

Autumnal Rustic

Eugnorisma glareosa



Photo: Richard Sutcliffe

Wingspan 32-38 mm.

An attractive species, typically with a smooth, velvety grey appearance with strong black markings. In the south there are examples with a more buff or pinkish ground colour, and an extreme dark subspecies *edda* occurs in Shetland.

Inhabiting woodland fringes, moorland and sandy or chalky soils, it is widely distributed, though not always common, throughout Britain.

The adults fly in August and September, and the caterpillars are polyphagous, living on a wide variety of plants and grasses.

Peach Blossom

Thyatira batis



Wingspan 32-38 mm.

A beautifully-marked moth, with its pinkish spots on a brown background, the Peach Blossom is fairly common in woodland habitats throughout Britain except the extreme north.

The reddish-brown caterpillar feeds on bramble (*Rubus*) in late summer.

The adults fly at night in June and July, and can be attracted by bright lights or a sugar-mixture.

December Moth

Poecilocampa populi



Wingspan 30-45 mm.

The flight time for this moth is, as the name suggests, late in the year. In fact it can be found from October until mid or late December.

It is a fairly common species over much of Britain.

The female is distinctly larger than the male, and the wings have a slightly translucent appearance, due to their thinly-scaled surface.

The larvae feed in spring on a variety of deciduous trees.

Pink Barred Sallow

Xanthia togata



Wingspan 27-30 mm.

A widespread and fairly common species over much of the British Isles, frequenting mainly damp woodland and marshy areas.

It is single-brooded, flying in September and October, when it will visit sugar as well as artificial light.

The young larvae feed inside the catkins of willow (*Salix*), and when more mature, on a range of herbaceous plants.

November Moth

Epirrita dilutata



Photo: Richard Sutcliffe

Wingspan 38-44 mm.

Three of the members of the genus *Epirrita*, (November Moth, *E. dilutata*, Autumnal Moth, *E. autumnata*, and Pale November Moth, *E. chrystyi*), can be very difficult to separate on markings alone, especially as some show marked melanism. This species appears to be the most widespread and common, however, occurring over most of Britain.

The adults fly from late September to November, occurring in a wide range of habitats.

The larvae feed in late spring on a variety of trees and shrubs.