

A key to the parasitoids of *Cameraria ohridella*

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CD-ROM, Version 1.0



Introduction:

More than a million species of parasitic Hymenoptera are estimated to exist worldwide. Some families comprise thousands of described species, like the Ichneumonidae (22 000 species) or the Eulophidae (4 000 species). In addition to their species richness, the taxonomy of these parasitoids is very difficult. Only a few specialists are able to identify larger groups of parasitic Hymenoptera with certainty.

In contrast to the extremely high diversity of some Hymenopteran families, the parasitoid complex of a particular phytophagous insect usually does not exceed 30 species. The identification of parasitoids belonging to a clearly defined complex is therefore much easier manageable.

Scope:

The presented key allows to identify the native European parasitoids of the horse chestnut leafminer, *Cameraria ohridella* DESCHKA & DIMIC 1986. The parasitoids of the tiny moth are of particular interest for plant protection experiments as well as for biological and ecological investigations. The key is easy to handle for non-taxonomists and only requires some practice in using a dissecting microscope. It was designed to make the identification of the relevant chalcidoids and ichneumonoids as simple as possible and ignores phylogenetic relationships, synapomorphic characters of certain groups, etc. This implies that the simple character sets given in the key are not always species-specific in taxonomic reality. Therefore, parasitoid identification with this key is only reliable if the specimens developed as primary or secondary parasitoids in or on preimaginal stages of *C. ohridella*, not on any other organisms associated with horse chestnuts. Of course, it is not valid for the identification of parasitoids from other leafminers.

Applications:

The CD-ROM comprises two applications: An identification key constructed of 21 couplets allows for determination of all important parasitoids of the leafminer (26 species). In three cases, the key stops at genus level since the separation of the particular species is unclear or too difficult.

An annotated species list mentions all parasitoids which have ever been reported from *C. ohridella* and are likely to occur on the leafminer, although they have not been found by the authors (a total of 37 species). This list provides additional information on the parasitoids regarding taxonomy, biology, scientific identification or cites in previous publications.

The key is illustrated with 44 figures and 32 photographs and contains many extras such as tips for the preparation of the parasitoids or comprehensive information on the host insect, *Cameraria ohridella*.

Orders: EUR 33.00 plus postage, Verlag Naturhistorisches Museum, use order form p. 680.