

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INSECT HERBIVORES ON ORCHID CONSERVATION

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ABSTRACT

When an orchid is deliberately or inadvertently relocated, it is likely to encounter a range of biological challenges to long term survival including a complex and dynamic insect community which could alter conservation expectations yet there have been few studies of the phytophagous insects associated with wild orchids. We have investigated the assemblage of such insects associated with terrestrial orchids being monitored in our long term studies in Gatineau Park, Québec, Canada. Aphids, leafminers, moths, thrips, weevils, and whiteflies were found to be injurious to orchids although in different combinations and with varying impact according to the orchid host, habitat and year. Loss of seeds and even complete desiccation of plants was observed. Where the leafminer, *Parallelomma vittatum* Meigen (Diptera: Scathophagidae) infested *Cypripedium reginae* Walter randomly, this was not the case with *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens* (Willd.) Knight where specific plants were repeatedly infested. Some infestations such as with the leafminers seemed to be in equilibrium with parasitoids thus minimizing potential impact. A likely climate-related asynchrony of parasitoid and leafminer led to an outbreak in 2009 which heavily impacted the introduced *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz while a phenological shift in a thrips primary host, *Trillium grandiflorum* (Michaux) Salisb. (Melanthiaceae), in 2010, contributed to severe herbivory in habitats where both *E. helleborine* and trillium occurred. If climate change can lead to changes in insect abundance and impact on orchids, it would be useful to investigate the potential impact of phytophagous insects before assisted migration is considered as a conservation measure.

Keywords: Leafminer, asynchrony, *Epipactis*, *Cypripedium*, parasitoid, weevil

Introduction

Insects associate with plants in many ways including as herbivores where, according to Price (1980), more than one-half of animal herbivore species are insects which are detrimental to plants. Some feed and breed exclusively on one host but others may use a series of related or unrelated hosts to complete their life cycle. Whereas most emphasis in orchid-insect relationships has been placed upon insects as pollinators or as pests of naturalized or cultivated orchids, little has been published on native orchid-insect herbivore biology and ecology (Hawkeswood 1991a,b; Fiedler 1992; Hull Sieg and O'Brien 1993; Light and MacConaill 2002; Winkler et al. 2005; Dunford, et al. 2006; Ellis 2007; Funderburk et al. 2007). A review of the literature including phytosanitary interception reports (Swezey 1945), and taxonomic works where some biological information has been provided reveals a broad range of insects which feed and breed on orchids (Table 1). These insects likely have parasites including insects, mites, thrips and entomopathogens but little is known about these relationships except where a control agent has been sought to combat pests of cultivated plants (Bado et al. 2002; Loomans 2006; Vega et al. 2008; Hodek and Honěk 2009).

Orchid ecosystems are complex assemblages of plants, animals and microorganisms not easily recognized over the short term. Weather can influence phenology and fruiting outcomes (Light and MacConaill 2002) but the

ecosystem balance can also be altered by weather leading to insect pest outbreaks or population decline (Imle 1994; Light and MacConaill 2006; Sparks et al. 2006; Battisti 2008; Singer and Parmesan 2010; Yang and Rudolf 2010). Gough et al. (1994) noted that increases in temperature had a strong influence on pupal period of the dendrobium beetle, *Stethopachys formosa* Baly (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), when the pupation period decreased significantly from 72 d at 15.5 °C to 15.5 d at 30.5 °C. This shift to shorter generation time could potentially enable this insect to complete more generations with climate warming. It is particularly challenging to predict insect population behaviour in a changing world when behaviour and regulation of many insect herbivores is not yet fully understood even under stable climatic conditions (Laštůvka 2009). Long term studies of orchid populations may detect sporadic swings in pest-host-parasite relationships but identifying and confirming the specific drivers of observed behaviour is difficult (Light and MacConaill 2005). Historic data obtained from the literature, herbaria and insect collections may provide useful clues to past behaviour and future trends but without an understanding of potential host-pest relationships before reintroduction or assisted migration is attempted, introduced orchids could encounter new pests or even reestablish a link between familiar pests or those which have invaded beforehand (Egan and Irwin 2008; Godefroid et al. 2011).

This investigation focused on the insect herbivores of three terrestrial orchids which are found in North Amer-

Table 1 Insect herbivores of orchids.

