Orange-spot Piercer

Pammene aurana



Identification:

Most micro-moths are rather tricky to identify, but this one is distinctive, especially as it is almost always seen on the flower-heads of Hogweed. If you see a small (5-6 mm) moth on Hogweed, chocolate-brown with these prominent gold spots, it is this one.

Distribution:

It is common (but under-recorded) on the east side of Highland, but we have no records from the north or west. Records from these areas will be especially valuable. Blue <2010, green 2010 on.



Photo © James Lindsey http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cc/ Pammene.aurana.-.lindsey.jpg

When to look for it:

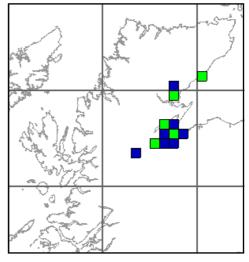
June to July, on the flowering heads of Hogweed, the larval foodplant.

Similar Species:

No other moth has the same pattern.

Notes:

The larvae spin a web in the seeding heads of Hogweed, and feed on the seeds. While looking for this moth, you may see the Shieldbug Fly *Phasia hemiptera*, the larvae of the Parsnip Moth *Depressaria pastinacella*, and many other insects.



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