MOTH MUMBLINGS – LATE - DECEMBER 2020

WELCOME

I did think, as I mailed the last newsletter, that it was likely to be the last of the year, but clearly I was wrong. More stuff worth sharing arrived in my in-box the very next day! So, here we go …

NEW MOTHS TO WATCH OUT FOR

The latest volume of *Nota Lepidopterologica* (volume 43 for 2020), just arrived in today's post (you get it by belonging to SEL – Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica). Amongst many interesting papers is one (by Takács et al, on pages 77 – 93), that mentions and discusses several Nearctic leaf-miners that feed in Walnut leaves. *Coptodisca juglandiella* (Chambers) and *Coptodisca lucifluella* (Clemens) have both become widely established in central Europe (Hungary) in the last couple of years and may perhaps spread westwards – eventually reaching Britain.

Far-fetched? No – not really! Just think of the Horse-chestnut Leaf-miner, which spread west across Europe in less than ten years and is now probably found in every map tetrad where the host tree is present. Admittedly, that spread was (it is widely believed) along motorway corridors and assisted by the draught from heavy goods vehicles. Walnuts are scarcer that conkers, but we do import vast quantities! There are other *Coptodisca* species and some appear capable of switching foodplant.

Look out for small blotch mines, with a dark area off-centre. The mine is small and will fit easily between two lateral leaf veins arising from the midrib. There may be several in one leaf. All and any candidate mines should be collected into a plastic bag, to keep them alive, and immediately shown to a grown-up!

MAPMATE SQL TO EXPORT DATA FOR A GIVEN YEAR INCLUDING DETERMINER

Delighted to report that Les Evans-Hill responded to my request in the last newsletter. The following SQL can be added as a User Query in Mapmate to **export data for a given year in a given vice county including the Determiner**.

WHAT TO DO ….

- Back up Mapmate (this should be standard procedure when you do this sort of stuff);
- Open Mapmate;
- On top bar select "Analysis";
- From the choices offered double click on "User queries";
- Double click on "New User Query" (at the bottom);
- You will be prompted for a name for this new "Query". It is up to you, but how about "Annual Moth returns"?
- Save this name and you will be presented with a text window;
- DELETE the few words already here (make sure you delete everything, including spaces etc, by using Control-A to select absolutely everything and then pressing delete);
- COPY the following text AND PASTE it into the now blank window, **making sure that** you don't accidentally include spaces, return marks or anything else before the initial "S" or after the terminal semi-colon;

SELECT Records.[_guk], [Taxa\Default].Taxon, [Sites\Default].Name AS Site, [Sites\Default].OSGridRef AS Gridref, IIf([Sites\Default].ViceCounty>200,'H' & [Sites\Default].ViceCounty-200,[Sites\Default].ViceCounty) AS VC, Recorders1.Name AS Recorder, Recorders2.Name AS Determiner, IIf([Records].DateTo=[Records].Date,Format([Records].Date,"dd/mm/yyyy"),Format([Records].Date,"dd/mm/yyyy") & "-" & Format([Records].DateTo,"dd/mm/yyyy")) AS [Date], Records.Quantity AS Quantity, Methods.Method, Records.[*Sex] AS Sex, TaxonStage.Stage, RecordStatus.Status, Records.Comment
FROM ((((((Records INNER JOIN [Taxa\Default] ON Records.[*Taxon] = [Taxa\Default].[_guk]) INNER JOIN [Sites\Default] ON Records.[*Site] = [Sites\Default].[_guk]) INNER JOIN Methods ON Records.[*Method] = Methods.[_guk]) INNER JOIN Recorders AS Recorders1 ON Records.[*Recorder] = Recorders1.[_guk]) INNER JOIN Recorders AS Recorders2 ON Records.[*Identifier] = Recorders2.[_guk]) INNER JOIN TaxonStage ON Records.[*Stage] = TaxonStage.[_guk]) INNER JOIN RecordStatus ON Records.[*Status] = RecordStatus.[_guk]
WHERE Year([Records].[Date]) >= val([Enter the starting year]) AND Year([Records].[Date]) <= val([Enter the finishing year])
ORDER BY [Records].DateTo, [Sites\Default].OSGridRef, [Taxa\Default].Code, Records.Comment;

- Now select "Save Query" ;
- If it asks you to overwrite an existing query of same name, just click "yes".
- Close.

The next time that you click the "Analysis" button, this new query should now appear in the User Queries section in alphabetical order. Hopefully, when selected it will ask you for the VC name or number and the year in which you are interested. It works here so it should be OK.

This is now likely to be the quickest and easiest way to submit data to all and any county recorder – not just moths and not just me. Multitudinous thanks to Les for writing the gobbledygook for us.

HELP TO STOP A POINTLESS NAME CHANGE

A proposed change would alter the long-established subfamily name for species like the Straw Dot and others. I have received the following message from Alberto Zilli at the Natural History Museum. These matters may be a mystery to you – in which case move on to the next article in this newsletter. However, I strongly encourage those who understand at least the basics of what is going on here to send such the recommended e-mail to the ICZN

Dear Colin,

I do not know if you are aware that an application (case no. 3747) has been submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to remove homonymy between the names *Rivulinae* Grote, 1895 [Lepidoptera] and *Rivulidae* Myers, 1925 [Osteichthyes].

Instead of following provisions of the Code, which would imply to change the junior name, the applicants have requested to change the senior (lepidopterous) name into *Rivulainae*, on account that *Rivulidae* Myers, 1925 is extensively used in ichthyology.

As Rivulinae is extensively used in lepidopterology too and it clearly takes priority, I invite you to promote REJECTION of such application by sharing this email with anyone who may be interested AND sending at your earliest convenience an email to the ICZN Secretary as follows:

Dear ICZN Secretary,

Please inform the ICZN that with respect to Case no. 3747 to remove homonymy between *Rivulinae* Grote, 1895 [Lepidoptera] and *Rivulidae* Myers, 1925 [Osteichthyes] by changing the former name into *Rivulainae*, I promote its REJECTION.

Kind Regards

[Date, signature, affiliation…]

SOME RECENT MOTH REPORTS

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, there have been few since the last newsletter only a couple of days ago. However, Simon Knott reports **Black-spotted Chestnut** & **Spring Usher** to MV in his Bengeo garden (Hertford) on the night of 21st December 2020.

Simon comments that the Spring Usher represents the first December record here. Earliest previous date here was 7th January. Black-spotted Chestnut is the 6th recorded since November 8th. This specimen was on a Hornbeam trunk behind the trap.

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That's all for now. Off you go and sort out your 2020 moth records please!

Colin

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