



Wyre Forest Study Group

Note on the Common Fan-foot

Pechipogo strigilata (Linnaeus, 1758) in Wyre

DENISE BINGHAM

The Common Fan-foot is a Nationally Notable A species and in many woodlands very rare. In Wyre however it is quite common and relatively widespread. Dave Grundy has spent many years recording the species and 2006 for example was an exceptional year for the moth with 93 adult moths and 45 larvae recorded in 16 areas. (Grundy 2006).

The moth is associated with open woodland and recently abandoned coppice. Important habitat features for the species seem to include the presence of leaf litter, humid conditions, and cover from shrubs and the low branches of trees. The larvae prefer feeding on brown withered *Quercus* spp. oak leaves hanging from trees.

It was somewhat unusual when Denise Bingham found a colony of the larvae in an exposed open ride at Withybed Wood, Wyre Forest. The tree being used was isolated and had a large snagged branch hanging down with suitable withered oak leaves. It was fully exposed to the sun and within an open ride. Several larvae were found within a few minutes of searching and many leaves had the bent over folds indicating larval activity. Normally leaves in such an exposed situation are not considered suitable but clearly this was not the case here.

REFERENCES

Grundy, D. (2006). A Study of the Common Fan-foot Moth *Pechipogo strigilata* in the Wyre Forest – 2006. Report for Natural England and the Forestry Commission (unpublished report).



Oak tree containing Common Fan-foot larvae John Bingham



Common Fan-foot caterpillar

John Bingham