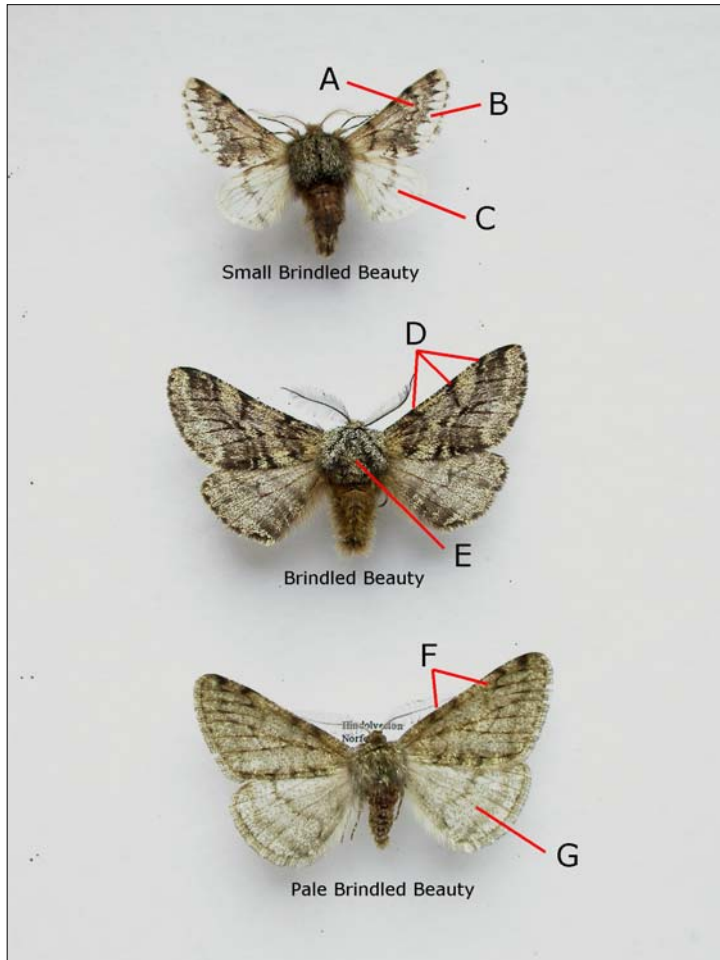


THE SEPARATION OF MALE BRINDLED BEAUTY (*Lycia hirtaria*), PALE BRINDLED BEAUTY (*Phigalia pilosaria*) & SMALL BRINDLED BEAUTY (*Apocheima hispidaria*)

Pale Brindled Beauty is the first of the three to fly being on the wing from January through until early March whereas Brindled Beauty is on the wing from early April until May. Thus confusion of these two should be almost separable on flight period alone but there are some that will fly earlier or later than literature states. Small Brindled Beauty flies from mid-February through to the end of March.



Small Brindled Beauty should cause little confusion being much smaller in size than the other two species. It also shows a more jagged, irregular median fascia (A) and a pale area to the outer edge of the forewing (B). The hindwing is also much paler, almost white (C). Due to its small size, the basal area of the forewing also appears much thinner.

Confusion could arise with the other two species but Brindled Beauty shows stronger fascia (cross-line) (D) and is a more boldly marked insect. The thorax also tends to be heavier and thicker (E). Pale Brindled Beauty is much paler overall, almost ochreous in ground colour with a weaker sub-basal and median fascia (F) and a paler hindwing (G).

Note: A rare dark, almost unicolorous form of Oak Beauty exists (see lower picture) and could be mistaken for Brindled Beauty but both the sub-basal and median fascia are more angular in appearance. In some of these forms the wings can appear to be shorter than normal in this species leading to further potential confusion.



Many thanks for Julian Small (Yorkshire) for providing the image of Oak Beauty.

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