

Angle Shades *Phlogophora meticulosa* (Linnaeus)

The Angle Shades is a very distinctive common moth that is well distributed throughout most of Great Britain. Found in virtually all habitats, including gardens, this could be a great species for beginners to get to grips with 'mothing'. Angle Shades adults can frequently be seen during the day resting in sometimes conspicuous locations, on walls, fences and flora and may be readily attracted to light sources at night.



Photograph R Edmondson/Butterfly Conservation

The moths fly all year round but are particularly abundant from May to October. This species is resident to the British Isles but our resident populations are reinforced every year with the arrival of immigrants from the continent. A characteristic feature of the Angle Shades is the way in which it rests. The forewings are generally held deeply creased, with the leading edge folded over to resemble a dead leaf.



Photograph Alan Barnes/Butterfly Conservation

Soon after emergence the moth is coloured in shades of green, pink and brown but these colours will fade throughout the season. The patterns on this moth are fairly constant, with 3 angle-shaped bands in the centre of the forewing in shades of brown/orange. The trailing edge of the forewing is deeply scalloped and the length of the forewing along the top edge is significantly longer than the bottom edge, so when at rest, the edges of the two wings form a clear v-shape.

Angle Shades caterpillars feed on a variety of plants all year round and in mild weather throughout the winter, including barberry, nettle, docks, Bramble, valerian, Hazel, birches and oaks. Early larval instars possess the ability to take on the colour of their food making them less conspicuous to predators and naturalists alike!