

Pest profile – Horse chestnut leaf miner

Scientific name: *Cameraria ohridella*

Taxonomic position: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae

Common name: Horse chestnut leaf miner



Hosts: Horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* and other *Aesculus* species, but hybrid red flowering Horse chestnut *Aesculus x carnea* is highly resistant. Also Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Norway maple *A. platanoides*.

Threats: Aesthetic and nuisance issues in streets, parks and gardens, but little effect on tree health and growth so far. Commercial crops of *Acer* species could be affected by the pest. Combination of moth damage with drought or bleeding canker (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6KYBGV>) could be more serious.

Distribution and spread: Rapid spread in Britain from first record in London in 2002 to sites across most of England and Wales. No records yet from Scotland or Ireland. Dispersal is by wind assisted flight, also accidental vehicle transport of adults or infested leaves.

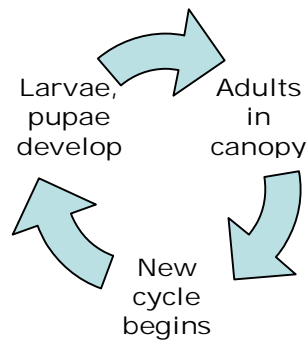
Climate change: Warmer, drier summers would favour the insect (more generations) and could stress the host, increasing impact. Frost damage of autumn re-flushing could cause shoot dieback.

Control: Pupae in overwintering leaves on the ground; remove and burn or high temperature composting reduces infestations in following year. The **IMPACT** project will trial control of pupae in overwintering leaves using entomopathogenic nematodes and/or fungi, as a potential cost-effective alternative to autumn/winter leaf removal.

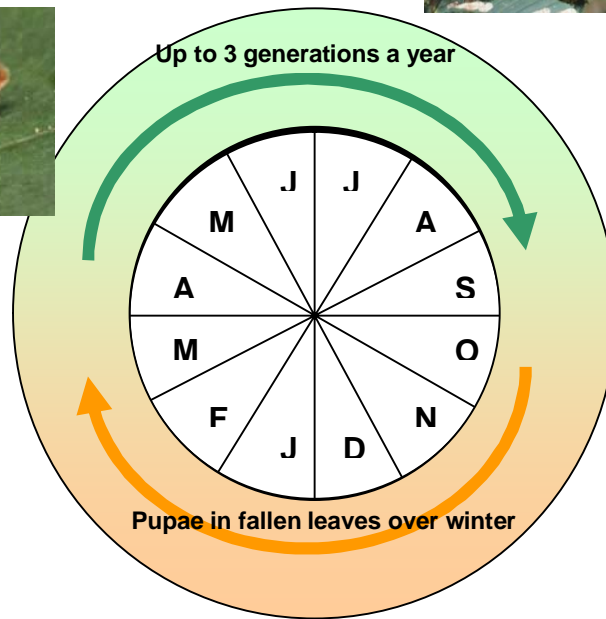
Monitoring: Monitoring through observations of damage and leaf sample inspection. Adult males can also be caught in pheromone traps.

The IMPACT project, with partners Forest Research in Wales, Swansea University and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth is looking at improved pest control measures. Top of the agenda for the *Integrated Management of forest Pests Addressing Climate Trends (IMPACT)* team is assessing how changing climate will influence the damage caused by pests and pathogens. The project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland – Wales Programme (INTERREG IVa) and Forestry Commission Wales.

Find out more about this important research project at – www.impactproject.eu



First adults in spring



- Translucent mines up to 4cm long often merge to cover most of the leaf.
- In heavy infestation, damage causes premature leaf fall.
- Monitoring through observations of damage and leaf sample inspection.
- Adult males can also be caught in pheromone traps.



For more information on this European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Ireland Wales Programme (INTERREG 4A) project, co-funded by COFORD and Forestry Commission Wales log on to:

www.impactproject.eu