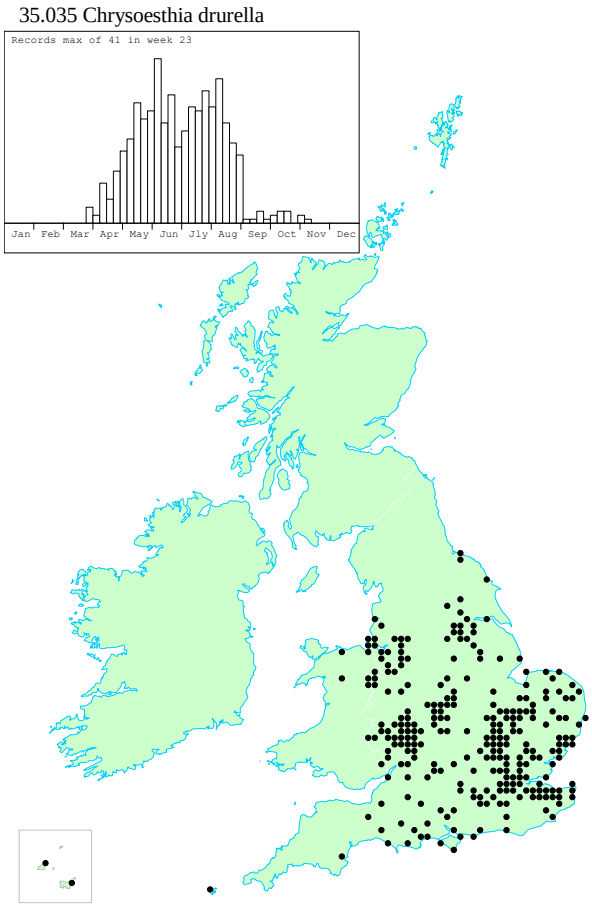
Species to look for in August

Lep: Gelechiidae:

Chrysoesthia drurella (Fabricius, 1775) & *Chrysoesthia sexguttella* (Thunberg, 1794):

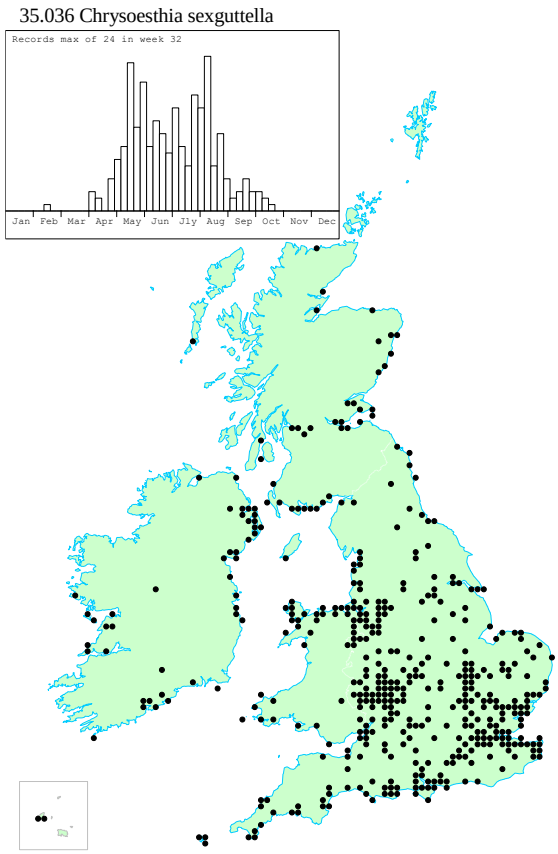
These two species are fairly common and widespread moths of disturbed ground, edges of arable land and coastal marshes etc, wherever the foodplants occur in good density.

C. drurella is restricted to England, parts of Wales and the Channel Islands having a more central, eastern and southern distribution within that region.



Maps produced using MapMate

C. sexguttella occurs more widely across the British Isles but is mostly restricted to coastal and estuarine habitats in northern and western parts.



Both species are double-brooded, with occasional third broods, so mines (both tenanted and vacated) can be found throughout the Spring to Autumn period.

