

SHERWOOD FOREST

THE MOTHS OF

SHEET 3



The UK's moths are generally split into two broad categories - macro and micro, meaning large and small respectively. The majority of moths noticed by the public are usually the larger macromoths and these often make up the majority of records on any site species list. The smaller micromoths tend to be ignored by moth enthusiasts, on the basis that virtually 90% are impossible to identify, without a scalpel and microscope. However, this is often not the case and many micromoths can be identified from photographs.

A large proportion of the moths found at Sherwood Forest are micromoths, that can have wingspans ranging from 40mm, down to as little as 3mm! Regular recording of Sherwood Forest's smaller moths has taken place since 2008 and has revealed a surprising number of new species. In most cases, these moths had probably been present at Sherwood Forest all the time, just that no one had looked for them before.



Despite their small size, many micromoths are just as nicely marked or coloured, as their larger relatives. In terms of rare

species, then Sherwood Forest certainly has its fair share, but often very little is known about the UK distribution of many micromoths, due to the lack of regular recording. Unfortunately, most micromoths also have no common name so we have tried to avoid the use of any long Latin names here and have used a selection of moths to illustrate their wide variety of colour and shape.

Of all the micromoths, it is the plume moths which have the most unusual shape of all. Looking more like a piece of wood rather than a moth, plume moths are usually difficult to find, but *Emmelina monodactyla* is often found resting on garden fences during the day. Some of Sherwood Forest's micromoths are active on sunny days. In Spring, look at the top of trees and bushes where you may see large numbers of dancing longhorn moths.

Moths illustrated

- 1 *Ypsolopha sequella*
- 2 Longhorn Moth
- 3 *Acleris emargana*
- 4 Gold Triangle
- 5 Green Oak Tortrix
- 6 *Catoptria pinella*
- 7 Plume Moth
- 8 *Caloptilia robustella*

