

Midwest Region, USA Beginner's Guide to Moths of the Midwest - Micromoths

Angella Moorehouse & Illinois Nature Preserve Commission

Photos: Angella Moorehouse (angella.moorehouse@illinois.gov). Produced by: Angella Moorehouse with the assistance of Alicia Diaz, Field Museum.

Identification assistance provided by: multiple sources (inaturalist.org; bugguide.net)

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About the BEGINNER'S MOTHS OF THE MIDWEST GUIDES

Most photos were taken in west-central and central Illinois; a few are from eastern Iowa and north-central Wisconsin. Nearly all were posted to identification websites: BugGuide.net and iNaturalist.org. Identification help was provided by Aaron Hunt, Steve Nanz, John and Jane Balaban, Chris Grinter, Frank Hitchell, Jason Dombroskie, William H. Taft, Jim Wiker, and Terry Harrison as well as others contributing to the websites. Attempts were made to obtain expert verifications for all photos to the field identification level, however, there will be errors. Please contact the author with all corrections. Additional assistance was provided by longtime Lepidoptera survey partner, Susan Hargrove.

The intention of these guides is to provide the means to compare photographs of living specimens of related moths from the Midwest to aid the citizen scientists with identification in the field for Bio Blitz, Moth-ers Day, and other night lighting events. A taxonomic list to all the species featured is provided at the end along with some field identification tips.

WEBSITES PROVIDING IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

BugGuide.net

iNaturalist.org

Mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu

Insectsofiowa.org

centralillinoisinsects.org/weblog/resources/

WHICH MOTH GUIDE TO USE

The moths were split into 6 groups for the purposes of creating smaller guides focusing on similar features of 1 or more superfamilies. The guides are split up thusly:

- 1) **Macromoths** – large showy moths generally ranging in size of 5-18cm; Superfamilies: Bombycoidea (royal, silkmoths, and sphinx moths), Cossoides (carpenterworm), Lasiocampoidea (lappet moths)



Antheraea polyphemus
Polyphemus moth



Prionoxystus robiniae
Carpenterworm moth



Darapsa myron
Virginia Creeper Sphinx

- 2) **Micromoths** – tiny moths with wingspans generally <2cm the exception being the clearwing borers (*Sesioidae*) which average between 1-3cm; Other Superfamilies: *Adeloidea* (fairy moths), *Choreutidae* (metalmarks), *Epermenioides* (fringe-tufted moths), *Gelechioidea* (curve-horned moths – has greatest number of species), *Gracillarioidea* (tube moths), *Micropterigoidea* (mandibulate archaic moths), *Schreckensteinioidae* (bristle-legged moths), *Tineoidea* (clothes, carpenter, and bagworm moths), *Yponomatoidea* (ermine moths)



Dichomeris inversella
Inverse Dichomeris



Caloptilia blandella
Walnut Caloptilia



Synanthedon acerni
Maple Callus Borer



Atteva aurea
Alianthus webworm

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WHICH MOTH GUIDE TO USE (Cont.)

- 3) **Geometer Moths (Geometroidea)** – medium sized with wingspan 3-5 cm, most have angular sharp-pointed wings held open like butterflies; most larvae are “inchworms”



Macaria multilineata
Many-lined Angle



Pleuroprucha insulsaria
Tan Wave



Haematopsis grataria
Chickweed Geometer

- 4) **Noctuids/Owlets (Noctuoidea)** – most species of any moth superfamily, medium sized with wingspan generally 2-5cm, triangular shape with stout bodies; most are nocturnal but includes some daytime pollinators: lichen, tiger, fungus, underwing, forage looper, litter, bird-dropping, dagger, wood nymph, groundling, dark owlet, earworm, flower, borer, cutworm, dart, quaker, wainscot, sallow, looper, and prominent moths



Catocala nuptialis
Married Underwing



Acrionicta vinnula
Delightful Dagger



Hypena abalienalis
White-lined Hypena

- 5) **Pyralids and Crambid Moths (Pyraloidea)** snout moths – large group of small moths with wingspan of 1- 4 cm, head bears long upturned labial palpi or snout; Guide also includes the Superfamilies: **Drepanoidea** (hooktip moths), **Pterophoroidea** (plume moths), **Thyridoidea** (thyris moths)



