

Newsletter: June 2007

***Parna apicalis*** (Brischke, 1888) - a new British sawfly leafminer

Keith Palmer found mines on *Tilia cordata* in Tunbridge Wells Kent on 1st June 2007, which he thought were possibly *Parna apicalis* (looking at the photos of these on the leafmine website ([www.leafmines.co.uk](http://www.leafmines.co.uk))).

He sent mines to Andrew Liston for confirmation, who thought that they were this species, saying 'there are no miners in other orders which make similar mines in *Tilia*, as far as I know. As you noticed yourself, the mines do not cause the leaf to roll (which is always the case in *P. tenella* (Klug)). Also, the mines are smaller than *P. tenella*. Finally, the phenology seems to fit *P. apicalis*. *P. apicalis* adults appear, apparently very briefly, from mid-April to early May on the continent: the exact time depending on altitude. The larva completes development by mid-May / early June. By contrast, *P. tenella* adults only appear in mid-May at earliest, larval development is completed at earliest in mid-June, and the inhabited mines can be found as late as early August.'

The mines did not have any cast skins in, which would help confirm this species.

Keith sent mines to Rob Edmunds for photographs:



Some mines appeared to have cast larval skins, one of which is seen in the top photograph opposite (above the diagonal vein, to the left of centre).

The cast skin was dissected out and is shown in ventral view (top) in comparison with a *P. apicalis* larva (bottom), from the website. The patterns of sclerotizations match.

Ewald Altenhofer and Andrew Liston confirmed this as *Parna apicalis* and as far as we are aware it is a new species to Britain.

Thanks to Ewald Altenhofer and Andrew Liston for their help with identifying this species.

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