THE PYRENEES – AUGUST 2023

This summer we stayed at a beautiful gite in Luz St Sauveur in the French Pyreness (Hautes-Pyrénées) in mid-August for a week running a mains 20w Compact Heath Trap in the large mature garden, the trap

could also be easily converted to an LED Compact Heath Trap which gave us potential to trap in the hills away from our gite. We also took a sugar solution for added potential. Our main aim was some of the red and yellow underwing species of the Catocalid family.

The weather was perfect for moth trapping with overnight temperatures in the low 20c. Most nights we ran the mains 20w Heath where up to 250 moths per night were recorded. On the nights we used the LED Heath, moth numbers were down to approximately 150 moths per night. Lower numbers were recorded at sugar, usually in the low teens.

Nightly figures were often in high numbers of certain species, up to 30-40 footmen, mainly Hoary, Four-spotted and Buff Footman being the commonest. 10-15 Tree-lichen Beauty, 20-25 Coronet, 8-10 Gypsy Moth, 12-15 Jersey Tiger and up to half a dozen Garden Tiger, all of which were quite a site first thing in

the morning!

Rosy Underwing, Dark & Light Crimson Underwing were all recorded over the week as were Striped and Convolvulus Hawk-moths.

Smaller numbers of species such as Three-humped Prominent, Scarce Merveille du Jour, Olive Crescent, quite a few Orache Moth, mainly to sugar, Purple Cloud, Latin, Dewick's Plusia, V-Moth, Scarce Hook-tip and Lappet. Great Dart was nice to see, we have not seen this species since some of our French visits in the 2000's.

L-album Wainscot were always present in small numbers as was Passenger, White Spot, Dusky Marbled Brown, Marbled Grey, Gold Spangle, False and Jersey Mocha.

Non-UK species of interest were the nicely marked geometrids Epirrihoe hastulata and Gnophos furvatus. The only pug new to us was the nondescript Eupethicia semigraphata.

For further information on the above moth traps, please visit our web site and search 'moth traps'.

Jon & Ad Clifton
ALS