

Family Carabidae

Key to genus after Lindroth (1974) adapted by Mike Hackston (2013)

Reference

Adapted from Lindroth, C.H. (1974) Coleoptera, Carabidae. Handbooks for the identification of British insects, volume 4, part 2. London: Royal Entomological Society.

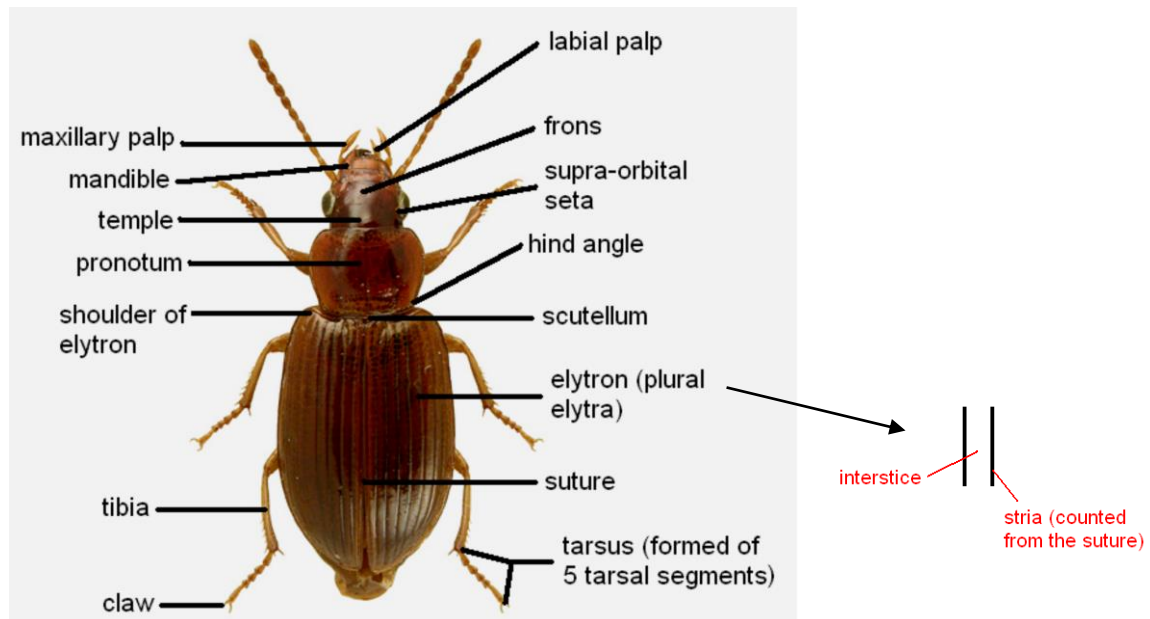


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Checklist of genera from the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff. (Available from www.coleopterist.org.uk/checklist.htm).

