

***Esperia oliiviella* (Fabricius) Lepidoptera: Oecophoridae in non woodland site.**

Tony Simpson

This nationally scarce dead wood feeding moth was confined in Worcestershire to Wyre Forest where it is widespread especially near to Dowles Brook. It seemed to be a good ancient semi-natural woodland indicator species.

It was therefore a surprise when Rosemary Winnall swept one from alongside some dead wood in what had been an old orchard, at Yew View, Clevelode to the south of Worcester City, during the Worcestershire Recorders meeting on 1st August 2015 (01 & 02). Apart from being a dramatic extension of its county range the date of capture was unusually late, as all previous records had been in June and early July. It is difficult to know if this represents a second brood or a very late emergence. There was no woodland close to the site.

Ian Machin recorded *Esperia oliiviella* at light in Bewdley in 2008 & 2014 in a garden just outside Wyre Forest, and this year it was found in a wood in south Herefordshire, the first record for that county. This may suggest that this moth is becoming more widespread and it will be interesting to see if we get more records away from Wyre.

Images

- 01. *Esperia oliiviella*. Tony Simpson.
- 02. *Esperia oliiviella*. Tony Simpson.



01. *Esperia oliiviella*. Tony Simpson.



02. *Esperia oliiviella*. Tony Simpson.