Order	Family	Genus	Species	Hosts	Origin: range	References
Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	<i>Stethopachys</i>	<i>formosa</i> Baly	<i>Dendrobium</i> Sw., <i>Cymbidium</i> Sw.	Australia, introduced elsewhere	Hawkeswood 1991a
		<i>Stethopachys</i>	<i>papuana</i> Gressitt	<i>Spathoglottis riviularis</i> Schlecht.	Papua New Guinea	Hawkeswood 1991b
	Curculionidae	<i>Orchidophilus</i>	<i>atterimus</i> Waterhouse	Orchidaceae	Philippines	Hara and Mau 1986, Prena 2008
	Curculionidae	<i>Stethobaris</i>	<i>commixta</i> Blatchley	<i>Platanthera</i> Rich.	introduced North America	Hull Seig and O'Brien 1993
	Curculionidae	<i>Stethobaris</i>	<i>ovata</i> LeConte	<i>Corallorhiza</i> Gagnebin, <i>Cypripedium</i> L., <i>Epipactis</i> Zinn, <i>Platanthera</i> Rich.	North America	Dunford, Young and Krauth 2006, Howden 1995
	Dryophthoridae	<i>Cactophagus</i>	<i>graphipterus</i> Champion	Orchidaceae	Central and South America	Vaurie 1983
Diptera	Cecidomyiidae	<i>Contarinia</i>	<i>maculipennis</i> Felt	Orchidaceae	Asia	Jensen 1946
	Scathophagidae	<i>Parallelomma</i>	<i>vittatum</i> Meigen	Orchidaceae	Holarctic	Vokeroth 1987
Hemiptera	Asterolecaniidae	<i>Aleurodiscus</i> Douglas	undescribed	<i>Maxillaria</i> Ruiz and Pavon	Costa Rica	Martin 2005
	Asterolecaniidae	<i>Asterolecanium</i>	<i>epidendri</i> Bouché	Orchidaceae	Neotropics, cultivated orchids	Swezy 1945
	Asterolecaniidae	<i>Cerataphis</i>	<i>orchidearum</i> Westwood	Arecaceae, Orchidaceae	Tropics, culti- vated orchids	Rivera-Coto and Corrales-Moreira 2007
	Miridae	<i>Tenthecoris</i>	<i>bicolor</i> J. Scott	Orchidaceae	South America	Bado, Sills, Pannunzio and Zapata 2002; Rivera-Coto and Corrales-Moreira 2007
Hymenoptera	Eurytomidae	<i>Eurytoma</i>	<i>orchidearum</i> Westwood	Orchidaceae	South America	Doucette 1925
Lepidoptera	Tortricidae	<i>Paralobesia</i>	<i>cypripediana</i> Forbes	<i>Cypripedium</i> L.	North America	Heinrich 1926
	Lycaenidae	<i>Hypolycaena</i>	<i>othona</i> Hewitson	Orchidaceae	Asia	Fiedler 1992
Thysanoptera	Thripidae	<i>Ctenothrips</i>	<i>bridwelli</i> Franklin	<i>Epipactis</i> Zinn	North America	this paper
		<i>Dichromothrips</i>	<i>corbetti</i> Priesner	Orchidaceae	South Asia	Mound 2002
		<i>Pseudothrips</i>	<i>beckhami</i> Beshear and Howell	<i>Calopogon</i> R. Br., <i>Habenaria</i> Willd.	North America	Funderburk, Mound and Sharma 2007

ica and have been the subject of study by the authors in Gatineau Park, Québec, Canada for more than two decades: *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz, *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens* (Willd.) Knight, and *Cypripedium reginae* Walt.

Epipactis helleborine is an historic example of assisted migration but whether the movement was intentional is unclear. The orchid was first reported in North America from New York State in 1879 (Soper and Murray 1985), first recorded for Ontario, Canada in 1890 (W and O White, CAN 16431), and for Québec, Canada (1894, HB Cushing, CAN 16424) but the first discovery in Montréal, Québec was possibly by ND Keith in 1892. Since the first report for North America, this orchid has spread widely (Soper and Murray 1985). The authors provide historic accounts of individuals transplanting *E. helleborine* to gardens including a comment by Szczawinski (1959) who suggested that those who had planted the orchid in

gardens on southern Vancouver Island might regret it. Squirrel et al. (2001) determined that plants growing in Gatineau Park and elsewhere in eastern North America were of continental European origin. Since this orchid's first appearance in North America in the late 1800's, it has become widespread (Soper and Murray 1985) but it can be subject to population decline (Light and MacConaill 2006) and to herbivory. In 1985, two completely dessicated plants of *E. helleborine* were noted where damage was attributed to an unidentified thrips (Light, unpublished). Herbivory by the orchidophilous weevil, *Stethobaris ovata* LeConte (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) has been reported where buds, stems and fruits are used for feeding and breeding (Champion 1916; Judd 1979; Howden 1995). Whether the assisted migration of *E. helleborine* was the deliberate movement of plants or an accidental importation of seeds, the introduction of this orchid and its subsequent exploitation by several insect herbivores

presents an opportunity for detailed investigation toward an understanding some of the challenges to long term survival of an assisted migrant.

