

Wyre Forest Study Group

Field Meeting to Ribbesford Woods

31st May 2014

TONY SIMPSON



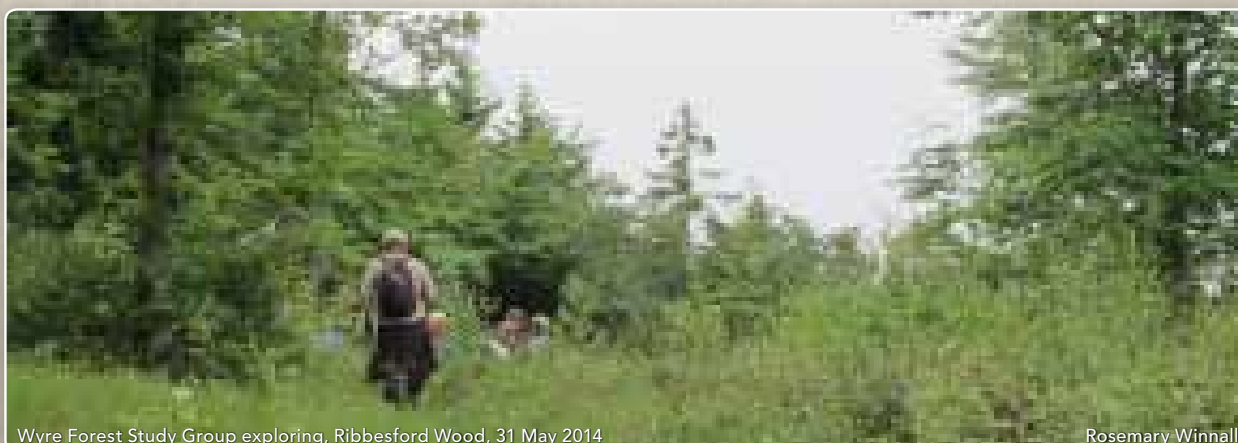
Schiffmuelleria grandis from Ribbesford Woods

Rosemary Winnall

The beautiful micromoth *Schiffmuelleria grandis* is a very local species in the UK but the type locality is from a specimen in the Natural History Museum labelled "Bewdley Forest 26/5/1842". We do not know who collected this specimen and there were no other records until Jenny Joy noticed some small brightly coloured moths on a fence post near the Glebe House entrance to Ribbesford Wood just to the south of Bewdley on 30th May 2002 and collected one for identification. Since then it has been attracted to light traps in Ribbesford between 2003 and 2012, and two recorded in the New Parks area of Wyre Forest in 2005/6 and one was found in the day on 22nd May 2009 by Dave Grundy in Shrawley Wood. The larvae feed under bark in dead wood of various trees. It belongs to the Oecophoridae family which often fly in sunshine in the early morning so the Study Group went for an early morning visit to try to see this moth.

Immediately on arrival one was netted flying around a hedge at the wood entrance and many more were found flying around just inside the wood. Flying with them were the related species *Esperia sulphurella*, *Alabonia geoffrella*, and *Pseudatemelia flavifrontella*, all involved in nuptial flights. Within about an hour the flight period was over and by 9.00 they had disappeared.

We continued through the wood and Brett Westwood found a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*. Other interesting finds included Wasp Beetle *Clytis arietis*, Scarce 7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella magnifica*, Woundwort Shieldbug *Eysarcoris venustissimus*, Rhopalus *subrufus*, Enchanter's Nightshade Stilt-bug *Metatropis rufescens*, and Ash Black Slug *Limax cinereoniger* in what was a very interesting and highly successful meeting.



Wyre Forest Study Group exploring, Ribbesford Wood, 31 May 2014

Rosemary Winnall