

# The host-plants and larval cases of *Coleophora therinella* and *C. peribenanderi* (Lepidoptera: Coleophoridae)

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*Abstract:* It is shown that the larvae of *Coleophora therinella* live on the seeds of *Polygonum convolvulus* and those of *Coleophora peribenanderi* on the leaves of *Cirsium* sp. and *Carduus* sp. The larval cases of *C. therinella* and *C. peribenanderi* are described and depicted.

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## Introduction

Ever since its description in 1848 by Tengström, *Coleophora therinella* has been associated with thistles. In 1942 Toll described a new species, *C. benanderi*, which, in spite of its resemblance to *C. therinella*, has completely different genitalia (Toll, 1942). The name of the new species, however, was preoccupied and was replaced by *C. peribenanderi* (Toll, 1943). Since then, both species have been associated with thistles (Toll, 1953; Patzak, 1974).

Illustrations of the genitalia of *C. therinella* and *C. peribenanderi* are given in Toll (1942, 1953) and Patzak (1974).

## Observations and discussion

In August 1984 I received a number of *Coleophora* cases feeding on the seeds of Black Bindweed (*Polygonum convolvulus* L.). They were collected during a botanical survey by J. van de Sande in Sirjansland, province of Zeeland, The Netherlands. The plants grew at a roadside near the entrance to arable land. After hibernation in sleeves in my garden the cases were taken inside the house in April 1985. Between the 14th of June and the 12th of July eight adults, males and females, emerged. Examination of both male and female genitalia revealed that they belonged to *C. therinella*. Since then I have checked the genitalia of many specimens identified as *C. therinella* or

*C. peribenanderi* in Dutch collections with the following results:

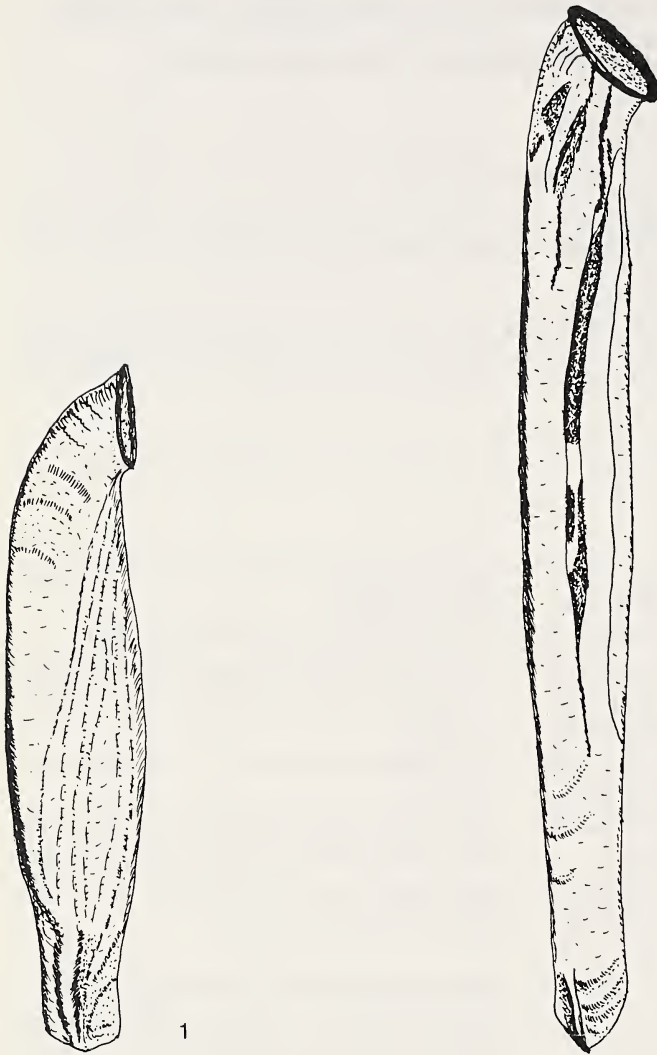
- a. Many specimens were misidentified.
- b. All specimens bred from either *Carduus* or *Cirsium* turned out to belong to *C. peribenanderi*.
- c. No bred specimens of *C. therinella* were present.

Both Mr J. M. Chalmers-Hunt, Great Britain and Mr O. Karsholt, Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, who checked their own collections, got the same results.

Although the adults of the two species show a close resemblance, their cases differ considerably. The case of *C. therinella* (fig. 1) is about 7 mm long, cylindrical; dark red-brown with granulated surface and finely wrinkled ventrally. Oral opening parallel to the axis of the case. Anal opening trivalved.

The case of *C. peribenanderi* (fig. 2) is about 13 mm long and slenderly cylindrical; grey with longitudinal dark brown and creamy white stripes and smooth surface. Oral opening forming an angle of about 45° with the axis. Anal opening trivalved.

*C. therinella* is known from most European countries including the Russian Federation, from Asia Minor and Japan. The distribution in The Netherlands is given in fig. 3.



Figs. 1-2. Larval cases of *Coleophora*. 1, *therinella*; 2, *peribenanderi*.

*C. peribenanderi* is known from North, Central and Western Europe, Greece, Italy and France. The distribution in The Netherlands is given in fig. 4.

It is obvious that *C. therinella* has been incorrectly associated with thistles. The larvae of the species feed on the seeds of *Polygonum convolvulus*. The species is closely related to *C. pratella* Zeller, which is reported to feed on the seeds of *Polygonum dumetorum* L. and

*bistortata* L. (Baldizzone, 1980). *C. peribenanderi* belongs to a group of closely related species all feeding on the leaves of Asteraceae (Toll, 1953).

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Fig. 3. Distribution of *Coleophora therinella* in The Netherlands.

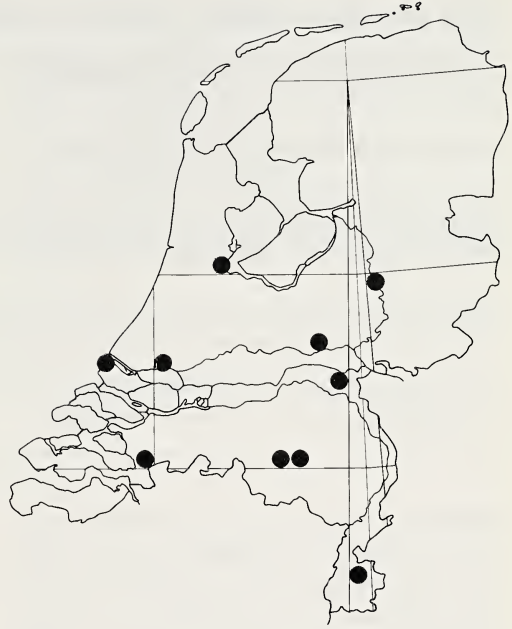


Fig. 4. Distribution of *Coleophora peribenanderi* in The Netherlands.

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