As a point of comparison with *E. helleborine*, two endemic *Cypripedium* species were selected for investigation of insect herbivory. Herbivory of the locally common and widespread *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens* by *S. ovata* had been quantified by Light and MacConaill (2002) as part of a long term study in Gatineau Park where heavy damage was reported to fruits and seeds but only minor florivory and folivory was observed. *Cypripedium reginae* has been the subject of long term study in Gatineau Park since 2003. There are approximately 20 documented occurrences in Québec where the species is listed as Vulnerable (S3) (NatureServe). Loss of habitat, especially wetlands, herbivory, and poaching are recognized as being threats to *C. reginae* throughout its range, especially herbivory by deer (*Odocoileus virginianus* Zimmerman) (Gregg 2004) but less is known about the insects that use this orchid as a host. Occasional infestations of a leafminer have been observed with both *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens* and *C. reginae* in Gatineau Park.

The objectives of this study were: 1) To quantify leafminer infestation in populations of *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*, *C. reginae* and *E. helleborine*; 2) To investigate and identify any parasites associated with the leafminer; 3) To investigate and identify the thrips associated with *E. helleborine*; and 4) To summarize the infestation of *C. parviflorum* and *E. helleborine* by the weevil, *S. ovata*; and 5) To investigate weather and climate change as a possible influence on insect herbivore behaviour and dynamics.

Methods

Research sites and general approach

This study was conducted in Gatineau Park, Québec, Canada, where orchid populations have been tracked for up to 26 years and where herbivore damage had been recorded as part of regular site visits.

Epipactis helleborine

The principal study area for *E. helleborine* was 135 sq m in a lightly forested mesic site (Site 1: 45°30'N; 75°45'W) where some 1800 plants have been individually tagged, mapped and tracked (1985–2010) (Light and MacConaill 2006). One plant of *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens* and a few plants of *Trillium grandiflorum* (Michx.) Salisb. grow within this site. Several hundred additional *E. helleborine* growing within 500 m of the site were observed annually but only a few were tagged and tracked. Both flowering and vegetative plants were examined for the presence of herbivorous insects beginning in mid July, until hard frost (−5 °C) in October/November or when deciduous trees dropped their leaves which covered the orchids.

Cypripedium parviflorum var. *pubescens*

A colony of approximately 400 flowering plants was located in a 250 sq m forested site (45°30'N; 75°45'W), approximately 1700 m SSE of the *E. helleborine* study area. Data was collected for part of this population from 1996 to 1999, and then from 2000 to 2009 when all the flowering plants were individually tagged, mapped, and tracked annually. In 2010, the colony was examined on three occasions for evidence of herbivory but only plants showing evidence of leaf mining were recorded by plant number. All plants were examined for the presence of insect herbivores on at least three occasions during a growing season, during flowering in May, during fruit development in June, and when mature fruits had developed in late August. A large number (> 200) of *T. grandiflorum* and small number (< 20) of *E. helleborine* were growing within and around the *C. parviflorum* colony: these plants were observed but not individually tagged or tracked.

Cypripedium reginae

A colony of approximately 300 flowering plants and seedlings located in a 10 ha wooded fen (45°27'N; 75°45'W), located approximately 1350 m S of the *E. helleborine* site and approximately 600 m NW of the *C. parviflorum* site, was surveyed where plants were first individually tagged and mapped in 2003, and resurveyed in 2007 and 2008 (153, 260 and 133 plants respectively). To minimize disturbance of the orchid and habitat, only a subset of the population (58, 59, 73, 22, and 55 plants) was assessed during 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2010, respectively. Surveys were conducted on at least three occasions annually over three months, June to August, from flowering until the plants senesced in mid to late August. A small number (< 40) of *C. parviflorum* and *E. helleborine* were found growing around the margin of the fen but not within the *C. reginae* colony: these plants were observed annually but not individually tagged or tracked.

Weather data

Data was obtained from the Canadian Climate Centre for the Ottawa Meteorological Station (45°31'N; 75°47'W, 100 m elevation), located approximately 18 km from the study areas.

