

**Small Eggar *Eriogaster lanestris* larvae in Worcestershire 2018.**

Harry Green & Andy Warr

Whilst visiting Hill Court Farm reserve near Longdon on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Andy Warr noticed a 'nest' of Small Eggar larvae on a hedge. On returning on 2<sup>nd</sup> June he found another two 'nests'. All three were on a 25 metre stretch of hedgerow at SO825351. (01, 02, 03) He found a fourth in the same stretch a few days later.



**Nest 1**

01. Small Eggar larval 'nest' 1 Longdon. Andy Warr.



**Nest 2**

02. Small Eggar larval 'nest' 2 Longdon. Andy Warr



**Nest 3**

03. Small Eggar larval 'nest' 3 Longdon. Andy Warr

Andy also reported that Sarah Loaring found a single Small Eggar caterpillar between Gullers End & Longdon, by a public footpath, not far from Hill Court, on 10<sup>th</sup> June (04).



04. . Small Eggar larva near Longdon. Sarah Loaring.

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 a neighbour drew Harry Green's attention to a Small Eggar 'nest' at Little Comberton SO9637 4327 situated about one metre above the ground amongst the outer twigs of a hawthorn hedge (05, 06).



05. Small Eggar larval 'nest' at Little Comberton. Harry Green



06. Small Eggar larval 'nest' at Little Comberton. Harry Green.



This spectacular structure survived despite severe buffeting by the wind with the larvae gradually stripping the leaves from adjacent hawthorn before dispersing.

Tony Simpson reported that the species is uncommon in Worcestershire. According to <https://ukmoths.org.uk/species/erigaster-lanestris/> the species was once quite common but now scarce and local mainly due to destruction of its favoured hedgerow habitat. It is now restricted to a few scattered colonies in England and Ireland and a few sites in Wales. The moths fly in February and March (07).



07. Small Eggar moth *Eriogaster lanestris*.

#### Images

01. Small Eggar larval 'nest' 1 Longdon. Andy Warr.
02. Small Eggar larval 'nest' 2 Longdon. Andy Warr.
03. Small Eggar larval 'nest' 3 Longdon. Andy Warr.
04. Small Eggar larva near Longdon. Sarah Loaring.
05. Small Eggar larval 'nest' at Little Comberton. Harry Green.
06. Small Eggar larval 'nest' at Little Comberton. Harry Green.
07. Small Eggar moth *Eriogaster lanestris*.