

AGROMYZIDAE NEWSLETTER

LATEST NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL AGROMYZIDAE RECORDING SCHEME

DETAILS OF UPDATED SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS AND NEW PROBLEMATIC MINERS

The schemes [website](#) is designed to be as up to date as possible and incorporates the latest discoveries and research by workers from all over the globe. In light of a recently published excellent paper by Julia Guglya in Ukraine, the following species pages have been updated;

Key :

HP = Host plant(s) updated

CF = Confusion species updated

RG = Recording Grade updated

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|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Agromyza albipennis | HP | CF | |
| Agromyza hendeli | HP | CF | |
| Liriomyza pusilla | HP | | |
| Phytomyza hellebori | HP | CF | RG |
| Phytomyza medicaginis | HP | | |
| Phytomyza obscura | HP | CF | |
| Phytomyza origani | HP | CF | RG |
| Phytomyza tetrasticha | | CF | RG |

The recording of a previously readily and frequently recorded species, *Phytomyza tetrasticha*, has now become much harder! Julia reared *P. origani* and *P. obscura* from *Mentha*, with the mines being identical to those of the commonly recorded *P. tetrasticha* [which is known solely from *Mentha*]. Although *P. origani* and *P. obscura* are yet to be reared from *Mentha* in the UK, it is only prudent that mines fitting *P. tetrasticha* [see image below] must now be reared, with the resulting adults examined in detail, to confirm the causer.



Leaf mine of *Phytomyza obscura* / *origani* / *tetrasticha* on *Mentha* © Graham Calow.

Therefore, the Recording Grade for *P. tetrasticha* has now changed to '5' [Rearing of adult material is essential], with the Recording Grade for *P. origani* been updated to '2,5' [Readily identified on a particular host (in this case *Origanum*) but not on others (in this case *Mentha*)]. The Recording Grade for *P. obscura* remains '5'.

At present, there are 41 records of *P. tetrasticha* in the schemes database, with only six been confirmed by way of reared adults. The remaining 35 records will now have to be treated with caution. *P. obscura* appears to be a very rare species in the UK, with the only confirmed records been almost 70 years ago; has this species been hiding in plain sight!?

The mines of '*P. tetrasticha*' [on *M. aquatica*] are most abundant in July and September but as this year has been slow to get going, August may be a good month to look for these type of mines on any species of *Mentha*.

Another interesting observation Julia made was that of rearing *Phytomyza hellebori* from *Clematis*. The miners of *Clematis* were already very troublesome with rearing required for all known species, so *P. hellebori* now adds to the headache! The Recording Grade for *P. hellebori* has now changed to '2,5'; readily identified on *Helleborus* but rearing is required for mines on *Clematis*.

Rearing agromyzids really does throw up some very interesting results and it would be fantastic if more people were to undertake this fascinating process – the findings add so much to our understanding of the family and often lead to species new to the UK or species new to science being unearthed so it is well worth giving it a go!

If anyone has any questions or needs clarification regarding anything discussed within this newsletter, as always, don't hesitate to get in touch;



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