

# ***Monochroa divisella*, a new species for the Belgian fauna (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)**

Willy De Prins

**Samenvatting.** *Monochroa divisella*, een nieuwe soort voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)

*Monochroa divisella* (Douglas, 1850) werd voor het eerst in België aangetroffen te Viersel (prov. Antwerpen) op 14 juni 2003 en nadien te Kinrooi (prov. Limburg) op 18 juli 2004. Deze soort is zeer lokaal verspreid in enkele landen van Europa. De rups maakt blijdmijnen op *Iris*, vooral *Iris pseudacorus* L., bij voorkeur op planten die in de schaduw van wilgen (*Salix* sp.) groeien.

**Résumé.** *Monochroa divisella*, une espèce nouvelle pour la faune belge (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)

*Monochroa divisella* (Douglas, 1850) fut observé pour la première fois en Belgique à Viersel (prov. d'Anvers) le 14 juin 2003 et puis à Kinrooi (prov. de Limbourg) le 18 juillet 2004. Cette espèce vit très localisée dans quelques pays d'Europe. La chenille creuse des mines dans les feuilles d'*Iris*, surtout *Iris pseudacorus* L., et elle préfère des plantes qui poussent sous des saules (*Salix* sp.).

**Key words:** *Monochroa divisella* – Belgium – faunistics – first record.

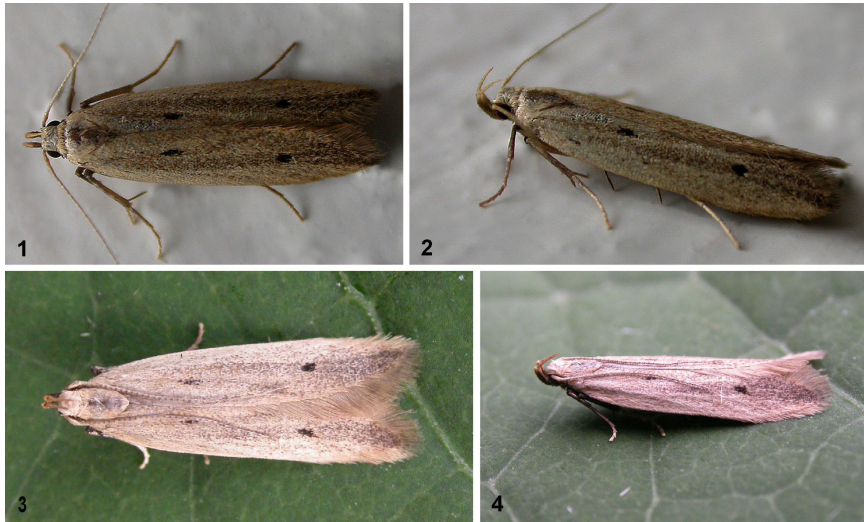
De Prins, W.: Nieuwe Donk 50, B-2100 Antwerpen (willy.deprins@antwerpen.be).

Two female specimens of *Monochroa divisella* (Douglas, 1850) (Gelechiidae) were caught in the nature reserve "Viersels Broek" at Viersel (Belgium, province of Antwerpen), the first on 14 June 2003, the second on 04 July 2003, leg. L. Janssen. It is the first record of this species from Belgium (De Prins 1998). Later on, the species was also observed in the nature reserve "Stamprooierbroek" at Kinrooi (province of Limburg) on 18 July 2004 (leg. M. Jacobs).

## **Distribution**

*M. divisella* occurs very locally in West and Central Europe. Karsholt & Riedl (1996: 107) mention it from Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Latvia, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Later on, it became also known from Slovakia (Elsner 1998: 35) and Poland (Buszko *et al.* 2000: 45). Elsner *et al.* (1999: 28) mention the species additionally from Austria, Lithuania (lapsus for Latvia, it has not been found in Lithuania yet, Ivinskis 2003 *pers. comm.*) and Ukraine.

In The Netherlands it was once common in the neighbourhood of Kortenhoef (province of Utrecht) (Doets 1949) but it is now considered extinct there (Kuchlein & de Vos 1999). There are 8 specimens in the collection of the Zoological Museum Amsterdam, Friesland: Garijp, Kollum, Warga; Utrecht: Kortenhoef.



