

RECORDING MOTHS

Why Record Moths?

Moths are an important part of our natural environment. They are important as pollinators of flowers and form part of the diet for many larger animals, such as bats, small mammals and birds. Moths are highly sensitive to changes in their environment and for this reason are good indicators of environmental health. For a variety of reasons many species are becoming threatened, with habitat loss and climatic change being amongst the most important .

Apart from anything else, moth recording is fun!

What do you use to record them?

Light traps are typically used to record moths. There are a variety of these available, most relying on use of an ultraviolet light source to assemble the moths recorded.

Two commonly used traps are the Robinson-type trap , operated with a 125 Watt Mercury Vapour bulb and the Heath trap, using a less powerful 6 or 40 Watt Actinic bulb. Both can be operated from a mains supply. They can also be used in the field; the 125 Watt trap from a petrol-driven generator and the Heath trap from a car battery. The Heath trap can be a cheaper option to start with and as it catches fewer moths, it can be easier to cope with if you're a beginner!

There are many variants of both basic types of trap.



125 Watt MV trap

Some Useful Contacts

Moth Trap Supplier

<http://www.angleps.btinternet.co.uk/>



Moth Identification

There are some very good web-sites which give free information.
One such site is:

<http://ukmoths.org.uk/>

In addition, a range of good entomological books can be purchased from:

<http://www.pembooks.demon.co.uk/>

Recording Schemes

More information on national moth recording schemes is available from the Butterfly Conservation web-site:

<http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/>

The North East's County Moth Recorders are:

- **Keith Dover** for VC66 (Durham); email: k.dover879@btinternet.com
- **Tom Tams** for VC67 & 68 (Northumberland); email: recorder@northumberlandmoths.org.uk