

BEETLES of GUERNSEY

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Volume 1 : Elateridae
Click beetles



Melanotus punctolineatus
(11 to 16 mm)



Agrypnus murinus
(10 to 17 mm)



Athous campyloides
(9.5 to 11.5 mm)



Athous haemorrhoidalis
(10 to 15 mm)



Agriotes pallidulus
(3.5 to 6 mm)



Cardiophorus vestigialis
(7 to 9 mm)



Agriotes sputator
(6 to 9 mm)

Elateridae

The family known as the 'click beetles' are so named because of their ability to suddenly launch themselves backwards with a loud 'click' to escape predators. They vary in size up to about 20mm and they can usually be easily recognised as this family by their elongated shape and distinctive bulky front end. This is caused by the large shield-shaped thorax (or pronotum) which mostly hides the head and usually has sharp points on the hind angles. The larvae either feed in soil or in dead wood/under bark.

Checklist : This publication is concentrating on species that have been recorded in last 30 years.

a) species recorded in the last 30 years

Agrypnus murinus
Athous campyloides
Athous haemorrhoidalis
Agriotes lineatus
Agriotes pallidulus
Agriotes sputator
Melanotus punctolineatus
Cardiophorus vestigialis

b) species recorded by Luff in 1894

Selatosomus incanus
Athous bicolor
Adrastus pallens
Dalopius marginatus

c) species listed during 20th Century (unknown reliability)

Ctenicera cuprea

d) species listed in 1862 (less reliable source)

Denticollis linearis
Agriotes acuminatus
Agriotes obscurus
Ampedus balteatus

N.B.

Section a) shows the species recorded on the island's insect record database; Section b) shows the species reliably recorded by Luff from the late 19th century; Section c) shows species that have been listed in various entomological publications during the 20th century as occurring on Guernsey but would need investigating to be confirmed; Section d) shows species that were listed in Ansted & Latham's 1862 list of fauna of Guernsey which has shown to be unreliable in some areas.

