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## ***Cotesia cleora* (Nixon) (Hym.: Braconidae, Microgastrinae) and unidentifiable species of *Mesochorus* (Hym.: Ichneumonidae, Mesochorinae) reared from larva of *Apeira syringaria* (L.), the Lilac Beauty moth**

On 13 May 2004, Butterfly Conservation held a training day for local members at Newmarket Stud, Suffolk. The meeting concentrated mainly on the habits of the Barred Tooth-striped moth *Trichopteryx polycommata*, a UK BAP Priority Species. We included a search for the larvae by beating Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* along the Devil's Dyke by the horse-training grounds. None was found, but in the process a final instar larva of the Lilac Beauty *Apeira syringaria* was obtained from the Privet, on which it fed subsequently in captivity. However, it then produced cocoons of parasitoid wasps. A total of 23 adult wasps emerged and all had died by 12 June. Interestingly they comprised two species, seven of a black one – *Cotesia cleora* (Nixon) (Braconidae: Microgastrinae) and sixteen of a fawn-coloured hyper-parasite, an unidentifiable species of *Mesochorus* (Ichneumonidae: Mesochorinae), which lays its eggs within the larvae of the *Cotesia* feeding within the Lilac Beauty larva. I am grateful to Dr Mark Shaw of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, for the parasitoid identifications. Mark considers *C. cleora* may be specific to the Lilac Beauty. Many species of *Mesochorus* are frequent but their taxonomy is problematic.— PAUL WARING, Reader, Centre for Environment & Rural Affairs, Writtle College, Essex. Contact address: Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6 LS. (E-mail: paul\_waring@btinternet.com).



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