

Newsletter: November 2009

New and unusual host plants

(a) *Lyonetia clerkella* (Lep:Lyonetiidae):

More foodplants for this lepidopterous leaf miner have emerged recently. The usual food plants of *Lyonetia clerkella* are members of the Rosaceae and Birch (*Betula* spp.), however in recent years it has also been found on Laurel (*Lauraceae*).

It is known from Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.) and Steve Holmes found it on a variant of this plant. It was mining Cockspur Thorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*). This small spiny tree is establishing in areas of the UK and is a native of North America.

Steve Holmes discovered the mine (shown opposite) on 20th September in Elton, Cheshire, VC58.

This may be the first record of *L. clerkella* on this host.

A further interesting record for this miner was on Elm (*Ulmus* sp.).

On 16.x. 2009 Kevin Royles found a mine of *Lyonetia clerkella* on Elm *Ulmus* sp. close to the village of Brington, Huntingdonshire VC31.

He e-mailed Barry Dickerson the photograph shown opposite for confirmation. As this was a food plant that he was not familiar with as a host to *L. clerkella* Barry forwarded the image to John Langmaid.

John agreed with their identification and informed Barry that he had found two vacated mines of *Lyonetia clerkella* feeding on *Ulmus pumila X japonica* at Farnham Park, Surrey, VC17 on 22.ix.2007.



Image © Steve Holmes



Image © Kevin Royles

(b) *Coleophora binderella* (Lep:Coleophoridae) on Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)



Kevin McCabe found *Coleophora binderella* feeding on Sweet Chestnut at Cadishead Moss L.W.T. (Lancashire Wildlife Trust) Reserve, South Lancashire, VC59 on 14.ix.2009.

He said that 'there were several feeding blotches on one leaf, which makes it appear to be happy feeding on Sweet Chestnut.'

I am trying to rear it through. The case is shown opposite.

There is a large old Birch (*Betula sp.*) tree which is nearby the Sweet Chestnut with some branches overhanging it.

On the 10.x.2009 I visited the same area and found *C.binderella* feeding on the Birch. My thoughts are that the first *C.binderella* found had probably dropped from this Birch tree and had taken to feeding on the Sweet Chestnut due to the several large feeding blotches found on the leaf (as the photo above shows).'

This may be the first record of *C.binderella* feeding on this host.



Images © Kevin McCabe

(b) *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Lep:
Lithocolletinae) on Laburnum:



Steve Hind has found another new food plant for *P.leucographella*, with this mine on Laburnum from Holmbridge, South West Yorkshire, VC63 on 20.ix.2009.

It is centered on the central vein and shows the characteristic morphology for mines of *P.leucographella*.

As far as we are aware this represents the first record for *P.leucographella* on this host.



Images © Steve Hind