Both species can be found in similar areas utilising the same plants, *Atriplex* (orache) and *Chenopodium* (goosefoot) spp. Fortunately the mines are readily distinguished; *C. drurella* mines leaves in a gut-like gallery, often with many per plant while *C. sexguttella* tends to have fewer mines per plant and forms a large white blotch with the black frass either ejected or packed round the mine edge. The larvae, if present, are very distinctive.

Chrysoesthia drurella mines

Chrysoesthia sexguttella mine

Chrysoesthia sexguttella larva

Chrysoesthia drurella larva

Chrysoesthia sexguttella adult

Chrysoesthia drurella adult

All Photos ©Ben Smart

© Steve Palmer

Further details:

Gelechiid Recording Scheme:

https://www.gelechiid.co.uk/

Dip: Agromyzidae:

This month we have two Agromyzids to find:

(i) *Liriomyza amoena* (Meigen, 1830):

This leaf miner is found on *Sambucus* species (Elder) and forms large dark, irregular blotches on the upper surface of the leaf.

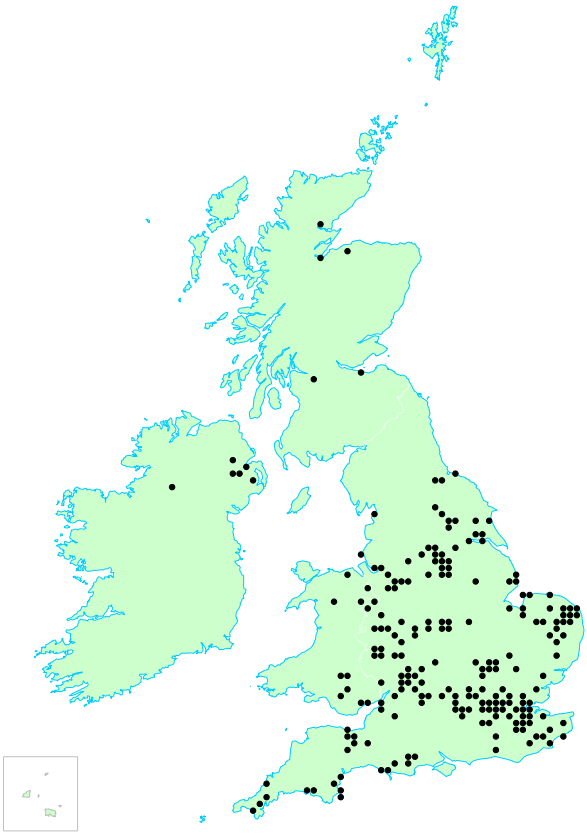
The frass is dark and conspicuous. The initial gallery (shown) is often consumed by the developing blotch.

Photo ©Barry Warrington

Although the host plant is usually abundant in a wide range of habitats, the larval mines of *L. amoena* are always rather sparse, with only one or two mines per plant.

August is the best time to record this species, which is fairly well established throughout England, becoming scarcer further north.

Liriomyza amoena



Map © National Agromyzidae Recording Scheme

(ii) *Liriomyza pusilla* (Meigen, 1830)*:*

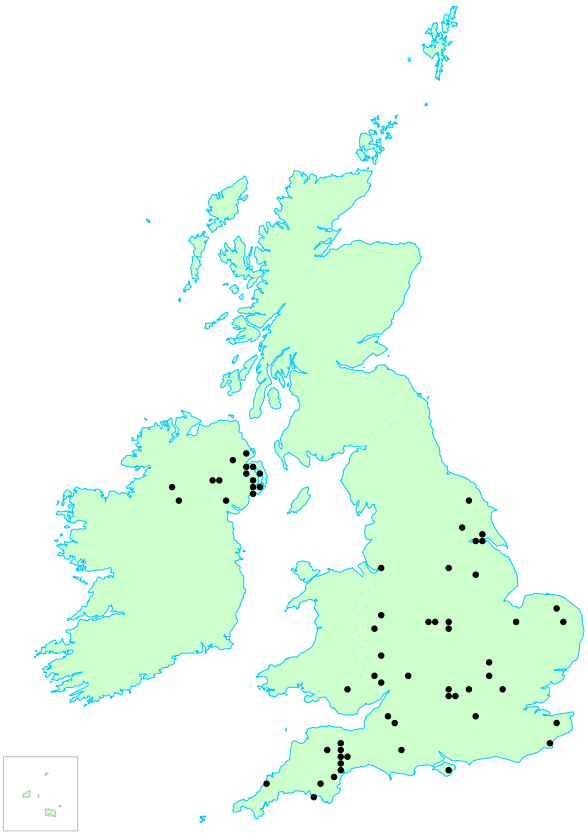
This miner is commonly found on Daisy but also occasionally on Aster and Golden Rod

