

***Earias roseifera* Butler, 1881 (Nolidae: Chloephorinae), a new adventive species in mainland Portugal**

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Abstract

Following the first report of *Earias roseifera* Butler, 1881 on the Iberian Peninsula in 2024, in Galicia, Spain, the first confirmed records of *Earias roseifera* Butler, 1881 in Portugal were obtained in 2025, in Minho and Douro Litoral, in the northern part of the country.

Key-words: Lepidoptera, Iberian Peninsula, Exotic, Rhododendron.

Resumo

Após o primeiro registo de *Earias roseifera* Butler, 1881 na Península Ibérica em 2024, na Galiza, Espanha, os primeiros registos confirmados de *Earias roseifera* Butler, 1881 em Portugal foram obtidos em 2025, no Minho e Douro Litoral, no norte do país.

Palavras-chave: Lepidoptera, Península Ibérica, Exótico, Rhododendron.

Introduction

Earias roseifera Butler, 1881 was first recorded for Europe in 2018, based on specimens recorded in Switzerland and Italy (Rezbanyai-Reser & Thiebaud, 2018; Taddei et al., 2019). Further records from Switzerland from 2021 and 2022 were reported in Bryner & Kopp (2023). In 2024, it was first reported for the Iberian Peninsula based on specimens recorded in Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain in Martínez-Fernández et al. (2024). This species was described from material from Tokyo and until recently it was found only in East Asia. The larvae of *E. roseifera* feed on flower and leaf buds of Rhododendron species causing a reduction and, in some cases, the complete loss of flowers (Taddei et al., 2019). This note reports the first confirmed records from Portugal.

Results and Discussion

Examined material:

São Vicente de Penso, Carcavelos, Braga, Minho, 41.49232N 8.4378W, 29TNF4793, 195 m, 1 ex. 10.iv.2025 (Fig. 1), 1 ex. 18.v.2025 and 1 ex. 23.v.2025, Pedro Gomes, attracted to light, all deposited in the personal collection of João Nunes.

Additional records:

Cambeses, Barcelos, Minho, 41.49032N 8.53079W, 29TNF3993, 139 m, 1 ex. 8.viii.2024, Alda Senra and José Grosso-Silva, attracted to light (iNaturalist – 234593013 and 234597496); Barroelas, Viana do Castelo, Minho, 41.64788N 8.68889W, 29T NG2510, 66 m, 2 ex. 6.iv.2025, Pedro Correia, resting by daylight on *Lavandula* sp. (iNaturalist – 268829416); São Vicente de

Penso, Carcavelos, Braga, Minho, 41.49232N 8.4378W, 29T NF4793, 195 m, 1 ex. 27.iv.2025 and 1 ex. 23.vi.2025, Pedro Gomes, attracted to light; Aldoar, Porto, Douro Litoral, 41.17103N 8.66671W, 29TNF2757, 50 m, 1 ex. 10.viii.2025, João Lima, attracted to light.

The potentially first record of *E. roseifera* in Portugal, from Barcelos in August 2024, is based on a specimen lacking the characteristic pink patch in the centre of the forewings, a known form of this species, as illustrated in Taddei et al. (2019), but which can be confused with forms of other *Earias* species. Since the specimen was not retained, the identification could not be confirmed. As a result, the publication of this species as new to the Portuguese checklist was postponed until additional records – ideally with retained specimens - were obtained. In April 2025, a new observation of well-marked individuals was made in Viana do Castelo. A few days later, additional specimens were collected in Braga, attracted to light in a moth monitoring site under the Portuguese Moth Recording Scheme - Rede de Estações de Borboletas Noturnas (REBN). Further records soon followed from the same locality and from another REBN monitoring site further south, in Porto. The available records indicate bivoltinism, a characteristic reported from its native range (Kishida, 2011).

With the new adventive species, four species of genus *Earias* Hübner, 1825 are now known from Portugal: *Earias clorana* (Linnaeus, 1761), *Earias albovenosana* Oberthür, 1917, *Earias insulana* (Boisduval, 1833) and *Earias roseifera* Butler, 1881. Of the species occurring in Spain, only *Earias vernana* (Fabricius, 1787) is not recorded for Portugal, as it presents a north-eastern distribution in the Iberian Peninsula (Triviño et al., 2010).



Fig. 1. *Earias roseifera* Butler, 1881, São Vicente de Penso, Carcavelos, Braga, Minho, 10.iv.2025, Pedro Gomes.

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