



Butterfly Conservation

Barberry Carpet

Pareulype berberata

Conservation status

Priority Species in UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

This medium-sized moth gets both its scientific and English name from its association with Barberry, a plant that was persecuted in the past. The forewings are greyish and brown with two black lines on the basal half and dark edged tooth-like markings towards the wing tip. This species has been recorded over southern England and as far north as Yorkshire. It is now believed to be limited to a few small sites, mainly in Wiltshire, with colonies also in Gloucestershire, Dorset and introduced colonies elsewhere. A colony has also recently been discovered in Oxfordshire.

Foodplants

The larval foodplant is Barberry *Berberis vulgaris*, a plant associated largely with hedgerows. Larvae have also been found on cultivated varieties of Barberry.

Habitat

The species is found in hedgerows or sunny woodland edges with abundant Barberry. A colony is also known on Barberry in an arboretum. Highest densities of larvae are found on hedges not trimmed until late autumn, after pupation. Lowest densities tend to be untrimmed, overgrown bushes.

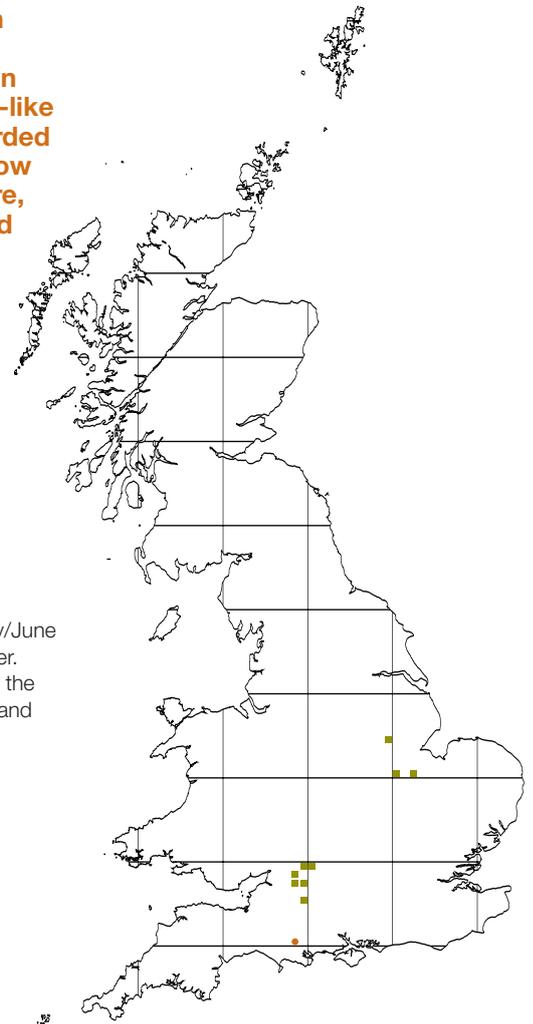
Life cycle

The species is double-brooded. The eggs are laid singly on Barberry foliage in May/June and August, and the larvae subsequently occur in June/July and August/September. The pupae are normally formed just below the soil surface under the foodplant but the flimsy cocoon may be spun in leaf litter. The adults fly from early May to mid June and again from late July to August. They fly from dusk until dawn, and are sometimes disturbed from amongst the foodplant by day.

I = 1st brood II = 2nd brood

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Egg					I	I		II				
Larva						I	I	II	II			
Pupa	II	II	II	II	II		I	I	II	II	II	II
Adult					I	I	II	II				

■ Larval record 1999 to 2004
● Adult record 1999 to 2004



Habitat management for the Barberry Carpet

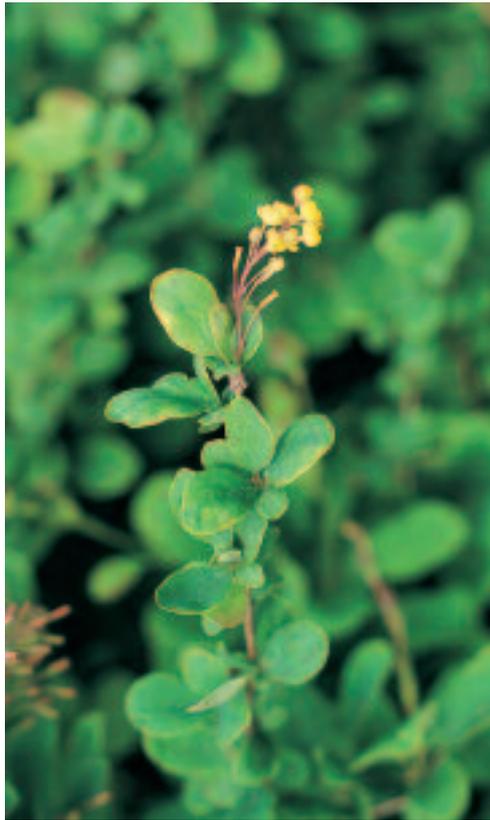
The main aim is to ensure the protection of existing Barberry bushes along with a regular supply of vigorous growth.

- ◆ Rotational winter pruning can encourage vigorous Barberry growth and keep it free of competition from other hedgerow species.
- ◆ The leaf litter and ground underneath the bushes should not be disturbed, and the bushes should not be sprayed with any fungicides, insecticides or other chemicals.
- ◆ On hedgerow sites, an adjacent unsprayed conservation headland at least 5m in width could be highly beneficial.
- ◆ Cutting should be carried out only in winter, after all the leaves have fallen. Not all the hedgerow should be cut in any one year. Any mowing of grass under the cut area should be avoided or at least delayed until after the adults have emerged (late June/August).
- ◆ Planting of new bushes will increase the size of suitable habitat where the species is currently found.
- ◆ Any bonfires should be sited away from the bushes and downwind.

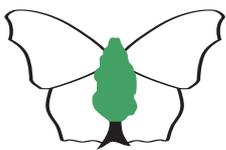
Please contact Butterfly Conservation if the species is suspected to be present on a site.

How to survey/monitor

The best method is to search for larvae by beating Barberry bushes using a beating tray. The adults will also come to light-traps. A licence will be required for these activities.



above Barberry, the larval foodplant
below An ideal hedge containing Barberry



Butterfly Conservation

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.