Herptogramma aeglaelis
Serpentine Webworm



Chrysoteuchia topiaria
Cranberry Girdler

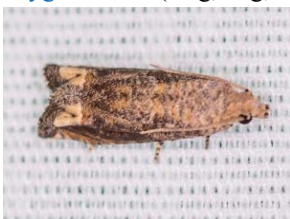


Geina sp.
Plume Moth



Dysodia ocellatana
Eyed Dysodia

- 6) **Tortricid Moths (Tortricidae)** – tortrix and leafroller moths – large group of small moths (often grouped with micromoths) with wingspan 1-3 cm. Most are drab with mottled and marbled brown coloration. Some (Olethreutinae) have larvae which bore into plant stems, roots, buds, or seeds; Tortricinae larvae construct leaf rolls; Guide also includes the Superfamily: **Zygaenoidea** (slug, hag, skiff, skeletonizer moths)



Epiblema abruptana
Abrupt Epiblema



Choristoneura roseaceana
Oblique-banded Leafroller



Apoda y-inversum
Yellow-collared Slug Moth

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MOTH MIMICRY AND THE AVOIDANCE OF PREDATORS

A lot of moths resemble other moths, other types of insects, birds, or their surroundings. This is typically a defensive adaptation to avoid predation. With true mimicry one species gains an advantage in resembling another. This can take various forms: 1) Acoustic or Mullerian Mimicry where the one species mimics the sounds produced by another to fool predators; 2) Predatory Mimicry in which a prey species mimics a predator to avoid looking like food; and 3) Visual or Batesian Mimicry where the palatable species mimics the appearance of one which is nonpalatable.

Acoustic (Mullerian) Mimicry: Some moths mimic the sounds of other moths which are unpalatable to avoid being prey for bats. Several pyralids (Pyraloidea/Pyralid Moths), from the genus *Galleria* (greater wax moth – no photo available) are known to mimic the sounds of the delicate cynthia (Noctuoidea/Owlet) which is distasteful and avoided by insectivorous bats.



Cynthia tenera
Delicate Cynthia

Predatory Mimicry: Moths such as members of the Metalmark Subfamily, Choreutinae (Micromoths), are known to mimic the movements of jumping spiders. In this case the resemblance is vague and its primarily the movement that is similar. Several species of the clearwing borer family Sessidae (Micromoths) such as this Riley's clearing resemble predatory wasps. Some of the large showy silkmoths like the Io moth (Saturniidae/Macromoths), have huge eye spots on their hindwings giving the appearance of an owl or other large predator.



Brenthia pavonacella
Peacock Brenthia



Paraphidippus aurantius
Jumping Spider



Synanthedon rileyana
Riley's Clearwing



Vespula squamosa
Southern Yellowjacket



Automeris io
Io Moth

Visual (Batesian) Mimicry: Moths are known to mimic the appearance or movement of other less attractive prey species as another means of avoiding predation. Examples of visual mimicry in moths include the sphinx moths (Bombycoidea/Macromoths), snowberry clearwing with resembles the feeding behavior and movement of the eastern carpenter bee and the white-lined sphinx which mimics the vibration and feeding behavior of a ruby-throated hummingbird.



Hemaris diffinis
Snowberry Clearwing
Hummingbird



Xylocopa virginica
Eastern Carpenter Bee



Hyles lineata
White-lined Sphinx



Archilochus colubris
Ruby-throated
Hummingbird

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MOTH MIMICRY AND THE AVOIDANCE OF PREDATORS (Cont.)

Two other moths; the black and yellow lichen moth (Noctuiodea/Owlets) and orange-patched smoky moth (Zygaenoidea/Flannel, Slug, and Leaf Skeletonizer), mimic the net-winged beetle which is toxic.