Insect herbivore survey

Leaf mines were conspicuous and easily located for closer examination. The large white eggs of *Parallelomma vittatum* Meigen were laid in clutches firmly attached to the leaf undersurface where shells remained after hatching thus offering an opportunity for population studies (Vockerth 1987). Tiny insects such as thrips were challenging to find without resorting to sweeping or similar methods which could be injurious to plants. Instead, plants were examined individually for signs of feeding damage which included speckling of the foliage. Suspect

leaves were examined more closely for the presence of insects. Leaves were removed and examined using a microscope to see eggs. Capsule infestation by weevil larvae was determined by visual examination (Light and MacConaill 2002).

Insect identification and vouchers

Specimens were collected for identification purposes and to rear to maturity. Adult insects and associated parasites were submitted to the National Identification Service (Canada). Vouchers were deposited in the Canadian National Collection, Ottawa (CNC) and in the Lyman Entomological Museum, Montréal (LEMQ).

Herbarium specimens examined for herbivory

The National Herbarium of Canada, Canadian Museum of Nature (CAN), was visited to examine specimens of the three orchids. Signs of herbivore activity including leaf mines, eggs, feeding damage associated with fecal droplets characteristic of thrips, and exit holes in fruits were noted and photographed.

Rearing leafminers and parasitoids

Infested leaves containing last instar leafminer larvae were collected and held in ventilated containers to pupate when puparia were transferred to individual vials

and held to eclosure of either leafminers or parasites. Any puparia not eclosed by October 1 were transferred to a refrigerator at 4 °C, 28% RH, for 5 months when samples were rewarmed to room temperature (20 °C) in subdued light at a 16 h photoperiod until eclosure. Infested foliage was also retained in closed containers at 20 °C to see if any egg parasites emerged.

Results

Weather

Precipitation and temperature data are given in Table 2. Rainfall in July 2009 was exceptionally high with 243.4 mm recorded at Ottawa. The period from May to October 2009 was mainly cool and wet. Over the six month period, there were only 6 days with a daily maximum >30 °C (2 d in late June; 4 d in mid Aug), in contrast to the long term median value of 12 days. There were 14 consecutive dry days in early September and 18 wet days during late September and early October.

Insect herbivores and their parasites

Three insect herbivores including a leafminer, *P. vittatum* a weevil, *S. ovata*, and a thrips, *Ctenothrips bridwelli* Franklin (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) were found to be associated with the orchids. Two undescribed larval para-

Table 2 Weather Data from Ottawa Airport station.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Long-term	
	Mean Monthly Temperature (°C)													Mean	SD
May	17.5	16.3	13.2	14.9	10.8	13.0	12.7	11.4	14.4	13.5	12.0	12.2	15.6	12.9	1.85
Jun	19.1	20.6	16.9	19.7	17.2	18.5	17.1	21.2	18.7	19.1	19.2	17.8	17.7	18.2	1.22
Jul	20.7	22.4	19.5	19.8	21.7	20.8	20.7	22.0	22.2	19.6	20.5	19.0	22.7	20.8	1.10
Aug	20.5	19.4	19.3	21.9	21.2	21.0	18.5	21.4	19.6	19.9	19.1	19.8	20.4	19.5	1.31
Sep	15.6	17.4	13.8	15.8	17.8	16.8	16.1	17.1	14.1	16.3	15.6	14.6	15.1	14.7	1.41
Oct	9.2	7.6	8.6	9.4	6.2	7.1	8.7	9.5	7.1	10.7	7.6	6.5	7.9	8.1	1.48
May–Oct	17.1	17.3	15.2	16.9	15.8	16.2	15.7	17.1	16.0	16.5	15.7	15.0	16.6	15.7	0.7
														Q ₂	Q ₁
Days above 28 °C	29	44	6	40	38	30	16	48	28	29	17	13	35	27	20
Days above 30 °C	14	26	1	26	24	15	3	26	12	16	7	6	20	12	9
	Monthly Precipitation (mm Water Equivalent)													Mean	SD
May	33	36	123	63	74	129	72	48	115	51	92	84	34	70.2	30.1
Jun	101	78	122	89	225	57	49	107	95	49	107	63	101	76.1	38.2
Jul	76	79	70	39	48	76	65	106	101	139	65	243	50	81.3	40.5
Aug	41	47	76	60	39	64	111	82	72	98	74	90	173	77.4	37.3
Sep	72	150	81	78	72	47	143	95	146	41	79	70	151	76.1	38.4
Oct	71	63	28	98	78	130	60	100	125	87	89	98	67	71.3	34.8
May–Oct	395	453	500	427	535	503	501	539	653	465	506	648	576	453.2	99.2

Bold numbers denote values 2 or more standard deviations above the long-term mean.

sitoids, *Utetes* spp. Förster (Hymenoptera: Brachonidae), and an egg parasitoid, *Chrysocharis* sp. Förster (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) used the leafminer, *P. vittatum* as a host. A predatory thrips was observed feeding on larval thrips and a predatory mite was seen feeding on an adult thrips but these parasites remain to be identified.

