

- 2337 (9780) **Marbled Minor** *Oligia strigilis* (Linnaeus, 1758)
 2338 (9781) **Rufous Minor** *Oligia versicolor* (Borkhausen, 1792)
 2339 (9782) **Tawny Marbled Minor** *Oligia latruncula* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common
 Local
 Common

Diagnostic external characters

These are variable species, and confirmation of identity by examination of the genitalia is necessary. With experience it is possible to select probable examples of each (except melanic forms). The trends described by Waring *et al.* (2009) and Skinner (2009) are useful in this respect, but it should be borne in mind that the red and brown tints may fade on worn or set specimens.

Key to diagnostic morphological characters of the males

Males can be identified by examining extruded valvae to see the harpe (which is the most important diagnostic character). Other structures are best viewed on a slide preparation. The shape of the cucullus with a long, beak-like anal extension (pollex) is characteristic of the genus.

- Harpe broad, flattened, pointed and triangular in appearance, with conspicuous lateral ridge (Fig. 108, A).
 Pollex short (usually shorter than maximum width of cucullus) (B).....*latruncula*
 – Harpe thin, rounded at apex, without conspicuous ridges (sometimes with small protuberances along shaft), flattened in apical third (not visible in a slide preparation) (Figs. 104, 106, A).
 Pollex usually longer (length often exceeding maximum width of cucullus) (Figs. 104, 106, B).....2
- Harpe (Fig. 104, A) almost straight, longer. Clavus (densely setose*) relatively short (C).....*strigilis*
 – Harpe (Fig. 106, A) distinctly curved, shorter. Clavus (densely setose*), more elongated (C).....*versicolor*

* The clavus is heavily sclerotised and densely setose in all 3 species, distinguishing it from nearby structures. It may appear foreshortened due to its orientation when viewed ventrally. In size and shape the clavus of *latruncula* and *strigilis* is very similar.

Differences in the spines on the aedeagus are slight and difficult to interpret, and there is evidently some variation. *O. latruncula* usually has a strong apical spine and two further spines, but *versicolor* also has 3 spines in this area. *O. strigilis* usually lacks the apical spine, but according to Zilli *et al.* (2005), it is present on some specimens, especially in continental Europe, the prominence of this feature varying in a north-south geographical cline (larger in southern Europe).

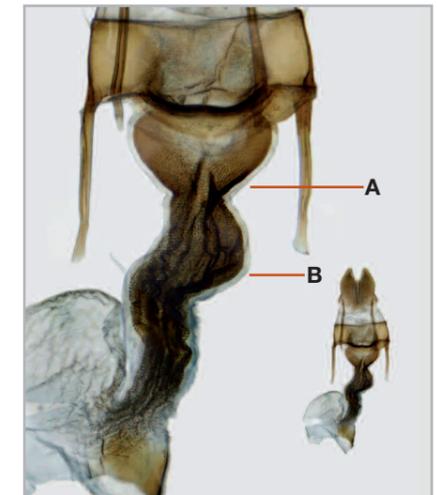
Key to diagnostic morphological characters of the females

Note - the differences in both the ventral wall of the antrum and the sclerotisation in the corpus bursae can be difficult to see and interpret.