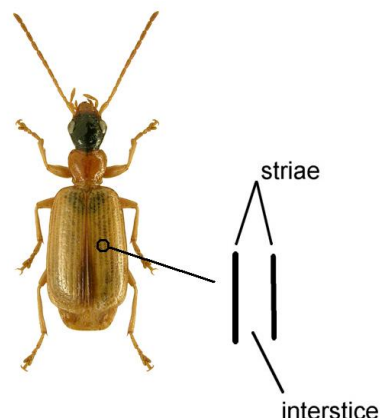
ABAX Bonelli, 1810
ACUPALPUS Latreille, 1829
AEPUS Leach, 1819
AGONUM Bonelli, 1810
AMARA Bonelli, 1810
ANCHOMENUS Bonelli, 1810
ANISODACTYLUS Dejean, 1829
ANTHRACUS Motschulsky, 1850
ASAPHIDION des Gozis, 1886
BADISTER Clairville, 1806
BATENUS Motschulsky, 1864
BEMBIDION Latreille, 1802
BLEMUS Dejean, 1821
BLETHISA Bonelli, 1810
BRACHINUS Weber, 1801
BRACTEON Bedel, 1879
BRADYCELLUS Erichson, 1837
BROSCUS Panzer, 1813
CALATHUS Bonelli, 1810
CALLISTUS Bonelli, 1810
CALODROMIUS Reitter, 1905
CALOSOMA Weber, 1801
CARABUS Linnaeus, 1758
CHLAENIUS Bonelli, 1810
CICINDELA Linnaeus, 1758
CILLENUS Leach, 1819
CLIVINA Latreille, 1802
CURTONOTUS Stephens, 1827
CYCHRUS Fabricius, 1794
CYLINDERA Westwood, 1831
CYMINDIS Latreille, 1806
DEMETRIAS Bonelli, 1810
DIACHROMUS Erichson, 1837
DICHEIROTRICHUS Jacquelin du Val, 1855
DROMIUS Bonelli, 1810
DRYPTA Latreille, 1796
DYSCHIRIUS Bonelli, 1810
ELAPHROPUS Motschulsky, 1839
ELAPHRUS Fabricius, 1775
EURYNEBRIA Ganglbauer, 1891
HARPALUS Latreille, 1802
LAEMOSTENUS Bonelli, 1810
LEBIA Latreille, 1802
LEISTUS Frölich, 1799
LICINUS Latreille, 1802
LIONYCHUS Wissmann, 1846
LORICERA Latreille, 1802
MASOREUS Dejean, 1821
MICROLESTES Schmidt-Göbel, 1846
MISCODERA Eschscholtz, 1830
NEBRIA Latreille, 1802
NOTIOPHILUS Duméril, 1806
OCYS Stephens, 1828
ODACANTHA Paykull, 1798
OLISTHOPUS Dejean, 1828
OMOPHRON Latreille, 1802
ODES Bonelli, 1810
OPHONUS Dejean, 1821
OXYSELAPHUS Chaudoir, 1843
PANAGAEUS Latreille, 1802
PARADROMIUS Fowler, 1887
PARANCHUS Lindroth, 1974
PATROBUS Dejean, 1821
PELOPHILA Dejean, 1821
PERIGONA Laporte, 1835
PERILEPTUS Schaum, 1860
PHILORHIZUS Hope, 1838
PLATYDERUS Stephens, 1828
PLATYNUS Bonelli, 1810
POECILUS Bonelli, 1810
POGONUS Dejean, 1821
POLISTICHUS Bonelli, 1810
PTEROSTICHUS Bonelli, 1810
SCYBALICUS Schaum, 1862
SERICODA Kirby, 1837
SOMOTRICHUS Seidlitz, 1887
SPHODRUS Clairville, 1806
STENOLOPHUS Dejean, 1821
STOMIS Clairville, 1806
SYNTOMUS Hope, 1838
SYNUCHUS Gyllenhal, 1810
TACHYS Dejean, 1821
THALASSOPHILUS Wollaston, 1854
TRECHOBLEMUS Ganglbauer, 1891
TRECHUS Clairville, 1806
TRICHOCELLUS Ganglbauer, 1892
ZABRUS Clairville, 1806



Family Carabidae

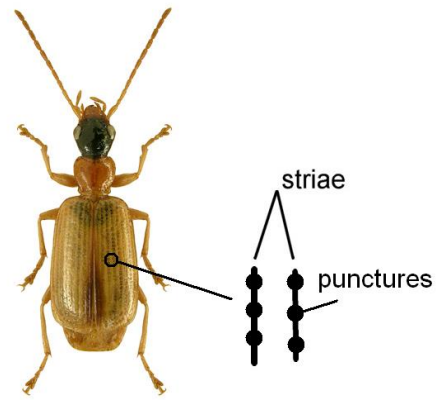
Key to genus after Lindroth (1974) adapted by Mike Hackston

- 1 All interstices on the elytra hairy, containing at least a row of punctures with a short bristle from each. ..[2](#)
Check this carefully as the bristles in the interstices may be very short. The striae are sometimes not well developed. If the elytra appear generally hairy follow this lead.



