These were on the Moss in mid-June 2024.





Double orange-spot *Pammene aurana*

A locally-distributed species that can often be seen on the flowerheads of its foodplant, common hogweed. These were at Bankhead Moss in late June 2024.





Birch catkin tortrix *Pammene obscurana*

A rare species of birch woods. These were recorded at Bankhead Moss in mid-May 2024.





Barred fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis cerasana*

A common species across a range of habitats.





Dark fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis heparana*

A common species. Its caterpillars feed on fruit trees, but also a range of other deciduous trees.





Parornix sp.

This tiny moth is probably *Parornix betulae*, which is common in birch woods, but species of this genus cannot be separated using photos.



Mother of pearl *Patania ruralis*

A common species, especially where nettles grow.





Common birch leaf-miner *Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella*

As its common name suggests, this tiny moth is common in birch woods.





Striped cutter *Phylloporia bistrigella*

A locally-distributed species, occurring in birch woods.



Diamond-back moth *Plutella xylostella*

A common species found across a range of habitats. Surprisingly for such a tiny moth, large numbers of migrants often arrive off the North Sea.





White plume *Pterophorus pentadactyla*

A scarce species in Fife. This one was nectaring on heather at Bankhead Moss in early August 2024.





Holly tortrix *Rhopobota naevana*

A common species across a range of habitats.





Common grey *Scoparia ambigualis*

Common across a range of habitats.





Brown-spot grey *Scoparia pyralella*

A widespread species, but much less common in Scotland than *Scoparia ambigualis*.



Large grey *Scoparia subfusca*

A scarce species away from the coast in Fife. This one was at Bankhead Moss in early August 2025.





Birch drab *Swammerdamia caesiella*

A common species of birch woods.





Dark-barred tortrix *Syndemis musculana*

Widespread, occurring in a range of habitats.





Birch straw *Thyraylia nana*

There are just three old records of this tiny moth in Fife, and the one above and below left is the first record with images, so that identity can be confirmed. It was at Bankhead Moss in early June 2023, and the one below right was there in late June 2024..





Orange-tipped nest moth *Tinea semifulvella*

A fairly common species in a range of habitats. Its caterpillars are usually found in bird nests, feeding on the debris.





Pale straw pearl *Udea lutealis*

A common species, often seen during the day.





Bird-cherry ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella*

A common species whose caterpillars form communal webs on bird cherry.





White-shouldered ochre

Ypsolopha parenthesesella

A woodland species not often recorded in the eastern half of Fife.

