



Macro-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 photos were taken at Magus Muir in 2024, apart from the hummingbird hawk-moth, which was there in 2019.

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Contents

Brindled pug	4
Chestnut	5
Clouded drab	6
Common quaker	7
Dotted border	8
Early grey	9
Early tooth-striped	10
Engrailed	11
Hebrew character	12
Hummingbird hawk-moth	13
Least black arches	14
March moth	15
Mottled grey	16
Pale brindled beauty	17
Satellite	18
Shoulder stripe	19
Small quaker	20
Twin-spotted quaker	21
Water carpet	22
Yellow horned	23



Brindled pug

A common spring species where oaks grow.





Chestnut

A common autumn and spring species, that can also be recorded in winter on mild nights. These were recorded in mid-February and early March.





Clouded drab

A common spring species with variable markings. The variation below left is unusual for Fife, occurring mostly further north.





Common quaker

A spring species that is very common, especially in woodland.





Dotted border

An early spring species, common in woodland. This male was near the car park in early March. In common with many early spring species, the female is flightless, and difficult to find.



Early grey

A spring species that is relatively scarce in east Fife. This one was at Magus Muir in mid-March 2024.





Early tooth-striped

A common spring species of broadleaved woodland and heathland.





Engrailed

A species with two generations per year, the first appearing in March, and the second in June. It is most common in broadleaved woodland. The image below left shows how well camouflaged the moths are when resting on a tree trunk. They seem to align their edges and markings with markings on the trunk.





Hebrew character

A common spring species that can occur in large numbers.





Hummingbird hawk-moth

A scarce migrant to Scotland. This one was at Magus Muir on 29 July 2019.





Least black arches

A tiny moth for a 'macro'. It is widespread in broadleaved woodland, although never numerous. It has become more common in recent years. This one was at Magus Muir in late April 2024.





March moth

Common from mid-February to mid-April.





Mottled grey

A fairly common spring species that occurs mostly in open habitats, but not usually in intensively farmed areas. This one was at Magus Muir in late March 2024.





Pale brindled beauty

A common species of broadleaved woodland in February and early March. The one below right is a dark form.





Satellite

Common in autumn and spring, and sometimes recorded in winter. These were at Magus Muir in mid-February (above) and early April.





Shoulder stripe

A spring species, fairly common in woodland.





Small quaker

A spring species that is spreading northwards, and is now fairly common in Fife.





Twin-spotted quaker

This species flies in March and April. It is becoming more common, having spread from the south.





Water carpet

A common spring species in damp woodland and other damp habitats. The one on the right is the dark form, *piceata*.





Yellow horned

An early spring species that can be numerous in birch woodland. These were two of 29 recorded at Magus Muir in one evening in early March.