Elytra without hair (except for short bristles at the edge and/or isolated punctures bearing short bristles on interstices one to three) OR with only the outer interstices hairy.[20](#)

2¹ Elytra with well-developed striae or rows of punctures3



Elytra without regular striae or rows of punctures, though sometimes with shallow furrows without punctures.18

3² Elytra with the apex transversely truncate, thus the apex is at about right angles to the axis of the body. At least the last abdominal tergite is left uncovered.4



Apex of elytra rounded, completely covering the last tergite (or almost so), except in females just before egg laying time.8

4³ Elytra or entire body bright metallic, blue or green.5

Entire body non-metallic.6



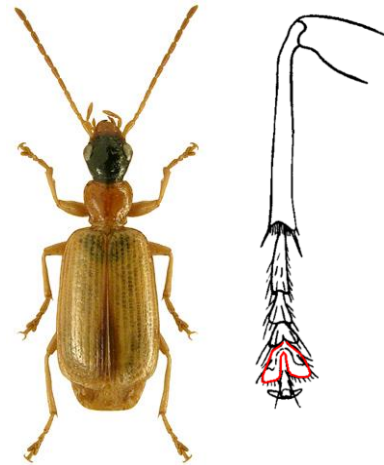
54 Entire body uniformly metallic bluish. Elytra conspicuously hairy.
..... ***Drypta dentata***



Pronotum clear reddish. Interstices of the elytra with minute, almost invisible bristles.
..... ***Lebia cyanocephala***



6⁴ Less than 6 mm. Fourth tarsal segment lobed. ...
..... ***Demetrias atricapillus***



At least 8 mm. Fourth segment of the tarsus like the others.[7](#)

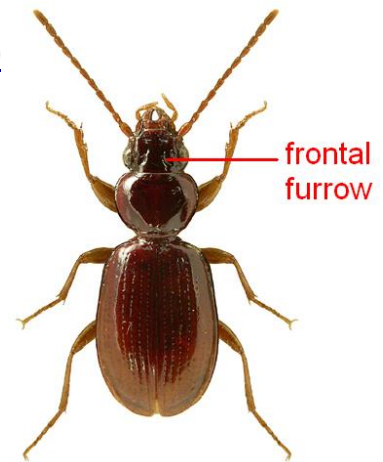
- 7⁶ Head constricted behind the eyes forming a distinct “neck”.
Elytra each with a long reddish patch reaching beyond the
middle.
..... ***Polistichus connexus***



Head not as distinctly constricted. Only base of elytra reddish.
..... Genus ***Cymindis***
Two species - *Cymindis vaporariorum* is found locally in upland areas and
Cymindis macularis has only recently been added to the British list and has been
recorded only from the Breckland region of East Anglia.



8³ Frontal furrows sharp, prolonged and curving round behind the eyes. Small species (not over 5.5 mm.). [.9](#)

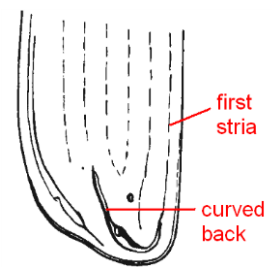


Frontal furrows not prolonged behind eyes and often more or less absent. Usually larger. [11](#)

9⁸ Less than 3 mm. Last segment of maxillary palps narrow, more or less parallel-sided. First stria of elytra (alongside the suture) not curved back.
..... ***Perileptus areolatus***



At least 4 mm. Last segment of maxillary palps tapering to a point. First stria next to the suture curved back at the tip to join the third or fifth stria.
.....10



10⁹ Pronotum covered with fine hair that lays on the surface. Eyes small, their diameter not greater than their distance from the insertion points of the antennae. First stria next to the suture curved back at the tip to join the third stria. Length 4.0-4.5 mm.

