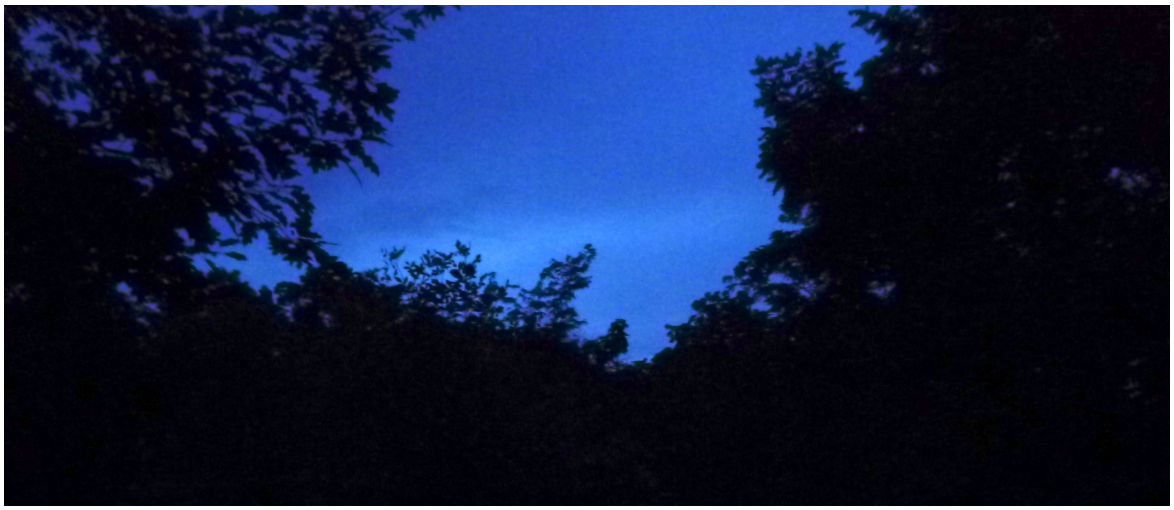
**Date and time:** Sunday August 13 2023 8:10 - 11:20 pm
**Weather:** RH 63%; BP 2100.3 kPa; overcast; winds calm; T 20º C; Pr 2 mm.
**Contents: Moth Night!**



As the sky darkens, small insects begin to alight on the screens.

I arrived at the Newport Forest gate just after Hugh Casbourn, his wife Betsy Baldwin and their son Garth had begun to walk the track down to the Nook where our moth survey would take place. With the walkers was naturalist Gail McNeil, eager to test her new camera. Six participants was a record for this event.

I drove in to find our impresario, Allen Woodliffe, had already set up one light trap (a cotton sheet) over the side of his truck and was installing a second light trap over an overhanging branch in the Nook. Both traps had a UV light source hung in front of them. Presently the walkers all arrived, eager to see what the evening would bring. By this time , both traps had been installed. And even as dusk closed in, the first insects began to appear and our guests began to follow the same pattern, wandering from sheet to sheet to check on new arrivals.

They practiced on the Caddisflies and Mayflies, even as small moths began to appear, along with a couple of beetles. As pitch dark began to settle in, we could all hear the Katydid chorus repeat their old argument in the trees overhead: “Katy Did; Katy Didn’t!” Around 10:30, a small band of Coyotes started a one-minute chorus of their own. The numbers of moths on both sheets now numbered about 50, with

cameras swooping from sheet to sheet. There were small maths (about 1 cm wide with folded wings) and medium sized moths with larger diameters — about 2 cm. But where were the larger Moths? A few showed up in the form of Underwings or Loopers, but they seemed scarce compared to their smaller cousins.

By 11 pm, I was ready to leave but in the ensuing discussion, it became apparent that we might as well all pack it in, fewer new moths were showing up, in any case. Allen, who often stays until midnight when out nothing alone, also decided to leave, so we packed up the equipment and set out for the gate on Fleming Line.

**Phenology:** mosquitoes sparse in evening; goldenrod soon to flower, still green.

**Biological Inventory** (ATBI)

**New Species:** (48 spp.)
(All records carry the same implicit locale data: Nk AW Au13/23)

| | |
|---|---|
| Curve-lined Agobopteris Moth | *Agobopterix curvilineal* |
| Dotted Leaftier | *Psilocorsis reflexella* |
| 'Diagonal Dichomeris' | *Dichomeris ventrellis* |
| Macrame Moth | *Phaecasiophora confixana* |
| Raspberry Leafroller | *Epinotia permundana* |
| Serviceberry Leafroller | *Olethreutes appendiceum* |
| Ster Eucosma | *Eucosma parmatana* |
| Gray-blotched Epiblema | *Epiblema carolinana* |
| Raspberry Leafroller | *Epinotia medioviridana* |
| Birch Shoot Borer | *Epinotia solicitan*a |
| 'White-frinhed Olethreutes' | *Dichrorampha acuminatana* |
| Yellow-winged Oak Leafroller | *Argyrotaenia quercifoliana* |
| Reticulated Fruitworm Moth | *Cenopis reticulation* |
| Hoffman's Cochylid Moth | *Cochylichroa hoffmanana* |
| Many-spotted Scoparia | *Scoparia basalts* |
| Dogbane Saucrobotys | *Saucronotys futilalis* |
| Titian Peale's Moth | *Perispasta caeculalis* |
| ' Goldenrod Grass Moth' | *Hahncappsia marculent*a |
| 'Wavy-lined Grass Moth' | *Hahncappsia pergilvalis* |
| 'Speckled Grass Moth' | *Herpetogramma aquilonalis* |
| Serpentine Webworm | *Herpetogramma aeglealis* |
| Elegant Grass Veneer | *Mictrocrambus elegans* |
| Yellow-fringed Hypsopygia | *Hypsopygia olinalis* |

