

A wild-collected larva of Silver Cloud *Egira conspicillaris* (L.) (Lep.: Noctuidae), in Germany



Plate 1. Larva of *Egira conspicillaris* beaten from Blackthorn, Harztor, Germany. Photograph M. R. Shaw

The food-plant in the wild of this species is apparently unknown in Britain, so it seems worth recording that in the district known as Harztor in northern Thuringia, Germany, I beat a half-grown larva of a noctuid that I did not recognise from a pure stand of young Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, in mid-June 2024. As I still did not recognise it in its final instar it was photographed on 7 July 2024 (Plate 1) a few days before it pupated, having fed avidly on Blackthorn. An adult male Silver Cloud of the dark form emerged on 4 April 2025.

While this is a clear instance, Blackthorn seems unlikely to be the only – perhaps not even the main – food-plant of *E. conspicillaris*, as mainland continental sources typically cite several plants and British works generally say that it will feed on quite a range of unrelated plants in captivity.

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The colour of the hindwing fringes in male and female specimens of *Glyphipterix haworthana* (Stephens, 1834) (Glyphipterigidae)

I have recently bred a number of specimens of *Glyphipterix haworthana*, to confirm the presence of the species at a nearby locality, and amongst many males there were two females. I noticed that the male hindwing fringe was as noted in Heath and Emmet (1985. *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol 2 p. 405), namely 'cilia pale fuscous, whitish outwardly and near base'. However, the cilia of the females were distinctly different, being fuscous throughout, including the outward and basal area. I could not find any reference to this difference in various other texts, most of which say nothing at all about the hindwing cilia. Furthermore, amongst the many images of this species available on web pages, some females show this feature, but no associated text makes reference to it.

I have only small series of other *Glyphipterix* species and most specimens were caught in the field and are not as pristine as my bred *G. haworthana*. I think that this difference in cilia colour may apply to other *Glyphipterix* species, as web images of other species suggest a similar difference, but I am not certain and so have resolved to try and breed better quality specimens to check.

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