



The early stages of *Prays peregrina* Agassiz, 2007 (Lep.; Praydidae) on *Ruta chalepensis* (Fringed Rue)



Prays peregrina - male (top photo) and female (bottom photo) **Photo** © Colin Plant

Prays peregrina was first described by Agassiz (2007) after captures in the London area between 2003 and 2007. Its foodplant and life history were unknown, but he thought it was an adventive species, possibly Asiatic.

Agasiz and Kiddie (2016) reported that this species was established in the South East of England, mostly in residential areas and urged microlepidopterists to carefully examine garden shrubs for signs of infestation.

On 20.x.2016 Colin Plant (Plant, 2016) noticed mines on a neighbour's Fringed Rue in Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, VC20.



Photo © Colin Plant

He took cuttings and attempted to rear this unknown leaf miner. Much to his surprise adults of *Prays peregrina* emerged at the end of the month.

The egg is laid on the underside of a leaf and the first instar larva makes a small gallery before exiting on the leaf upper surface and subsequently mining other leaves singly as the instars develop.

The final instar larvae feed in a variety of ways - either mining the whole leaf, with the head end in the leaf and the tail protruding, or by eating the whole or part of the leaf.



First instar mine (above) and later instar mines (below)



The larvae pupate, suspended by cremasters, head down in a loose cocoon of spun leaves:



Photo © Colin Plant

Pupation lasted seven days and newly emerged adults are reluctant to fly, dropping to the ground if disturbed. This could make searching for them more difficult.

This species has also subsequently been discovered to mine *Ruta graveolens* (Common Rue) in Central London and microlepidopterists are urged to look for this species particularly in garden centres and botanic gardens.

Colin would be every interested to learn of any further discoveries of the larval stages.

References:

Agassiz, D. J. L., 2007. Prays peregrina sp. n., (Lep.: Yponomeutidae) a presumed adventive species in Greater London. *Nota Lepidopterologica* 30(2): 407 - 410.

Agassiz, D. and Kiddie, R. 2016. Prays peregrina Agassiz - the enigmatic adventive (Lep.: Praydidae). *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 128: 134-136.

Plant, C.W., 2016. On the early stages of Prays peregrina, Agassiz, 2007 (Lep.:Praydidae). *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 128: 311-317

Further information:

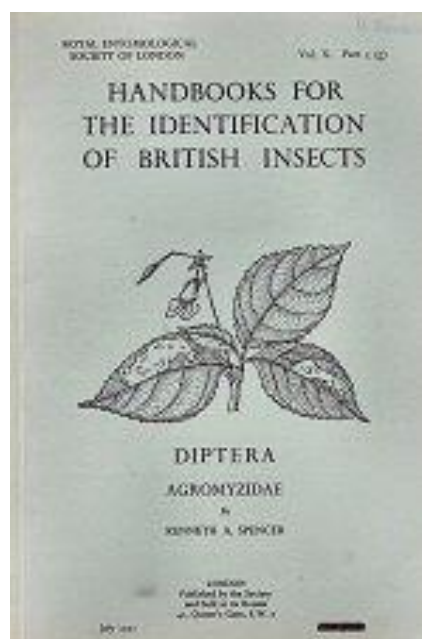
<http://leafmines.co.uk/html/Lepidoptera/P.peregrina.htm>

Guides to download:

Some very useful and difficult to obtain) guides are now available to download:

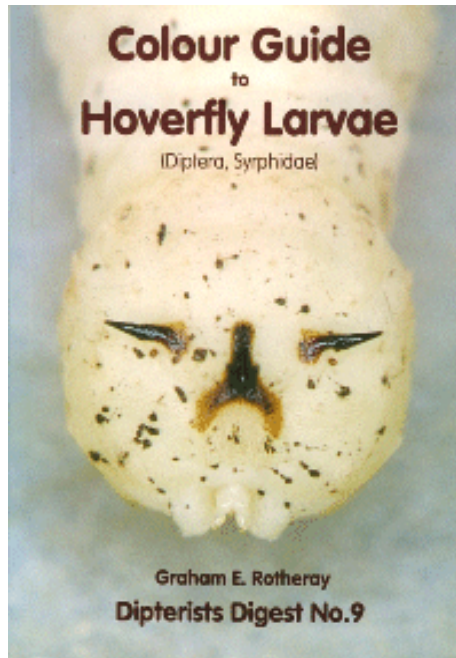
1. Spencer's guide to Agromyzidae is available from the Royal Entomological Society website:

http://www.royensoc.co.uk/sites/default/files/Vol10_Part05g.pdf



2. Rotheray's Colour Guide to Hoverfly larvae is available from the Dipterist's Forum website:

http://www.dipteristsforum.org.uk/sgb_dipterists_digest.php?id=9



Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) a new and uncommon host for *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* (Hübner, 1796), (Lep:Lithocolletinae)

Robert Homan found a leaf mine of *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* on 31.x.2016 at Clifford Chambers, VC33, East Gloucestershire, on *Prunus cerasus*(?).

It appeared initially to be a new host plant for this species in the UK, although it is recorded from Europe (Ellis, 2016) on *Prunus avium*.

Robert said that, although he was not specifically looking for this leaf miner, there is a thicket of cherry trees at the site, many of them suckers, growing with other planted trees and possibly bird-sown hawthorn (*P.corylifoliella* was found on that as well).

Further investigation showed that Barry Dickerson had found this species too on Cherry on 21.ix.2009 at a site near Eynesbury, Huntingdonshire, VC31.

Tony Davis had also found a specimen on *Prunus avium* on 06.x.2016 at Stanstead Forest, West Sussex, VC13.

It appears that *P.corylifoliella* is an uncommon leaf miner on *Prunus* species in the UK, being possibly xenophagous.



Photo © Robert Homan



Photo © Barry Dickerson



Photo © Tony Davis

References:

Ellis (2016) Leafminers and Plant Galls of Europe, www.bladmeeorders.nl (accessed 21.xi.2016)