Black & Yellow
Lichen Moth
Lycomorpha pholus



Net-winged Beetle
Calopteron terminale



Orange-patched
Smoky Moth
Pyromorpha dimidiata

Convergent Resemblance: When one species coevolved independently to resemble another without a known ecological advantage it is called convergent resemblance. The purple carrot moth (Gelechioidea/Micromoths) – native to Europe – is a close match for a pale headed leafhopper. Plume moths (Pterophoroidea/Pyalid Moth Guide) resemble crane flies with their behavior of dangling by their long thin legs off the undersides of flowers or plant leaves.



Purple Carrot Seed Moth
(non-native)
Depressaria depressana



Pale-headed Leafhopper
Paraphlepsius collitus



Plume Moth
Geina sp.



Crane Fly
Tipula sp.

Camouflage: While many moths are camouflaged to blend in with the environment a wide variety of moths from different Superfamilies and Families resemble bird dropping to evade predators. Here are a few examples: *Tarache aprica*, exposed bird-dropping moth (Noctuiodea/Owlets); *Epiblema scudderiana*, goldenrod gall moth (Tortricoidea/Tortricids), and *Eudryas grata*, beautiful wood nymph (Geometroidea/Geometers).



Exposed Bird-dropping Moth
Tarache aprica



Goldenrod Gall Moth
Epiblema scudderiana



Beautiful Wood Nymph
Eudryas grata

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1 *Antispila* sp.
HELLIOZELIDAE
Shield-bearer Moth



2 *Brenthia pavonacella*
CHOREUTIDAE
Peacock Brenthia



3 *Prochoreutis inflatella*
CHOREUTIDAE
Skullcap Skeletonizer



4 *Tebenna* cf. *gnaphaliella*
CHOREUTIDAE
Everlasting Tebenna Moth



5 *Epermenia pimpinella*
EPERMEIIDAE
Fringe-tufted Moth



6 *Gerdana caritella*
AUTOSTICHIDAE
Gerdana Moth



7 *Taygete atributella*
AUTOSTICHIDAE
Triangle-marked Twirler



8 *Asaphocrita* sp.
BLASTOBASIDAE
Scavenger Moth



9 *Blastobasis* cf. *Glandulella*
BLASTOBASIDAE
Acorn Moth



10 *Pigritia* sp.
BLASTOBASIDAE
Scavenger Moth



11 *Coleophora* sp. 1
COLEOPHORIDAE
Metallic Casebearer



12 *Coleophora* sp. 2
COLEOPHORIDAE
Casebearer Moth



13 *Coleophora* sp. 3
COLEOPHORIDAE
Casebearer Moth



14 *Coleophora* sp. 4
COLEOPHORIDAE
White Casebearer



15 *Walshia miscelorella*
COLEOPHORIDAE
Sweet Clover Root Borer



16 *Eucllemsia bassettella*
COSMOPTERIGIDAE
Kermes Scale Moth



17 *Cosmopterix clemensella*
COSMOPTERIGIDAE
Clemen's Cosmet Moth



18 *Limnaecia phragmitella*
COSMOPTERIGIDAE
Shy Cosmet Moth



19 *Agonopterix alstroemeriana*
DEPRESSARIIDAE
Poison Hemlock Moth



20 *Agonopterix thelmae*
DEPRESSARIIDAE
Thelma's Moth

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21 *Depressaria depressana*
DEPRESSARIIDAE
Purple Carrot-seed Moth



22 *Antaeotricha schlaegeri*
DEPRESSARIIDAE
Fruitworm Moth



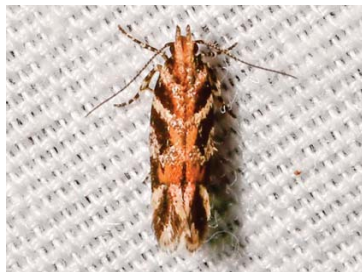
23 *Elachista* sp. 1
ELACHISTIDAE
Grass Miner Moth



