

Moth Quest for August – Searching for more longhorn moths

Lynn Fomison and Tim Norriss

Back in March the Moth Quest was for *Adela cuprella* and some moth-ers were successful in their search resulting in the species being recorded in several new squares.

This month's quest is a tad more challenging but please go for it!

Nemophora minimella



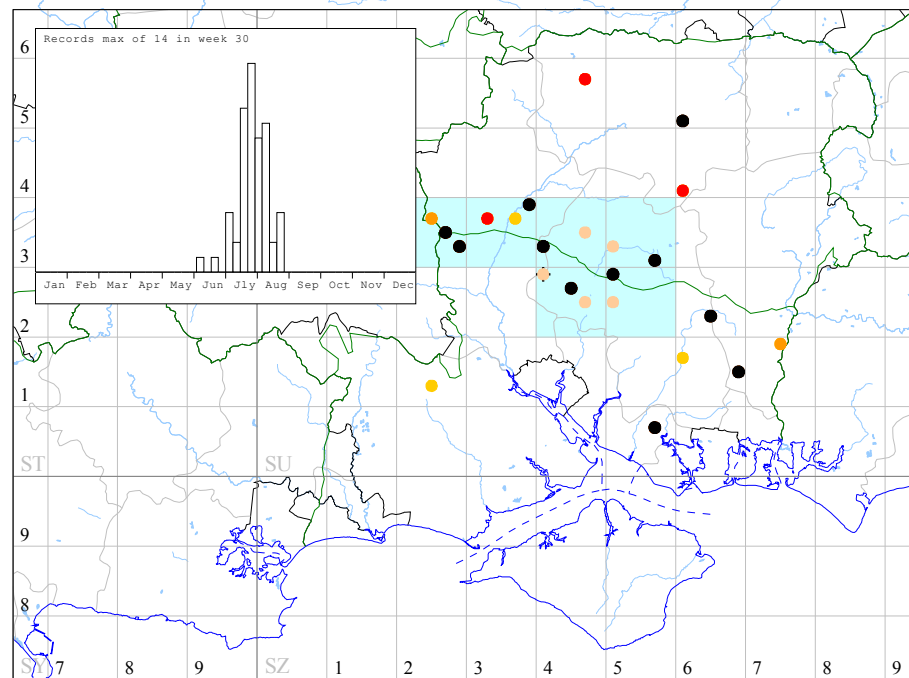
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First recorded on the Isle of Wight at Freshwater over 100 years ago with another at Appleford in 1933. These are the only island records to date. In Hampshire there were a few records in the 1970's and 1990's by Richard Dickson, John Langmaid & Phil Budd. The next record was in Ampfield Wood by Mike Baker on 20 July 2010 and on 8 August that year we were on Beacon Hill NNR, Warnford with Dave Shute and found the one above.

It has been recorded in woods and on downland and should be looked for wherever the foodplant grows. It breeds on Devil's-bit Scabious and Small Scabious and flies

by day. Look for them sitting on Scabious flowers though they do also have a habit of sitting sideways on stems as in the photo above. They are small and can be difficult though not impossible to follow in flight. And whilst looking on Small Scabious look out for ***Nemophora metallica*** too. It also breeds on Field Scabious and we once watched one laying on the BC reserve at Magdalen Hill Down, Winchester. There are more records of this than of *N. minimella* but it has only been seen by around twenty people in Hampshire and has not yet been recorded on the island – but it must surely occur there so there's a challenge. Good luck.

0147 *Nemophora metallica*



Nemophora metallica © Glynne Evans