

National Leafmining Lepidoptera scheme:

Please email Mapmate files to Rob or upload to the Mapmate server for collection.

We are pleased to announce that Rob Edmunds is taking over the National Leafmining Lepidoptera scheme from Martin Ellis.

He will accept records in formats such as paper records through to Excel files and looks forward to including your Mompha and Cosmopterix species in the scheme.

Rob is at the same time expanding it to include the Momphidae and the Cosmopterix species.

Leafmine competitions:

The Mapmate filters are being reset to accommodate this change and will be in the next Lep update from Mapmate.

We are running two competitions this season, with prizes kindly donated by Paul Talbot of Pennine Books (www.penninebooks.co.uk) and hope that you will feel encouraged to enter.

Rob said that we must acknowledge the pioneering work from Martin in setting up and successfully running such a scheme and it is his heavy work commitments which mean he hands over the scheme.

Leafmine Competition 1:

It was thanks to Martin that he became interested in leaf miners, having met him at an AES exhibition, where he launched the scheme. He put Rob in touch with the late John Robbins and it snowballed from there.

This competition is to try and identify 15 commonly found leafminers of all orders. It is a good starting point if you are new to leafmining and introduces you to the range of mines made throughout the season.

Martin also put groups of people in touch to start-up the leafing web site, which has since gone from strength to strength.

The competition will run from now to October 31 2007.

Martin said that he was very grateful to Rob for volunteering to take over the running of National Leafmining scheme.

Your identifications must be good enough to satisfy your County Recorders.

Martin had been unable to give the scheme the time and attention it needed resulting in very little being achieved over the past couple of years.

Competition Rules:

'Rob has demonstrated his dedication to the leafmining cause in setting up the web site and the recording scheme will get a new lease of life with an enthusiastic new coordinator.'

The competition is only open to UK members as the idea behind the competition is to help gather more leafminer records to pass on to UK County recorders. The winner receives a copy, post free, of Emmet's Field Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera donated by Paul Talbot (www.penninebooks.co.uk) I would hope that those who already have a copy will enter into the spirit of the competition but not claim the prize should they win.

Please send any records to Rob from the past twelve months to bring the scheme up to date.

The book is now out of print and thus unobtainable to those who don't possess a copy already, so it seems best if the book goes to someone without a copy.

His Mapmate cuk is 1rx.

The competition runs from today until October 31st 2007.

Address:

The closing date for entries is November 15th 2007.

32 Woodcote Green,
Calthorpe Park
FLEET,
Hants
GU51 4EY

Please send your completed lists - with date and location data to Rob Edmunds.

The winner will be then be drawn at random from the entries.

Any problems or questions please don't hesitate to ask

but please remember its meant to be a fun challenge with the chance of a free book.

The aim is to identify the following miners:

Phytomyza ilicis

this dipterous miner makes large blotches on the leaves of Holly (Ilex). It forms in late summer and the mine develops over the winter Becoming fully formed in the spring.

Coleophora alticolella/glaucicolella - this is a Coleophora you can look for in the winter months. Look on the seedheads of Rush (Juncus) and you will find the bleached white cases of this species. The new cases can be readily found on the seedheads in late summer/early autumn

Eriocrania cicatricella

this is an early season lepidopterous miner of Birch (Betula). It makes blotch mines at the edge of the leaves. This species is easily identifiable as there will be several larvae in each mine (unlike the other Eriocrania species on this plant at the same time). Look for mines in May.

Orchestes fagi

this is a beetle miner of Beech (Fagus). Look on the freshly emerging beech leaves for this species in May. The early mine, a gallery, looks very similar to that made by a Stigmella species, but balloons out to give the characteristic delicate mine of this species.

Coleophora serratella

if you have never found a Coleophora species before I suggest you start with this one. Look in April for windows on the newly emerged leaves of eg Birch (Betula) or Hazel (Corylus). Turn the leaf over and you may be lucky to find this species. The cases are variable and may be found on several different plant species

Fenusa dohrnii

this sawfly miner makes blotch mines on the leaves of Alder (Alnus) and has several generations starting from early summer. There may be several mines on each leaf.

Caloptilia rufipennella - if you've never found mines of this moth look at the edges of leaves of Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) in June and July. If you find the edge rolled over into a cone then you've found this species!

Phyllonorycter rajella

is another miner found on Alder. It makes underside mines with a strong central crease. There are two generations, with mines found in July and then again in the autumn

Stigmella aurella a very common miner found on Bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg). Found throughout the UK

Lyonetia clerkella

again a very common miner in the UK (and the world!). It makes long gallery mines on a large number of plants. Often it causes the leaf to go brown, which helps you spot this miner. Start looking for this miner from May onwards. It has several generations over the year.

Phyllonorycter sorbi- This miner of Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia) etc is found throughout the UK and makes typical Phyllonorycter type blisters on the leaf, often curling it over. Look from June onwards for this miner.

Phyllonorycter coryli (Nut leaf blister moth) this miner causes white blister mines on the upper surface of Hazel.

There may be several mines on a leaf and can cause the leaf to fold upwards.

There are two generations each year. Look in July and then from September onwards

Agromyza nana - this is a common dipterous miner of Clover species (Trifolium).

Look for a short gallery leading to a large central blotch on the leaf. It can be found from the summer onwards and has two generations each year

Tischeria ekebladella - An autumn miner of Oak (Quercus). The mines look like white 'mini fried eggs' splatted onto the leaf. Look in September through to November for this miner.

Ramphus oxyacanthae - is a beetle miner of plants such as Hawthorn (Crataegus). It initially makes the leaf appear spotty. Later mines can be as galleries. the larva, wit its black head is very distinctive. Look for this miner in the autumn

Leafmine Competition 2:

This competition is in honour of Maitland Emmet who claimed he could add 50 species to a list in a single day in late October by leaf mining.

He went to Wales and, with Dave Slade, added 61 species to Dave's list (one new to Wales and nine new to Glamorgan).

He wrote about this in 1998 in The Entomologist's Record (Vol 110, p271-273).

The competition, in his honour, is open to all those who can record 40 (and over) species in a single day during 2007.

These have to be records acceptable to your County Recorder. Care must be taken with some species eg the Oak feeding species and identifications must be definite eg by breeding out, cremasters etc.

The species can be of any leafminer (not just lepidopterous).

Please send your day lists to Rob Edmunds by November 15th to be entered into the draw for a copy of Emmett's Field Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera.

The winner will be drawn at random and the decision of the leafminer team is final.

To encourage everyone to take part we will also send three winners a copy of the leafmine website on CD, if they already have Emmet's guide.

The CD loads up automatically on your PC and will be the latest version of the website and will be sent post free.

One copy will be awarded to those have recorded the highest day total in Southern England, one copy to the highest day total in Northern England and one copy to the highest day total in Europe.

Good luck!

Competition Rules:

The idea behind the competition is to help gather more leafminer records to pass on to UK County recorders.

The winner receives a copy, post free, of Emmets Field Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera.

I would hope that those who already have a copy will enter into the spirit of the competition but not claim the prize should they win. The book is now out of print and thus unobtainable so it seems best if the book goes to someone without a copy.

The competition runs from today until October 31st 2007.

The closing date for entries is November 15th 2007. The winner will be then be drawn at random from the entries.

Please indicate whether you are entering to win the book or CD.

Any problems or questions please don't hesitate to ask but please remember its meant to be a fun challenge with the chance of a free book or CD