Drawn to the Light

·IRISH MOTHS·

Grass Emerald • An Smaragaid Ghlas

Garden Tiger • An Leamhan Tíograch Garraí

Plume • Leamhan Na Gcleiteog

Cinnabar • An Leamhan Flanndearg

Shaded Broad-Bar • An Leathanbharrach Scáthaithe

Ghost Swift • Mearleamhan Taibhsiúil

Burnished Brass • An Prásach

Six-Spot Burnet • An Buirnéad Sébhallach

Early Thorn • An Draighneach Luath

Swallow-Tailed • An Ladhróg

Meallta ag an Solas

·LEAMHAIN ÉIREANNACHA·

ENFO
17 St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-888 3910 / 01-888 3933
email: info@enfo.ie web: www.enfo.ie

Devised and photographed by Diarmuid Ó Gráda
Designed by Denis Baker, The Unlimited Design Co.

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 ar a dtugtar na smaragaid. Talamh garbh is ansa leis. Taithíonn sé móinéir taise mar a bhfásann aiteann, ábhar bia na larbhaí. Raon sciathán 25mm atá aige.

Garden Tiger • An Leamhan Tíograch 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 Iúil agus Lúnasa taithíonn an leamhan seo gáirdíní ina bhfuil ábhar bia do na larbhaí, go háirithe leitís agus sú talún. Raon sciathán 76mm atá aige. Tugann a dhealramh donn agus bán duaithníocht dó agus sos á ghlacadh aige ar stoc crainn. Nuair a bhraitheann sé faoi bhagairt, áfach, léiríonn sé a sciatháin dhubha agus oráiste atá ceilte in íochtar 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 oícheanta samhraidh, meallann fuinneoga solasmhara an leamhan seo. Tharais sin, is créatúr neamhfheiceálach é. Raon sciathán 25mm atá aige. Glacann sé sos i bhfoirm T, rud a chabhraíonn leis é féin a cheilt ar a naimhde. 'Sé atá sna sciatháin ná cleití leagtha thar a chéile, trí cinn sna sciatháin chúil agus dhá cheann chun tosaigh.

Ghost Swift • Mearleamhan Taibhsiúil

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, eitlíonn an leamhan seo thart go breá mall. An nós sin, agus an cuma bán taibhsiúil atá air, a thugann a ainm dó. Raon sciathán 50mm atá aige. Bíonn sé le feiscint i ngarraithe ó mhí an Meithimh anall go dtí mhí Lúnasa. Dath buí atá ar an gceann baineann. Gheibheann na larbhaí iliomad sórt glasraí agus féaracha in Éirinn a oireann dóibh 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 eitilt thart i rith an lae. Cuireann na marcanna dearga in iúl go bhfuil nimh ann. Seachnaíonn na héin é ar an gcúis sin. Raon sciathán 45mm atá aige. Ar laetha geala is féidir mórán de na larbhaí a fheiceáil agus iad á gcothú 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 háirithe sna móinéir. Is minic nach dtugtar faoi ndeara é toisc na dathanna dorcha ar na sciatháin. Cabhraíonn na sciatháin seo go mór leis é féin a cheilt ar éin. Raon sciathán 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 feileacáin áirithe sa mhéid 's go dtaithíonn sé ceapacha neantóga. Dá bharr sin, is speiceas forleathan go maith in Éirinn é. Bíonn sé ag eitilt thart ar feadh an tsamhraidh. Scalann loinnir mhiotalach óna sciatháin faoi sholas na gréine. Ar shuí dó, filleann sé a sciatháin tharr a dhroim ar nós pubaill. Raon sciathán 45mm atá aige.

Six-Spot Burnet • An Buirnéad Sébhallach

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 orainn ar laetha samhraidh. Gluaiseann sé go mall trí na goirt, ach siad na dumhcha is mó a thaithníonn leis. Bí ag faire amach dó i rith mhí Iúil. Is fuirist é a aithint ó na spotaí dearga. Rabhadh iad sin go bhfuil nimh ann. Raon sciathán 28mm atá aige. Maireann na larbhaí ar an gcrobh 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 leamhain seo duilleog feoite i gcuimhne dúinn. Is mór an buntáiste dó é sin agus é á cheilt féin ar a naimhde. Raon sciathán 38mm atá aige.Tá an leamhan seo cosúil leis an ladhróg sa mhéid is go maireann said araon ar an droighean agus ar an sceach gheal. Ní hionadh mar sin go bhfuil siad flúirseach go maith sa tír 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 heireabaill ghabhlánacha ag deireadh a sciathán is cúis lena ainm. Tá an-chosúlacht aige le feileacán ach amháin go neitlíonn sé istoíche. Meallann soilse tí é i rith mhí Iúil agus Lúnasa. Raon sciathán 60mm atá aige. Maireann na larbhaí ar an sceach gheal agus ar an droighean.