

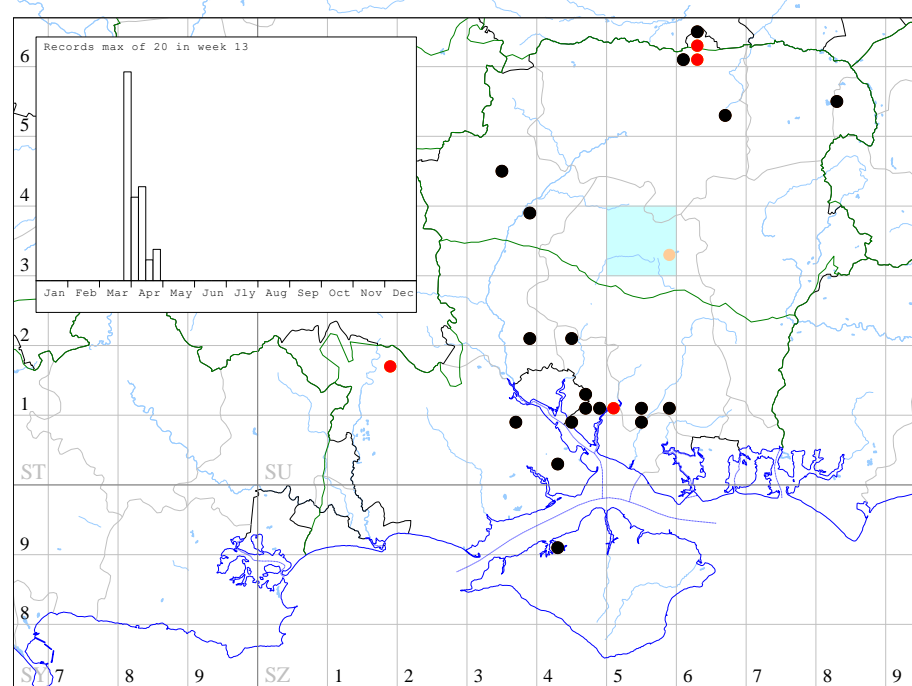
Moth Quest for March – Searching for *Adela cuprella*

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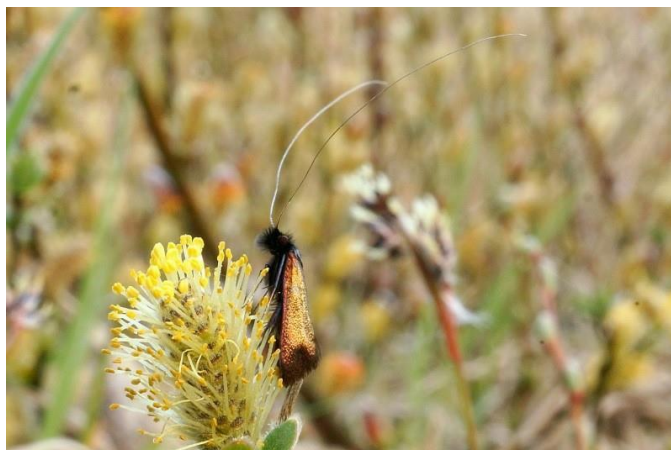
It's time to get organised for seeing and recording *Adela cuprella*.

There are only 44 records on the data base and 14 of these were in 2012. And just look at the map – there are loads of squares where it has not been recorded!

0149 *Adela cuprella*



The earliest record on the database is 23rd March and the latest is 22nd April though there are very few records after 10th April and remember that in recent years records have been getting earlier in the season. In 2012 all records were between 25th March and 6th April though that was an especially early year for many species.



So now is the time to start looking out for salallows - Goat Willow *Salix caprea* - Pussy Willow. We saw one on 15th March just outside Winchester starting to show its yellow catkins – obviously a male bush. The females have green catkins – it would be interesting to know if any *Adela cuprella* are seen on females as we only saw them on male bushes last year. Salallows are well distributed in

the county occurring in virtually every habitat – woodland, heathland, hedgerows,

waterside and roadside and even on chalk downland! It is worth planning in advance as the flight period is perhaps only two to three weeks long.



So visit a willow on a sunny day and spend a few minutes looking for this beautiful day-flying longhorn moth flying around the top of the bush/tree. With binoculars you will make out the long white antennae distinguishing them from other insects that may be flying at that time. In a breeze they settle on the

foliage and catkins but when this drops they fly up to resume their dancing display flight. Watch out also for the females that come lower down to lay on the catkins.

Good Luck!