Newsletter: November 2010

An unexpected leaf miner on White Poplar (*Populus alba*)

On 30th October Martin Gray found a tentiform mine on White Poplar (*Populus alba*) at Saxilby, near Lincoln, Lincolnshire, VC54.

The mine was lower surface, with the frass piled at one end of the mine (right photo)

It was obviously a Phyllonorycter species and should have been *Phyllonorycter comparella* —a known leaf miner on this host in the UK.

Images © Martin Gray

Wisely, Martin decided to open the mine to examine the pupa and was surprised to see that the cremaster had long spines, whereas the Populus Phyllonorycters in Britain (and Europe) have either tiny spines or no spines on the cremaster (as shown overleaf).

Cremaster from *P.alba*

Image © Martin Gray

P.comparella cremaster

Image© Rob Edmunds

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John Langmaid was contacted and thought that the mine was probably *Phyllonorycter salictel*la, as he had bred this species from *P.alba* previously. This has a cremaster similar to the one Martin found.

The pupa is viable and will hopefully be bred out to identify the species. A return visit to the site where this mine was found confirmed the presence of Sallows (*Salix caprea*) nearby.

This finding emphasises the need for caution in identifying Phyllonorycter species on *Populus*. The moths ideally should be bred out to confirm identity

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A new foodplant for Ramphus oxyacanthae

Steve Hind has found Ramphus oxyacanthae (Col:Curculionidae) on a new foodplant, although it is known from this host plant in Europe.

He said 'Yesterday afternoon, whilst walking along a roadside in North Rode, Cheshire SJ8967 I noticed a single mine of *Rhamphus oxyacanthae* on a leaf of *Prunus spinosa*.

The hedgerow was primarily *Crataegus* and *Rhamphus oxyacanthae* was abundant throughout, despite being recently trimmed.'

National leafmining Lepidoptera scheme

The National Leafmining Lepidoptera database now has almost 215,00 records.

The top 15 most abundant leafmining species are as below. Perhaps the most striking aspect of this is the progress of Cameraria ohridella in such a short time since its discovery in 2002, in London.

Phyllonorycer leucographella is another leafminer which has received widespread publicity and perhaps its prominent position is due to this and the fact that it is found in gardens.

Top 15 most abundant species

Code	Taxon	Classification	Totals
0332a	Phyllonorycter leucographella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	36863
0366a	Cameraria ohridella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	25548
263	Lyonetia clerkella	Lepidoptera:Lyonetiidae	20233
254	Leucoptera laburnella	Lepidoptera:Lyonetiidae	14192
6	Eriocrania subpurpurella	Lepidoptera:Eriocraniidae	13393
50	Stigmella aurella	Lepidoptera:Nepticulidae	8895
293	Caloptilia syringella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	6415
321	Phyllonorycter messaniella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	6385
303	Parornix anglicella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	4547
610	Elachista argentella	Lepidoptera:Elachistidae	4240
125	Emmetia marginea	Lepidoptera:Tischeriidae	3327
288	Caloptilia stigmatella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	2690
294	Aspilapteryx tringipennella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	2604
323	Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	2586
341	Phyllonorycter maestingella	Lepidoptera:Gracillariidae	2461

I look forward to your records from this season, either as an Excel spreadsheet or as a Mapmate sync - my cuk is 1rx

Rob Edmunds