

**First Record of *Cosmopterix phragmitidis* Amsel, a Leaf-Miner  
Attacking *Phragmitis australis* (Cav.) in Saudi Arabia  
(Cosmopterigidae, Lepidoptera)**

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**Abstract.** A cosmopterigid moth, *Cosmopterix phragmitidis* Amsel, was recorded for the first time in Saudi Arabia mining the leaves of the common reed *Phragmitis australis* (Cav.) in Al-Katif area, East Saudi Arabia.

During the autumn of 1991, the common reed *Phragmitis australis* (Cav.) grown along ditches, irrigation and drainage channels and swamps in Al-Katif Oases, East Saudi Arabia, was heavily infested with two leafminers, *Cosmopterix phragmitidis* Amsel (Cosmopterigidae, Lepidoptera) (Fig. 1) and, *Asmangulia wakkeri* (Zehnt.), (Hispididae, Coleoptera). The presence of the former species was the first record of a cosmopterigid leafminer attacking graminous plants in Saudi Arabia.

Little is known of the cosmopterigid fauna of Saudi Arabia. Only two species have been recorded before, *Batrachedra amydraula* (Meyr.) and *Pyroderces simplex* (Wals.) [1,2; p. 21; 3,4; p. 54].

Members of this family are small bright colored moths, with long narrow wings, often sharply pointed at the apex. Venation of hind wings being much reduced and fringed with long hairs. Larvae of most species act as leafminers [5, p. 424], usually a single larva can be seen in a leaf.

Mines produced by larvae (Fig. 1,D) are unique, wide, straight and long. They can only be seen from one side. The epidermis of infested leaves usually ruptures after the emergence of the moth and leaf rolling always follows. Damaged leaves either dry up or may in part remain green.

Several larvae were parasitized by an unidentified hymenopterous parasite belonging to the family Eulophidae.



**Fig. 1. *Cosmopterix phragmitidis* Amsel**

- |                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>A. Adult</b> | <b>C. Pupa</b>            |
| <b>B. Larva</b> | <b>D. Infested leaves</b> |

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أول تسجيل لصانعة الأنفاق *Cosmopterix phragmitidis* Amsel في

المملكة العربية السعودية

(فصيلة كوزموبتر يجيدي - رتبة حرشفية الأجنحة)

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ملخص البحث. تم تسجيل صانعة الأنفاق *Cosmopterix phragmitidis* Amsel من فصيلة Cosmop-terigidae رتبة حرشفية الأجنحة لأول مرة في المملكة العربية السعودية، حيث شوهدت إصابات بالأنفاق على أوراق نبات الغاب (*Phragmitis australis* (Cav.) في منطقة القطب (شرقي المملكة) خلال خريف عام ١٩٩١م.