



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. Most of these images were taken at Bankhead Moss, but some were taken elsewhere, to illustrate those species that I had recorded but not photographed. My thanks go to Nigel Voaden for identifying the more difficult species—and some of the less difficult ones!

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Heath tortrix *Acleris hyemana*

A species of heathland and moorland that is rare in east Fife. This one was at Bankhead Moss in mid-April 2024.





Dark-marked tortrix *Acleris laterana*

A common woodland species.



Lead-coloured tortrix *Acleris sparsana*

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



Thistle straw *Aethes cnicana*

A common species in areas with thistles.





Common brindled brown *Agonopterix heracliiana*

A very common species that often overwinters in garages, garden sheds and woodsheds.





Straw grass-moth *Agriphila straminella*

An abundant grass moth.





Common grass-moth *Agriphila tristella*

An abundant grass moth.



Small magpie *Anania hortulata*

A fairly common moth where nettles grow.



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.





Apple fruit moth *Argyresthia conjugella*

Common where apple or rowan trees grow.



Brassy Y

Argyresthia goedartella

Common wherever birches or alders grow.





Common masoner *Blastobasis adustella*

A common summer and autumn species.





Large pale masoner

Blastobasis lacticolella

A common species that is increasing its range.





Dark moss-moth *Bryotropha affinis*

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





Common marble *Celypha lacunana*

A very common species in a range of habitats.





Garden grass-moth *Chrystoteuchia culmella*

A very common grass moth, occurring in grasslands throughout.





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.





Early reveller *Diurnea fagella*

A common spring moth in deciduous woodland.





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.





Birch tortrix *Epinotia immundana*

This species occurs in damp habitats with birches or alders. The one above was at Bank-head Moss in early May 2024, while the one below was there in late May 2023. Identity of the one above is certain, but birch-borer tortrix *Epinotia tetraquetra* cannot be ruled out for the one below.





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 these images were taken.





Nut bud moth *Epinotia tenerana*

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





White-blotched roller *Epinotia trigonella*

A species of birch woodland.



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.





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.



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-headed mompha *Mompha propinquella*

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





Cork moth *Nemapogon cloacella*

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



Beautiful china-mark *Nymphula nitidulata*

A locally-distributed species. This one was at Bankhead Moss in June 2023.





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, especially where nettles grow.





Common grey *Scoparia ambigualis*

Common across a range of habitats.



Birch straw *Thyraylia nana*

There are just three old records of this tiny moth in Fife, and this is the first record with images, so that identity can be confirmed. It occurs in birch woodland, and this one was at Bankhead Moss in early June 2023.





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.





White-shouldered ochre *Ypsolopha parenthesesella*

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

