

3. Books that will help you identify your micros

Unfortunately, the books needed to identify micros are often expensive and you need lots of books to cover them all! The main ones available for each family are listed below, and there are lots of other more detailed ones. The much more general ones are listed in section 4: Identifying micros – starting out.

Pterophoridae (Plume moths)

There is a book by Colin Hart on plumes that should make it possible for you to identify them. Otherwise the main European text is far too confusing – use the [UKMoths](https://www.ukmoths.org/) website, if you don't have Colin's book!

Hart, C 2011 *British Plume Moths* BENHS

ISBN 978 1 899935 06 2

Pyralidae and Crambidae (pyralids and crambids)

This book has recently been published: Parsons, M and Clancy, S (2023) *A Guide to the Pyralid and Crambid Moths of Britain and Ireland*. Atropos Books ISBN 978-0-9551086-4-8

Barry Goater's book is good too albeit a bit out of date. You can manage most species with Goater, but the 'Scoparias' and one or two other genera are hopelessly difficult until you are experienced. UKMoths will help.

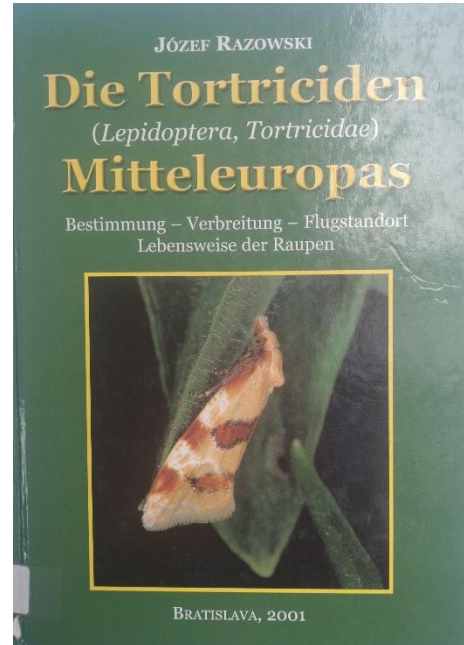
Goater, B 1986 *British Pyralid Moths*. Harley Books ISBN 0 946589 08 9

Tortricidae (tortricids and cochyliids)

The Ray Society books were a major breakthrough in micro identification and although they are now out of print, you can get them on a [CD](#). Recently Jozef Razowski has published some very useful books. There is also a volume in the Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland series.

Bradley, J. D., Tremewan, W. G. & Smith, A. *British Tortricoid Moths*. Vol. 1 1973 Vol. 2 1979 Ray Society. ISBN 0 903874 01 6 & ISBN 0 903874 06 7

Razowski, J. 2001 *Die Tortriciden Mitteleuropas* Bratislava. ISBN 80 967540 7 6 [The text is in German not English, but the pictures are great!]

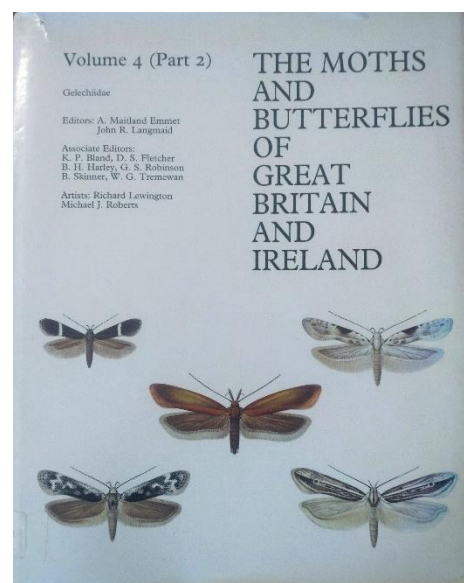


Bland, K. P. *et al.* (ed.) *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland Tortricidae* Vol, 5 (2 vols) Brill ISBN 978 90 04 25211 0

Together these volumes cover all of the British Tortricidae with pictures of adults and genitalia, maps, descriptions of lifecycles and notes on separating similar species.

Gelechiidae

Emmet, A. M. & Langmaid, J. R. 2002 (eds) *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol. 4 (2) Harley Books. ISBN 0 946589 67 4



Gregersen, K. & Karsholt, O. 2022 *The Gelechiidae of North-West Europe*, Norwegian Entomological Society, Oslo. ISBN 9788299692335

A fantastic book that covers all of the gelechiids of NW Europe with a very full text, including photographs of the adults in life as well as set specimens, pictures of the genitalia, pictures of the lifecycle stages and useful maps showing where they occur.

There is also a brilliant website, so try this: <https://www.gelechiid.co.uk/>



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Gelechiid Recording Scheme

The Gelechiid Recording Scheme covers 165 species in the family Gelechiidae (comprising 54 genera) recorded in the British Isles. It also, following common practise, includes species recorded from the Channel Islands.

