

AGROMYZIDAE NEWSLETTER

LATEST NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL AGROMYZIDAE RECORDING SCHEME

RECORDING THE HOLLY LEAF-MINER, *PHYTOMYZA ILICIS* CURTIS, 1846 – AN UPDATE

In the May 2020 newsletter [No. 13], the recording of *Phytomyza ilicis* Curtis, 1846 was discussed in regards to the comments and findings made by Papp & Černý (2020), who stated that “Much to our surprise, after genitalia preparation we found that Kertész’s males represent two species (from the same collection).....We are afraid that all former records of *Ph. ilicis* from Europe will need to be either confirmed or revised”.

However, this is no longer the case; Warrington (2021) examined the ‘second’ species which proved to be *P. ilicis*, with damaged genitalia. Therefore, all records of *P. ilicis* do **not** need to be confirmed or revised unless these are based purely on atypical mines (as depicted below) or adults reared from atypical mines – any material reared from mines resembling those shown below should be examined [male genitalia] in detail to confirm the causer.



Phytomyza ilicis (reared & gen. det) leaf mines resembling those of *P. jucunda* and some Nearctic spp.

Based on the findings of Warrington, recorders are now able to record *Phytomyza ilicis* again, based on *typical* larval mines (as shown below); *Phytomyza ilicis* agg is no longer necessary and has therefore been removed from the UKSI.

The stipulation that all records must be supported by a photo still applies; as always, this is in no way casting doubt over a recorder's ability, it is purely to aid the verification process. As mentioned in the yearly review newsletter [No. 14], this requirement is still met with some resistance but thankfully, the vast majority of recorders are more than happy to abide by this stipulation and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

All supported records within iRecord for '*P. ilicis* agg (unreared/undissected material)', submitted between May 2020 and January 2021, will now be incorporated into the scheme's database, having previously been omitted.



Typical *Phytomyza ilicis* mines.

It is no doubt just a matter of time before the other European Holly miner, *Phytomyza jucunda* Frost & Sasakawa, 1954, turns up in the UK so please do keep an eye out for mines which agree with those shown in the images on page 1; if you do come across similar looking mines, please collect and examine/photograph the anterior spiracles or alternatively, forward the mines to the scheme organiser.

If you would like to receive a copy of the paper by Warrington discussing the clarification of *Phytomyza ilicis* in Europe, please do get in touch; agromyzidaers@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Barry.

National Agromyzidae Recording Scheme Organiser

www.brc.ac.uk/scheme/national-agromyzidae-recording-scheme

References

Papp, L. and Černý, M. 2020. *Agromyzidae (Diptera) of Hungary*. Volume 4. Phytomyzinae III. 708 pp. Pars Ltd, Nagykovácsi.

Warrington, B. P. 2021. Clarification on the European status of *Phytomyza ilicis* Curtis (Diptera, Agromyzidae). *Dipterists Digest (Second Series)* **28**: 89-93.

Many thanks to Adam Parker for permitting use of his photo (page 1, lower).