

# *Drawn to the Light*

• I R I S H   M O T H S .



Grass Emerald • An Smaragaid Ghlas



Garden Tiger • An Leamhan Tíogach Garraí



Plume • Leamhan Na Gcleiteog



Cinnabar • An Leamhan Flanndearg



Shaded Broad-Bar • An Leathanbharrach Scáthaithe



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Early Thorn • An Draighneach Luath



Swallow-Tailed • An Ladhróg



#### Grass Emerald • An Smaragaid Ghlas

This creature is one of several medium-sized emerald moths found in Ireland. It lives on rough ground where gorse, the larval foodplant, grows. It favours moorland and damp grassland. That choice of territory allows a widespread distribution in Ireland. The wingspan is 25mm.

Feictear an créatúr seo i gcaitheamh an tsamhraidh. Tá sé ar cheann de na leamhain meánmhéide glasa sin a dtugtar na smaragaid. Talamh garbh is ansa leis. Taithíonn sé móinéir taise mar a bhfásann aiteann, ábhar bia na larbhá. Raon sciatrún 25mm atá aige.



#### Garden Tiger • An Leamhan Tiogach Garraí

This colourful moth is usually seen during July and August. Wingspan is 76mm. While resting on a tree trunk, the brown and white pattern offers good camouflage. When threatened, however, the underlying orange and black wings are revealed in order to deter predators. It appears in gardens where the hairy caterpillars can feed on plants such as lettuce and strawberry.

I rith mhí lúil agus Lúnasa taithíonn an leamhan seo gáirdíní ina bhfull ábhar bia do na larbhá, go háirthe leitis agus sú talún. Raon sciatrún 76mm atá aige. Tugann a dhealramh donn agus bán duaithe nocht dó agus sos a ghlaodh aige ar stoc crainn. Nuair a bhraitheann sé faoi bhagaírt, afach, léirionn sé a sciatrún dhubha agus oraíste atá ceití in foichtar agus a thugann cosaint dó ar chreachóirí.



#### Plume • Leamhan Na Gcleiteog

On summer nights this moth is attracted to bright windows. It is otherwise an inconspicuous creature. When resting, it forms a T shape and that helps to conceal it. Each front wing comprises 2 overlapping plumes while the hind wings have 3 plumes each. When perching it closes up its wings like Venetian blinds. Wingspan is 25mm.

Ar oicheanta samhraidh, meallann fuinneoga solasmhara an leamhan seo. Tharais sin, is créatúr neamhfheiceálach é. Raon sciatrún 25mm atá aige. Glacann sé sos i bhfoirm T, rud a chabhráonn leis é féin a cheillt ar a naimhde. 'Sé atá sna sciatráin ná cleití leagtha thar a chéile, trí cinn sna sciatráin chúil agus dhá cheann chun tsogaigh.



#### Ghost Swift • Mearleamhan Taibhsíúil

At dusk, this creature may be seen flying slowly over gardens and fields. That habit, combined with the pale white colour of the male (the female is yellow), give the species its name. Wingspan is 50mm. At the larval stage, these moths feed on a wide variety of grasses and farm crops. They emerge on the wing between June and August.

Le titim na hoíche, eillíonn an leamhan seo thart go breá mall. An nós sin, agus an cuma bán taibhsíúil atá air, a thugann a ainm dó. Raon sciatrún 50mm atá aige. Binn sé le feiscint i ngarraíthe ó mhí an Meithimh anall go dtí mhí Lúnasa. Dath buí atá ar an geann baineann. Gheibheann na larbhá iliomad sort glasraí agus fáracha in Éirinn a oireann doibh mar bhia.



#### Cinnabar • An Leamhan Flanndearg

This is a day flying moth. Its red markings warn predators it is not edible. On sunny days clusters of the orange and black larvae may be seen feeding on poisonous ragwort plants. During May/June the adults move slowly about coastal pastures. Wingspan is 45mm.

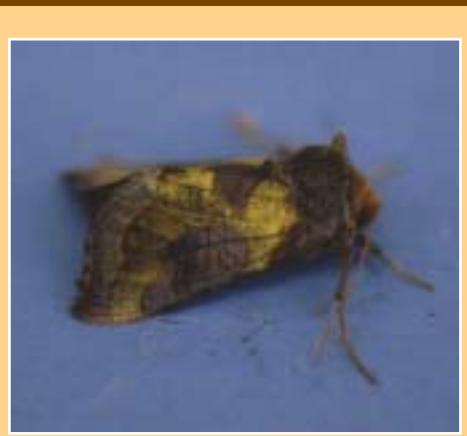
Is féidir an speiceas seo a aithint agus é ag eiltí thart i rith an lae. Cuireann na marcanna dearga in iúl go bhfull nimh ann. Seachnaíonn na héin é ar an gcuis sin. Raon sciatrún 45mm atá aige. Ar laetha geala is féidir mórán de na larbhá a fheiceáil agus iad á gothú féin ar an mbuachalán buí, planda atá nimhneach.



