

# *Cochylis molliculana* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae, Tortricinae), new to the Belgian fauna

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**Abstract.** On 30 June 2012, W. Mertens photographed a specimen of *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1847 at Middelkerke (West Flanders), det. W. Veraghtert. This is the first record of this species for the Belgian fauna.

**Samenvatting.** *Cochylis molliculana* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae, Tortricinae), nieuw voor de Belgische fauna. Op 30 juni 2012 werd door W. Mertens een exemplaar van *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1847 gefotografeerd te Middelkerke (West-Vlaanderen), det. W. Veraghtert. Het is de eerste maal dat deze soort in België werd waargenomen.

**Résumé.** *Cochylis molliculana* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae, Tortricinae), espèce nouvelle pour la faune belge. Le 30 juin 2012, un exemplaire de *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1847 fut photographié par W. Mertens à Middelkerke (Flandre occidentale), det. W. Veraghtert. Il s'agit de la première observation de cette espèce en Belgique.

**Key words:** *Cochylis molliculana* – Belgium – Faunistics – First record.

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On 30 juni 2012 a specimen of *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1847 was photographed (fig. 1) in the domain "Warandeduinen" at Middelkerke (West Flanders) by W. Mertens, det. W. Veraghtert (Natuurpunt 2012). This species was never before mentioned for the Belgian fauna.

*C. molliculana* is distributed in Croatia, France (incl. Corsica), Great Britain, Greece, Italy (incl. Sicily), Malta and Spain (Razowski 1970, Aarvik 2012). This scattered distribution could mean that the species is overlooked in many other places. It was discovered in the Netherlands (province of Zeeland) some years ago by J. van Vuure. It has a rather late arrival in Great Britain as well, where the first specimen was observed only in 1993. Since then, it became more common along the south coast of England and on the Isle of Wight (Wall 2012).

The larva of *C. molliculana* lives in the seedheads of *Picris echioides* (Asteraceae). This plant is especially common along the Belgian sea coast, and occurs also more inland, but it is almost absent south of the line Sambre-Meuse (IFBL 2012).



Fig. 1. *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1847. Domain "Warandeduinen", Middelkerke, West Flanders, 30.vi.2012, det. W. Veraghtert (Photograph W. Mertens).

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