The aims of the Scheme are:

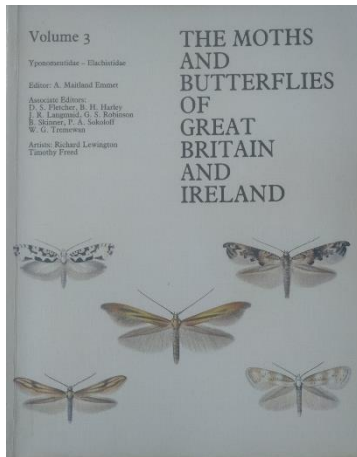
- to encourage interest in, and recording of, gelechiid moths
- to produce provisional species distribution maps at 10km level or better
- to increase knowledge of this family's ecology and status in order to aid their conservation
- to highlight areas where further research is needed

Momphidae; some other minor families, plus Oecophoridae

Emmet, A. M. & Langmaid, J. R (eds) 2002 *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol. 4 (1) Harley Books. ISBN 0 946589 66 6

The 'flatbodies' can be tricky but this is the best book available.

Elachistidae; Coleophoridae; Lyonetiidae; Yponomeutidae



Emmet, A. M. (ed.) 1996 *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol. 3 Harley Books ISBN 0 946589 43 7

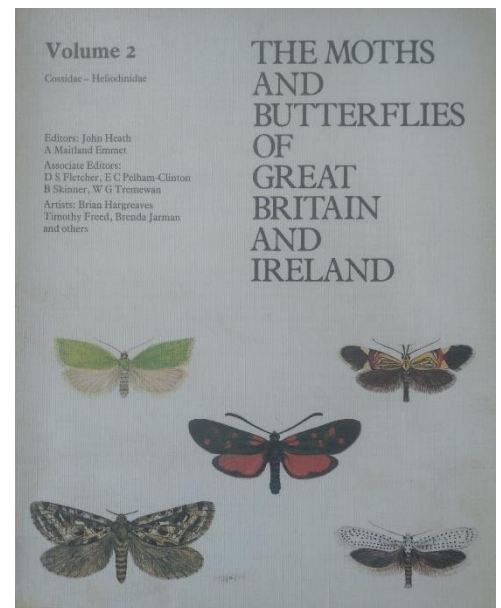
This volume of MBGBI contains the large family Coleophoridae, which are very difficult as adult moths. There are lots of foreign texts on the family, but none better than this. The Elachistidae are another tricky group, but can be ever so pretty – try this other book as well, if you can find a copy:

Traugott-Olsen, E. & Schmidt Nielsen, E. 1977 *The Elachistidae (Lepidoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark*. Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica Vol 6.

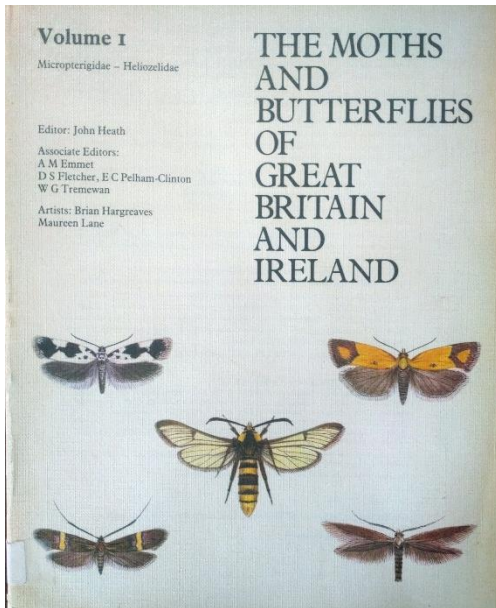
Glyphipterigidae; Choreutidae; Gracillariidae; Tineidae; Psychidae

Heath, J. & Emmet, A. M. (eds) 1985 *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol. 2 Harley Books ISBN 0 946589 02 x

Indispensable, but now rather out of date. It will start you out on these families.



Incurvariidae; Nepticulidae; Eriocraniidae; Micropterigidae



Heath, J. (ed.) 1976 *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol. 1 Curwen Books ISBN 0 632 0331 6. This is the iconic first volume of MBGBI (pronounced universally as ‘mog-bee’). It is out of date but indispensable for these families.

For **Nepticulidae**, you can try the following. It has a German text but very useful illustrations.

Lastuvka, A. & Lastuvka, Z. 1997 *Nepticulidae Mitteleuropas* Konvoj ISBN 80 85615 61 4

The best comprehensive text is:

Johansson, R. *et al.* 1990 The Nepticulidae and Opostegidae (Lepidoptera) of North West Europe (2 vols) *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavia* Parts 1 & 2. ISBN 90 04 0869806 (2 parts)

The text in these materials has been adapted from that originally created by Mark Young.

The *Supporting Science* project aims to improve data flow and better support our recorders and volunteers.

We will improve access to natural heritage and grow digital skills by developing tools and collaboration. This project received DCMS and National Lottery funding, distributed by The Heritage Fund as part of their Digital Skills for Heritage initiative. We are also grateful to Henry C. Hoare Charitable Trust, Sophia Webster Ltd. Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust, and The Lochlands Trust for their support.



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