

A larva of the Pearly Underwing Moth *Peridroma saucia* (Hübner, 1808) (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) imported to Worcestershire in Spanish celery (*Apium graveolens* Dulce group)

Paul F. Whitehead, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3EH. Email: paulpfw@outlook.com

Introduction

The Pearly Underwing Moth *Peridroma saucia* (Hübner, 1808), is a regular migrant to the United Kingdom (Brown, 2006; Gilmore, Slade & Stewart, 2014; Harper & Simpson, 2002). As a larva it is associated with a wide range of cultivated crops and is distributed widely in both the Palaearctic and Nearctic zoogeographical regions. A well-grown larva was extracted from the centre of a wrapped organic celery plant purchased from a supermarket in Evesham, Worcestershire, on 18 December 2024.

Discussion

As immigrants Pearly Underwing Moths are mostly encountered in the British Isles during the autumn. They are generally distributed especially in the southern half of Britain where larvae are seldom recorded so a photographic record of the Evesham larva is provided (01, 02) noting the yellow spots on the dorsal surface of the earlier segments (01).

Illustrations of the moths can be found widely online with a series at <https://britishlepidoptera.weebly.com/307-peridroma-saucia-pearly-underwing.html>. Celery is grown in vast quantities in the eastern regions of the Iberian Peninsula and it is likely that this larva originated from the region of Murcia. No crop production criticism is implied as the larva is regarded by the writer as a manifestation of organic production.



01. Larva of Pearly Underwing Moth (*Peridroma saucia*), dorsal aspect, imported to Evesham, Worcestershire, December 2024. PF Whitehead.



02. Larva of Pearly Underwing Moth (*Peridroma saucia*), lateral aspect, imported to Evesham, Worcestershire, December 2024. PF Whitehead.

References

- Brown, D. G., 2006. *The larger moths of Warwickshire*, pp. 1-382. Atropos Publishing, Holmfirth.
- Gilmore, D., Slade, D. & Stewart, B., 2014. *The moths of Glamorgan*, pp. 1-424. Atropos Publishing, Helston, Cornwall.
- Harper, M.W. & Simpson, A.N.B., 2002. *The larger moths and butterflies of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, an atlas*. The West Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation, pp. i-vii, 1-195.

Images

01. Larva of Pearly Underwing Moth (*Peridroma saucia*), dorsal aspect, imported to Evesham, Worcestershire, December 2024. PF Whitehead.
02. Larva of Pearly Underwing Moth (*Peridroma saucia*), lateral aspect, imported to Evesham, Worcestershire, December 2024. PF Whitehead.