

The *Phyllocnistis saligna* complex:



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We know that *Phyllocnistis ramulicola* Langmaid & Corley 2007 is found in southern Britain and *Phyllocnistis asiatica* Martynova, 1955 from just one site, in Wicken in Cambridgeshire.

But are most of what we call *Phyllocnistis saligna* actually *asiatica* and where do the *Phyllocnistis* species occur in the UK and on what hosts?

To determine which of the *saligna* complex species occur in the UK and what their distribution is the following help is offered:

Stella Beavan – will look at live moths:

'I need to have live moths for determining the full genome and I think the only way of realistically achieving this is to send me mines with or without cocoons but certainly still within leaves.

However, no reared specimen need be wasted so long as it is associated with adequate data and good descriptions and/or photos of the mines as DNA

barcoding can be done at a later date.

These can be kept in the freezer or just desiccated (i.e. don't let them go mouldy).

Take as many from long leaved *Salix* as you can, describe and photograph the mine and position of the cocoon. Does the mine involve the petiole?

Keep individually! I need live moths for the project I am involved with, so perhaps send me a mine or three once the cocoon is formed.'

Contact details: stellabeavan@outlook.com

Colin Plant- will look at mines and their morphology:

'My own input is primarily to harvest huge numbers of mines from Land's End to John O'Groats and then to describe and categorise these (notes, sketches, photos) and then, if I am lucky enough to rear adults, to pass these to Stella for her project.

However, I will be relying on people sending mined leaves to me in the post. I don't have time or physical fitness (let alone petrol money) to tour Britain myself!

If you are successful in rearing any *Phyllocnistis* from willows, I suggest that these go direct to Stella. I am happy to receive surplus moths myself because this material is intended for eventual DNA examination.

Always avoid killing fluids etc that might denature the DNA (kill in freezer; dry the pinned specimens at room temperature, don't "relax" crispy specimens, etc, etc). Ensure complete cross-referencing to the mines from which they were reared (where known) as this is crucially important.'

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