

Comparative life histories of two populations of *Conwentzia psociformis* from different geographic area: eurytopy or more?

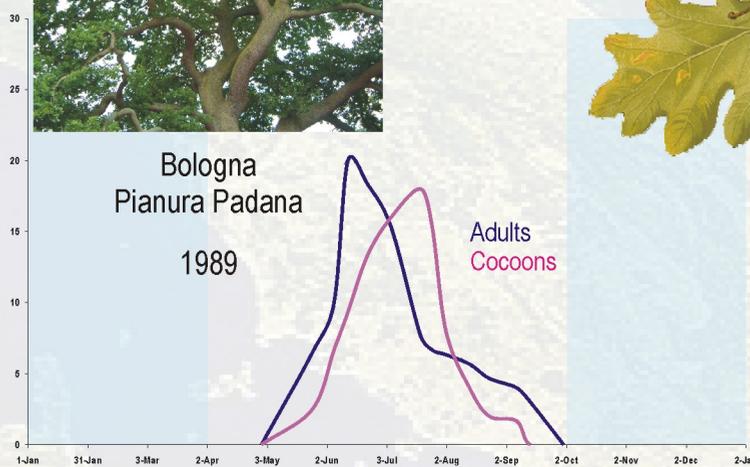
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Conwentzia psociformis (Curtis, 1834) (Neuroptera Coniopterygidae) is widely distributed over the whole of Europe and has been recorded in N-Africa and Anatolia.

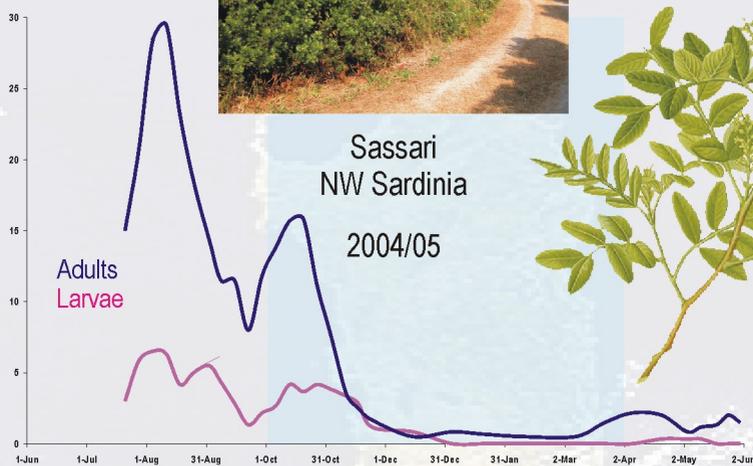
In the Pianura Padana and most of Europe this species has a marked preference for *Quercus pedunculata* (the English oak) and *Quercus petraea* (the Durmast oak) where there are 2-3 broods a year and imagines may be taken from April to October. In this region *Conwentzia psociformis* has a winter diapause as prepupa (eopupa).

It has been captured on various arboreal species in

Research was carried out in 1989 in the experimental garden of the Istituto di Entomologia "G. Grandi" of the Bologna University (Emilia Romagna, Italy). In order to collect *Conwentzia psociformis* cocoons, every ten days the trunk, branches and leaves of the same English oak tree were examined. In the same period and with the same frequency the adults were captured using an entomological net.



During ten years of research in the Pianura Padana one of us (RAP) captured *Conwentzia psociformis* only on English oaks. High population densities are found mainly in urban parks still containing large old English oak trees.



the Mediterranean region but high population densities mostly refer to citrus orchards.

In Sardinia, on the other hand, it is found mainly on *Pistacia lentiscus* (the lentisk) even in fairly dry areas, has many generations and some adults and larvae are present also in the winter months. The species therefore does not seem to have a true diapause.

Such marked ecological differences are not common in European Neuroptera and would be worth investigating further.

Research started in the summer of 2004 and is still going on. Sampling is carried out weekly in two lentisk thickets in Olmedo and Alghero (Sassari, NW Sardinia). The adults are captured with an entomological net and the larvae are collected using a beating tray consisting of a 24 x 30 cm wooden board covered in black velvet.

In Sardinia *Conwentzia psociformis* has been found everywhere the lentisk grows, from sand dunes to arid hillsides. High population densities are often present on these trees. *C. psociformis* is common and abundant in citrus orchards in Sardinia.