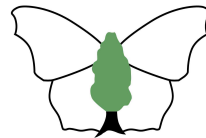


## Potential and occasional problem species



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### Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella*

**Usually reported:** Summer/early Autumn.

**Potential problem:** Despite the premature browning appearance of horse chestnut trees infested by the caterpillar mines, there is currently no evidence that infestation leads to a decline in tree health. Trees have survived repeated infestations and produce leaves in the following year, although there may be reduced growth vigour in younger trees.

species mine within the leaf of horse chestnut, and each leaf can hold many mines (up to 700 mines have been found on a single compound leaf). Severely affected leaves shrivel and turn brown by late summer and fall early, well before normal leaf fall. The adult moth is chestnut brown with 3 silvery white transverse stripes edged in black.

- Mine length up to 4 mm.
- Adult wingspan about 10 mm.



*Leaves affected by Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner (Photo: M. Parsons)*



*Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner mines (Photo: M. Parsons)*

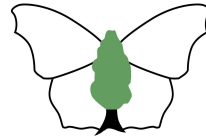


*Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner (Photo: D. Green)*

**Identification:** Horse chestnut trees infested by the leaf mines are the most usually encountered stage of this moth. The caterpillar of this

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## Potential and occasional problem species



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**Confusion species:** Damage by the fungus *Guignardia aesculi* can give rise to a superficially similar blotch to the mine of the mine but these are not translucent when held up to the light. The adult moth is small and is superficially similar to a range of other species, although the ground colour combined with the wing pattern usually distinguishes this species. The adult moth can sometimes be found in swarms around affected trees, however, it is more usually the appearance of the trees, because of the mines, that is reported.

**Distribution:** First noted in Macedonia in the late 1970s, this species has spread rapidly over Europe. It was first recorded in this country at Wimbledon in 2002, since when this moth has spread extremely rapidly and at the time of writing (summer 2007) has been found widely over the southern half of England, west to Somerset and south Wales and north to Derbyshire, although areas of high infestation are largely restricted to London, the home Counties, parts of East Anglia and parts of the Midlands. The Forestry Commission is monitoring the spread of this species and records should be forwarded to them, see [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/leafminer](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/leafminer).

**Ecology:** Parkland, roadsides, car parks etc. The main host of this moth is the white-flowering horse chestnut, although other species are variably affected, whilst some are resistant. The widely planted red-flowering horse chestnut appears resistant to the moth. Occasionally the mines are found on Norway maple and sycamore. There are several generations a year (thought to be up to 5 generations in optimal conditions, although 3 generations seem more typical in western Europe) with numbers building up over the summer. Eggs are laid from May to August, the caterpillars completing their growth in about 4 weeks. Overwinters as a pupa within the mine in fallen leaves, the adult emerging from April. Transport by vehicles may have aided this species' spread.

**Possible control measures:** Confirm identification. Removal and destruction of fallen leaves, such as composting, over the autumn/winter may reduce infestation levels. Chemical insecticides have been tried but it is unlikely these can be used successfully or routinely in urban environments. Also there are no chemical treatments with current approval for use in the UK.

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