



Macro-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 East Neuk. 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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Angle shades

Common across a range of habitats and through most of the year. Autumn numbers are boosted by immigrants.





Black rustic

A common species in a range of open habitats.





Brick

A fairly common autumn species, mostly of broad-leaved woodland.





Brimstone moth

A common woodland species.





Brindled pug

A common spring species where oaks grow.





Brown-spot pinion

A declining autumn species, but still quite common in Fife.





Bulrush wainscot

A locally-distributed species, occurring where bulrushes grow. It also sometimes occurs well away from its food plant.





Burnished brass

Common, especially in areas where nettles grow.





Canary-shouldered thorn

A common woodland species in autumn.





Centre-barred sallow

A common autumn species where ashes grow.



Chestnut

A common species, especially in broad-leaved woodland. The adult appears in autumn, then again in spring, after hibernation.





Clouded drab

A common spring species, especially in broadleaved woodland.





Common marbled carpet

A variable species that is common in summer and autumn in a range of habitats.





Common quaker

A very common spring species, especially in or near woodland.





Common rustic /
lesser common rustic

Two common grassland species with variable markings that cannot be separated from images.



Common wainscot

Very similar to the more common smoky wainscot, but with white hind wings instead of smoky.





Copper underwing

As with the very similar Svensson's copper underwing, this is a southern species that has spread into Scotland, and is now fairly common in Fife.





Dark sword-grass

A migrant species, usually recorded at coastal sites in small numbers.





December moth

A common species of late autumn and early winter, most numerous in broadleaved woodland.





Dotted clay

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





Double-striped pug

A small pug that is common across a range of habitats.





Dun-bar

A common species, especially in woodland.



Early grey

A spring species, occurring where honeysuckles grow.





Feathered thorn

A fairly common autumn species, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Flame

A fairly common species that occurs in a wide range of habitats.





Flame carpet

A common species across a range of habitats.



Flame shoulder

A common species across a range of habitats.



Garden carpet

A common species, especially in gardens.





Garden dart

This species is declining rapidly, and is now a scarce species in Fife.





Green carpet

Common across a range of habitats.





Grey chi

A declining species which is now quite scarce in Fife. This one was at Cambo Gardens in August 2025.





Grey pine carpet

A common species where conifers grow.





Hebrew character

A very common spring species across a range of habitats.





Ingrailed clay

A fairly common and very variable species of woodland and moorland.



July highflyer

Common in a range of habitats.



Large wainscot

A locally-distributed species that occurs mostly in or near reedbeds. This one was at Cambo Gardens in mid-September 2025.





Large yellow underwing

A large, variable and very common grassland species.





Least yellow underwing

An uncommon moth in Fife. These were at Kinraig Point in early August 2024.





Lesser yellow underwing

This variable species is common across a range of habitats.



Lime-speck pug

A sparsely-distributed species in Fife, occurring in a range of open habitats.





Lunar underwing

A common autumn species in grassland habitats.





March moth

A common species of early spring, especially in open woodland.





Merveille du jour

An autumn species that is sometimes common in broadleaved woodland with oaks.





Mottled umber

A fairly common species of broadleaved woodland that flies in late autumn and early winter.



Mouse moth

A common and widespread species. When threatened, it scuttles like a mouse, hence its name.





November moth

A common moth of broadleaved woodland in late autumn.





Orange sallow

This species has a patchy distribution in Scotland, occurring where lime trees grow.





Orange swift

Fairly scarce in Fife. It occurs in areas with rough grass.



Pale brindled beauty

A very common woodland species of late winter and early spring.





Pearly underwing

A scarce migrant, occurring mostly at the coast. These were at Cambo Gardens in September 2025.





Pine beauty

Occurs in small numbers where pine trees grow. These were in the gardens in late March and early April 2026.





Pink-barred sawfly

Common where willows or poplars grow.





Plain golden Y

Fairly common across a range of habitats.



Red-green carpet

A common species of broadleaved woodland in autumn, and again in spring after hibernation.





Red-line quaker

A fairly common autumn species where willows grow.





Riband wave

Common across a range of habitats.



Rosy rustic

A common species of lowland habitats.





Sandy carpet

A common species in a range of habitats.



Satellite

A common species, especially in broadleaved woodland. It flies in autumn and again in spring. It can also be recorded on mild nights in winter.





Scarce bordered straw

A migrant from southern Europe and Africa. In most years, very few are recorded in the UK. The one above and below was at Cambo Gardens in early September 2025, while the one on the right was there in mid-September 2025.





Scarce umber

A fairly common species of broadleaved woodland that flies in late autumn and early winter.





Setaceous hebrew character

A common lowland species.





Shuttle-shaped dart

A southern species that has spread into Scotland, occurring in a range of habitats.





Silver Y

An abundant migrant moth, occurring in a wide range of habitats.





Six-striped rustic

A common species of wet and damp habitats.





Slender brindle

A fairly common woodland species.



Small dotted buff

A species of wet grassland. Not numerous in the east of Fife. These were at Bankhead Moss.



Small fan-footed wave

A common species, mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Small phoenix

A common species where willowherbs grow, especially in woodland.





Small quaker

A fairly common spring species, occurring mostly in broadleaved woodland.





Small square-spot

A common summer species in a range of habitats.





Smoky wainscot

A common grassland species.



Snout

A common species where nettles grow.





Spruce carpet

Common where conifers grow. Its caterpillars feed on a wide range of conifers, not just spruce.





Square-spot rustic

A common grassland species.





Streak

A fairly common autumn species where broom grows.





Svensson's copper underwing

A southern species that has spread into Scotland, and is now fairly common in Fife.



Swallow prominent

Fairly common where poplars or willows grow.





Tawny speckled pug

A fairly common species of grasslands, open woodland and coastal habitats.



Twin-spot carpet

A fairly common species occurring in a variety of habitats.



Twin-spotted quaker

Previously rare in Fife, this species has spread north, and is now a fairly common species of broadleaved woodland.





Water carpet

Widespread and common in spring.





Winter moth

Widespread and common, flying in late autumn and winter.



Yellow-barred brindle

A scarce species of broadleaved woodland.



Yellow horned

A fairly common spring species where birches grow.





Yellow-line quaker

A common autumn species, especially in broadleaved woodland.





Yellow shell

A common summer species across a range of habitats.

