

HONG KONG MOTH RECORDING PROJECT

BY DR. R. C. KENDRICK



Vitessa suradeva (new to HK in 2017)



Mecodina albodentata
(new to HK in 2016)



Hepatica sp. A
(undescribed species)



Hydatocapnia gemina (new to HK in 2009)



Titulcia confictella (new to HK in 2016)



Mudania sp. cf. *major* (new to HK in 2017)

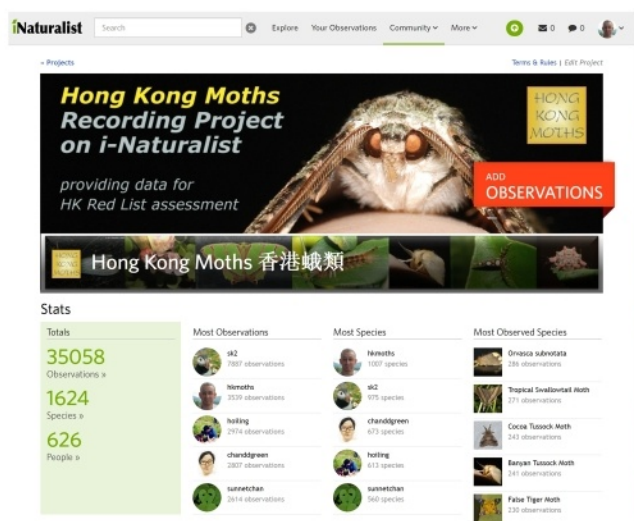
This project has been ongoing since the 1980s with Dr. Kendrick co-ordinating the project since 1996

- Aims**
- to document the moth species found in Hong Kong
 - to investigate and evaluate each species ecology, geography and taxonomy
 - to identify species in need of conservation action, and actions needed

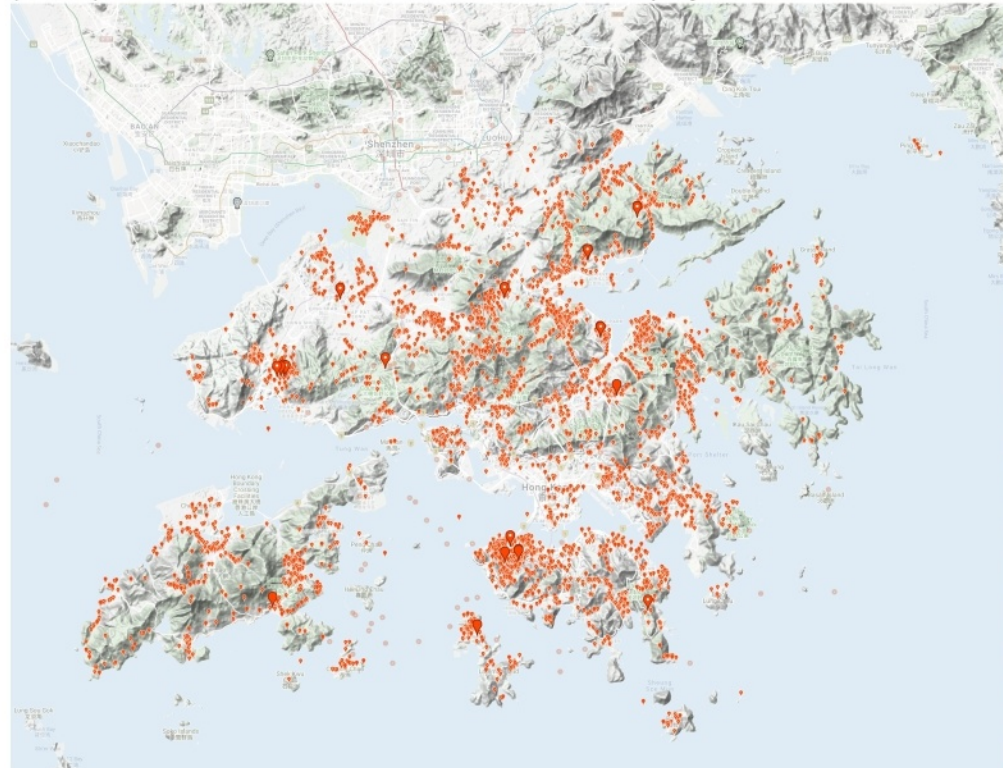
- Actions** To meet these aims, the Hong Kong Moth-ers, supported by the Hong Kong Lepidopterists' Society and overseas collaborators (through the ALCs) have:
- assisted development of Hong Kong's Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plans;
 - undertaken (and continue to) ecological investigations through baseline moth surveys, documenting moth species, their identification, distribution, abundance, life histories and taxonomy;
 - participated in, as leaders and educators, moth surveys and training events such as: (Inter)National Moth Week, City Nature Challenge; Tai Tam Bioblitz and the Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium series;
 - published books, scientific papers, websites and moth data online (iNaturalist)

Online moth observation data is collated via the iNaturalist website portal <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/hong-kong-moths>, where the main public dataset is held. Data is also held (some 75,000 observations) on a private database maintained by Dr. Kendrick. These data are being worked into a book *AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE MOTHS OF HONG KONG*, based upon Dr. Kendrick's PhD study and further work on the Hong Kong moth fauna, in collaboration with most major local moth researchers and overseas taxonomists. The book is to be published by HKLS, now targeting publishing by early 2020. Some of the data is online at the HK Moths website and a HK Moths Blog . . . <http://hkmoths.ihostfull.com/index.html> <https://hkmothsblog.wordpress.com/>

Recent Findings - species new to Hong Kong are regularly discovered. In the last decade some 70 species have been added to the HK list, and a further 40 species described as new to science. Many more await description. There are now over 2,450 moth species documented from Hong Kong.



Hong Kong Moths Recording Project on iNaturalist; now over 35,000 observations since launch in 2011 (above) screen shots of the landing page and the most observed species (below) distribution of observations submitted to the project



Dr. Kendrick and volunteers in the field (above) City Nature Challenge, 2018; Tai Po District [photo by Sunny Chan] (below) moth surveying in progress, Ho Chung Valley, Sai Kung District, April 2018



The *Macroglossum* species (Sphingidae) were reviewed in 2010, providing a key to all the species known from Hong Kong. Further species (at least 2) have been added to the HK list since, and one has been demoted to a subspecies since the 2010 paper.



Collaboration with other researchers around the world has been fundamental to documenting Hong Kong's moth fauna. The Gelechioidea, in particular, comprise many poorly documented families. Reaching out via specialist newsletters helps establish ties with researchers in this difficult group and has resulted in many new species from Hong Kong being formally described.



Collaboration within Hong Kong's commercial sector has also been beneficial, with access given to special sites under developmental pressure. *Plecoptera quaesita*, below, is a species new to Hong Kong in 2018, from one such site that has had moth recording take place for the first time as part of a bigger wildlife survey.