24 *Elachista* sp. 2
ELACHISTIDAE
Grass Miner Moth



25 *Anacampsis levipedella*
GELECHIIDAE
Silver-dashed Anacampsis



26 *Aristotelia roseosuffusella*
GELECHIIDAE
Pink-washed Aristotelia



27 *Monochroa gilvolinella*
GELECHIIDAE
Twirler Moth



28 *Stereomita andropogonis*
GELECHIIDAE
Twirler Moth



29 *Dichomeris flavocostella*
GELECHIIDAE
Cream-bordered Dichomeris



30 *Dichomeris inversella*
GELECHIIDAE
Inverse Dichomeris



31 *Dichomeris juncidella*
GELECHIIDAE
Dichomeris Moth



32 *Dichomeris ligulella*
GELECHIIDAE
Palmerworm Moth



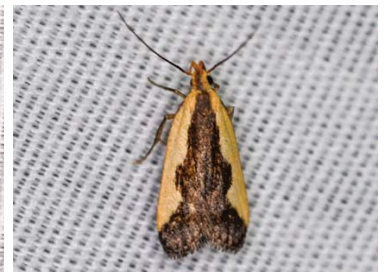
33 *Dichomeris nonstrigella*
GELECHIIDAE
Little Devil Moth



34 *Dichomeris ochripalpella*
GELECHIIDAE
Shining Dichomeris



35 *Dichomeris punctipennella*
GELECHIIDAE
Many-spotted Dichomeris



36 *Dichomeris* sp. 8
GELECHIIDAE
Dichomeris Moth



37 *Chionodes discoocellella*
GELECHIIDAE
Eye-ringed Chionodes Moth



38 *Chionodes fondella*
GELECHIIDAE
Chionodes Moth



39 *Chionodes mediofuscella*
GELECHIIDAE
Black-smudged Chionodes



40 *Chionodes* sp. 4
GELECHIIDAE
Chionodes Moth

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41 *Fascista cercerisella*
GELECHIIDAE
Redbud Leafroller Moth



42 *Gelechia lynceella*
GELECHIIDAE
Twirler Moth



43 *Stegasta bosqueella*
GELECHIIDAE
Red-necked Peanutworm



44 *Arogalea cristifasciella*
GELECHIIDAE
White Stripe-backed Moth



45 *Coleotechnites* sp. 1
GELECHIIDAE
Coleotechnites Moth



46 *Coleotechnites* sp. 2
GELECHIIDAE
Coleotechnites Moth



47 *Pubitelfusa latifasciella*
GELECHIIDAE
White-banded Telphusa



48 *Mompha eloisella*
MOMPHIDAE
Red-streaked Mompha



49 *Mompha stellata*
MOMPHIDAE
Momphid Moth



50 *Decantha boreasella*
OECOPHORIDAE
Reticulated Decantha Moth



51 *Epicallima argenticinctella*
OECOPHORIDAE
Orange-headed Epicallma



52 *Mathildana newmanella*
OECOPHORIDAE
Newman's Mathildana



53 *Landryia impositella*
SCYTHRIDIDAE
Flower Moth



54 *Scythris trivinctella*
SCYTHRIDIDAE
Flower Moth



55 *Scythris* sp.
SCYTHRIDIDAE
Flower Moth



56 *Bucculatrix* sp.
BUCCULATRICIDAE
Ribbed Cocoon-maker



57 *Caloptilia bimaculatella*
GRACILLARIIDAE
Maple Caloptilia



58 *Caloptilia blandella*
GRACILLARIIDAE
Walnut Caloptilia



59 *Caloptilia violacella*
GRACILLARIIDAE
Caloptilia Moth



60 *Caloptilia* sp. 4
GRACILLARIIDAE
Caloptilia Moth

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61 *Caloptilia* sp. 4
GRACILLARIIDAE
Caloptilia Moth



62 *Acrocercops astericola*
GRACILLARIIDAE
Leaf Blotch Miner



63 *Neurobathra strigifinitella*
GRACILLARIIDAE
Leaf Blotch Miner



64 *Epimartyria auricrinella*
MICROPTERIGIDAE
Goldcap Moss Eater



65 *Schreckensteina erythriella*
SCHRECKENSTEINIIDAE
Bristle-legged Moth



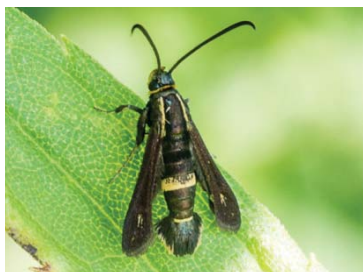
66 *Melittia cucurbitae*
SESIIDAE
Squash Vine Borer Moth



