



Micro-moths of Cambo Gardens

S.T. Buckland

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I have included images of the species that I have been able to photograph in and around the walled garden at Cambo. I have also added an image from elsewhere for two species that I have recorded at Cambo but not photographed there: *Agonopterix nervosa* and *Zelotherses paleana*. My thanks go to Callum Halstead and Elise Methven for their help and enthusiastic support, and to Nigel Voaden for confirming the identity of the more difficult species.

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Water veneer *Acentria ephemerella*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, the water veneer can occur in large numbers at some locations. These were at Cambo Gardens in July and August 2026,





Lesser wax moth

Achroia grisella

A rare moth in Scotland. These were at Cambo Gardens in late July and August 2025, and is the third location in Fife at which the species has been recorded. Its caterpillars feed on wax in beehives and bee nests.





Scalloped tortrix *Acleris forsskalearia*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring where field maples or sycamores grow.





Dark-marked tortrix *Acleris laterana*

A common species of late summer and autumn, often recorded in gardens.





Rhomboid tortrix *Acleris rhombana*

A fairly common species, especially where fruit trees grow.





Lead-coloured tortrix *Acleris sparsana*

A common species, especially in autumn and where sycamores or beeches grow.





Garden rose tortrix *Acleris variegana*

A locally-distributed species, occurring mostly in gardens and woodland margins. These were at Cambo Gardens in late August and mid-September 2025.





Hawthorn knot-horn *Acrobasis advenella*

A fairly common species in Fife, occurring where hawthorn is available.





Hemp agrimony plume *Adiana microdactyla*

A rare species in Scotland. This one was in the walled garden in late August 2026.





Garden straw *Agapeta hamana*

A common species where thistles grow.





Hemlock moth *Agonopterix alstromeriana*

A scarce species in Fife, occurring where hemlocks grow.





Common brindled brown

Agonopterix heracliana

A very common species that can often be found overwintering in garages, outbuildings and log sheds.





Burnt-tip buff *Agonopterix nervosa*

A common summer species in areas with broom, gorse or related plants.



Straw grass-moth *Agriphila straminella*

An abundant grass moth.





Common grass-moth *Agriphila tristella*

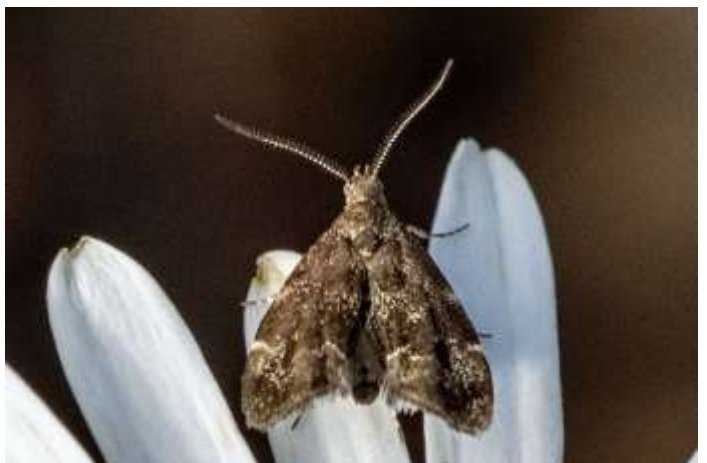
An abundant grass moth.





Nettle-tap *Anthophila fabriciana*

A common day-flying moth where nettles grow.





Bee moth *Aphomia sociella*

A common moth whose caterpillars feed on debris and larvae in bee and wasp nests.





Gold W *Argyresthia brockeella*

A common species where birches grow.





Brassy Y *Argyresthia goedartella*

Common where birches grow.





Cherry fruit moth *Argyresthia pruniella*

A relatively scarce species in Scotland, occurring where bird cherries or cherries grow.





Ribwort stilt *Aspilapteryx tringipennella*

A fairly scarce species in Fife, occurring in areas with ribwort plantain.





Ribwort stilt *Bactra furfurana*

A locally-distributed species of damp habitats. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-August 2026.



Bindweed sleeper *Bedellia somnulentella*

This species is a very recent addition to the Scottish list of moths. These images show leaf mines created by a larva in a bindweed leaf.





Common masoner *Blastobasis adustella*

A common summer and autumn species.





Large pale masoner *Blastobasis lacticolella*

A common species, most numerous in early summer.





Dotted masoner

Blastobasis vittata

The UK distribution of this non-native species is concentrated along the south coast of England and in Fife! These were recorded at Cambo in late October and early November 2025, and in late June 2026.





House moss-moth *Bryotropa domestica*

The caterpillars of this species feed on moss growing on stone walls.





Grizzled moss-moth *Bryotropa senectella*

This species occurs where there are rocks or walls with moss, which is the foodplant of the caterpillars.





Obscure moss-moth *Bryotropa similis*

A locally-distributed species, occurring where there are mossy walls or rocks.





Horse-chestnut leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella*

This species arrived in the UK in 2002, and has been spreading northwards. This one was at Cambo Gardens in late August 2025.





