



Micro-moths of Magus Muir

S.T. Buckland

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I have included images of all the species that I have recorded at Magus Muir. All images were taken at Magus Muir during 2024.

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Scalloped tortrix *Acleris emargana*

A fairly common species of woodland, hedgerows and marshes.





Dark-mark tortrix *Acleris laterana*

A common species of gardens, hedgerows, scrub and woodland.





Hawthorn knot-horn *Acrobasis advenella*

A fairly scarce species, occurring in areas with hawthorn.



Hemlock moth *Agonopterix alstromeriana*

An uncommon species in Fife, occurring mostly at or near the coast. This one was at Magnus Muir in mid-March 2024.



Brindled buff *Agonopterix arenella*

A common species which can be encountered in any month of the year.





Common brindled brown *Agonopterix heracliana*

A very common species that often winters in garages and garden sheds.





Red-eyed buff *Agonopterix ocellana*

A common species in areas where willows grow.





Straw grass-moth *Agriphila straminella*

A very common grassland species in early summer. Small numbers occur in grassy areas amongst the trees at Magus Muir.





Common grass-moth *Agriphila tristella*

A common grassland species that first appears a little later in summer than the straw grass-moth.





Bee moth *Aphomia sociella*

A common moth whose caterpillars live in wasp or bumblebee nests. Female above, male below.





Birch marble *Apotomis betuletana*

A species of birch woodland that can be fairly numerous in summer.





White-shouldered marble *Apotomis turbidana*

A locally-distributed species of birch woodland.





Gold W *Argyresthia brockeella*

A common species of birch woodland. The one above lacks the white markings that delineate the gold 'W' that most show.





Brassy Y *Argyresthia goedartella*

A common species of birch woodland. These images show the two forms on the species, which, in common with the gold W, has the markings either in white or in a slightly paler version of the background colour as below.





Speckled tip moth *Argyresthia retinella*

A tiny species of birch woodland which is not often recorded in Fife. This one was at Magus Muir in mid-July 2024.





Common masoner *Blastobasis adustella*

An introduced species that is now numerous in many habitats throughout Britain.





Large pale masoner *Blastobasis lacticolella*

An introduced species that has spread rapidly throughout Britain. Very common in woodland, coastal scrub, parks and gardens.





Birch stilt *Caloptilia betulicola*

A fairly scarce species in Fife, occurring where birches grow. This one was at Magus Muir in late August 2024.





Spotted birch grey *Carpatolechia proximella*

A locally-distributed species that occurs where birches or alders grow.





Common marble *Celypha lacunana*

Common in a range of habitats.





Garden grass-moth *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

A common grass-moth that is often very abundant in grasslands.



Flax tortrix *Cnephasia asseclana*

Although the species cannot be reliably determined from a photo, these show the features typical of the flax tortrix.





Light grey tortrix *Cnephasia incertana*

As with the previous species, these cannot be reliably determined from a photo, but they show features typical of the light grey tortrix.





Buff grey tortrix *Cnephasia longana*

A locally-distributed species in Fife. These were at Magus Muir in late July and late August 2024.





Early reveller *Diurnea fagella*

A common spring species of deciduous woodland.





Cock's-foot miner *Elachista atricomella*

A common species where cock's-foot grass grows.





Brown china-mark *Elophila nymphaeata*

A fairly common species in wet habitats. Despite the apparent lack of suitable habitat, this one was at Magus Muir in late July.





Marsh marble *Endothenia quadrimaculana*

A locally-distributed species of wet habitats. This worn individual was at Magus Muir in late August 2024.



Crescent tortrix *Epinotia bilunana*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring where birches grow.





Large birch roller *Epinotia brunnichana*

A fairly common species, mostly of birch woodland.





Birch tortrix *Epinotia immundana*

A fairly common species where birches or alders grow.





Brindled poplar tortrix *Epinotia nisella*

A variable species, associated with willows and poplars. This worn individual was at Magus Muir in late October 2024.





Black-marked tortrix *Epinotia ramella*

A species of late summer and autumn associated with birches.





Purple spring jewel / large spring jewel

Eriocrania sangii / *Eriocrania semipurpurella*

Two spring species of birch woodland that cannot be separated from images.





Hoary tortrix *Eucosma cana*

A widespread and common species.





Tawny grey *Eudonia lacustrata*

Common in a variety of habitats.





Peppered grey *Eudonia truncicolella*

A fairly common species in a range of habitats.



Cork moth *Nemapogon cloacella*

Mostly a woodland species, its caterpillars feeding in bracket fungi.





Dusky marble *Orthotaenia undulana*

Locally distributed in Scotland, but it can be numerous where it occurs. Habitats include woodland, scrub and wet heathland.





Barred fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis cerasana*

A common species of woodland, scrub, hedgerows and parks.





White-faced tortrix *Pandemis cinnamomeana*

A scarce species of woodland. Only the male has a white face. This female was at Magus Muir in early August 2024.





Dark fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis heparana*

A common species of woodland, scrub, hedgerows and gardens.





Parornix sp.

Most species in this genus cannot be separated using photos. This one is probably birch parornix *Parornix betulae*, given that it was in the birchwood at Magus Muir.





Mother of pearl *Patania ruralis*

A common species where nettles grow.





Common birch leaf-miner *Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella*

A fairly common tiny species of birch woodlands.





Striped cutter *Phylloporia bistrigella*

A locally-distributed species in habitats where birches grow.





Diamond-back moth *Plutella xylostella*

A tiny moth that is common across a range of habitats. Numbers are often enhanced by arrivals of large numbers of migrants off the North Sea.





Northern diamond-back *Rhigognostis incarnatella*

A scarce species, occurring in gardens, rough grassland and woodland. This one was at Magus Muir in late June 2024.





Holly tortrix *Rhopobota naevana*

Common across a range of habitats.





Common grey *Scoparia ambigualis*

A common species of woodland, heathland, moorland and gardens. Its caterpillars feed on mosses.





Short-barred dot *Stigmella luteella*

A tiny moth — its wings are just 2mm long. This one was at Magus Muir in late June 2024.





Dark-barred tortrix *Syndemis musculana*

A common species across a range of habitats.



Birch straw *Thyraylia nana*

A tiny species of birch woodland. This was one of two at Magus Muir in early June 2024. There has been just one previous record verified by photo of this species in Fife, at Bank-head Moss in 2023, but there were three unverified records elsewhere in Fife a few decades earlier.





Orange-tipped nest moth *Tinea semifulvella*

A widespread species. Its caterpillars feed on the detritus in bird nests.





Spring harbinger *Tortricodes alternella*

A scarce species in Scotland, but becoming more common. This one was by the car park in early March.





Bird-cherry ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella*

Common, often recorded well away from bird cherries.





White-shouldered ochre *Ypsolopha parenthesesella*

A species of broadleaved woodland that is fairly scarce in east Fife. These were at Magus Muir in late August 2024.

