

**LEAF MINING ORGANISMS NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED
ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT - 2009**

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During the past year evidence has been found on the Island of three new leaf mining Agromyzid flies, one sawfly and two moths.

DIPTERA

AGROMYZIDAE

***Liriomyza tanaceti* de Meijere, 1824** on Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*

Jackie Hart found corridor mines on Tansy 23.8.2009 in Strawberry Lane, Mottistone SZ 4184. The frass was deposited in two rows on alternate sides of the mine, typical of Dipteran mines but other features of the mines so confused me as to make me unable to distinguish the causer to species level. I therefore sent the mined leaves to John Robbins. He considered that there were two Dipteran miners involved. This species causes a shallow upper surface narrow linear mine with the frass laid in short, sometimes longer, streaks. It is considered locally common in the South and Midlands and widespread and not uncommon in much of Western Europe.

***Phytomyza archangelicae* Hering, 1937** on Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*

Bill Shepard and I visited Burnt Wood, Porchfield SZ 4492 8.7.2009. Neither of us having visited the site for some years we were both surprised to find there an extensive area of Angelica. Even more surprising was to find many of the leaves mined. Each mine was a shallow upper surface branched and irregular corridor, widening towards the end, with irregular black frass grains. Confirmation of the identity was again by John Robbins. I subsequently found more vacated mines in Combley Great Wood 16.8.2009. Abroad, the fly is widely distributed in Fennoscandia. This fly is not yet on the official British List but John Robbins has records from Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

***Phytomyza pullula* Zetterstedt, 1848.** on Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*

This is the second miner found by Jackie Hart 23.8.2009, not identified by me but identified by John Robbins. The larva of this fly produces a narrow unbranched corridor mine on either the upper surface or the lower surface of the leaf, beginning at the edge of the leaf in a leaf tooth, very shallow and running towards the leaf base. The frass is in grains, rather irregular with some grains touching. This fly also mines *Achillaea*, *Anthemis* and *Matricaria* and is reported to be widespread in England and to be found throughout the Holarctic.

HYMENOPTERA

TENTHREDINIDAE

***Parna apicalis* (Brischke, 1888)** on Limes, *Tilia* spp.

The first British record of this Sawfly was from Tunbridge Wells, Kent 1.6.2007. It was native to southern Finland, Estonia, central Europe southeast to Bulgaria. I found the first Island mine in the main drive to Quarr Abbey SZ 5692 28.5.2009. on Lime *Tilia x europaea*. The first, Kent,

record was from *T. cordata* small-leaved Lime. Andrew Halstead has now recorded it from ten species of Lime at Wisley. The mine measures 3 x 2.5 mm, is a buff-coloured blotch towards the apex of the leaf, involving the teeth. The frass consists of separate scattered grains. The leaf itself is not deformed which distinguishes the miner from the previously known British species *Parna tenella* which causes the whole leaf to roll up and cover the mine. The timing of the mines is different too, the larvae of *apicalis* completing their mining by mid-May to early June and the larvae of *tenella* not starting mining until mid-June and completing early August. By 2009 *P. apicalis* had been reported from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Gloucestershire, Cardiff, Clwyd, Denbigh, Nottinghamshire, and Shropshire. Although originally it was thought to have been accidentally introduced, the now wide distribution of records is thought perhaps to be more indicative of the sawfly having been present in England for some years but overlooked. I have subsequently recorded the mine at Osborne 9.6.2009.

LEPIDOPTERA

ERIOCRANIIDAE

***Eriocrania sparrmannella* (Bosc, 1791)** on Birches *Betula* spp.

There are eight species of *Eriocrania* in Britain, six of which mine Birch. Provided that the larva can be examined they can easily be identified to species. At Mottistone Common SZ 4084 I found several tenanted mines 12.6.2009. This is the last of the genus to mine. The mine consists of an initial short linear corridor near the midrib leading to a full depth blotch, reddish brown in colour and filled with the long tangled threads of frass, characteristic of the family. The larva is whitish with a brown head. The species is described as local throughout Britain, north as far as Moray. Abroad it is found in Scandinavia, central Europe and across to the old USSR and Japan. It is uncommon in Hampshire. Dr John Langmaid confirmed my identification.

MOMPHIDAE

***Mompha langiella* (Hübner, 1796)** on Enchanter's-Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*

Bill Shepard found tenanted mines 16.8.2009 in Combley Great Wood SZ 5488. At the time I thought these were the mines of *M. terminella* but examination of the larvae later at home led to my identification of the mine causer as *M. langiella*, later confirmed by John Langmaid. The mined leaf looks rather odd. There are short straight corridor mines, irregular branched corridor mines, dramatic zig-zag corridors and also large white full depth blotch mines. This variegated appearance is because the larvae mine gregariously and after initially mining corridors they leave the mines, move elsewhere on the leaf and then initiate blotch mines. The moth is described as local and found in open woodland and shaded situations. It also mines Willowherbs *Epilobium* spp. and *Chamerion*.

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