..... ***Trechoblemus micros***

Usually on the banks of running water, hidden in crevices, or in the burrows of rodents and moles. Widely distributed but local.



Pronotum bare. Eyes of normal size, their diameter more than twice as long as their distance to the point of insertion of the antennae. First stria next to the suture curved back at the tip to join the fifth stria. Length 4.4-5.5 mm.

..... ***Blemus discus***

In similar habitats as *Trechoblemus micros* and often occurring with it. England (except the south west) northwards to Cumbria.



11⁸ Head with a narrow neck. Elytra reddish with a black cross.
..... Genus ***Panagaeus***



Head without a pronounced neck. Elytra differently coloured.[12](#)

12¹¹ Upper side of tarsi and 3 basal antennal segments hairless
(except for apical bristles on the antennae).
..... Genus ***Chlaenius***

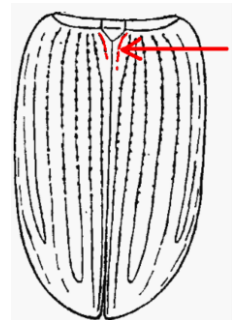


Tarsi hairy and antennae from second or third segment hairy.¹³

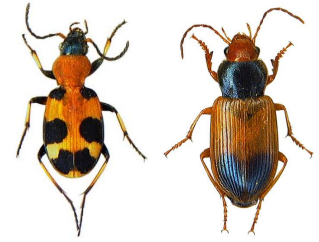
13¹² Elytra without abbreviated scutellar stria.
..... Genus *Dicheirotichus*



Elytra with clear abbreviated scutellar stria.¹⁴



14¹³ Elytra with a distinct pattern of dark and pale.[15](#)



Elytra uniform in colour, dark (or slightly paler along the suture).[16](#)

15¹⁴ Pronotum metallic, darker than the head, rear part of the elytra with a darkened, rather heart-shaped patch.
..... ***Diachromus germanus***



Pronotum orange-brown, paler than the dark head. Each elytron with three black patches.
..... ***Callistus lunatus***



16¹⁴ Head hairless (except for supra-orbital setae - above the eyes). ...
..... Genus **Harpalus** (subgenus *Pseudophonus*)



Frons and temples densely hairy; hairs tending to lie on the surface.[17](#)

17¹⁶ Basal margin of elytra curved level with the third stria. Elytra with transverse microscopic sculpture.
..... ***Scybalicus oblongiusculus***



Basal margin of elytra straight, their microscopic sculpture netted or more or less absent.
..... Genus ***Ophonus***



18² Terminal segment of maxillary palps very small. Elytra with the apex rounded. Eyes large and protruding.
..... Genus ***Asaphidion***



Maxillary palps with a well-developed terminal segment. Elytra appearing sheared off at the tip.[19](#)

19¹⁸ Not over 2.5 mm. Body orange-brown. Eyes very small.
Seashore species.

..... ***Aepus marinus***

Pale coloured species living under stones on sand between high and low tide marks



More than 4 mm. Elytra dark contrasting with the orange-brown head and pronotum. Eyes normal, protruding. Grassland species.

..... Genus ***Brachinus***



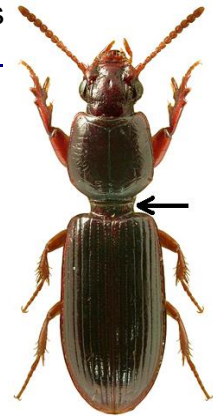
Length 3.5-4.5 mm. Body with head and pronotum dark contrasting with the orange-brown elytra which have a distinct transverse dark band. Eyes protruding and large occupying most of the space between the base of the antennae and the back of the head.

..... ***Somotrichus unifasciatus***

Photograph from U Schmidt. Introduced species.

