



Pathfinder Honour: Trainer's Notes

Moths & Butterflies

Identifying New Zealand Species



Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thankyou for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise.

Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following (where applicable) must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. (*On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required*)

Additional Reference Material

Your local or state museum is a good place to start as they have collections of butterflies and moths.

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book/Nature/Moths_%26_Butterflies#References

"Note: A useful site, but be aware that material on any Wikibooks website is beyond the control of the SPD"

Acknowledgements

Mr D Rankine North New Zealand Conference, from which these notes were compiled

Moths & Butterflies Honour: Identifying New Zealand Species

Introduction:

These notes are provided to assist in identifying New Zealand's moths and butterflies. They complement the Moths and Butterfly Honour Trainer's Notes, which contain the bulk of the Trainer's notes.

We are indebted to D Rankine of North New Zealand for these notes.

MOTHS

FAMILY: Saturniidae

Gum Emperor

It has spread throughout the North Island and much of the South Island wherever gum trees abound.

Colour: Pinkish grey with Black/pink/orange eyespots



FAMILY: Pterophoridae

Plume moths: Pittosporum Plume and Araliad Plume

The pittosporum plume, as its common name suggests, attacks many species of the larger-leaved Pittosporum species, especially the lemonwood. The araliad plume normally feeds on lancewood, five-finger and pate. It appears from November to March.

Colour: Pittosporum – Brown & white with pure white
Araliad – Reddish brown with greyish brown

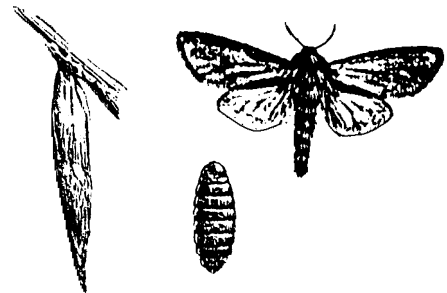


FAMILY: Psychidae

Case moth

This insect is widely distributed throughout New Zealand. The adult female is without legs or wings and resembling a large maggot. She never leaves the protection of her toughly woven silken bag. Males take to the air from September until December, but are rarely observed.

Colour – almost black



Tiger moth

The tiger moth is common in the vicinity of Invercargill and generally distributed over the hills of Otago and appears over grassy slopes from November till February. Colour – Black with dull yellow markings, bright yellow with a black band



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FAMILY: Geometridae

Lichen moths

It appears from October until March and is occasionally found resting on tree trunks or twigs where it can easily be mistaken for lichen.

Colour: White with black markings, Dark grey/black



Lacebark looper

The lacebark looper is often found in significant numbers amongst lacebark trees, from November till February.

Colour: Brown, with Lemon/brown or yellow/black markings



Cabbage tree moth

This nocturnal moth is not the easiest of insects to find. It frequents places where cabbage trees are abundant.

Colour: Brownish green



Barred Pink Looper

The barred pink looper is common and widespread all over New Zealand.

Colour: Tan with black markings



Manuka moth

This is very common and widely distributed throughout the country. Adults emerge in early spring and late summer.

Colour: Brown, Tan/grey lower wings



Orange Underwing

The orange underwing is also common and widely distributed. It is very fond of basking in full sun.

Colour: Brown, orange lower wing

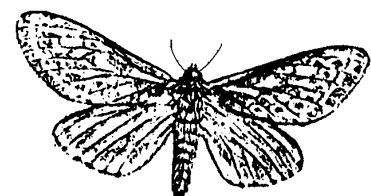


FAMILY: Hepialidae

Porina moths

The porina moths are distributed from south of Auckland to Bluff. These are often seen on windows and around street lights on summer evening.

Colour: Tan with tan and bone markings



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FAMILY: Pyralidae

Kowhai moth

This native moth is present throughout New Zealand and is sometimes considered a pest due to the seasonal defoliation of lupin and kowhai by the caterpillar.

Colour: Fawn, Bright orange-yellow with dark band to lower wing



Shining Scoparia

This species is fairly common and generally distributed. It appears from December to March.

Colour: Black/white/brown with pale fawn lower wing



Grass moth

This moth is widespread, with a wingspan of 20 mm.

Colour: chocolate brown fading to light brown with pale brown lower wing.



FAMILY: Tortricidae

Brownheaded Leafroller

This species is found throughout New Zealand in all horticultural areas. They are active in the evening.

Colour: Varied brown markings with pale brown lower wing



Diamond-back moth

Another horticultural pest. The adults are nocturnal and their distribution is widespread throughout New Zealand.

Colour: greyish with cream and black markings



Light-brown Apple moth

This common Australian species has become widespread in cultivated areas especially where pip-fruit is grown. Appearing in spring, summer and autumn.

