1733 (8240) Lead Belle Scotopteryx mucronata (Scopoli, 1763)

ssp. umbrifera (Heydemann, 1925) Local

ssp. scotica (Cockayne, 1940)

Local

1734 (8241) July Belle Scotopteryx luridata (Hufnagel, 1767)

ssp. plumbaria (Fabricius, 1775) Common

Diagnostic external characters

As described by Waring et al. (2009), in mucronata the forewing discal spot is usually tear-shaped and roughly equidistant between the ante-median and post-median cross-lines. In luridata it is usually smaller, rounded and more dot-like, and tends to be closer to the ante-median cross-line. However, this character is not always helpful and in some cases the only safe method is to examine the genitalia. Flight period can be a useful indicator, but should not be relied upon. Blackish-grey melanic forms are frequent in mucronata scotica, but appear to be rare or absent in *luridata*.

Diagnostic morphological characters of the males

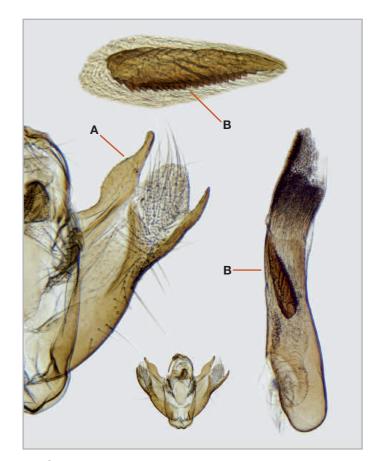
Produced costal extension of valva strongly dilated medially (Fig. 15, A). Produced costal extension of valva slightly dilated medially (Fig. 17, A). Aedeagus with long, narrow cornutus having only small, inconspicuous teeth (B).....

Diagnostic morphological characters of the females

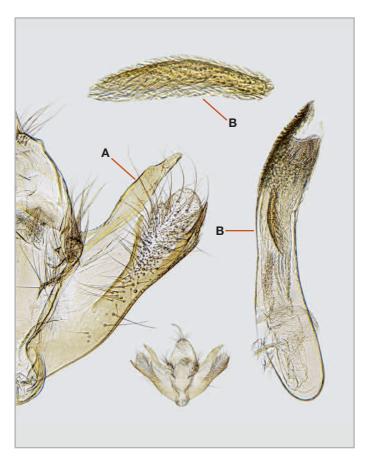
Provided that the bursa copulatrix is fully expanded, the differences described below are relatively straightforward to see.

Bursa copulatrix narrow, not twisted, with slightly tapered and less hooked signum (Fig. 16, A). Ductus bursae relatively broad (B)...

Bursa copulatrix broad, round and twisted at right angles, with strongly hooked, pointed signum (Fig. 18, A). Ductus bursae relatively narrow (B)



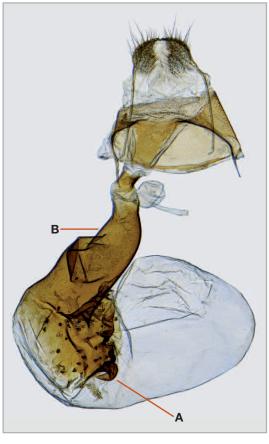
15. Scotopteryx mucronata male



17. Scotopteryx luridata male



16. Scotopteryx mucronata female



18. Scotopteryx luridata female

Plate 4. Genitalia of male and female Scotopteryx mucronata and S. luridata, with cornutus of aedeagus enlarged.