Leafminer *Parallelomma vittatum*

Parallelomma vittatum (syn. *Americina vittata* Meigen) was identified by Dr. Richard Vokeroth. This leaf mining fly used all three orchids as hosts: *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens* in 1996 and during 2007–2010, *C. reginae* from 2005 to 2010, and *E. helleborine* only in 2009 (Table 3). The earliest and latest observation of leafminer eggs or mines was on 22 May 2007 and on 17 Sept 2009 with *C. parviflorum*. No leaf mines in *C. reginae* foliage were observed before late June. Leaf mines in *E. helleborine* were only found between 14 Aug and 24 Sept, 2009. One herbarium specimen of *E. helleborine* from Renfrew County, Ontario (1961, TC Brayshaw, CAN 570560) had at least one mine and four eggs on one leaf. No mines

were found on 214 herbarium specimens of *Cypripedium* (*parviflorum* – 127; *reginae* – 87) or on any other of the 106 *E. helleborine* specimens examined.

Weevil *Stethobaris ovata*

The weevil, *S. ovata*, was found to infest both *C. parviflorum* and *E. helleborine* but was never found in *C. reginae*. The infestation reported from 2000 in *C. parviflorum* (Light and MacConaill 2002) was the second heaviest over the 10 years of observation with 57% of fruits infested. In 2003, 59% of fruits were infested but thereafter the infestation level decreased (Table 4). Of the 391 plants monitored in this site, 183 (47%) were never infested, while 126 (32%) were infested in more than one year, with one plant being infested in 7 of the 10 years (Table 4).

Adult weevils were first seen on emerging shoots and flower buds in spring where they caused light feeding damage: adults were occasionally seen in late August before fruits dehisced but these did not appear to be feeding. *Epipactis helleborine* was a weevil host over the 26-year study but adults were never observed on plants

Table 3 Statistics of infestation of 3 orchid species by *Parallelomma vittatum*.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<i>C. parviflorum</i>								
Flowering plants seen	349	363	377	380	380	383	277	275
Plants with mines	0	0	0	0	1	7	4	2
Proportion with mines	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.8%	1.4%	0.7%
<i>C. reginae</i>								
Plants seen	153	58	59	73	260	133	22	55
Plants with mines	0	0	3	1	10	9	3	1
Proportion with mines	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%	1.4%	3.8%	6.8%	13.6%	1.8%
<i>E. helleborine</i>								
Plants with mines	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0

Table 4 Statistics of weevil (*Stethobaris ovata*) infestation of *Cypripedium parviflorum*.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
<i>Capsules</i>											
Observed	571	499	408	282	278	249	202	399	268	137	3293
Infested	326	127	37	166	85	9	6	23	6	15	800
	57%	25%	9%	59%	31%	4%	3%	6%	2%	11%	24%
<i>Plants</i>											
Observed	273	292	333	349	363	377	380	380	383	277	391
Infested	149	68	27	85	54	8	6	12	2	12	423
	55%	23%	8%	24%	15%	2%	2%	3%	1%	4%	NA
<i>Frequencies of infestation (by plant)</i>											
Number of years with an infestation	Never			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Number of plants	183			82	69	33	18	5	0	1	
Number of capsules infested over study span	None			1	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more	
Number of plants	183			60	45	25	15	16	15	32	

before the shoots had fully expanded in late June to early July. Adult weevils fed upon buds, flowers, and oviposited in stems and developing fruits with none of these fruits reaching dehiscence. No evidence of weevil damage was found with herbarium specimens.