67 *Carmenta bassiformis*
SESIIDAE
Eupatorium Borer Moth



68 *Carmenta ithacae*
SESIIDAE
Clearwing Borer Moth



69 *Carmenta pyralidiformis*
SESIIDAE
Boneset Borer Moth



70 *Carmenta suffusata*
SESIIDAE
Clearwing Borer Moth



71 *Synanthedon acerni*
SESIIDAE
Maple Callus Borer Moth



72 *Synanthedon exitiosa*
SESIIDAE
Peachtree Borer Moth



73 *Synanthedon rileyana*
SESIIDAE
Riley's Clearwing Moth



74 *Synanthedon scitula*
SESIIDAE
Dogwood Borer Moth



75 *Vitacea scepiformis*
SESIIDAE
Grape Root Borer Moth



76 *Acrolophus popeanella*
TINEIDAE
Clemen's Grass Tubeworm



77 *Acrolophus propinqua*
TINEIDAE
Walsingham's Grass Tubeworm



78 *Acrolophus* cf. *plumifrontella*
TINEIDAE
Eastern Grass Tubeworm



79 *Acrolophus* cf. *texanella*
TINEIDAE
Texas grass tubeworm



80 *Amydria* sp.
TINEIDAE
Burrowing Webworm Moth

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81 Tineinae
TINEIDAE
Clothes Moth



82 *Argyresthia oreasella*
ARGYRESTHIIDAE
Cherry Shoot-borer



83 *Atteva aurea*
ATTEVIDAE
Ailanthus Webworm Moth



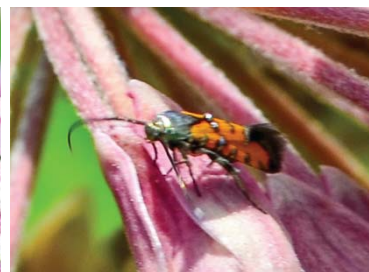
84 *Diploschizia impigritella*
GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE
Yellow Nutedge Moth



85 *Glyphipterix quadragintapunctata*
GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE
Sedge Moth



86 *Aetole tripunctella*
HELIODINIDAE
Brilliant Sunspur Moth



87 *Neoheliodines nyctaginella*
HELIODINIDAE
Sun Moth



88 *Plutella xylostella*
PLUTELLIDAE
Diamondback Moth

TAXONOMIC LIST OF MICROMOTHS INCLUDED IN FIELD GUIDE

This list attempts to depict the organization of the photos by taxonomic grouping. While all moths in the photos have assigned superfamilies and families not all of those are classified to subfamily, tribe or subtribe. Where these classifications are available, they were used to organize the photos. Taxonomic classification was obtained from iNaturalist and BugGuide.

MICROMOTHS are an artificial grouping of moth families comprised of mostly tiny moths whose features are best viewed with a microscope.

SUPERFAMILY: Adeloidea **fairy moths** – extensible ovipositor used to pierce plants for egg laying; most are metallic day fliers

FAMILY: Hellozelidae

1 *Antispila* sp. Shield-bearer moth; have opposing white forewing spots

SUPERFAMILY: Choreutidae **metalmarks** – often with metallic scales; jerky flight; at rest fluff wings at odd angles

FAMILY: Choreutidae

SUBFAMILY: Choreutinae

2 *Brenthia pavonacella* Peacock Brenthia; said to mimic jumping spiders; underwings held outward lifting up the forewings in a fluffed up posture

3 *Prochoreutis inflatella* Skullcap Skeletonizer; associated with wetland skullcaps; brownish with white speckled sheen on wings, outer wing edges orange or reddish

4 *Tebenna gnaphaliella* Everlasting Tebenna Moth; warm tan-orange wings with light gray to white speckling; most associated with weedy grassland fields

