At first you may think that this is a butterfly because it flies in sunshine, basks with its wings open and often settles with them raised up over its body. Almost all other moths fold their wings down along their bodies when at rest. The ground-colour is usually yellowish but varies, and in the Irish subspecies hugginsi is strikingly white. There is usually a lattice grid-pattern of brown markings on both the upperside and underside of the wings, but this can also vary. Latticed Heaths are widely distributed over grassy heathland, moorland, gardens and waste ground. They may be seen throughout Britain and Ireland, although in Scotland usually only in the southern half. The caterpillars have two colour forms, and may be either greenish or purplish, lined with white, and feed on Lucerne, clovers and trefoils. Fields of Lucerne (the animal forage plant also known as Alfalfa) can be a big attraction. Except in the north, there are two generations a year, and caterpillars can therefore be found at any time from early June to late September. They crawl under the loose surface of the ground to pupate and remain dormant there until emerging the following May.