

Newsletter - January 2011 - Number 23

🐛 ***Ramphus oxyacanthae* (Coleoptera:
Curculionidae) – a new food plant**



Steve Hind found tenanted mines of *Ramphus oxyacanthae* on Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) in Sandholes Moss, Adlington, Cheshire VC58 on 3rd November 2010.

The characteristic larva can be seen in the above photo, feeding at the bottom edge of the mine.

Although *Sorbus* is a known food plant in Europe this is, as far as we are aware a new food plant in the UK.

Image © Steve Hind

Newsletter - January 2011 - Number 23

Coleophorid-like mining on Rock-rose – a cautionary tale!



Guy Meredith was looking for *Coleophora ochrea* on Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum chamaecistus*) in Rodborough Common, West Gloucestershire, VC34, on 15th September 2010.

He found what, superficially, appeared to be leaf mining damage on the Rock-rose leaves, but on closer inspection the culprit was found to be the larva of the Brown Argus butterfly (*Aricia agestis*) – seen at the bottom of the lower right leaf.

Newsletter - January 2011 - Number 23

The larva had created the typical *Coleophora* puncture marks in the leaf (as shown opposite):

Guy goes on to add:

The Brown Argus larva does in fact make circular entry holes just like a *Coleophorid*, and then it mines inside the leaf.

This is typical behaviour, as described in "Butterflies of Britain & Ireland" by Thomas & Lewington (1991). So any records of *Coleophora ochrea* based on early feeding signs alone, without the larval case, could perhaps be misidentification of Brown Argus feeding.

Images © Guy Meredith

