

Parakontikia ventrolineata (Dendy, 1892)

(formerly erroneously called *Kontikia ventrolineata*)

2-4 cm long, 2-4 mm wide. Dorsally black or dark gray with two lighter grey lines near the midline. Ventrally four dark grey/brown lines on paler background, pale midline. Numerous small eyes (small black spots) round the anterior end and laterally. It is apparently a scavenger feeding on dead animals of almost any kind, even on fallen fruit.

Scattered records particularly in the SW and NW England. An introduced species, originally from SE Australia.

Sexually mature specimens have been found. After copulation they are presumed to lay small (about 2-3 mm diameter) black cocoons with several juveniles hatching after some weeks.

YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI1TbhZ-0Ns>.

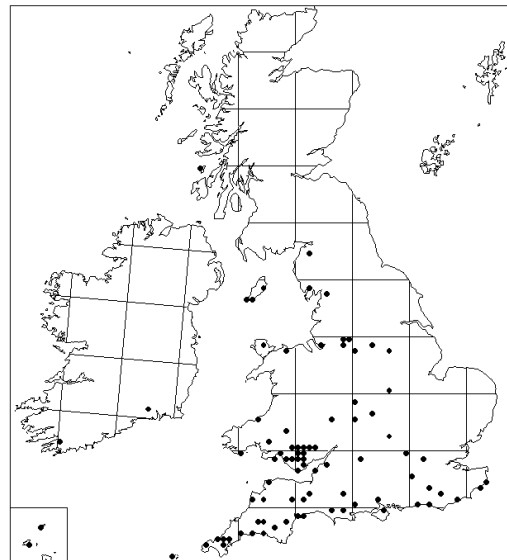


Parakontikia ventrolineata. Upper: several specimens about 2 cm long. Centre: two specimens ca 4 cm long, with a woodlouse carcass. Lower: a twisted specimen showing the underside.



Dorsal and ventral surfaces of a single specimen showing the stripes. Lines are 1 cm apart.

Parakontikia ventrolineata



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