

The English name of this attractive medium-sized moth partly refers to the white spots on the leading edge of the forewings. The large-scale loss of elms due to Dutch Elm Disease is the probable cause for this moth's decline. The moth was formerly more widely distributed in England and Wales. Recent records are restricted to Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire and Essex, and there is evidence that the species is slowly expanding its range again in this area. Many recent records are of single individuals, suggesting that the moth may be persisting at low density.

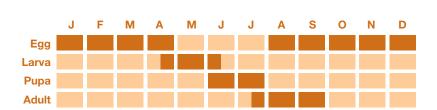
Foodplants

The larvae feed on the foliage of English Elm Ulmus procera and have also been reported to feed on Wych Elm U. glabra. The larvae are thought to prefer the epicormic side shoots on the trunks of mature trees, but a larva has also been found on the epicormic foliage of a stump shoot of English Elm.

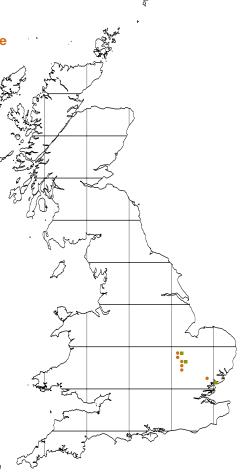
The moth has been found amongst hedgerows, in parks and woodland and along riversides.

Life cycle

The species is single-brooded. The eggs are laid in late summer and remain dormant over the winter before hatching in April of the next year. The larvae develop from late April-early June and feed by night on foliage. The pupae form in June, in cocoons spun among the leaves or ground litter. The adults fly at night from late July to September.



Adult record 1999 to 2004



Habitat management for the White-spotted Pinion

Loss of elm trees through Dutch Elm Disease is the biggest threat to this moth and other elm associated species, such as the White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrium w-album* butterfly. Management should aim to contain the spread of this disease, and to encourage elm in woodland and hedgerows.

- Retain healthy elm trees wherever possible. Mature elm stands, hedgerows or even single mature trees are of very high conservation importance.
- If elm trees are suspected to be infected with Dutch Elm Disease (first signs are leaf browning) seek expert advice. In positive cases the trees should be felled and debarked to prevent the spread of elm bark beetle, which carries the disease.
- Where possible allow re-growth from tree stumps if infected trees have been cut down, and take any necessary action to avoid re-infection.

Please contact Butterfly Conservation if the species is suspected to be present on a site.

How to survey/monitor

Adults come to light and larvae can be found by beating elm shoots.



right Ideal woodland edge habitat below Ideal hedgerow habitat





Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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The scheme includes Higher Level Stewardship, which supports management for targeted butterflies, moths and other biodiversity.