

The Case of the Pink Grasshopper

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Saturday, 25 July 2009
Last Updated Monday, 10 August 2009

A strange report came to the Ranger, Rob Smith, the other day of a pink grasshopper on the Pastures. This was followed up by a photograph of one on some rocks. What was this strange creature?

Pink Grasshopper

We decided to investigate: reaching the area, Rob soon caught sight of one on the rocky area just below the grass. A thorough search produced several more specimens, together with some more normal green grasshoppers.

A trawl through the literature produced the answer - a common meadow grasshopper - (*Chorthippus brunneus*). Apparently it is quite common "in pink" and in various other shades, to match the dead grass in the lower vegetation - grey, brown, purple etc. This type of camouflage helps the insect to break up its outline, creating the perfect camouflage, until, that is, it jumps out on the rocks to sun itself!