

***Evergestis limbata* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae):
A species new to mainland Britain**

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July 1994 proved to be one of the warmest on record on the Isle of Wight with mean maximum temperatures of 23.3°C (average 20.6°C) and mean minimum of 15.5°C (average 13.3°C). Rainfall figures were below average and winds came from the south between 1st-12th and 25th-31st and from the north between 13th-25th. Numbers of moths recorded at an MV light trap run in my garden at Chale Green were good, with several counts of 95-100 species of macro-moth per night. Good numbers of common migrant species, such as *Udea ferigalis*, *Nomophila noctuella*, *Autographa gamma* and *Agrotis ipsilon* were recorded.

On the 23rd July I trapped an unfamiliar *Evergestis* species. After some research, the species was still a mystery and I stored the specimen ready to pass it on to S. Knill-Jones. To my amazement I trapped another specimen on 30th July. This latter individual was associated with a large arrival of *A. gamma*, as well as numbers of other probable migrants such as *Evergestis extimalis*, *Idaea vulpinaria atrosignaria*, *Ostrinia nubilalis*, *Rhodonetta sacraria* and *Heliothis peltigera*.

I passed the two specimens onto S. Knill-Jones, who showed them at the British Entomological & Natural History Society annual exhibition where they were identified as *Evergestis limbata*. The specimens (now in the S. Knill-Jones collection, Freshwater, IW) represent the first and second mainland British records of the species. The only other British record is a single individual trapped on Guernsey on 18th July 1990 by T.D.N. Peet (1990). The species ranges over central, southeastern and parts of southern Europe. The species is said to be abundant in these areas and feeds on *Sisymbrium*, *Alliaria petiolata*, *Isatis tinctoria* and *Genista tinctoria*.

Acknowledgement

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References

Peet, T.D.N. 1990. *Evergestis limbata* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) new to the British Isles. *Entomologist's Record* **102**: 302.

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