

Name:**Star-wort moth***Cucullia asteris***UK status:**

Nationally scarce (Shirt, 1987); declining. Species of Conservation Concern (formerly long-listed)

London status:

Rare but locally abundant resident. Category 3 (Plant, 1993)

Protected status:

None.

Relevant London HAPs:

Tidal Thames; Wasteland; Woodland

Citation:

This scarce moth has a national stronghold in the Thames estuary and is locally abundant at several sites adjacent to the river in the London Boroughs of Bexley, Barking & Dagenham and Havering. This population involves the coastal form of the species, the larvae of which feed on sea aster *Aster tripolium*. An inland form also exists which is much rarer in London, feeding on goldenrod *Solidago virgaurea*. Most known colonies occur in the remaining Thames grazing-marsh sites, for example Rainham, Erith and Crayford marshes, where they are protected. Recent losses have occurred at Barking Reach, however. Managing authorities; RSPB, Thames Water, private



© Gianpiero Ferrari

Conservation priorities:

- Monitor all known populations
- Maintain populations through balanced sympathetic habitat management
- Protect any new colonies emerging from further survey

References:

Butterfly Conservation (2006). *The State of Britain's Moths*
Plant C W (1993). Larger moths of the London Area. (London Natural History Society)
Shirt, D B (ed.). (1987). *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. JNCC