Agrypnus murinus

length 10 to 17 mm

antennae red,
first segment black

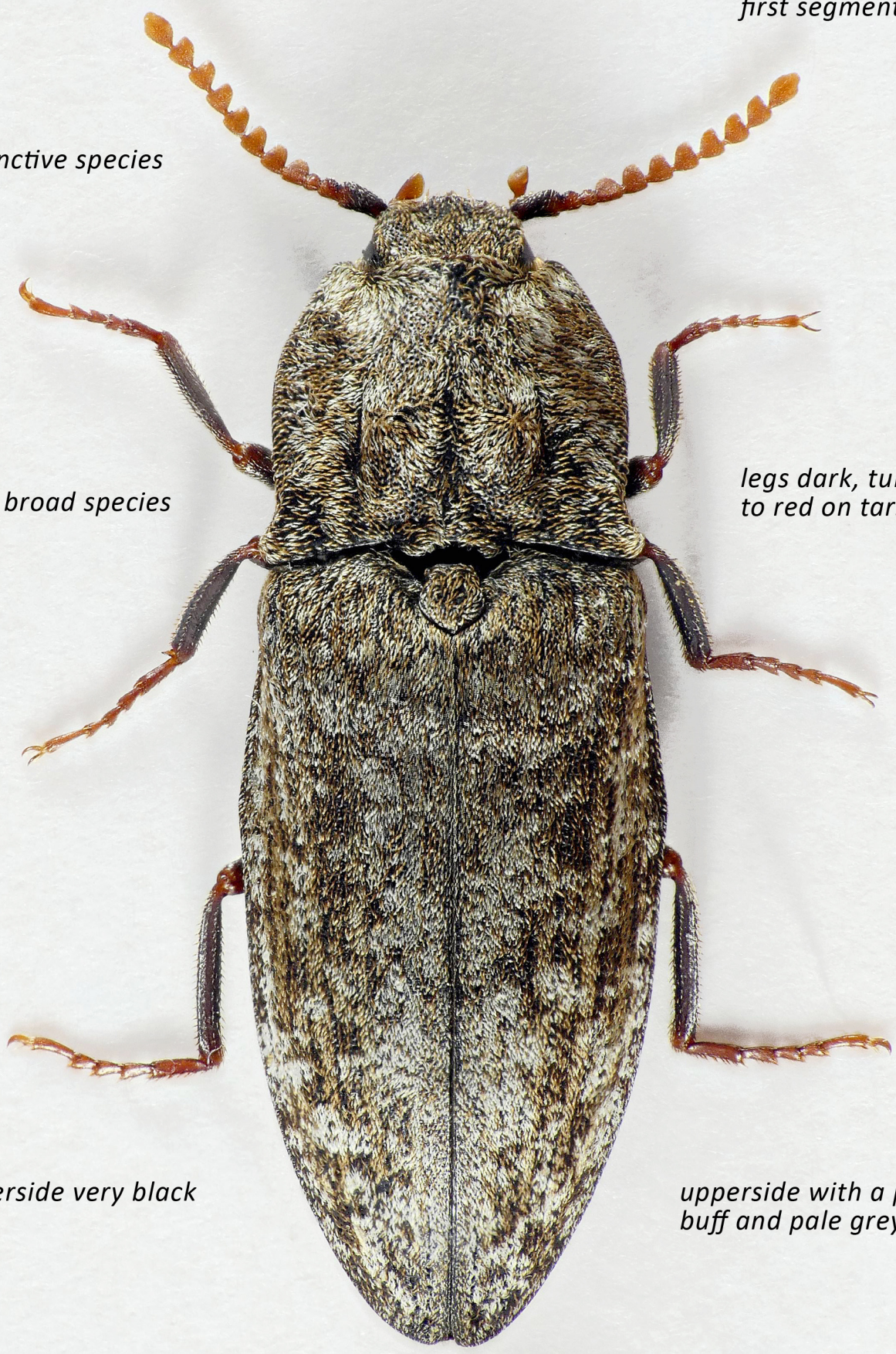
distinctive species

very broad species

legs dark, turning
to red on tarsi

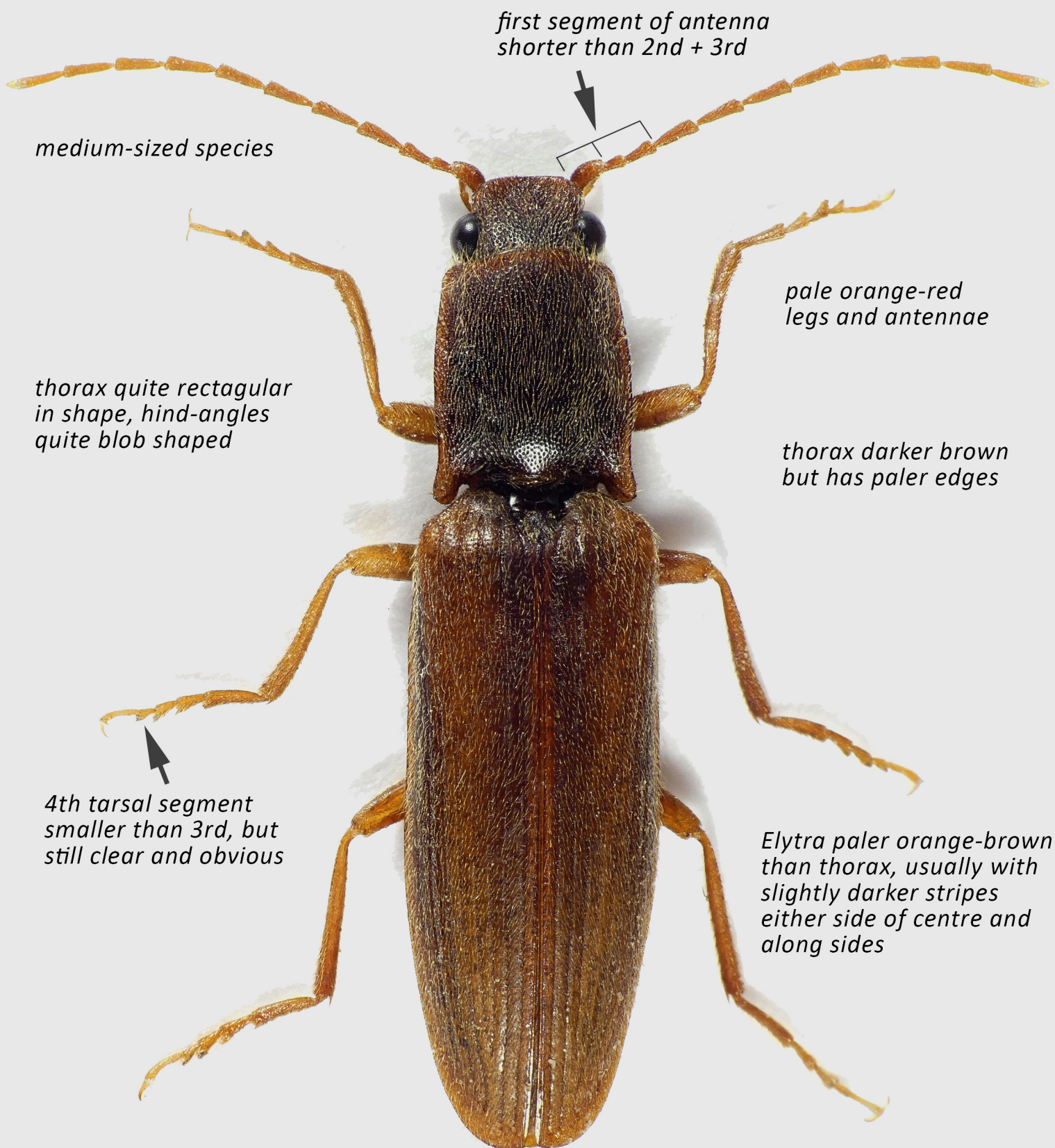
underside very black

upperside with a pattern of
buff and pale grey hairs



Athous campyloides

length 9.5 to 11.5 mm



first segment of antenna shorter than 2nd + 3rd

medium-sized species

pale orange-red legs and antennae

thorax quite rectangular in shape, hind-angles quite blob shaped

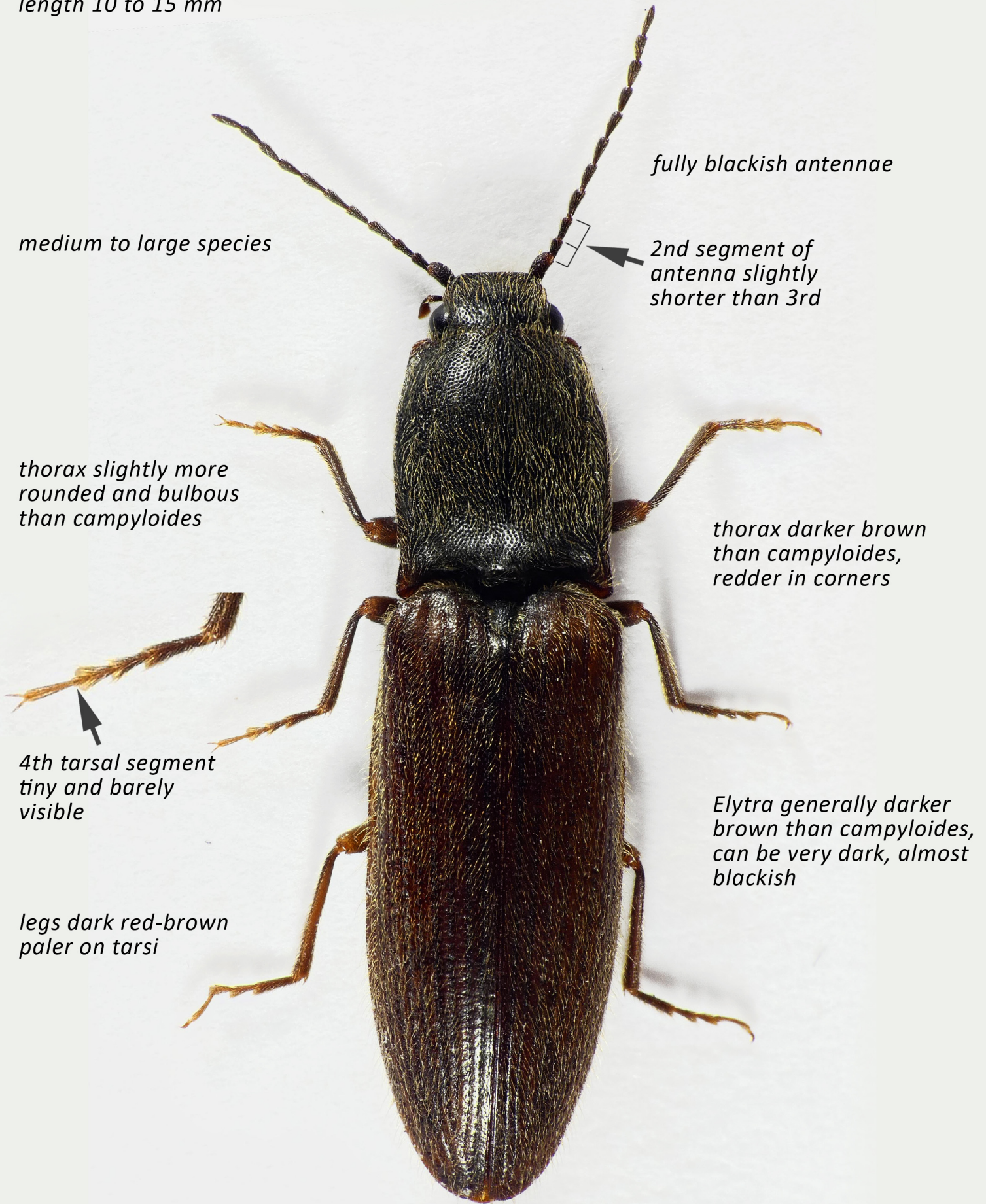
thorax darker brown but has paler edges

4th tarsal segment smaller than 3rd, but still clear and obvious

Elytra paler orange-brown than thorax, usually with slightly darker stripes either side of centre and along sides

Athous haemorrhoidalis

length 10 to 15 mm



fully blackish antennae

medium to large species

2nd segment of antenna slightly shorter than 3rd

thorax slightly more rounded and bulbous than *campyloides*

thorax darker brown than *campyloides*, redder in corners

4th tarsal segment tiny and barely visible

Elytra generally darker brown than *campyloides*, can be very dark, almost blackish

legs dark red-brown paler on tarsi

Agriotes pallidulus

length 3.5 to 6 mm

very small species

thorax rectangular,
slightly longer than
wide and slightly
splayed at hind angles

claws very simple,
not 'jagged' (very
hard to see)

antennae quite pale, dusker
towards tips

2nd segment of
antenna slightly
shorter than 4th

thorax darker brown
than elytra

Elytra generally paler
brown but darker
shading along middle
line and front edge

(N.B. *Agriotes acuminatus* is very similar in appearance)



Agriotes sputator

length 6 to 9 mm

small species, but clearly larger than *pallidulus*

thorax more rounded and bulging in middle compared to *pallidulus*

claws very simple, not 'jagged' (very hard to see)