Stitchwort groundling

Caryocolum fraternella

Seldom recorded in Scotland, these were at Cambo Gardens in July 2026.





Chequered grass-moth *Catoptria falsella*

A locally-distributed species associated with mosses.





Pearl grass-moth *Catoptria pinella*

A locally-distributed species that occurs in a range of mostly open habitats.





Common marble *Celypha lacunana*

A common species in a range of habitats.





Garden grass-moth *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

A very common grassland species.





Rufous tortrix *Clepsis consimilana*

A relatively scarce species in Fife. It is mostly recorded in gardens or parks.





Buff grey tortrix

Cnephasia longana

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





Cnephasia sp.

Grey-winged *Cnephasia* cannot usually be identified to species from photos. These are perhaps most likely to be *C asseclana* or *C incertana*, or a mix of both.





Common straw *Cochylimorpha straminea*

A scarce species in Fife, which occurs in grasslands with common knapweed. This one was at Cambo Gardens in late June 2026.





Clothed case-bearer *Coleophora mayrella*

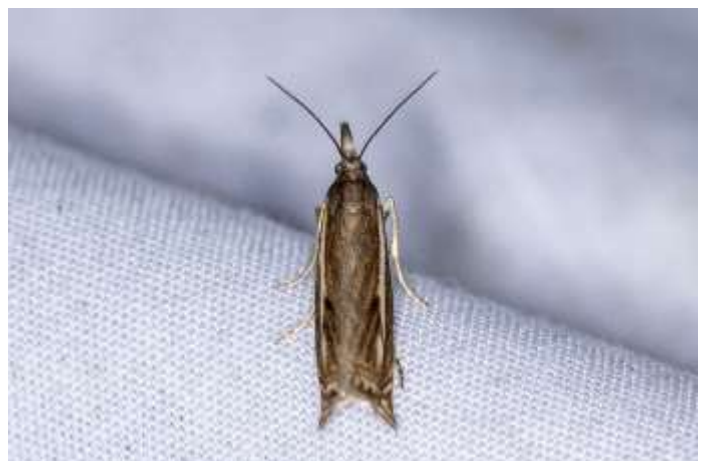
A scarce species which can be identified from the thick bases of the antennae. This one was at Cambo in late May 2026.





Clothed case-bearer *Crambus lathoniellus*

A very common grass moth.





Beech mast piercer

Cydia fagiglandana

A rare species in Scotland. These were at Cambo Gardens in July 2026.





Marbled piercer *Cydia splendana*

A scarce species in Scotland. These were at Cambo Gardens in July and August 2026.





Western thyme knot-horn *Delplanqueia dilutella*

A scarce species in Scotland, occurring mostly at coastal sites, and mostly on the west coast. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-July 2026.





Parsnip moth *Depressaria radiella*

A common species that can be encountered through much of the year where common hogweed or wild parsnip grows.





Red-barred tortrix *Ditula angustiorana*

A scarce species in Scotland, this one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-July 2026.



Early reveller *Diurnea fagella*

A common woodland species in spring.





Brown china-mark *Elophila nymphaeata*

A species of wet habitats, the larvae of the brown china-mark are aquatic.





Common plume *Emmelina monodactyla*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, which can be recorded in a wide range of habitats and in any month of the year.





Marsh marble *Endothenia quadrimaculana*

A locally-distributed summer species in Fife, occurring in marshy habitats.



White-shouldered house-moth *Endrosis sarcitrella*

A 'clothes moth', common in houses, but also in a variety of other habitats.





Birch tortrix *Epinotia immundana*

This species occurs in damp habitats with birches or alders.



Brown elm tortrix *Epinotia abbreviana*

Rarely recorded in Scotland, this species is associated with elms. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-July 2026.





Brindled poplar tortrix *Epinotia nisella*

A common species where willows or poplars grow.



Black-marked tortrix *Epinotia ramella*

A common species where birches grow.





Light brown apple-moth

Epiphyas postvittana

An Australian species that has spread through much of the British Isles. It is scarce in most of Fife, but is plentiful in Cambo Gardens.





Sulphur bark moth *Esperia sulphurella*

A locally-distributed species. The larvae feed on dead or decaying wood, often under the bark of trees.





Hoary tortrix

Eucosma cana

A common species in summer, occurring where thistles or knapweeds grow.





Common knapweed tortrix

Eucosma hohenwartiana

This species is common on coastal grasslands in Fife, but largely absent inland.





Tawny grey *Eudonia lacustrata*

A common species in woodland and open habitats.





Garden grey *Eudonia mercurella*

A common species, associated with mosses.





Peppered grey *Eudonia truncicolella*

A fairly common species, associated with mosses.



Chequered pearl *Evergestis pallidata*

A locally-distributed species, occurring mostly in marshy or damp habitats.





Yarrow plume *Gillmeria pallidactyla*

A fairly common species where yarrow grows.





Common cloaked tortrix *Gypsonoma dealbana*

A scarce species in Scotland. It tends to occur in gardens, open woodland, urban parks and hedgerows. This one was at Cambo in early July 2026.





Mottled white tortrix *Gypsonoma sociana*

A scarce species in Scotland that occurs in areas with poplars. This one was at Cambo Gardens in late July 2026.