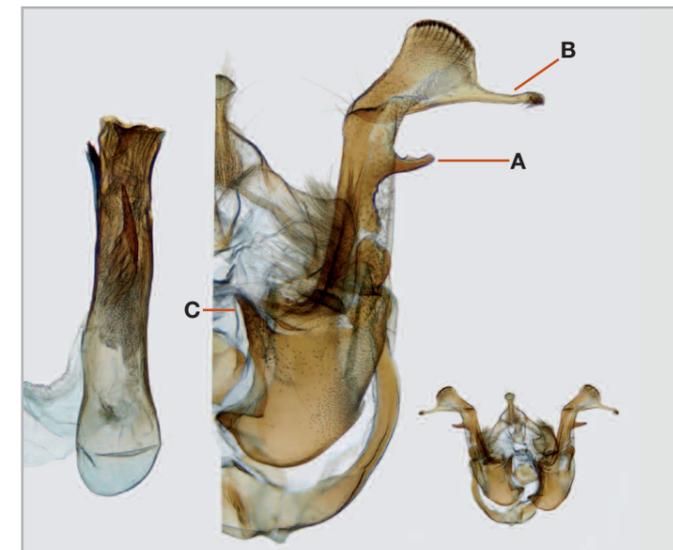
- Sharp constriction at junction of antrum and ductus bursae (Fig. 105, A).
 Ductus bursae with distinct lateral bulge (B).....*strigilis*
 – Junction of antrum and ductus bursae not sharply constricted.
 Ductus bursae without lateral bulge (Figs. 107, B; 109, B).....2
- Ventral wall of antrum thick, semi-circular (Fig. 107, A). Corpus bursae with large sclerotised area (C) (partially hidden in figure).....*versicolor*
 – Ventral wall of antrum thin, slightly thickened, weakly concave (Fig. 109, A).
 Corpus bursae with small sclerotised area (C).....*latruncula*



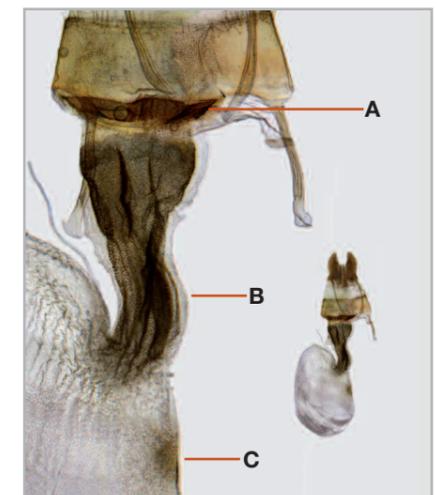
104. *Oligia strigilis* male



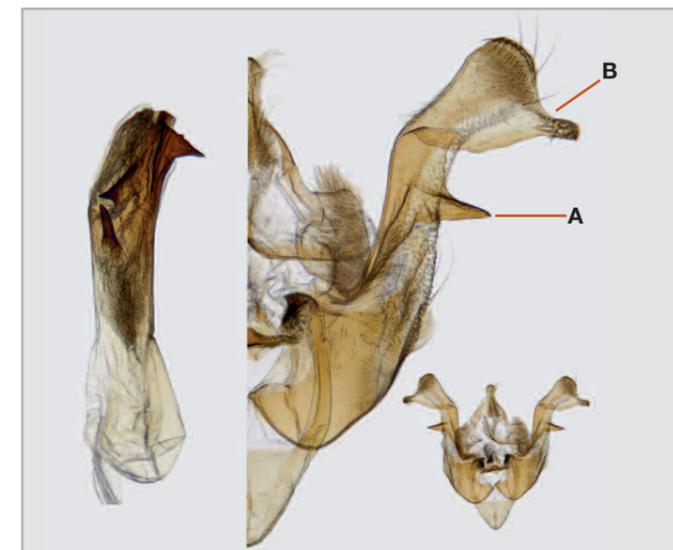
105. *Oligia strigilis* female



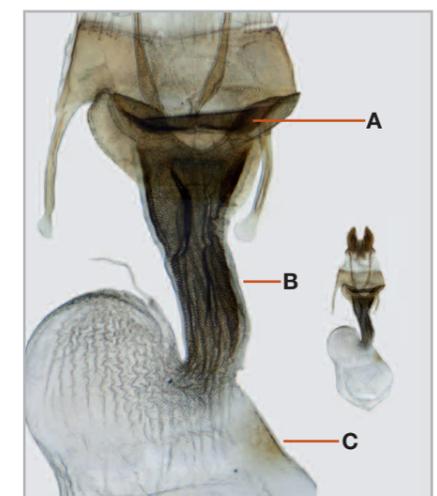
106. *Oligia versicolor* male



107. *Oligia versicolor* female



108. *Oligia latruncula* male



109. *Oligia latruncula* female