SUPERFAMILY: Epermenioides **fringe-tufted moths** – projecting scale tufts on inner margins of hindwings; narrow wings with whorls of bristles on legs

FAMILY: Epermeniidae

5 *Epermenia pimpinella* Fringe-tufted Moth; drab brown coloration with black spotting; larvae feed on members of the carrot family (golden alexanders, honewort, yellow pimpinella)

SUPERFAMILY: Gelechioidea **curved-horn moths** - horn-like structures which curve over the top of the head between the antennae; largest group of micromoths

FAMILY: Autostichidae **autostichids** – difficult to characterize; family members with varied features

SUBFAMILY: Symmocinae

6 *Gerdana caritella* Gerdana Moth; light tan-yellow forewings

7 *Taygete atributella* Triangle-marked Twirler; pale grayish with dark brown head and markings

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TAXONOMIC LIST OF MICROMOTHS INCLUDED IN FIELD GUIDE(Cont.)

FAMILY: Blastobasidae **scavenger moths** – transverse row of spines along underside of abdomen; males have notch at the base of antennae

SUBFAMILY: Blastobasinae – nocturnal, small narrow-winged, often uniformly colored dull gray or tan

TRIBE: Blastobasini

8 *Asaphocrita* sp. Scavenger Moth

9 *Blastobasis glandulella* Acorn Moth

10 *Pigritia* sp. Scavenger Moth

FAMILY: Coleophoridae **casebearer moths** – slender, wings with fringed hairs

SUBFAMILY: Coleophorinae – tiny slender with lancelike wings; many are dull colored brownish, gray, white, or yellowish

11 *Coleophora* sp. 1 Metallic Casebearer Moth: most commonly seen, metallic bronze

12 *Coleophora* sp. 2 Casebearer Moth

13 *Coleophora* sp. 3 Casebearer Moth

14 *Coleophora* sp. 4 Casebearer Moth

SUBFAMILY: Chrysopeliinae

15 *Walshi miscecolorella* Sweet Clover Root Borer: banded brown and tan with upturned scales along back; larvae bore into the roots of sweet clover, bull thistle, lupine, and milkvetch

FAMILY: Cosmopterigidae **cosmet moths** – narrow lance-like wings, some with bright orange/red markings

SUBFAMILY: Antequerinae

16 *Euclementia bassettella* Kermes Scale Moth: shiny metallic silver forewing with orange-red stripe on sides

SUBFAMILY: Cosmopteriginae

17 *Cosmopterix clemensella* Clemen's Cosmet Moth: gray with bold orange-yellow band on lower forewing with fine white streaked markings on top of forewing, legs, and antennae

18 *Limnaecia phragmitella* Shy Comet Moth: shiny buff-tan with 4 brown spots on forewing

FAMILY: Depressariidae **depressarids** – horizontally flattened

SUBFAMILY: Depressariinae

19 *Agonopterix alstroemeriana* Poison Hemlock Moth: pale cream color with distinct brown or reddish spot on the center of the outer edge of forewings; used as a biocontrol for poison hemlock

20 *Agonopterix thelmae* Thelma's Moth: forewing yellow-brown with dark speckling; black smudge mark near middle of wing

21 *Depressaria depressana* Purple Carrot-seed Moth: pale cream head with dark chocolate brown forewings often with purplish sheen

SUBFAMILY: Stenomatinae

22 *Antaeotricha schlaegeri* Fruitworm Moth: resembles birddropping moths

(Noctuiodea/owlets); larger, overall white and pale gray with dark black-gray tuft on top of thorax

FAMILY: Elachistidae **grass miner moths** – narrow lance-like fringed wings; usually white, gray, or black with white markings

SUBFAMILY: Elachistinae

23 *Elachista* sp. 1 Grass Miner Moth: very tiny often white or metallic silver with white bands, fringed wing tips

24 *Elachista* sp. 2 Grass Miner Moth

FAMILY: Gelechiidae **twirlers** – largest group; narrow fringed wings

SUBFAMILY: Anacampsinae

TRIBE: Anacampsini

25 *Anacampsis levipedella* Silver-dashed Anacampsis: gray from head to middle of body, back end black with distinct white marks; dances upon landing – walks in wavy line followed by several turns

