

The separation of *Epinotia caprana* from *Epinotia sordidana*

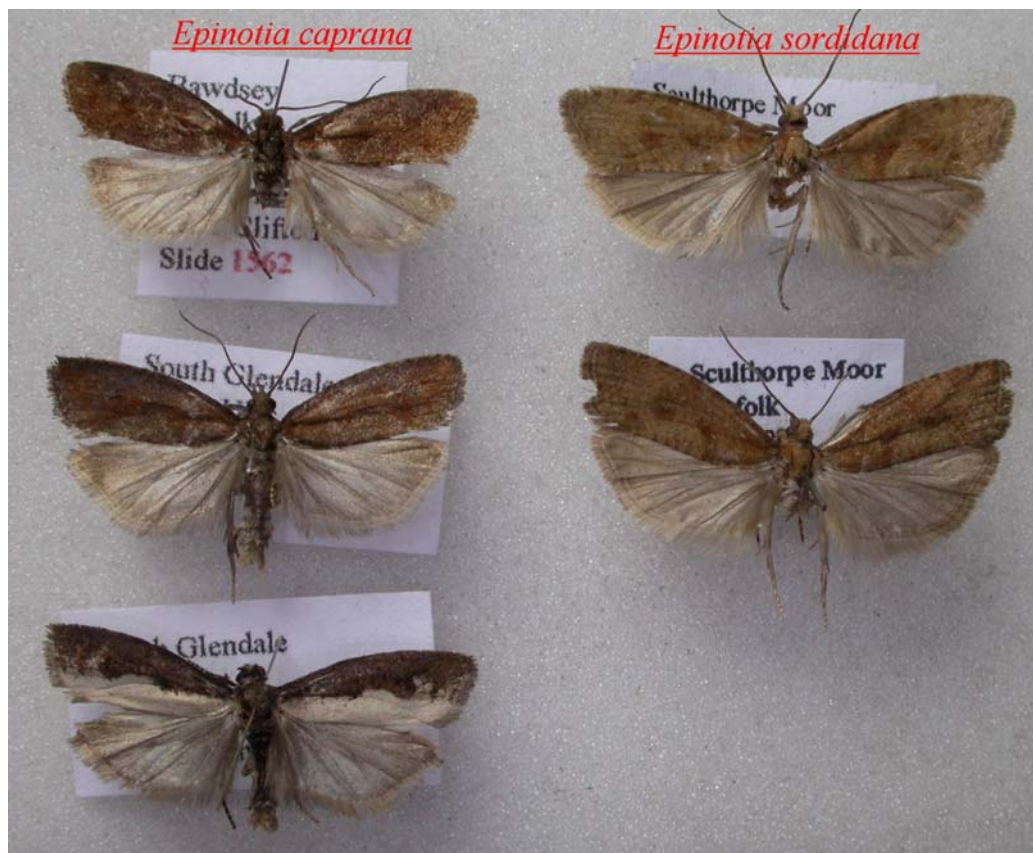
Epinotia caprana can be a highly variable species ranging from the boldly marked and easily distinguished black and white form (see lower specimen on colour plate), to specimens showing a weakly marked fascia and dorsal blotch to a more uniformly coloured form. It is this form that can and does lead to confusion with the closely related species, *Epinotia sordidana*.

As both can and do occur in the same type of habitat of damp marshes, fens and carr woodland, locality is therefore of no real help if searching for adults. *Epinotia caprana* feeding on willows and *E. sordidana* feeding on alder.

Epinotia caprana, when compared to *Epinotia sordidana*, is usually a little smaller and shows a whiter-grey hindwing compared to the almost uniformly ochreous-grey hindwing as seen in that species. This is obviously very hard to see and interpret in the field and in most cases, especially the hindwing feature, is not appreciable unless set first.

The Norfolk Broads seems to be a stronghold for *Epinotia caprana* but away from here, in VC28 West Norfolk and surrounding counties as far north as Yorkshire, there seems to be very few records and even fewer recent records. Although slightly more common, the same could be said of *Epinotia sordidana*. Both though appear to be becoming quite rare and localised.

If any observer believes they have one of these two species, would they retain and let me know.



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