Colour: Light brown with reddish brown tips and pinky brown lower wings



Codling moth

A destructive little moth found throughout New Zealand wherever pome fruits are grown. Appearing throughout the summer months.

Colour: Grey with waxy brown bands and brownish grey lower wings



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FAMILY: Sphinzidae

Sphinx moth or convolvulus hawk moth

This insect is a very powerful flier and has a worldwide distribution. It was a well-known pest to the pre-European Maori. It appears in November or December through to March, and is often attracted to light.

Colour: dark brown with black markings



Common Copper

The common copper can be found the length and breadth of New Zealand in warm, open situations, from coastal dunes to sub-alpine tussock.

Colour: Orange/copper/gold with dark brown/black markings



Boulder Copper

The boulder copper is common in the South Island, but in the North is restricted to the volcanic plateau and scattered localities in the Wairarapa and Hawke's Bay.

Colour: Iridescent purple patches with slate grey lower wing

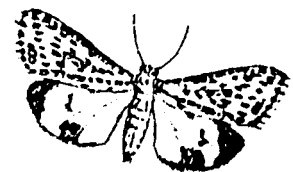


FAMILY: Arctiidae

Crimson speckled footman

This very attractive insect is regarded as an occasional immigrant, though its distribution is generally widespread in western districts. Adults emerge in February.

Colour: White with red and black spots and off-white with black markings to lower wing



Tussock tiger

This genus of tiger moths is all confined to the South Island. Adults appear in January, frequenting sunny, grassy slopes at about 400 metres.

Colour: Orange yellow with black markings



Magpie moth

The magpie moth occurs in profusion in all parts of the country. Its diurnal habits often cause it to be mistaken for a butterfly.

Colour: Sooty black with cream markings



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Southland tiger

The Southland tiger is not generally common, occurring locally in the Queenstown region.

Colour: Black with cream markings and faint crimson line.

Lower wing is pale lemon with black markings

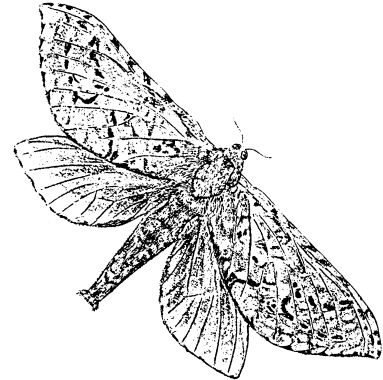


Puriri moth

Readily identified by its large size and green colour.

The puriri moth is generally distributed throughout the North Island.

Colour: Green

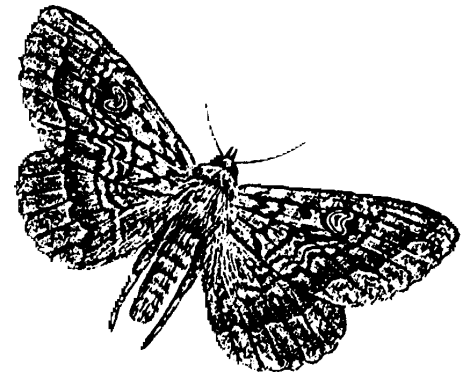


FAMILY: Noctuidae

Moon moths, or owl moths

A large moth found countrywide. Common in warmer parts of both main islands. It appears throughout late summer.

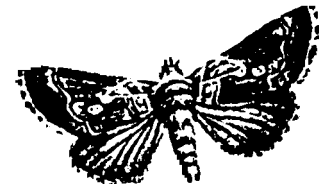
Colour: Medium brown with mauve brown spots



Silver Y moths

The moths are most commonly seen flying at, and soon after, dusk, especially in January and February. They are widespread over most of the North Island, northern parts of the South Island and coastal Canterbury.

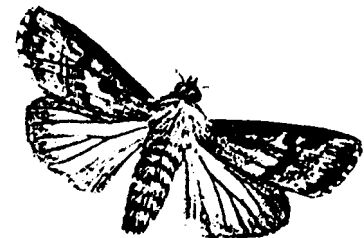
Colour: Medium brown with bone/grey patches



Cutworm moths

This moth is most likely to encountered between December and May. Extremely abundant throughout the country.

Colour: Brown tonings with grey lower wings tinged in pink



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Butler's ringlet

Butler's ringlet is New Zealand's rarest butterfly, found only in scattered sub-alpine localities in the Southern Alps.

