
Euonymus leaf notcher found in the UK for the first time

An Asian species of moth *Pryeria sinica* Moore (Lepidoptera: Zygaenidae), commonly known as the Euonymus leaf notcher, has been found in the UK for the first time. An adult male was recorded inside the house of a member of the public in Upper Bucklebury, Berkshire, but the source remains unknown. It was identified by Martin Harvey (Open University) and confirmed by Martin Honey (Natural History Museum).

The host plants of *P. sinica* are ornamental *Euonymus* spp. and *Celastrus* spp. Invasive populations of this pest have caused substantial damage to *Euonymus* hedges in Virginia, USA. The larvae feed gregariously on their hosts in the spring and once numbers build up, they can cause total defoliation. The adult moths fly between October and December in the USA, therefore, it is possible there will be further records this autumn if there is an established population. The moth is very distinctive and is likely to be recognised as non-indigenous by moth recorders. A moth that appears to be the same species has been photographed in Spain.

Fera is interested to know whether this was an isolated finding, or whether the moth is present elsewhere in the UK. This information will contribute to a risk assessment to consider the potential impact to the UK and whether any measures should be taken to control this species and prevent further introductions.

Please report any suspected finds of this species to your local Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspector or to Plant Health, Room 10GA01, The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ (Tel: 01904 465625, Fax: 01904 465628).

Dominic Eyre, 22 October 2009



Adult male *Pryeria sinica* moth © Julian Dobbins