SUBFAMILY: Anomologinae

26 *Aristotelia roseosuffusella* Pink-washed Aristotelia: pinkish-brown with diagonal black and white lateral marks

27 *Monochroa gilvolinella* Twirler Moth: warm brown with dark central mark

28 *Stereomita andropogonis* Twirler Moth: found near host plant little bluestem

Midwest Region, USA

Beginner's Guide to Moths of the Midwest - Micromoths

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Angella Moorehouse & Illinois Nature Preserve Commission

Photos: Angella Moorehouse (angella.moorehouse@illinois.gov). Produced by: Angella Moorehouse with the assistance of Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Identification assistance provided by: multiple sources (inaturalist.org; bugguide.net)



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TAXONOMIC LIST OF MICROMOTHS INCLUDED IN FIELD GUIDE(Cont.)

SUBFAMILY: Dichomeridinae

29 *Dichomeris flavocostella* Cream-bordered Dichomeris: black with wide pale cream scalloped edges

30 *Dichomeris inversella* Inverse Dichomeris: brown and white speckling

31 *Dichomeris juncidella* Dichomeris Moth: dull dark brown to black with tiny white spots on central forewing

32 *Dichomeris ligulella* Palmerworm Moth

33 *Dichomeris nonstrigella* Little Devil Moth: shiny black with orange “horns”

34 *Dichomeris ochripalpella* Shining Dichomeris: shiny metallic blue and black

35 *Dichomeris punctipennella* Many-spotted Dichomeris

36 *Dichomeris* sp. 8 Dichomeris Moth

SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae

TRIBE: Gelechiini

37 *Chionodes discoocellella* Eye-ringed Chionodes

38 *Chionodes fondella* Chionodes Moth: creamy white with 4 distinct marks on wing edges

39 *Chionodes mediofuscella* Black-smudged Chionodes: warm orange-brown with black shoulder marks

40 *Chionodes* sp. 4 Chionodes Moth

41 *Fascista cercerisella* Redbud Leafroller: dark brown/black with prominent white spotting

42 *Gelechia lyncella* Twirler Moth

43 *Stegasta bosqueella* Red-necked Peanutworm: dark brown with peach hourglass

TRIBE: LITINI

44 *Arogalea cristifasciella* White Stripe-backed Moth: white with dark brown/black lateral stripes

45 *Coleotechnites* sp. 1 Coleotechnites Moth

46 *Coleotechnites* sp. 2 Coleotechnites Moth

47 *Pubitelpusa latifasciella* White-banded Telpusa

FAMILY: Momphidae **momphids** – wings held over body at rest; projecting scale tufts

SUBFAMILY: Momphiinae

48 *Mompha eloisella* Red-streaked Mompha: narrow wings; white with orange-rust terminal markings

49 *Mompha stelleda* Mompha Moth

FAMILY: Oecophoridae **concealer moths** – diverse group

SUBFAMILY: Oecophorinae

TRIBE: Oecophorini

50 *Decantha boreasella* Reticulated Decantha Moth: dark brown with large peach patches

51 *Epicallima argenticinctella* Orange-headed Epicallima: brightly colored with dark and pale orange

52 *Mathildana newmanella* Newman's Mathildana: shiny black with orange head and forward sides

FAMILY: Scythrididae **flower moths** – frequently visit flowers; generally shiny brown, some with white markings

Schinia spp. (Noctuiodea/Owlets) are also called flower moths – these are much bigger with banded underwings

53 *Landryia impositella* Flower Moth: metallic brown with white x markings

54 *Scythris trivinctella* Flower Moth

55 *Scythris* sp. 2 Flower Moth

SUPERFAMILY: Gracillarioides **tube moths** – plant leaf miners

FAMILY: Bucculatricidae **ribbed-cocoon makers** – very small with narrow wings wrapped around body

56 *Bucculatrix* sp. Ribbed Cocoon-maker

FAMILY: Gracillariidae **leaf-blotch miners** – usual upright resting posture; “push-up moths”