Marbled orchard tortrix *Hedya nubiferana*

A fairly common species, especially in gardens and parks.





Brown house moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*

A common species, often occurring in houses and outbuildings.



Gorse streak *Mirificarma mulinella*

A common species in areas with gorse.





Cork moth *Nemapogon cloacella*

A fairly common species that occurs mainly in woodland and gardens.



Rush veneer *Nomophila noctuella*

A migrant in small numbers and mostly a coastal species in Fife.





Black cloak *Notocelia cynosbatella*

A fairly common species in areas with blackthorn, hawthorn, brambles or roses.





Bramble shoot moth *Notocelia uddmanniana*

A locally-distributed species in Scotland, occurring in areas with bramble thickets.





Olive-tree pearl *Palpita vitrealis*

A migrant that is rarely recorded in Scotland. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-September 2025.





Regal piercer *Pammene regiana*

Occurs where sycamores or Norway maples grow.





Barred fruit-tree tortrix *Pandemis cerasana*

A common summer species in gardens, parks, hedgerows and open woodland. The one below was at Cambo in late September, indicating that it was a second generation moth, which is unusual for this species in Fife.





White-faced tortrix *Pandemis cinnamomeana*

A locally-distributed species. Only the males have a white face.





Dark fruit-tree tortrix

Pandemis heparana

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





Mother of pearl *Patania ruralis*

A common species where nettles grow.





Phycitodes sp.

One of several species that are difficult or impossible to identify to species level from photos.



Triangle plume *Platyptilia gonodactyla*

A species of rough grassland that is sparsely distributed in east Fife.



Streaked diamond-back *Plutella porrectella*

A scarce species in Fife. These were at Cambo in late May and June 2026.





Diamond-back moth *Plutella xylostella*

This tiny moth is a frequent migrant, and can occur almost anywhere.





Yellow-spotted tortrix *Pseudargyrotoza conwagana*

A fairly common species of gardens, hedgerows, woodland and urban parks. The food-plants of the larvae are ash, privet and lilac.





White plume *Pterophorus pentadactyla*

A scarce species in Fife, occurring where bindweeds grow.





Mint moth

Pyrausta aurata

A very rare species in Scotland, with one previous record from Fife and one from the border with England. The one above and below was at Cambo Gardens in late July 2025. The one on the right was there in early July 2026.





Northern diamond-back *Pyrausta despicata*

A fairly scarce species in Fife, occurring in grasslands where plantains grow. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-August 2026.





Northern diamond-back *Rhigognostis incarnatella*

A locally-distributed species of grassland, occurring in northern Britain. The one above and below left was at Cambo in late February 2026, while the one bottom right was there in early July 2026.





Holly tortrix *Rhopobota naevana*

A common species across a range of habitats. Its larvae will feed on many trees and plants, not just holly.





Common grey *Scoparia ambigualis*

A common species across a range of habitats.





Brown-spot grey *Scoparia pyralella*

A locally-distributed species, occurring mostly in open habitats where ribwort plantain grows.



Scrobipalpa sp.

Many *Scrobipalpa* cannot be identified to species without dissection.



Bud moth / larch bud moth

Spilonota ocellana / *laricana*

This moth was at Cambo in early July 2026. It has the appearance of a larch bud moth, but given the lack of larch nearby, and the difficulty in separating these two species, bud moth cannot be ruled out.





Twin-spot plume / common plume

Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla / *Emmelina monodactyla*

The twin-spot plume is a relatively common species in Fife, occurring where scabious grows. These photos are not clear enough to entirely rule out common plume.





Orange-tipped nest moth *Tinea semifulvella*

The larvae of this tiny moth usually feed on detritus in bird nests.





Spring harbinger *Tortricodes alternella*

A late winter and early spring species, local in Scotland but becoming more common.





Rusty-dot pearl *Udea ferrugalis*

A scarce migrant, recorded mostly from coastal sites.





Pale straw pearl *Udea lutealis*

A common species, often flushed from grass in daylight.





Garden pearl *Udea olivalis*

A common species occurring in a range of lowland habitats.





Dusky pearl *Udea prunalis*

A locally-distributed species in a range of lowland habitats.



Bird-cherry ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella*

A common species. Its caterpillars form webs on bird cherry, often stripping the trees of leaves completely.





Apple ermine *Yponomeuta malinellus*

The caterpillar is definitely this species. Given the number of apple trees at the gardens, and the number of caterpillars on the trees, it is likely that the adults are too, although their identity cannot be confirmed from the photos. The caterpillars form webs, binding together leaves of apple trees.





Orpine ermine

Yponomeuta sedella

The one bottom right was at Cambo in late July 2025, and the one below left was among four there in August 2025. The one above was there in May 2026, and the caterpillar in early October 2025. These are the first records of the species in Scotland.





Pied rabbit moth *Ypsolopha sequella*

A southern species that has recently spread into Scotland. The one below right was at Cambo Gardens in August 2025, while the other one was there in early October 2025.





Timothy tortrix *Zelothereses paleana*

A fairly common grassland species in summer.