all antennae segments quite pale

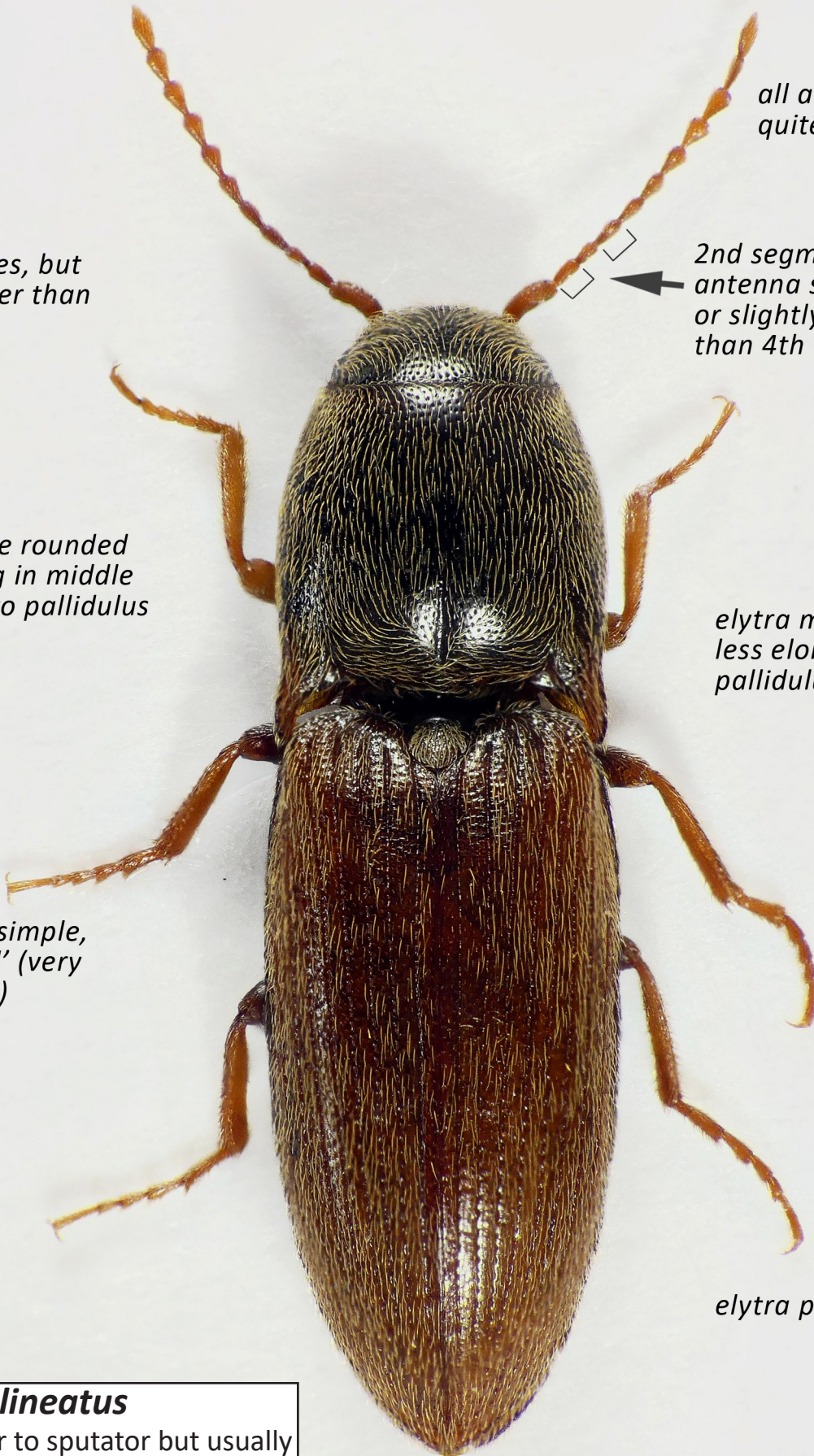
2nd segment of antenna same size or slightly shorter than 4th

elytra more rounded, less elongated than *pallidulus*

elytra plain brown

Agriotes lineatus

Most similar to *sputator* but usually slightly larger. The elytra should be clearly marked with long, alternate dark and light brown stripes.