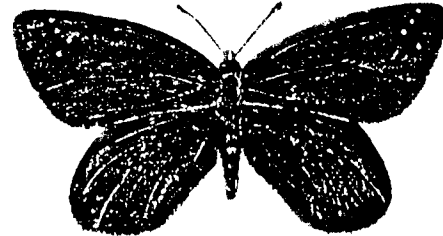
Colour: Rich brown



Black mountain ringlet

The black mountain ringlet is strictly an alpine butterfly which frequents screes and rock-falls in the Southern Alps, Marlborough and north-west Nelson. Rarely below 1200 metres.

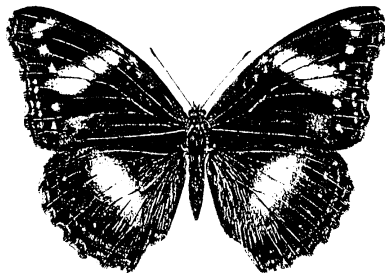
Colour: Velvety black-brown



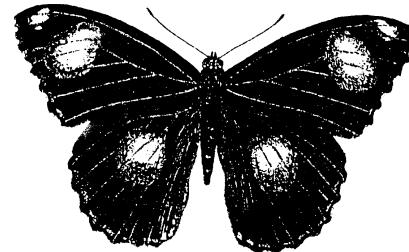
Blue moon

The blue moon is seen in New Zealand in most years, usually in western districts. Most sightings have been recorded in April - May

Colour: Black with white and metallic blue blotches



Female



Male

FAMILY: Lycaenidae

Long-tailed Blue

This butterfly has established populations in the Bay of Islands, New Plymouth, Wellington and Nelson. Gorse is its principal host plant.

Colour: Vivid pastel violet-blue narrowly boarded with brown. Trailing hair like tails



Common Blue, Southern Blue

One of the smallest and most abundant of New Zealand butterflies. It is found throughout the country, from spring through to autumn.

Colour: Blue-grey with silvery grey underneath. Southern blue has darker more definite pattern of spots than the common blue.



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Glade copper

The glade prefers forest margins, lake edges and sheltered gullies.

Colour: Yellow with orange-brown markings.



Rauparaha's copper

Rauparahals copper is essentially a coastal species with range that extends all around the North Auckland peninsula, the Bay of Plenty and down the east coast from Taranaki to Wellington.

Colour: Orange brown markings with yellow underneath



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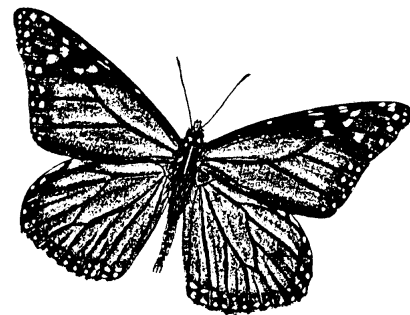
BUTTERFLIES

FAMILY: Nymphalidae

Monarch

The monarch is common throughout the North Island and much of lowland South Island except the far south. In sunny districts the monarch may be seen at any time of the year.

Colour: Deep orange with black veins. Wing tips are black with white specks



Lesser wanderer

The lesser wanderer is an infrequent visitor to western districts of New Zealand, appearing between January and April, especially after major trans-Tasman storms.

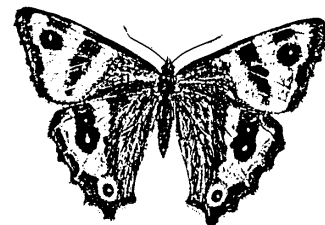
Colour: Soft pinky brown. Wing tips are chocolate brown with white spots.



Forest ringlet

It is the most widely coloured of all New Zealand butterflies. The forest ringlet frequents clearings and forest margins of both islands.

Colour: Brown with yellow orange markings



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Tussock ringlet

These inhabit the native tussock grasslands of the South Island.

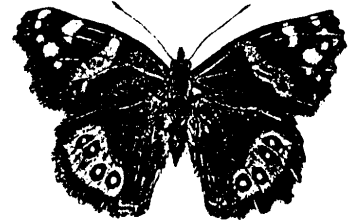
Colour: Light reddish brown with silver streaks



Red admiral

The red admiral is found throughout New Zealand. Generally, it becomes more common towards the middle and late summer.

Colour: Dark brown to black with patches of vivid red, silver brown and blue eye spots



Yellow admiral

This butterfly is found throughout New Zealand and is often seen flying with the Red admiral.

Colour: Dark brown to black with yellow patches and silver grey eye spots



Australian painted lady

This butterfly is a visitor from Australia seen mostly in summer.

Colour: Markings in white and orange and black



FAMILY: Pieridae

Cabbage White

There is almost no habitat where it is not found. Its flight is jerky and irregular; it rarely rests for long. The cabbage white can be seen in all kinds of weather, even on rainy days when other butterflies resort to shelter.

Colour: Creamy white with black spots