Thrips *Ctenothrips bridwelli*

Thrips damage was first seen with *E. helleborine* in 1985 but as those two plants were completely desiccated and no insects were present, only the feeding and faecal droplet pattern suggested the kind of insect was involved. No thrips damage was seen again until 2008 when some adults were located on plants in the vicinity of Site 1. The thrips was identified by Dr. Robert Footitt, CNC, and confirmed by Dr Lawrence Mound, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (Australia), as *Ctenothrips bridwelli*, which has been reported as an herbivore of various herbaceous plants but not of orchids (Morgan 1913; Chiasson 1986). Subsequently, this thrips was found feeding and breeding at the sites on *T. grandiflorum*, a wide spread spring-blooming herb which emerged at least four weeks before *E. helleborine* and some 3 mo before orchid infestation was observed. In 2009, some plants of *T. grandiflorum* remained green more than 1 mo past typical summer senescence when they continued to be used for feeding, breeding, and resting by adult thrips. Widespread and heavy infestation of *E. helleborine* was observed in 2009 with many plants becoming completely desiccated by mid August. In 2010, thrips were first seen on *T. grandiflorum* in mid April and on *E. helleborine* in early July by which time many orchid plants were infested. During 2010, the orchid was used primarily for adult feeding with few eggs or larvae seen: most of these orchid plants had obvious leaf damage and failed to flower or fruit. Examination of herbarium records revealed several *E. helleborine* specimens having faecal droplet and feeding damage characteristic of thrips. Notably, feeding evidence was found on the earliest Canadian herbarium specimens of *E. helleborine*, (1894, HB Cushing, Québec, CAN 16424) and (1890, W and O White, Ontario CAN 16431) as well as on 7 and 13 other specimens from Québec and Ontario respectively.

***Cypripedium reginae* and the leafminer**

Host selection for oviposition appeared to be random: mines were observed in most areas of the fen, but given the differences in the areas sampled in the different years and the relatively low infestation rates, spatial patterns in the infestations were not detectable. A typical irregularly shaped, communal mine affected about 30% of a leaf but in most cases only one leaf of the five or six on an adult plant was infested. No leafminers were seen on small seedlings. No mines were observed during 2003 or 2004 when 153 and 58 plants were examined respectively. In 2005, three vacated mines were found on three plants of

the 59 examined. One mine was observed during 2006, 11 mines on 9 plants in 2007, nine mines on 10 plants in 2008, four mines on three plants in 2009, and only one mine during 2010 when 55 plants were surveyed (Table 3). No new mines were found in 2007 after 15 August or in 2008 after 27 July.

Eggs were attached to leaf under surfaces in clutches of 1 to 5. A total of 28 eggs on 9 plants and 30 eggs on 10 plants were found in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Some one-third of eggs never hatched. In 2007, an egg parasitoid emerged from each of two unhatched eggs two weeks after other puparia from the same leaf eclosed: both were identified by John Huber, CNC, as *Chrysocharis sp.*, possibly *beckeri* Yoshimoto. Remains of dead larvae were occasionally seen in mines. Of the 13 puparia reared, 9 in 2007 and 4 in 2008 respectively, one yielded a male fly on 8 Aug 2007 after 10 days incubation: this specimen was used for identification and as a voucher for deposit at CNC. The remaining seven larvae reared in 2007 were parasitized by a species of the larval parasitoid *Utetes*. All but one larval parasitoid eclosed after 9 to 14 days incubation at approximately 20 °C. One puparium which developed on 18 Aug 2007 gave rise to a different *Utetes* species after diapause (5 mo at 4 °C followed by 24 days at 20 °C). The *Utetes* specimens were identified to genus by Dr. Robert Wharton (Texas AandM) but remain undescribed as to species.

One plant with a leaf bearing a clutch of five recently hatched eggs found on 2 July 2008 was bagged for *in situ* rearing. Four of these eggs hatched yielding larvae that pupated. One puparium eclosed a larval parasitoid, *Utetes*, after 14 days. The 3 remaining puparia never eclosed flies or parasites. Losses from parasitoids and other causes in 2007 and 2008 were above 90%. Despite extensive and repeated searching during 2003–2007, no eggs or mines were observed on possible alternate hosts sharing the same habitat including *C. parviflorum*, *E. helleborine*, *Maianthemum racemosum* (L.) Link. and *Platanthera clavellata* (Michx.) Luer, but on 3 July 2008, two plants of *C. parviflorum* growing sympatrically with *C. reginae* were found with leaf mines where the larvae had already exited.

***Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens* and the leafminer**

Leaf mining activity was first recorded in 1996 but not again until 2007 when a modest leafminer infestation was seen in the principal study area (Tables 3, 5). Oviposition did not appear to be random with certain plants being repeatedly mined over the 2007–2010 period (Table 5). Given the low overall infestation rates of less than 2%, the probability of the observed reinfestations arising from random oviposition across the whole colony is far less than 10⁻⁶.

During 2009 only, two flies were reared and no parasitoids eclosed. In all other years, reared leafminer larvae were parasitized.

Table 5 Repeated leafminer infestations in *C. parviflorum* study site.

