

## *Acleris abietana* (Hubner) a new moth species for Wyre Forest

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*Acleris abietana*

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Whilst on a Wyre Forest Study Group field meeting on 1st October 2014 I tapped a tortrix moth out of the lower branches of a mature Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii* in Longdon Orchard. I immediately suspected it to be an *Acleris abietana* (Hb.) which was confirmed later by dissection. Godfrey Blunt tells me it is the first Shropshire record.

This moth was first found in Britain in Perthshire in 1965. There have been a number of further Scottish records and I believe it has been found in Northumberland. The first southern English record was of one attracted to MV light on the Great Doward, Herefordshire by Jeff Rush on 26th April 2008. Then Danny Arnold had one to light at Upper Rochford, Worcestershire on 14th January 2011 and Oliver Wadsworth another

in St. Johns, Worcester on 1st May 2012 (all records confirmed by dissection). All were caught near to large mature conifers.

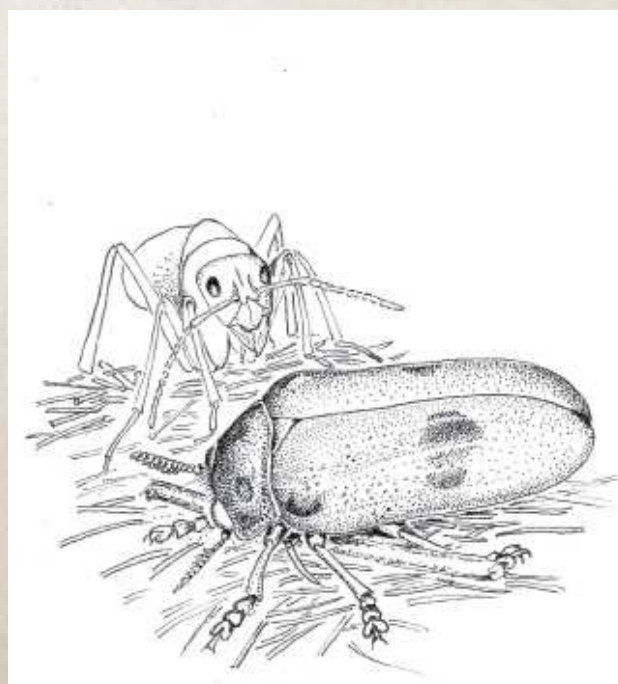
On the continent it is said to feed on various conifers; Razowski in Tortricidae of Europe 2002 mentions *Abies alba*, *Pinus*, and *Picea excelsa* and in Scotland there seems to be an association with Grand Fir *Abies grandis*. It may well also feed on Douglas Fir.

Typical of most *Acleris* species it hibernates as an imago, flying from August to April with the larva feeding in June and July. It seems it is spreading and now clearly no longer just a Scottish and northern moth and could occur widely in association with conifers.



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*Clytra quadripunctata* with *Formica rufa*

Mike Bloxham