Figs. 1–2: *Monochroa divisella* (Douglas, 1850), Belgium, Prov. Antwerpen, Viersel, nature reserve "Viersels Broek", 14.VI.2003 (Photo: L. Janssen).

Figs. 3–4: *Monochroa divisella* (Douglas, 1850), Belgium, Prov. Limburg, Kinrooi, nature reserve "Stamprooierbroek", 18.VII.2004 (Photo: M. Jacobs).

In Germany some old records for *M. divisella* are known from Niedersachsen. After 1980, the species was found in Sachsen-Anhalt (Gaedike & Heinicke 1999: 77). Recently 15 specimens were discovered in the collection of the Landessammlung of the Löbbecke-Museum Düsseldorf. They were caught in 1962 and 1963 in Hessen (Biesenbaum 2001: 133).

In Great Britain, *M. divisella* was recorded regularly from the Norfolk Broads at Whittlesea Mere (the type locality), and it is known from Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Somerset and Yorkshire (Bland *et al.* 2002: 93), though very locally, not common, and in most localities no recent records are available. One specimen was caught at Portland Bird Observatory (Dorset) on 07.VII.2000 at MV, leg. Martin Cade (identification confirmed by P. Sterling) (Sterling 2002).

In Denmark, the species has been recorded before 1960 from south Zealand, and more recently from Lolland-Falster-Møn and Bornholm (Karsholt & Nielsen 1998: 37). In Poland, records before 1960 are known from the province Zachodniopomorskie, and more recently from Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Podlaskie (Buszko *et al.* 2000: 45). All three provinces are situated in the north of Poland. *M. divisella* is mentioned without further details from Slovakia (Elsner 1998: 35) and from Latvia (Savenkov *et al.* 1996: 17). In Austria, *M. divisella* was found only once at Zitzmannsdorfer Wiesen (Burgenland) on *Phegea* 33 (1) (I.III.2005): 38

18.VII.1964, leg. Glaser (Huemer 2000: 46–47). In Ukraine, the species was recorded for the first time by Piskunov (1975: 867) as *Monochroa zarichella* Piskunov, 1975 (synonymized with *M. divisella* by Sattler 1992: 108). There are no recent records of *M. divisella* from the Ukraine after that first record of only 1 female, collected on light at Kupjansk (Kharkov Oblast, West Ukraine). The habitat there is described as a wet valley of the Oskol river with a lot of grass (Piskunov 1975: 867).

### Biology

The caterpillar of *M. divisella* makes a deep blotch mine in the leaves of *Iris* sp., mainly *Iris pseudacorus*, and stays in the mine until it is full-fed (Hering 1957: 567). It prefers fenland and similar damp biotopes (Bland *et al.* 2002: 93). Doets (1949) wrote that he found the mines only on plants growing under *Salix* trees (Ellis 2003). This seems to be case in the Belgian locality as well (M. Jacobs, pers. comm.).

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Willem Ellis (Amsterdam) and Dr. Rob de Vos (Amsterdam) for some invaluable information about *Monochroa divisella*, the Dutch localities and for literature references, L. Janssen (Mortsel) and M. Jacobs (Zandhoven) for the photographs of the specimen and information about the habitat. I thank Dr. A. Bidzilya (Kiev) and Dr. P. Huemer (Innsbruck) for the information about the occurrence of *M. divisella* in Ukraine and Austria respectively. Dr. P. Ivinskis (Vilnius) is acknowledged for the information about the Baltic States.