Plant ID	Year			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
1991-147		M	M	M
1991-150	M		M	
1991-182		M		
1991-274		M		
2000-030				M
2000-080		M	M	
2000-092			M	
2002-027		M		
Total plants infested	1	5	4	2
Plants assessed	380	383	277	275

M: Mine(s) found.

Epipactis helleborine and the leafminer

The leafminer infested 10 plants in three different locations during 2009 which was the first time in 25 years that *P. vittatum* had been observed infesting *E. helleborine* in Gatineau Park. Of 16 larvae reared, six died within the mine, three puparia failed to eclose, five eclosed as adult flies, and four as parasitoids. Two flies, a male and a female, were deposited in LEMQ. On 14 Aug 2009, single mines were found on two *E. helleborine* in the general vicinity of the *C. reginae* colony: there were puparia within the mines and these already had hatched as flies. Eclosure by the leaf mining fly could be determined by a distal, clean-edged, hinged cap whereas parasitoid emergence was identified by a ragged exit hole in the wall of the puparium.

Discussion

Orchids are host to specialist and generalist herbivores some of which may be destructive when present in large numbers or when plants are stressed by changes in their environment (Table 1; Swezy 1945; Laštůvka 2009). We have observed in a wetland where *C. reginae* is in decline that small re-introduced seedlings have become heavily infested with leafminers and that adult plants have been increasingly infested with both leafminers and other insect herbivores (unpublished data). Specialist and generalist parasites of the herbivores can limit their destructive impact but the frequency and extent of both herbivore and parasite presence is stochastic and subject to a complex array of variables (Cobbold et al. 2009; Rull et al. 2009). How weather and climate change might impact such relationships is largely unexplored (Stireman et al. 2005; Battisti 2008; Singer and Parmesan 2010), and how dysfunctional pest-parasite systems might impact orchid populations that have been deliberately established outside their range is unknown. Keel (2007), investigated the mycobiont and photoperiod challenges to the hypo-

thetical assisted migration of *Habenaria repens* Nutt. He concluded that the presence of compatible mycobiont strains in a selected site would be a major component of successful migration.

Parallelomma vittatum is multivoltine with two or three generations per year across all three orchids investigated as potential hosts. According to McAlpine (1987) and Šifner (2008), adults of the Scathophagidae prefer sheltered, humid environments including forests and wetlands: they usually choose monocotyledonous plants over dicotyledonous as hosts. Our observations suggest that exploitation of orchids in Gatineau Park by this leafminer is limited by preferred host assemblage, habitat and orchid phenology. The first host of the leafminer available in any year is *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens* which emerges and flowers by mid to late May: expanded foliage suitable for oviposition is typically available by the third week of May. The leafminer presence seemed to be in synchrony with this first host suggesting a common seasonal cue. Both *C. reginae* and *E. helleborine* emerged in late May to early June: expanded foliage was available for oviposition by mid to late June.

Leafminer infestation of the introduced *E. helleborine* in Gatineau Park was a rare event with infestation only seen once, in 2009, and after more than two decades of observation of several thousand plants. *Parallelomma vittatum* has not to our knowledge been previously reported from *E. helleborine* in Canada nor were specimens reporting the host as *E. helleborine* found in either CNC or LEMQ where the adults had been collected from pan/Malaise traps or reared from larvae on *Listera cordata* (L.) R. Br. (syn. *Neottia cordata* (L.) Rich). Only one herbarium specimen with leafminer evidence was found in CAN but lack of infested specimens could arise from the choice of unblemished plants as vouchers. *Parallelomma vittatum* has been reported as a leafminer of *E. helleborine* in Europe (Ellis 2007; Pitkin et al. 2011), so its absence in Gatineau Park until 2009 had been puzzling.

In 2009, leafminers were found on *E. helleborine* especially in humid sites including damp forest and a wooded fen. Weather, especially precipitation and humidity, could have influenced movement of adult flies into orchid communities outside of wetlands as in July 2009 when precipitation was exceptionally high with 243.4 mm rainfall which was about triple the normal expectation (Table 2). Wet weather and a concomitant absence of parasitoids might have facilitated the outbreak into the *E. helleborine* population (Umbanhowar and Hastings 2002). Despite repeated observation of several hundred *E. helleborine* during 2010, no further leafmining activity was seen. It is possible that parasitoid (*Utetes*) absence in that spring and early summer provided an opportunity for leafminer range expansion but the reappearance of parasitoids in late summer ended the outbreak. This may explain why the miner has not been seen subsequently on *E. helleborine* but one might also speculate that this orchid is not usually chosen as a host except under specific circum-

stances which render it attractive for oviposition and herbivory. The presence or absence of entomopathogenic fungal endophytes might be another factor to consider (Vega et al. 2008).

