

Bucculatrix ulmifoliae (Lep: Bucculatricidae) - new to Britain:

In October 2006 Graham Collins, John Langmaid and Jim Porter found *Bucculatrix* mines on an unknown Elm (*Ulmus*) species at a park in Surrey.

The tree was subsequently identified as *Ulmus* 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' which is a hybrid of *U.pumila* and *U.japonica*.

The mine starts in the angle between a midrib and leaf vein and twists back upon itself to form a blotch. It then follows a vein, usually, before turning away at an angle:



Image © Ian Thirlwell

Two mines in close up:



Image © Rob Edmunds

Some larvae were found and they formed cocoons typical of the Bucculatricidae:



Image © Graham Collins

Moths were bred through, emerging from early April 2007. They proved to be *Bucculatrix ulmifoliae* - a species new to Britain.

Bucculatrix abedinella mines were also found on this tree species and have a different morphology to *B.ulmifoliae*, being less conspicuous and having three or four frass-free diverticula leading off the main gallery:



Image © Martin Honey

The larvae of these two species are also different, with those of *B.umlifoliae* being a pale yellow:



Image © Graham Collins

It only looks green (above) because of food in its gut and the colour of the leaf showing through the rather translucent pale yellow larva.

The larvae of *B.albedinella* are a darker colour:



Image © Graham Collins

B.ulmifoliae has been allocated number 274a on the British list.

Further details:
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