#### Shaded Broad-Bar • An Leathanbharrach Scáthaithe

This medium-sized moth is on the wing during the late summer. It has a widespread Irish distribution, especially in grassland and meadows. Wingspan is 25mm. Brown shades render it inconspicuous. This disguise protects it against predators. It does also, however, make it harder for us to spot it resting on vegetation.

Leamhan meánmhéide é seo a fheiceann muid amuigh faoin dtuath ag deireadh an tsamhraidh. Tá sé forleathan go maith, go háirthe sna móinéir. Is minic nach dtugtar faoi ndeara é toisc na dathanna dorcha ar na sciatráin. Cabhráonn na sciatráin seo go mó leis féin a cheillt ar éin. Raon sciatrún 25mm atá aige.



#### Burnished Brass • An Prásach

Like some Irish butterfly species, this moth dwells beside the nettle beds that feed its larvae. Bright metallic patches on the forewings catch the light when it basks on sunny days. It always holds the wings tent-like above its back. It is quite widespread and can be seen throughout the summer. Wingspan is 45mm.

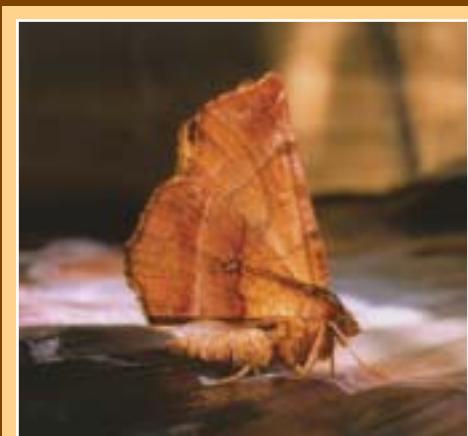
Tá an leamhan seo cosúil le feileacán aírithe sa mhéid 's go dtaitheann sé ceapacha neantóga. Dá bharr sin, is speiceas forleathan go maith in Éirinn é. Binn sé ag eiltí thart ar feadh an tsamhraidh. Scalann loinnir mhíotalach óna sciatrún faoi sholas na gréine. Ar shuí dó, filleadh sé a sciatrún tharr a dhroim ar nás pubaill. Raon sciatrún 45mm atá aige.



#### Six-Spot Burnet • An Buirnéad Sébhállach

This is the most obvious of our day flying moths. It moves slowly over summer fields, but especially favours coastal dunes. July is the best month to look out for it. Wingspan is 28mm. The red spots mark it out, warning predators it is poisonous. Up close the black changes to shiny green. The caterpillars feed on bird's-foot-trefoil.

Is é seo an leamhan is minicí a castar oraínn ar laetha samhraidh. Glaiseann sé go mall trí na goirt, ach siad na dumhcha is mó a thaithíonn leis. Bí ag faire amach dó i rith mhí lúil. Is fuirist é a aithint ó na spotaí dearga. Rabhadh iad sin go bhfull nimh ann. Raon sciatrún 28mm atá aige. Maireann na larbhá ar an grobhré éin, planda coitianta.



#### Early Thorn • An Draighneach Luath

Like the Swallow-tailed moth, this creature feeds on hawthorn and blackthorn. That allows a widespread distribution in Ireland. As its name suggests, it first appears during April/May but there is also a second generation in July/August. Wingspan is 38mm. At rest this moth resembles a dead leaf. Its prominent antennae are also a notable feature.

Cuireann crot an leamhan seo duilleog feoite i gcuimhne dúinn. Is mó an buntáiste dó é sin agus é a cheillt féin ar a naimhde. Raon sciatrún 38mm atá aige. Tá an leamhan seo cosúil leis an ladhrón sa mhéid is go maireann said ar aon ar an droighean agus ar an sceach gheal. Ní hionadh mar sin go bhfull siad flúiríseach go maith sa tir seo.



#### Swallow-Tailed • An Ladhróg

This is one of Ireland's largest and brightest moths. It resembles a butterfly but it flies at night. In the months of July and August it is attracted to lights in houses. Wingspan is 60mm. Its name is inspired by the tapered tail ends. The larvae feed on hawthorn and blackthorn. It is quite common in rural areas.

Tá sé seo ar na leamhain is mó agus is gile atá againn in Éirinn. Na heireabail ghabháinach ag deireadh a sciatrún is cuis lena ainm. Tá an-chosúlacht aige le feileacán ach amhain go neitíonn sé istoiche. Meallann soisce tí é i rith mhí lúil agus Lúnasa. Raon sciatrún 60mm atá aige. Maireann na larbhá ar an sceach gheal agus ar an droighean.