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**Recent records of the box tree moth
Cydalima perspectalis (Walker, 1859)
(Lepidoptera: Crambidae,
Spilomelinae) from the Greater
Glasgow area, Scotland**

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As the name suggests, the box tree moth (or boxworm), *Cydalima perspectalis*, is associated with box, *Buxus* spp. Its distinctive greenish-yellow larvae with longitudinal black stripes eat box leaves and spin a web around the feeding area for protection. In large numbers they can completely defoliate the plant, which can, however, recover in a couple of months, though repeated infestations would no doubt weaken it. The box tree moth is therefore regarded as a pest species (RHS, 2022).

The moth is a native of southeast Asia, occurring in China, Japan and Korea. It was first recorded in Europe in 2007, at sites in Germany and the Netherlands, and has been found in other European countries since then (Straten & Muus, 2010). Its distribution is linked directly to the presence of its host plant.

The first known U.K. occurrence was also in 2007, in Kent, England. It is now well established throughout southern and central England and parts of Wales. There are also some records in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The first record for Scotland was from Dalgety Bay in Fife (VC85) on 19th July 2018. Another was found in Fife in 2019 in Dunfermline. It was subsequently also found at Simpson Loan, Edinburgh (VC83) in August 2019. There is also a record from the RHS Box Tree Caterpillar web survey (RHS, 2022) from Gattonside, Melrose, Scottish Borders (VC80) for 11th July 2019 (NBN Atlas, 2019).

In July 2021 there were several sightings in central Scotland, including the Greater Glasgow area, within vice counties 76 and 86. The first of these was noted by Alison Sutcliffe at Oakwood Garden Centre, near Killearn, Stirlingshire on 8th July. It was sitting on the underside of a leaf of a plant for sale there (Fig. 1A). The second example was photographed by Claire MacNab on a window at a plant nursery at Kilsyth, North Lanarkshire on 14th July. One was light-trapped by David Bryant in Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire on 19th July (all VC86). Kevin Sinclair then trapped one in a



Fig. 1. Box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*). (A) Oakwood Garden Centre, Killearn, Stirlingshire, Scotland. (B) Clarkston, East Renfrewshire, Scotland. (Photos: Alison Sutcliffe (A) and Kevin Sinclair (B))

125V MV Robinson light trap on 21st July in his garden in Clarkston, East Renfrewshire (Fig. 1B). Two days later on 23rd July, Gary Williamson also trapped one in a garden moth trap in Simshill, Glasgow.. On the same date, Myles O'Reilly caught one with his trap in Giffnock.. All three were recorded from within quite a small area on the south side of Glasgow and all were in VC76.

Two of these records are from horticultural establishments, suggesting that this is likely to be the origin of this pest species. It is probable that the moth

could become established in parts of Scotland and any other Scottish records would be welcomed by the author. Thanks to Mark Cubitt, Martin Culshaw, Myles O'Reilly, Kevin Sinclair, Paul Tatner, Richard Weddle, Gary Williamson, Alison Sutcliffe and Dr Mark Young for information about the individual records.

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