The gallery is long and twisting and may cross over itself, often forming a secondary blotch [which can resemble that of *Calycomyza humeralis*]. The frass is arranged as long strings at the sides of the gallery but frequently washes out, with just odd grains remaining.

Although it appears to be a rather local species [see distribution map], this is probably due to the larval mines being low down and well hidden – it is often found by examining Daisies present in garden lawns.

Photos ©Rob Edmunds

Liriomyza pusilla



Map © National Agromyzidae Recording Scheme

Further details:

Can you add records to these maps?

If you find either of these Agromyzid miners then please photograph and iRecord.

National Agromyzidae Recording Scheme:

agromyzidaers@gmail.com

The next two mines have something in common – from the top of the leaf or frond it looks as if something is missing. It is only when you turn them over do you see the causal agent.

Dip: Anthomyiidae:

***Chirosia grossicauda* Strobl, 1899**

This is a common miner of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

It mines the lower surface of the rachis near to the frond tip. The upper surface grows more, which causes the frond to curl over.

It is easy to spot – just look to see if the tip of a pinnule seems missing:

Turn the fond over:

Photos ©Rob Edmunds

The characteristic rolled pinnule (which contains the larva, then puparium), if found, will confirm this species.

If you find this species please iRecord it and your record will be picked up and verified by the Anthomyiid recorder.

Lep: Gracillariinae:

***Parornix anglicella* (Stainton, 1850):**

A common leafminer of mainly Hawthorn (*Crataegus*) but also of Wild Service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and occasionally Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

Again, look for the leaf which seems to be missing its tip and turn it over – this leaf seems to have two tips missing due to this miner making two cones:

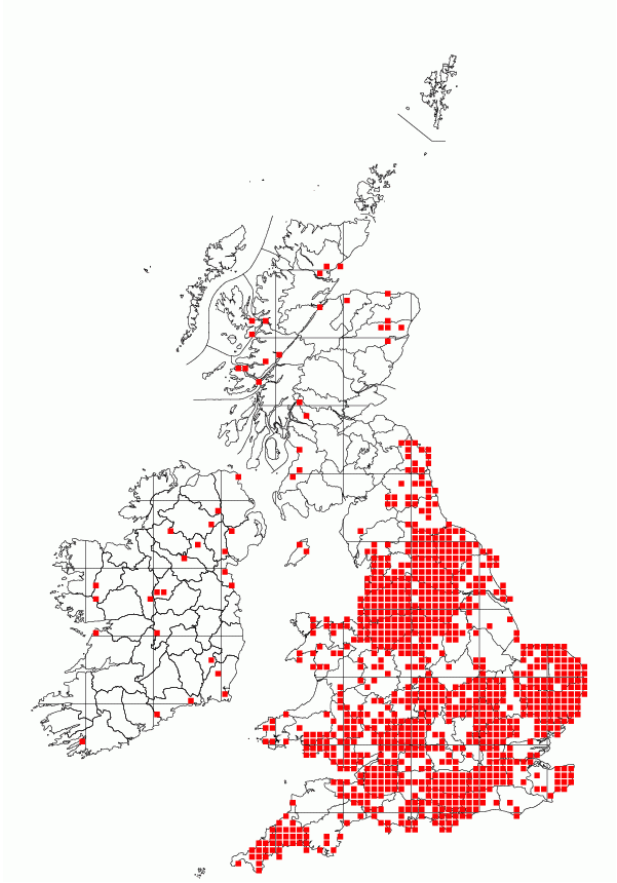
After making a small intial Phyllonorycter type mine the miner constructs two or more cones at the leaf edge, which are intially green but then turn brown.