### References

- Biesenbaum, W., 2001. Erstnachweis von *Monochroa divisella* (Douglas, 1850) für Hessen (Lep., Gelechiidae). — *Melanargia* **13**(3/4): 133–134.
- Bland, K. P., Emmet, A. M., Heckford, R. J. & Rutten, T., 2002. Gelechiidae, Anomologinae. In: Emmet, A. M. & Langmaid, J. R.: *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland. Volume 4, Part 2 Gelechiidae*. — Harley Books, Great Horkeley, 277 pp., 6 colour plates.
- Buszko, J., Karsholt, O. & Rynarzewski, T., 2000. Gelechiidae, pp. 44–51. In Buszko, J. & Nowacki, J. (eds.) *The Lepidoptera of Poland. A Distributional Checklist*. — *Polish Entomological Monographs* **1**: 1–178.
- Doets, C., 1949. Lepidopterologische mededelingen over 1946–1948. — *Entomologische Berichten, Amsterdam* **12**: 413–417.
- Doets, C., 1950. Notes on Lepidoptera, 1949. — *Entomologische Berichten, Amsterdam* **13**: 163–167.
- Ellis, W. N., 2003. <http://www.xs4all.nl/~wnellis/minersf/lepidopteramin/minmonodivi.htm>.
- Elsner, G., 1998. Gelechiidae, pp. 35–39. In Laštůvka, Z., (ed.) *Checklist of Lepidoptera of the Czech and Slovak Republics (Insecta, Lepidoptera)*. — Konvoj, Brno, 117 pp.
- Elsner, G., Huemer, P. & Tokár, Z., 1999. *Die Palpenmotten (Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae) Mitteleuropas. Bestimmung – Verbreitung – Flugstandort – Lebensweise der Raupen*. — František Slamka, Bratislava, 208 pp., 85 halftone plates, 28 colour plates.
- Gaedike, R. & Heinicke, W., 1999. Entomofauna Germanica 3. Verzeichnis der Schmetterlinge Deutschlands. — *Entomologische Nachrichten und Berichte* **5**: 1–216.

- Hering, M., 1957. *Bestimmungstabellen der Blattminen von Europa: einschliesslich des Mittelmeerbeckens und der Kanarischen Inseln.* — Dr. W. Junk, 's Gravenhage, Bände 1 & 2: 1–1185; Band 3: 1–221.
- Huemer, P., 2000. Ergänzungen und Korrekturen zur Schmetterlingsfauna Österreichs (Lepidoptera). — *Beiträge zur Entomofaunistik* **1**: 39–56.
- Karsholt, O. & Nielsen, P. S., 1998. *Revideret katalog over de danske Sommerfugle.* — Entomologisk Forening, Copenhagen, 144 pp.
- Karsholt, O. & Riedl, T., 1996. Gelechiidae. pp. 103–122. In Karsholt, O. & Razowski, J. (eds.): *The Lepidoptera of Europe. A Distributional Checklist.* — Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 380 pp.
- Kuchlein, J. H. & de Vos, R., 1999. *Geannoteerde naamlijst van de Nederlandse vlinders.* — Backhuys, Leiden, 302 pp.
- Piskunov, V., 1975. *Monochroa zarichella* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae). — *Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie* **54**(4): 867.
- Sattler, K., 1992. New Synonyms of European Gelechiidae (Lepidoptera). — *Entomologica gallica* **3**(3): 107–109.
- Savenkov, N., Šulcs, I., Kerppola, S. & Huldén, I., 1996. Checklist of Latvian Lepidoptera. — *Baptria* **21**(3a): 1–71.
- Sterling, P., 2002. 2000 Micro Moth Records. Moths of Dorset, Newsletter No 9. — <http://www.dorsetmothgroup.co.uk/newsletters%20pdf/NUMBER9.pdf>.

## Inhoud:

De Prins, W.: Interessante waarnemingen van Lepidoptera in België in 2004 (Lepidoptera).....	1
De Prins, W.: <i>Oegoconia caradjai</i> , a new species for the Belgian fauna (Lepidoptera: Autostichidae).....	9
De Prins, W.: <i>Monochroa divisella</i> , a new species for the Belgian fauna (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae).....	37
Groenen, F.: <i>Endothenia pullana</i> , nieuw voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae).....	31
Kolev, Z.: Notes on the distribution and ecology of Balkan populations of the <i>Plebeius idas</i> – group (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae).....	13
Steeman, C. & De Prins, J.: <i>Caloptilia populetorum</i> , nieuw voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera, Gracillariidae).....	33
Troukens, W.: Rouwtorren en enkele verwanten aan de westrand van Brussel (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae, Alleculidae, Lagriidae, Serropalpidae).....	23
Boekbespreking.....	36