

## PHEROMONE TRAPS

Searching for clearwings and other species of moths rarely seen at light has become very successful with the help of the synthetic pheromone lure over the past 15 years. The lure is used on warm sunny days with a light wind in likely areas by simply hanging up at about chest height and waiting for the intended target. The use of a pheromone trap (see images) can make this operation much simpler and has the added bonus of allowing the recorder to venture away from the lure leaving it to its own devices. The trap can either be operated with the lure in place for short periods of time such as a hot afternoon leaving the operator time to do other things or even be left over a week, a month or even a whole season. Obviously if left for more than 24 hours any insect in the trap can become dehydrated so inspection is required so this does not happen (use of a damp egg carton cut into small pieces can be left in the bottom of the trap to give some moisture). I have left traps in nearby gardens and woodland visiting every 24 hours and can give very good results which may be missed if using just the lure on its own. The tortrix moth *Grapholita lobarzewskii* (Kent Fruit Piercer) was caught this way in 2017 and was new to Norfolk.

To operate, simply place the lure in the cage at the top of the trap (full instructions are provided with traps when purchased). Hang in a suitable location and re-visit at leisure. If using more than one lure, wash the holding cage thoroughly otherwise cross contamination can occur.



Jon Clifton - Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies

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