SUBFAMILY: Gracillariinae

57 *Caloptilia bimaculatella* Maple Caloptilia

58 *Caloptilia blandella* Walnut Caloptilia

59 *Caloptilia violacella* Caloptilia Moth

60 *Caloptilia* sp. 4 Caloptilia Moth

61 *Caloptilia* sp. 5 Caloptilia Moth

TRIBE: Acrocercopinae

62 *Acrocercops astericola* Leaf Blotch Miner

TRIBE: Ornixolinae

63 *Neurobathra strigifintella* Leaf Blotch Miner

Midwest Region, USA Beginner's Guide to Moths of the Midwest - Micromoths

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TAXONOMIC LIST OF MICROMOTHS INCLUDED IN FIELD GUIDE(Cont.)

SUPERFAMILY: Micropterigoidea **mandibulate archaic moths** – small group, the most primitive moths

FAMILY: Micropterigidae

64 *Epimartyria auricrinella* Goldcap Moss Eater: dark brown/black with fuzzy peach head

SUPERFAMILY: Schreckensteinoidea **bristle-legged moths** – only group with large stout spines on hindlegs; legs raised in rest

FAMILY: Schreckensteiniidae

65 *Schreckensteinia erythriella* Bristle-legged Moth

SUPERFAMILY: Sesiioidea **clearwing borer moths** – large micromoths; clearwings with wasp-like bodies; diurnal often visit flowers; wasp mimics

FAMILY: Sesiidae

SUBFAMILY: Sesiinae

TRIBE: Melittiini

66 *Melittia cucurbitae* Squash Vine Borer: bold red and gray coloration

TRIBE: Synanthedonini

67 *Carmenta bassiformis* Eupatorium Borer

68 *Carmenta ithacae* Clearwing Borer

69 *Carmenta pyralidiformis* Boneset Borer

70 *Carmenta suffusata* Clearwing Borer

71 *Synanthedon acerni* Maple Callus Borer

72 *Synanthedon exitiosa* Peachtree Borer

73 *Synanthedon rileyana* Riley's Clearwing: bold yellow horizontal striping on body

74 *Synanthedon scitula* Dogwood Borer

SUBFAMILY: Tinthiinae

TRIBE: Paranthrenini

75 *Vitacea scepiformis* Grape Root Borer

SUPERFAMILY: Tineoidea **clothes, carpet, and bagworm moths**

FAMILY: Tineidae **clothes moths** – small to medium size; wings held roof-like over body; often with fuzzy heads

SUBFAMILY: Acrolophinae

76 *Acrolophus popeanella* Clemen's Grass Tubeworm

77 *Acrolophus propinqua* Walsingham's Grass Tubeworm

78 *Acrolophus plumifrontella* Eastern Grass Tubeworm

79 *Acrolophus texanella* Texas Grass Tubeworm Moth

80 *Amydria* sp. Burrowing Webworm Moth

SUBFAMILY: 81 Tineinae -----n/a Clothes Moth

SUPERFAMILY: Yponomeutoidea **ermine moths**

FAMILY: Argyresthiidae **shoot borer moths (shiny head-standing moths)**

82 *Argyresthia oreasella* Cherry Shoot-borer: narrow curled wings; white with dark brown posterior markings

FAMILY: Attevidae **tropical ermine moths** – only 1 (Alianthus webworm) brightly colored orange with orange and blue/black spots

83 *Atteva aurea* Alianthus Webworm Moth

FAMILY: Glyphipterigidae **sedge moths** – larvae feed on sedges; slender elongated body; some with metallic shiny wing patterns

84 *Diploschizia impigritella* Yellow Nutsedge Moth

85 *Glyphipterix quadragintapunctata* Sedge Moth

FAMILY: Heliodinidae **sun moths** – metallic scales; brightly colored day fliers; often on flowers; many hold legs elevated at rest

86 *Aetole tripunctella* Brilliant Sunspur

87 *Neoheliodines nyctaginella* Sun Moth

FAMILY: Plutellidae **diamondback moths** – slender with wide lateral stripe down back

88 *Plutella xylostella* Diamondback Moth: reddish brown sides with wide buff yellow central stripe