The infestation of *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens* and *C. reginae* by *P. vittatum* in Gatineau Park was always sparse and sporadic but a few mines could be expected to be found most years during this study. Where the infestation in the *C. reginae* colony appeared to be randomly distributed, this was not the case with *C. parviflorum* where certain plants were repeatedly infested (Table 5). While the number of mines was always low, we have no explanation why particular plants were singled out for repeated herbivory. These plants all grow in the western part of the colony which is not particularly wet, dry, or differently forested. Furthermore, the infested plants were not isolated individuals but growing closely with other plants which were never infested. We have reported a similar predisposition for certain plants in this colony to be subject to weevil attack but these were not the same plants nor were they located in the same part of the colony (Light and MacConaill 1999). Different patterns of oviposition selection by two different insects is intriguing and warrants further investigation. That we found a fungal endophyte in plants not predated by weevils suggests that biological control mechanisms remain to be elucidated.

Can we reliably predict insect outbreaks that might directly or indirectly impact wild orchids within their current locations or if they were relocated to habitats outside their present range? The chance observation of an apparent asynchrony between a leafminer and its parasitoid and how this outbreak together with high rainfall at a critical time facilitated infestation of the introduced orchid *E. helleborine* in 2009 underscores how much we have yet to learn about the impact of weather and climate change on orchids and their ecosystem components. The role that weather might play in facilitating herbivory of the introduced *E. helleborine* by *Ctenothrips bridwelli* is less clear. Characteristic damage seen with early herbarium specimens, while as yet unconfirmed as being caused by *C. bridwelli*, suggests that *E. helleborine* was used as a host soon after its introduction to North America but infestations seem to have always been sporadic. In this study, thrips infestation was spotty to absent in most years until recently when increasing numbers of plants have been infested and heavily damaged. That weather and climate may be drivers of this increase is speculative but Imle (1994) reported regional but temporally separate outbreaks of this thrips in *Lilium* which suggests weather is a common factor. Our data suggest that some orchids and insects are able to adapt to anomalous weather events to their advantage yet such responses are highly variable depending upon the sensitivity to seasonal cues and possibly to their evolutionary history.

Beetles as a group can be especially damaging to both wild and cultivated orchids and are worldwide (Table 1). Whether in temperate (Champion 1916; Hull Sieg and

O'Brien 1993; Dunford et al. 2006) or tropical/subtropical (Hara and Mau 1986; Gough et al. 1994; Prena 2008) locations, beetles, especially Chrysomelidae and Curculionidae, seem to be a growing challenge to conservation. While doing field work with the yellow lady's-slippers in the 1990's, Charles Sheviak, NY State Museum, observed *S. ovata* feeding heavily on the perennating buds as they emerged from the soil (Sheviak, pers. comm.). Whether this was an unusual event or was somehow weather related is not known as the sites have not been revisited: the potential for loss of meristematic tissue at the base of ramets of long-lived perennials cannot be taken lightly. Weevils have been increasingly reported as pests of imperiled North American species including *Platanthera leucophaea* (Nutt.) Lindl. (Dunford, Young and Krauth 2006), and *P. praeclara* Sheviak and Bowles (Hull Sieg and O'Brien 1993). Adult feeding and oviposition damages flowers, foliage and stems, offering potential entry to bacterial and fungal pathogens. In tropical species, beetles are a frequently encountered herbivore of a wide range of orchids (Hawkeswood 1991a; Gough et al. 1994; Winkler et al. 2005; Rivera-Coto and Corrales-Moreira 2007). Larvae feed within stems and fruits, often completely destroying new shoots, pseudobulbs, and fruits: meristem damage can be the most deleterious (Winkler et al. 2005).

Conclusions

Our data and the observations of other investigators suggests that both orchids and their associated insect herbivores will face challenges in the future from climate change but that the outcome for any specific assemblage is not at all certain neither is there any means of forecasting behaviour. A paucity of data on the biology and dynamics of multi-tiered relationships (orchid-herbivore-parasite) is the key limiting factor. Furthermore, modelling of climate change is at a macro, population, region or even country level but change happens at the micro, individual plant level. The evolutionary history of each member of an assemblage may be key to predicting specific behaviours in a changing world (Anderson 1993; Becerra and Venable 1999; Dixon 2003; Keel 2007; Cobbold 2009; Chuine 2010). Those studying populations and particularly tracking individuals within populations are encouraged to observe insect herbivory, collect and have insects herbivores identified. Once the components are identified, we may progress further in our understanding.

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