

# Insect Fact Sheet

## The Horse Chestnut Leafminer



The Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner was only discovered near Macedonia in 1985. It was originally known from Greece in the 1970's, but not recognised as a new species until 1985. It spread rapidly to other European countries, before reaching the UK in 2002.

Accidental transportation via either road or rail, was thought to be a contributing factor in helping the moth reach the UK. By 2005, the moth had reached Derbyshire and Leicestershire and was recorded for the first time in Nottinghamshire in 2007.

Since then, the Horse Chestnut Leafminer has continued to spread northwards, which is some feat for a moth with a wingspan of just 8mm.

The moth's ability to spread so quickly, is helped by producing three broods a year. The eggs are laid on the leaves of the Horse Chestnut and the larvae feed inside the leaf, creating blotch mines. These mines become more conspicuous as the larva grows and with a series of broods produced throughout the Summer, most of the lower leaves are turned brown by the thousands of blotch mines.

Now, most Horse Chestnut trees are infested by this moth and nothing can be done to control it. By July, when you look at a Horse Chestnut tree, it looks as though Autumn has arrived very early, but it is all down to this tiny invader!

**Leafmine**



**Larva**



**Adult**

