

2185 (10043) Lead-coloured Drab *Orthosia populeti* (Fabricius, 1781)
 2188 (10037) Clouded Drab *Orthosia incerta* (Hufnagel, 1766)

Local
 Common

Diagnostic external characters

Most examples should not cause confusion if the external characters provided in Waring *et al.* (2009) and Skinner (2009) are used. The smaller size, leaden grey colour, more rounded forewing, dark spots on the inner edge of the sub-terminal line and weaker underside markings are probably the best indications of *populeti*. It should be borne in mind that like all members of the genus, *populeti* is variable in the detail of wing markings, and very dark forms occur. *O. incerta* is highly variable in colour and wing shape, and specimens which resemble *populeti* in one way or another are not uncommon. However, the difference in the antennae of the males is visible to the naked eye and can be seen very clearly with a good quality hand-lens. Therefore unless the specimen is damaged, genitalia examination is more likely to be necessary only to determine females. The genitalia, especially those of the males, are quite distinct. Common Quaker *Orthosia cerasi* (Fabricius) can be somewhat similar to *populeti* in overall appearance, especially when worn, and the male has pectinate antennae. However, it is a distinctly brownish moth.

Diagnostic morphological characters of the males

The difference in the shape of the cucullus can easily be seen if the valvae are extruded.

Antennae strongly bipectinate (Fig. 74). Cucullus (Fig. 76, A) with pointed apex and two prominent lobes, and anal angle blunt, obtuse. Valva constricted below cucullus, its ventral surface with long, curved harpe arising in costal half (B). Basal margin with very small medial prominence (C). Aedeagus with two very short, tooth-like cornuti (D).....*populeti*

Antennae biserrate with long fasciculate cilia (Fig. 75). Cucullus (Fig. 77, A) lacking lobes, with anal angle prolonged, acute, pointed. Valva broad, tapering to cucullus, its ventral surface with long, curved harpe arising in costal half (longer and broader than in *populeti*) (B). Anterior margin with distinct medial prominence (C). Aedeagus with single, very long, spear-like cornutus (D).....*incerta*

Diagnostic morphological characters of the females

Corpus bursae with two signa, one very short (Fig. 78, A). Ostium indented (B).....*populeti*

Corpus bursae with four linear signa of roughly equal length (Fig. 79, A). Dorsal plate of ostium bursae peaked (B).....*incerta*

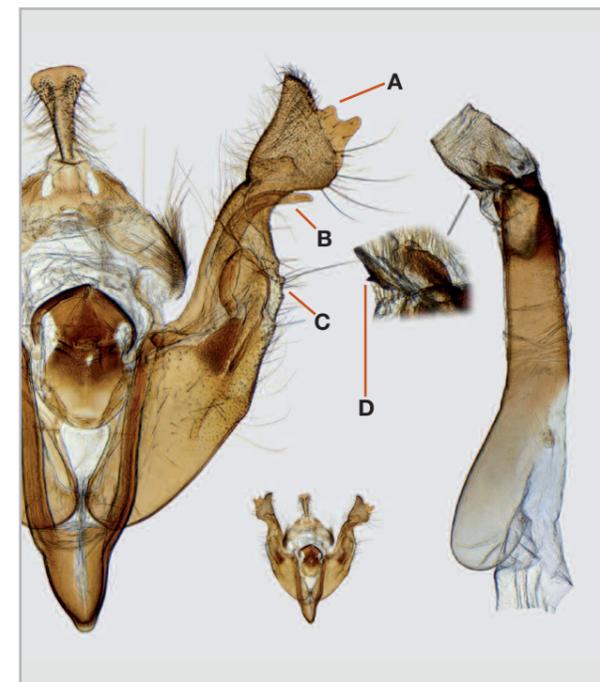


74. *Orthosia populeti*

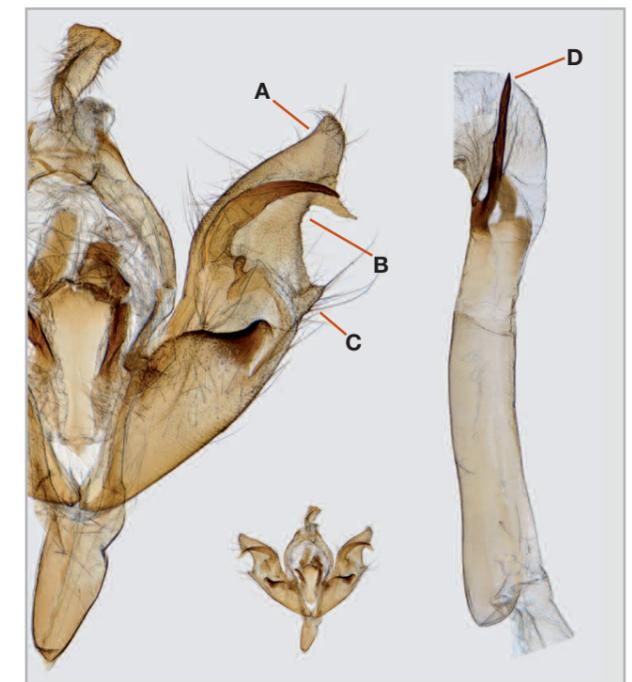


75. *Orthosia incerta*

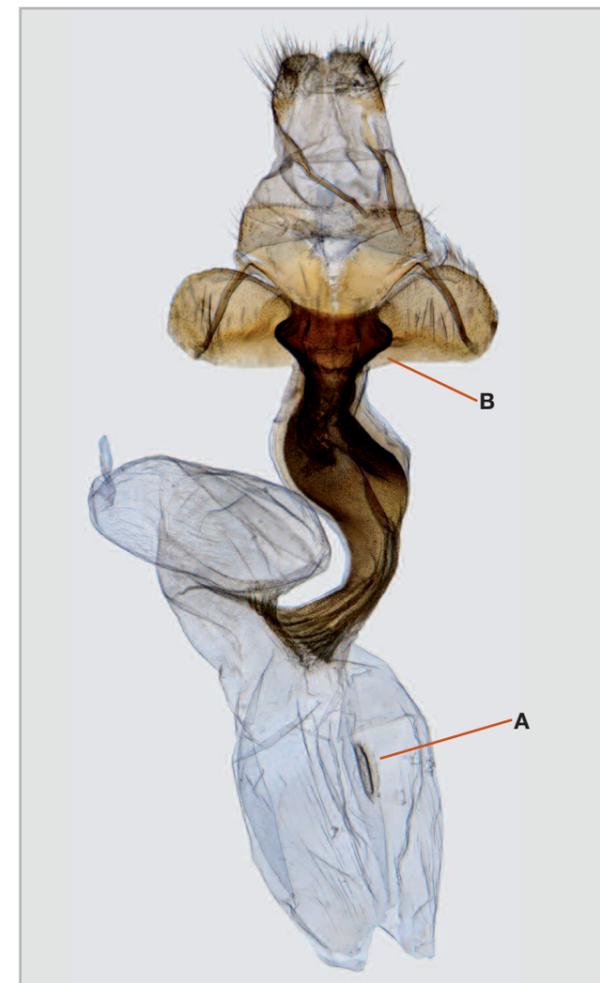
Plate 20. Male *Orthosia populeti* and *O. incerta* to show antennae.



76. *Orthosia populeti* male with aedeagus



77. *Orthosia incerta* male with aedeagus



78. *Orthosia populeti* female



79. *Orthosia incerta* female

Plate 21. Genitalia of *Orthosia populeti* and *O. incerta*.