

# *Scoparia conicella* confirmed for the Belgian fauna (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae, Scopariinae)

J. E. F. Asselbergs

**Abstract.** The characteristics of the male and female genitalia of *Scoparia conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863) are discussed and compared with those of *Scoparia basistrigalis* Knaggs, 1866 and *Scoparia ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829). The distribution of *S. conicella* is briefly discussed.

**Samenvatting.** *Scoparia conicella* bevestigd voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae, Scopariinae)

De kenmerken van de mannelijke en vrouwelijke genitalia van *Scoparia conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863) worden besproken en vergeleken met die van *Scoparia basistrigalis* Knaggs, 1866 en *Scoparia ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829). Verder wordt de verspreiding in Europa van *S. conicella* kort besproken.

**Résumé.** La présence de *Scoparia conicella* confirmée en Belgique (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae, Scopariinae) Les caractéristiques de l'armure génitale du mâle et de la femelle en comparaison avec ceux de *Scoparia basistrigalis* Knaggs, 1866 et de *Scoparia ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829) sont discutés. La distribution en Europe de *S. conicella* est mentionnée.

**Key words:** *Scoparia conicella* – *Scoparia ambigualis* – *Scoparia basistrigalis* – faunistics – Belgium – genitalia.

Asselbergs, J. E. F.: Steenbergsestraat 16A, NL-4611 TE Bergen op Zoom, Nederland.

Within a small number of Pyralidae collected by Mr. A. Riemis at Han-sur-Lesse, prov. Namur, Belgium, the author found 2 specimens, unfortunately rather worn, belonging to the Scopariinae. After dissection they proved to be a male and a female of *Scoparia conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863).

The species can be identified in the male (figs. 1–2) by 2–3 long straight spines in the aedeagus, followed by 2–3 shorter and bent ones, all lying in one row. The spines in the aedeagus of *S. ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829) (fig. 3) are about half as long as those in *S. conicella*. The cornuti in the aedeagus of *S. basistrigalis* Knaggs, 1866 are arranged in two distinct rows (fig. 4).

The female genitalia of *S. conicella* (fig. 5) are characterised by a wide ostium, a sclerotised plate nearby, but especially by a ductus bursae which is twisted just before entering the corpus bursae. The bursa is squamous on one side and provided with small spines on the other. In *S. basistrigalis* the ductus bursae is not twisted and wider than in the two other species (fig. 6). Also in *S. ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829) the ductus bursae is not twisted (fig. 7).

**External morphology:** The ciliae of the forewings are obviously barred in *S. basistrigalis* (to a lesser degree also in *S. ambigualis*) and not barred but with a sharply dividing blackish line in *S. conicella* (see Wolff 1959).

**Biology:** unknown.

**Distribution:** *S. conicella* is known from Austria (Styria), northern Germany, Denmark (Jungshoved), Switzerland (St. Gallen, Aigle, Lausanne) and France (maritime Alps) (resp. Slamka 1995, Wolff 1959 and Leraut 1983). Furthermore, the species is mentioned from Sweden, Latvia, East Europe, and Italy (Speidel 1996). It is not known from The Netherlands nor from The British Isles.

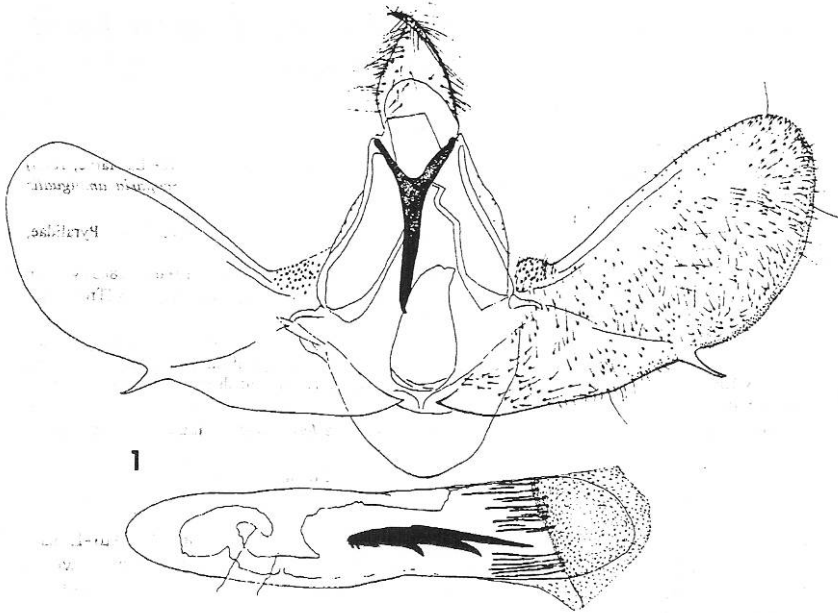
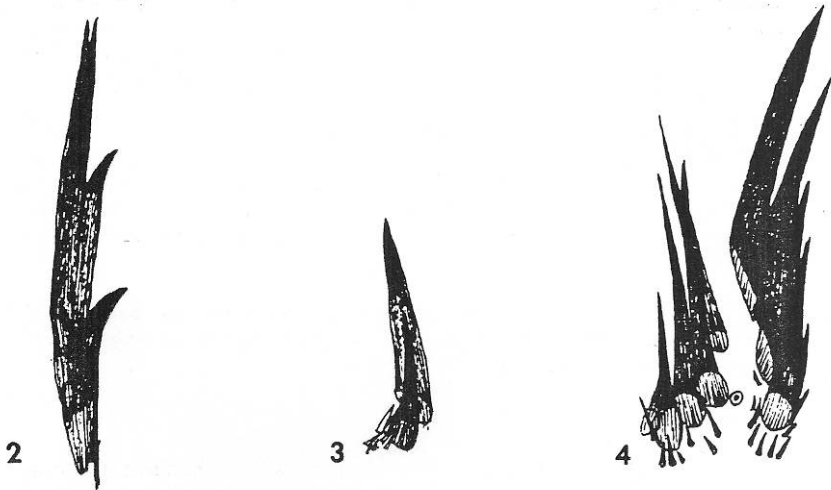


