



* Twice as many moth species have declined as have increased

* Southern Britain, (south of York), has seen a decrease in larger moth numbers of 44 per cent since 1968 and 75% of species are in decline

The Spinach has the dubious honour of being the species with the highest rate of decline in Scotland of 98% since 1968. If Britain's human population of 55 million in 1968 had undergone a similar decrease we would be left today with only enough people to populate the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, i.e. around one million.

However it's not all doom and gloom as in northern Britain, (north of York), moth populations have remained stable overall, though this represents a balance between declines in some species and increases in others.

Species on the increase in Argyll include the Scorched Wing (with an almost five fold increase) and the Clouded Silver.

Argyll is also home to some of Scotland's rarest moths including the Slender Scotch Burnet which is only known from half a dozen sites on Mull and Ulva following its extinction on Morvern in the 1940's.

So moths should be seen as more than just food for other creatures being fascinating to study and worthy of conservation in their own right.

Their quick response to changes in their environment also make them valuable indicator species and barometers of what is happening in our countryside.

Copies of the report are available for just £5 + £1.50 P&P. To order your copy please phone 0870 7744309 or visit www.butterfly-conservation.org

