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## A remarkable occurrence of orache moth *Trachea atriplicis* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Glasgow, Scotland

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At a moth-trapping session the night before a public event at Hamiltonhill Claypits Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Glasgow, Scotland in July 2022, among a small and otherwise unremarkable catch was a single specimen of orache moth *Trachea atriplicis* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Orache moth (*Trachea atriplicis*), Hamiltonhill Claypits, Glasgow, Scotland, 15th July 2022. (Photo: R.B. Weddle)

In the 19th century this species was resident in south-east parts of England and was last recorded as such in the Fens of East Anglia in 1915. It is now resident only in the Channel Islands and elsewhere in the U.K. it is regarded as rare migrant (Waring, 2017). This is the first Scottish record (confirmed as such by R. Levertton, pers. comm.). According the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas, the most northerly prior record is at Broad Green, Liverpool in July 2009 (NBN, 2023), but there are also records from Yorkshire in 2009 and 2020, the latest and most northerly being at Askham Bryan on the outskirts of the City of York, some 300 km distant from Hamiltonhill Claypits (Yorkshire Moths, 2023). I am

grateful to the anonymous reviewer of this article for pointing out that a further significant aspect of this sighting is that it is inland, whereas most previous British sightings have been coastal, as one would expect for a migrant species.

As the name implies, the larvae feed on orache (*Atriplex* sp.), as well as goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and other herbaceous plants (Waring, 2017).

The trap was situated in the secure yard belonging to Scottish Canals, immediately adjacent to the Claypits LNR at NS58536721 in VC77 (Lanarkshire). The record has been submitted to the National Moth Recording Scheme and Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre. Records submitted to iNaturalist by other attendees at the event are duplicates of this one individual.

I am grateful to Scottish Canals for allowing me to use the yard for moth-trapping, to Tony Payne for alerting me to the significance of the find, and to Richard Walker for details of the Liverpool sighting.

### REFERENCES

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