

The Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society are pleased to announce the publication of “Micro Moth Field Tips”, an introduction to finding the early signs of micro moth larvae throughout the year. The authoritative accounts written by Ben Smart, who is rapidly becoming well-renowned for his expertise in this area, are arranged in a chronological sequence to enable moth enthusiasts to indulge in their passion throughout the year.

Over 170 species found in the vice-counties of Lancashire and Cheshire are documented as illustrated opposite. There are hundreds of Ben’s excellent images to aid in the identification of these micro-lepidoptera and the information has a relevance far beyond the boundaries of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The publication has been co-funded by two charities, L&CFS and Butterfly Conservation, and is available with a selling price of just £16 (plus P&P).

For further details or to arrange to order a copy email us at MMFieldTips@butterflyconservation.org or call Rob Yates on 07542 942052. We’ll give you the necessary details and bank details as well as a reference number so that we can match your payments. I’m afraid we cannot take card payments.

Any general enquiries can be made to the e-mail address above.

Coptotriche marginea

Tischeriidae	10.003 <i>Coptotriche marginea</i> (Haworth, 1828)
Foodplant	Bramble (<i>Rubus</i> spp.).
Life cycle	Larva: September to March, July. Adult: May to June, August.
Distribution	Common in England, Wales, southern Scotland and Ireland. Common in VC58, 59, less so in VC60.
Photo details	Feeding signs from Chorlton, Manchester VC59; 04.01.15 (BS).

Mines of this species are found on bramble throughout the year. The larva within feeds over much of the winter period, although stops eating in the coldest weather. The mine begins as a white gallery, leading to a broader, pale brown funnel-shaped blotch. A hole is made in the lower epidermis of the leaf to allow frass to be ejected. The larva creates a silk-lined tunnel within the mine. Contraction of this silk may cause the leaf to fold around the mine as it develops. First generation larvae pupate within the mine in April; the second generation in July. If attempting to rear it is probably best to defer collecting the mine until later in the season, to prevent the leaf drying out before the completion of larval feeding. Once mines are brought inside into warmer conditions, the adults may emerge somewhat early.

Where present, the mine is easy to detect, and to separate from the more common *Stigmella aurella* (p.202), which forms a long, gallery mine. If there is any doubt, hold the mine up to the light and the relatively large, black-headed larva of *marginea* can be seen within the mine.

A similar species and fellow bramble feeder, *Coptotriche heinemanni*, is much more localised, being found at just a few sites in southern England. The mine of *heinemanni* is much less contracted than that of *marginea*. The adult differs too, having plain brown forewings.

