

Lucerne leaf beetle pest report information

Field	Detail
Taxon (order, family)	Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae
Pest species name	<i>Gonioctena fornicata</i>
Pest common name	Lucerne leaf beetle
Country	United Kingdom
Report status	Final
Hosts found on	Unknown - caught by member of the public
Host range (indicate if the host is major, wild-weed, alternate, experimental, or doubtful, if known)	It feeds mainly on <i>Medicago</i> species, namely <i>M. sativa</i> , <i>M. lupulina</i> (black medick) and <i>M. falcata</i> (yellow alfalfa), but it has also been found on <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> (bird's foot trefoil), <i>Trifolium pratense</i> (red clover) and <i>T. repens</i> (white clover).
Pest status	Present: not widely distributed (only 2 individuals have been found) and not under official control
Geographical distribution	Essex
Official control in place	None
Summary (nature of the finding and phytosanitary measures taken)	The lucerne leaf beetle (<i>Gonioctena fornicata</i>), a non-native pest of <i>Medicago sativa</i> (lucerne), has been recorded for the first time in the UK. Two specimens were caught by a member of the public in Essex.

	<p>Although the status of the beetle in the UK is uncertain, it is most likely that the beetle has become established or there have been mass migration events. If there were only a few migrants in the UK, it is unlikely they would have been detected.</p> <p>Given the lack of significant impacts recorded in other temperate countries and the low level of production of lucerne in the UK, no statutory action is being taken.</p>
Danger	The adults and larvae feed on the leaves, flowers and shoots of lucerne, and the beetle is considered one of the most important pests of lucerne in central and south-eastern Europe, with significant damage being reported from Bulgaria and Turkey, in particular.
Report files	- None
Website	-
Issue keywords	-
Commodity keywords	-