Fig. 1: Male genitalia of *Scoparia conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863), Belgium, Namur, Han-sur-Lesse, 15.VI.1989, leg. A. Riemis (Gen. prep. 3752 Ass).



Figs. 2-4: Cornuti in the aedeagus of: 2. *Scoparia conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863), Belgium, Namur, Han-sur-Lesse, 15.VI.1989; 3. *Scoparia ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829), The Netherlands, Zeeland, Oostkapelle, 3-4.VI.1996; 4. *Scoparia basistrigalis* Knaggs, 1866 (after Wolff 1959).



Figs. 5-7: Female genitalia of:

5. *Scoparia conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863), Belgium, Namur, Han-sur-Lesse, 15.VI.1989, leg. A. Riemis (Gen. prep. 3744 Ass);
6. *Scoparia basistrigalis* Knaggs, 1866, Turkey, Nevşehir, Üçhisar, 10 km NE Nevşehir 1200 m, 5-7.VII.1982 (Gen. prep. 3747 Ass);
7. *Scoparia ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829), Belgium, Namur, Han-sur-Lesse, 15.VI.1989, leg. A. Riemis (Gen. prep. 3766 Ass).

Leraut (1980) and Vives Moreno (1994) mention *S. conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863) abusively as a synonym of *S. ambigualis* (Treitschke, 1829). However, Leraut (1983) pointed out that *S. conicella* is distinct from *S. ambigualis* and that it has been found in France at Madone de Fenestre near St. Martin Vésubic in the Alpes-Maritimes by Marion in 1959. This record was reported as *Scoparia perplexella* Zeller (Marion 1976).

*S. conicella* has already been mentioned once for the Belgian fauna as *Scoparia sylvestralis* Wolff, 1959: Saint-Vincent (Luxembourg) (Rosman 1983: 92). However, as far as I know, the genitalia of the specimen have never been checked.

Conclusion: *S. conicella* (de La Harpe, 1863) is probably overlooked in some European countries as well as in collections because of its resemblance with *S. basistrigalis* and *S. ambigualis*.

#### Acknowledgement

The author vividly thanks Mr. A. Riemis, Turnhout, Belgium and Mr. W. O. De Prins, Antwerpen, Belgium for the gift of the ♂ and ♀ of *S. conicella*.

#### References

- Leraut, P., 1980. *Liste systématique et synonymique des lépidoptères de France, Belgique et Corse*. Supplément à *Alexanor* et au *Bulletin de la Société entomologique de France*.
- Leraut, P., 1983. Contribution à l'étude des Scopariinae 4. Révision des types décrits de la région paléarctique occidentale, description de dix nouveaux taxa et ébauche d'une liste des espèces de cette région. — *Alexanor* 13: 157–192.
- Marion, H., 1959. Révision des Pyraustidae de France. — *Alexanor* 1: 15–23, Pl. C.
- Marion, H., 1976. Révision des Pyraustidae de France (suite). — *Alexanor* 9: 209–219, Pl. T–U, XI.
- Rosman, P., 1983. Essai d'inventaire des Pyrales de la Lorraine Belge et des régions avoisinantes (Lep. Pyralidae). — *Linn.belg.* 9: 90–102.
- Slamka, F., 1995. *Die Zünslerfalter (Pyraloidea) Mitteleuropas*. Prunella Verlag, Bratislava.
- Speidel, W., 1996. Pyralidae. — In: Karsholt, O. & Razowski, J. (Eds.): *The Lepidoptera of Europe*: 166–196.
- Vives Moreno, A., 1994. *Catálogo sistemático y sinonímico de los lepidópteros de la Península Ibérica y Baleares (Insecta: Lepidoptera (Segunda Parte))*. Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación.
- Wolff, N. L., 1959. Notes on some species of the genus *Scoparia* Hw. (s. str.) (Lep., Pyraustidae). — *Ent.Meddr* 29: 179–192.