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**14.69 – *Parectopa robiniella* (Clemens, 1863) - Locust Digitate Leafminer  
(Lepidoptera, Gracillariidae)**

David Lees

**Description and biological cycle:** Small moth, wingspan 5.73–7.26 mm. Forewing background dark orange with four white curved flecks outlined in fuscous, running from costa and tergal edge of forewing in an interdigitate fashion towards middle of wing; white costal mark in between most apical flecks. Hindwing mid brownish with brownish cilia tipped apically in white (see *Figure 11.6b* in *Chapter 11*). Hindlegs conspicuously banded brown and white. Mine starts close to base of leaf with egg laid on underside, at the base of a fork made by the veins, where the larva bores through to upperside and forms a distinctive whitish digitate shape, straddling the midrib (*Photo*), unlike *Phyllonorycter robiniella*, which may precede it by about two weeks, and in U.S.A., *Chrysaster ostensackenella* Fitch. Larva greenish and solitary, leaf-miner on Black Locust (or False Acacia) trees *Robinia pseudacacia* and *R. hispida*, and on other Fabaceae including *Amorpha fruticosa*, *Galactia volubilis* and *Desmodium* sp. Leaf-mines and adult flight occurs from June to October (in two, sometimes overlapping, generations). Larva pupates in leaf litter on ground, in contrast to *Phyllonorycter robiniella*, and probably thus less susceptible to parasitism.

**Native habitat** (EUNIS code): G- Woodland, forest and other wooded land.

**Habitat occupied in invaded range** (EUNIS code): G5 - Lines of trees, small anthropogenic woodlands, recently felled woodland, early-stage woodland and coppice; I- Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats; I2- Cultivated areas of gardens and parks; X24- Domestic gardens of city and town centres.

**Native range:** North America (Canada: Québec), U.S.A. (Florida, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Orleans, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Wisconsin)



Credit: György Csóka