

MOTHS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AUGUST

From Mary Atkinson who is alerting us to three bulky moths to be seen in August.



First, the **Large Ranunculus**. This is a well-distributed moth which comes to light and can be found in gardens. It is attractive in a subtle greyish green with small golden orange speckles. The larva feeds at night on a wide variety of wild and cultivated plants.

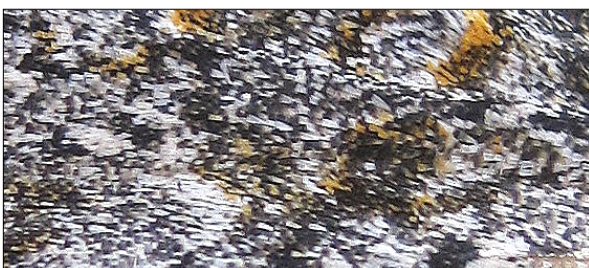
An even larger moth is the **Grey Arches** (not related to the much commoner Dark Arches.) This is a grey moth, varying in background colour from silvery to dark grey but the markings are constant and definitive. Widespread in woodland and again the larvae feed at night on low-growing woody plants.



The Copper Underwing is a handsome robust species with bright metallic coppery lower wings. It comes to light, and also readily to wine or sugar ropes. Habitat woodland and hedgerows. It is common and widespread but can easily be mistaken for the very similar **Svensson's Copper Underwing** and unless definitely identified should be recorded as the aggregate species.

*To differentiate, one has to hold the moth by the thorax and gently pull the upper wing away from the lower wing to see that the underside of the lower wing of the straight Copper Underwing has a much more clearly delineated orange border. Altogether a tricky operation! To hold, one needs to be firm and confident without squeezing so hard as to either damage or kill the insect, but this species is a wriggler and will quickly free itself and run up your sleeve! No wonder there are so few records of **Svensson's** in Cornwall.*

*I have tried quite a few times, but after all that have not had a **Svensson's** yet.*



While inserting the images, before re-sizing, I noticed the scales showing quite clearly on each moth. But hard to see if each scale is a single, solid colour or are they shaded?



Jen B