| | |
|---|---|
| Hickory Lesafstem Borer | *Acrobasis Angeles* |
| Black-spotted Leafroller | *Sciota virgatella* |
| Signate Melanolophia | *Melanolophia signataria* |
| Johnson's Euchlaena | *Euchlaena johnsonaria* |
| Hubner's Pero Moth | *Pero ancetaria* |
| Honest Pero Moth | *Pero honestaria* |
| Morrison's Pero | *Pero Morrisonaria* |
| Greater Grapevine Looper | *Eulithis gracelineata* |
| Red Twin Spot | *Xanthorhoe ferrugata* |
| Sharp-angled Carpet | *Euphyia intermediata* |
| Fragile White Carpet | *Hydrelia albifera* |
| Unicorn Prominent | *Corlodasys unicornis* |
| Little White Lichen Moth | *Clemensia albata* |
| American Idia | *Idia americalis* |
| Wavy-lined Fanfoot | *Zanclognatha jacchusalis* |
| Charming Underwing | *Catocala blandly* |
| Large Mossy Glyph | *Protodeltate muscosula* |
| Pink-barred Pseudeustrotia | *Pseudeustrotia carneola* |
| Marbled-green Leuconycta | *Leuconycta lepidula* |
| Gray Marvel | *Anterastria teratophora* |
| Northern Burdock Borer | *Papaipema arctivorens* |
| Slowpoke Moth | *Athetis trade* |
| Swordgrass Moth sp. | *Xylena sp.* |
| Inclined Dart | *Dichogyris [acclivis]* |
| Pink-spotted Dart | *Pseudohermonassa bicarnea* |

Allen also found a number of non-moths. These will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

Here is a non-moth insect found by Hugh Casbourn:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Oak Twig Pruner | *Anelaphus villosus* | Nk hcKD Au13/23 |

**Species Notes:**

This year's moth numbers far exceed previous Moth Nites.Is there a reason for this? Records from previous years show relatively fewer small moths, with larger moths more abundant. It follows that in previous years the smaller moths (Leaf-tiers, Leaf-borers, carpet moths, and so on) were not present in such numbers, hence the reduced records at those times.

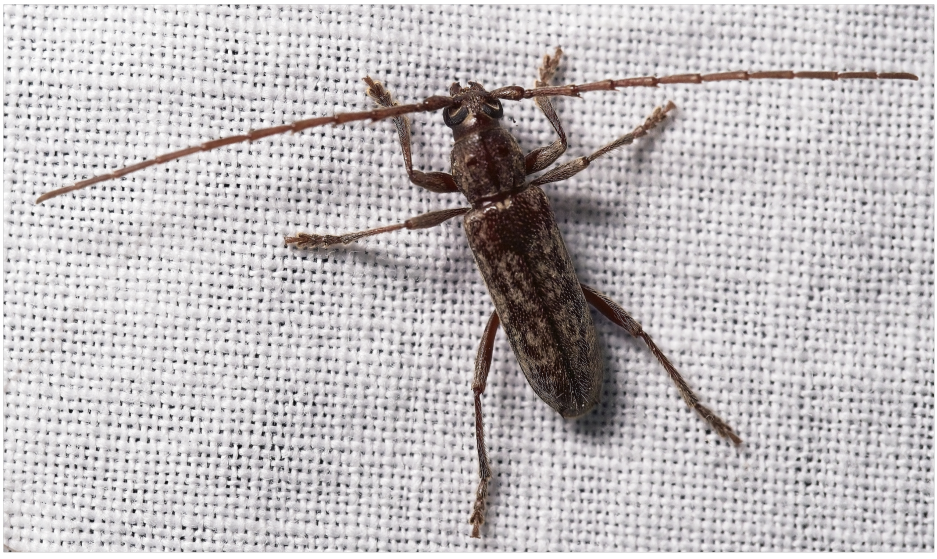
On three separate occasions, the colourful larva of the Gold Moth were found. This is our first record of the pretty adult, as in the first image below.

**Images**

The Gold Moth (*Basilodes pepita*) and its larva.  Photos: Woodliffe & Dewdney

The Glorious Habrosyne (*Habrosyne gloriosa*)  Photo: Hugh Casbourn

Fragile White Carpet Moth (*Hydrelia albifera*) Photo: Gail McNeil



Oak Twig Pruner (*Anelaphus parallelus*) Photo: Hugh Cassbourn