The cone in the example shown is starting to turn brown:

Photos ©Rob Edmunds

A good leafminer to search for and find if you are just starting to look for leafmines.

It is widely distributed too:



Map produced using MapMate

Lep: Gracillariinae:

***Gracillaria syringella* (Fabricius, 1794)**

Another common and distinctive leafminer to look for in parks and gardens.

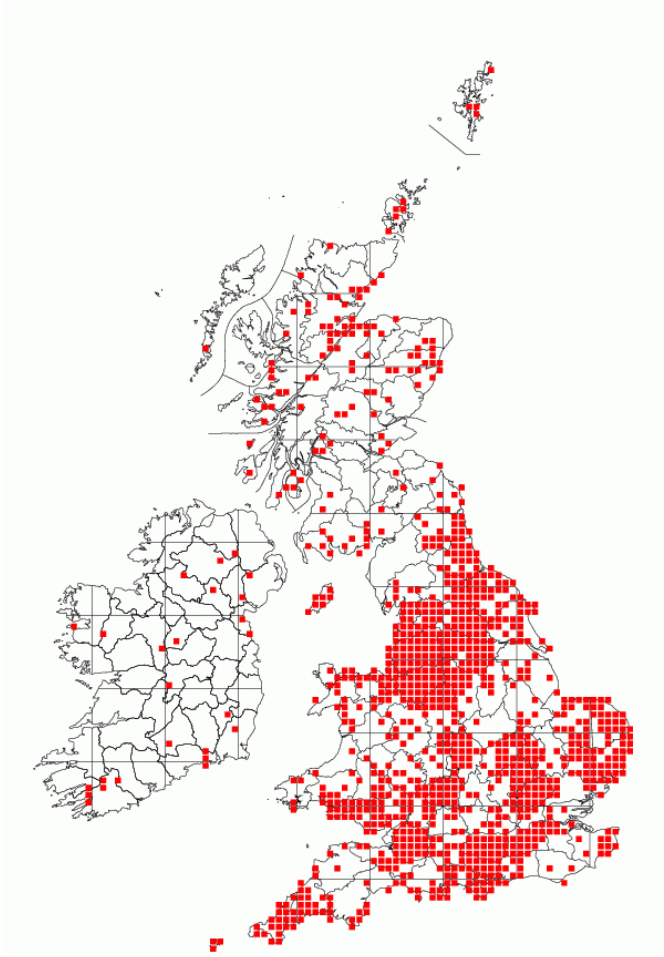
It feeds on Privet (*Ligustrum*), Ash (*Fraxinus*), Lilac (*Syringa*) and occasionally Jasmine (*Jasminum officinale*).

After forming an intial gallery it then makes a full depth blotch mine which, if at the leaf edge causes it to discolour and shrivel, as this (wet!) mine on Ash shows:

Photos ©Rob Edmunds

In the UK it is widely distributed:

Later the larvae will make two or more scruffy rolls or cones:



Map produced using MapMate

Hym:Tenthredinidae:

Heterarthrus nemoratus (Fallén, 1808)

A sawfly mine this time – one which is very distinctive and worth looking for.

This is a late summer miner of Birch (Betula). The older part of the mine is characteristically a red colour, which stands out and enables identification of this species.

There is little frass in the mine as it is ejected through a slit.

The short-legged larva feeds venter upwards in the mine, in common with most sawflies, and the colouration is pale brown:

In common with the Heterarthrus species the larva has a prosternal 'bow tie', when viewed ventrally:

In dorsal view it has pale prothoracic sclerotization with a median sulcus:

Photos ©Rob Edmunds

If you find this species please iRecord it and your record will be picked up and verified by the Sawfly recorders.

©Rob Edmunds