

Coleophora salinella (Lepidoptera: Coleophoridae), a species new to Belgium

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Samenvatting. *Coleophora salinella*, een nieuwe soort voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera: Coleophoridae)

Op 30 juni 2007 werd een vrouwelijk exemplaar op licht verzameld van *Coleophora salinella* Stainton, 1859 in het natuurgebied "Hobokense Polder" te Hoboken (België, prov. Antwerpen). Dit is de eerste vermelding van deze soort voor de Belgische fauna. De rupsen mineren in de bladeren van *Atriplex* en *Halimione*. De soort is gebonden aan ziltige vegetaties.

Résumé. *Coleophora salinella*, une espèce nouvelle pour la faune belge (Lepidoptera: Coleophoridae)

Le 30 juin 2007, une femelle de *Coleophora salinella* Stainton, 1859 fut capturée à la lumière dans la réserve naturelle "Hobokense Polder" à Hoboken (Belgique, province d'Anvers). C'est la première mention de cette espèce en Belgique. La chenille mine les feuilles d'*Atriplex* et *Halimione*. L'espèce vit seulement dans des biotopes salines.

Key words: *Coleophora salinella* – Belgium – Faunistics – First record.

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On 30 June 2007, a single female specimen of *Coleophora salinella* Stainton, 1859 was caught on light in the nature reserve "Hobokense Polder" at Hoboken (Belgium, Province of Antwerpen), leg. G. De Prins, det. H. G. van der Wolf (gen. prep. female Wf. 10.133). This is the first record of this species from Belgium (De Prins 1998, De Prins & Steeman 2008).

Distribution

The species has hitherto been recorded from the following countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy (incl. Sicily), Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, and United Kingdom (Emmet *et al.* 1996, Baldizzone & van der Wolf 2007). It also lives in the Caucasus and Western Siberia (Baldizzone *et al.* 2006). In most of the mentioned countries, the species is rare and almost never recorded in high numbers, except for the United Kingdom where it has been observed "not uncommon" on the coasts of England from Dorset to the Humber and in the north in Durham, Lancashire and Westmorland (Emmet *et al.* 1996).

In the Netherlands, *C. salinella* is restricted to the region of "Het Zwin", and some polders near the river Scheldt (Kuchlein 1993). In Germany, the species occurs rarely in the polders of Schleswig-Holstein and in France it has been recorded from the south-western departments of Haute-Garonne, Landes and Deux-Sèvres (Lhomme 1946–1963).

C. salinella prefers sea-walls and the borders of salt-marshes or tidal rivers where its foodplant grows. The "Hobokense Polder" is a small area south of the city Antwerpen and adjacent to the tidal river Scheldt.

Biology

The caterpillar of *C. salinella* feeds mainly on *Atriplex littoralis* (Chenopodiaceae), at first on the seeds, and later also on the leaves. It can furthermore be found on *Atriplex prostrata* and *Halimione portulacoides* (Emmet *et al.* 1996). Full-grown larvae construct a grey-brown, trivalved, cylindrical case of 6 mm long, The oral opening has an angle of 30–45°.

There is one generation a year; moths are on the wing from July to September, caterpillars feed in September and are full-grown in October (Emmet *et al.* 1996, Ellis 2004). The Belgian specimen is an early one.

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