Melanotus punctolineatus

length 11 to 16 mm

larger species

thorax very black,
with punctures and
a central ridge.

claws serrate
(or 'jagged')



antennae black and
serrate (ie very jagged)

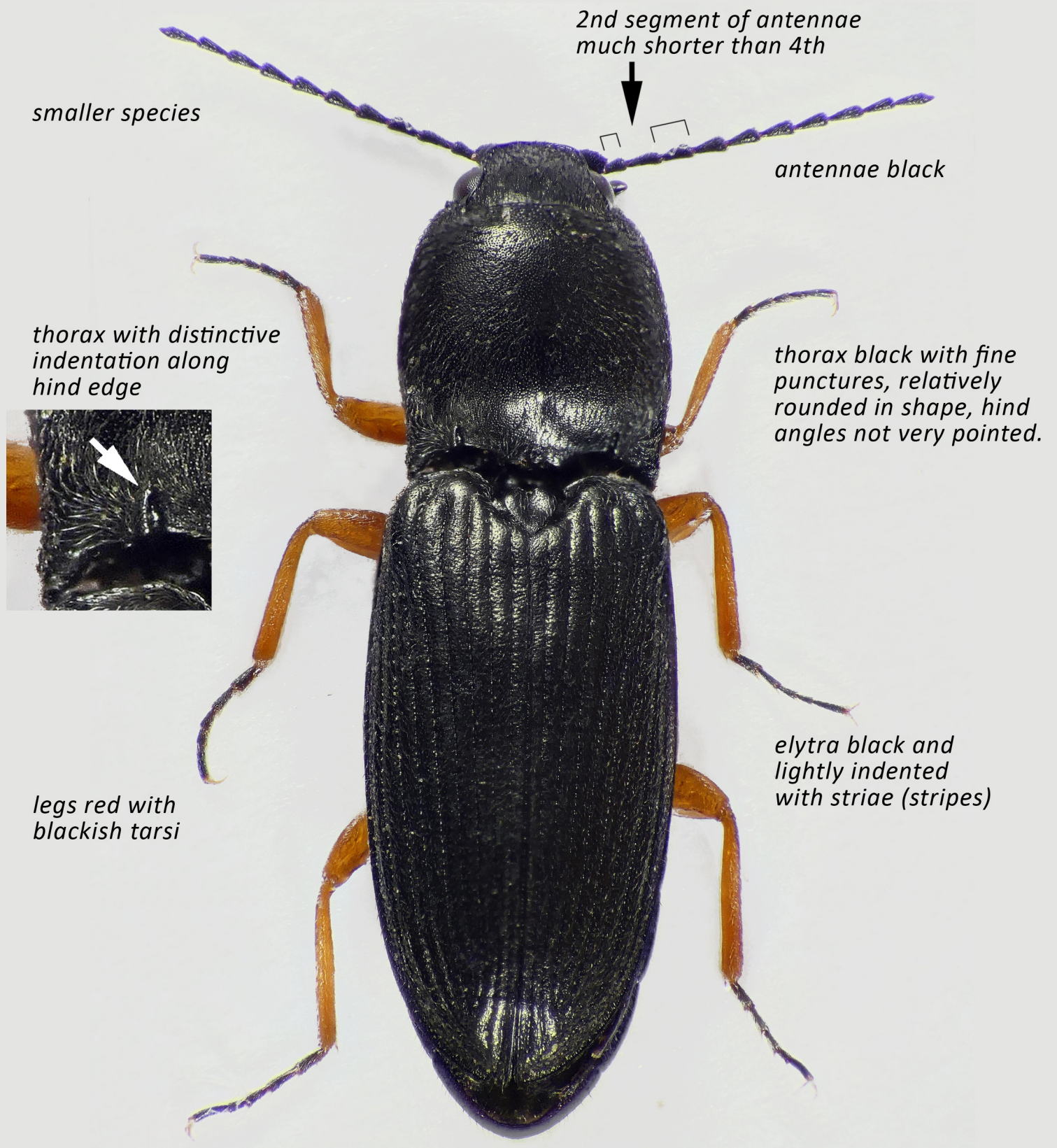
thorax much narrower
at front than back, with
raised 'keel' above
hind corners.

elytra black and
strongly indented
with striae (stripes)

prefers sandy habitats

Cardiophorus vestigialis

length 7 to 9 mm



smaller species

2nd segment of antennae much shorter than 4th

antennae black

thorax with distinctive indentation along hind edge

thorax black with fine punctures, relatively rounded in shape, hind angles not very pointed.

legs red with blackish tarsi

elytra black and lightly indented with striae (stripes)