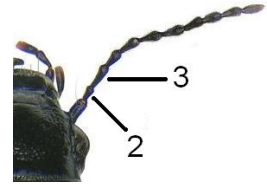


20¹ Mesonotum (with extreme base of elytra) strongly constricted as a "peduncle" upon which the scutellum is situated.[21](#)



Body without a waist between the pronotum and elytra.[24](#)

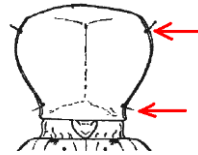
21 [20](#) More than 6.5 mm. Third antennal segment twice as long as second. [22](#)
If you are not on the coast or in northern England, Wales or Scotland go to 23



Less than 6.5 mm. Third antennal segment shorter than second. [23](#)



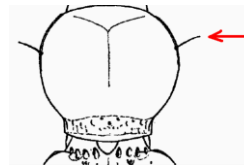
22²¹ 16 mm. or more. Pronotum with two lateral bristles. Head almost as wide as pronotum, which is broadest close to the front.



..... ***Broscus cephalotes***

Photo from U. Schmidt, 2008. One of the largest members of the family in the UK. Almost exclusively coastal on or in dry, often bare sand or soil/sand mix. Often common; widespread.

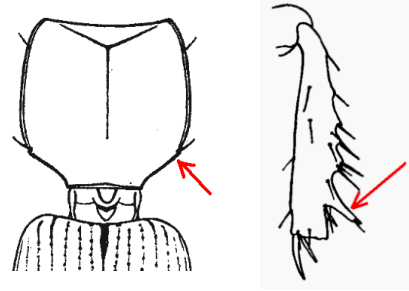
8 mm. or less. Pronotum with only the front lateral bristle. Head narrower than the pronotum, which is broadest at half way.



..... ***Miscodera arctica***

Photo from U. Schmidt, 2009. A northern species from Staffordshire and Shropshire across to North Wales, northwards to Scotland. In open country on fine, moderately dry sand, usually mixed with gravel and with a cover of small mosses.

23²¹ Lateral bead of pronotum prolonged behind posterior seta. Middle tibia with strong spine just short of the tip.
..... Genus ***Clivina***



Lateral bead of pronotum not prolonged. Middle tibia without spine.
..... Genus ***Dyschirius***

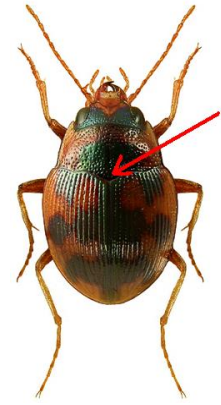


24²⁰ Elytra with 11 or more, well impressed striae which are regular, at least basally;
elytra without ridges or tubercles.[25](#)

Elytra with less than 11 striae (not counting the shortened scutellar stria) OR
without regular striae.[27](#)



25²⁴ Scutellum concealed by a backwardly pointing lobe of the pronotum. Body almost circular.
..... ***Omophron limbatum***



Scutellum visible. More elongate beetles.[26](#)

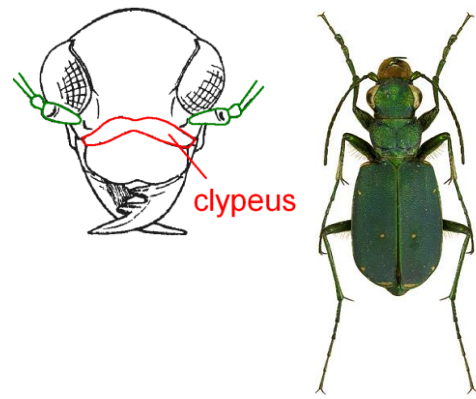
26²⁵ 16 mm. or more. Neck not constricted. Bristles on the antennae short.
..... Genus ***Calosoma***



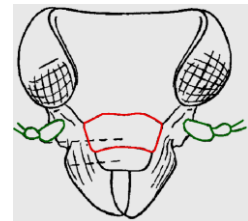
Under 9 mm. Neck strongly constricted. Antennal segments 2-4 with long bristles.
..... ***Loricera pilicornis***



27²⁴ Head with the clypeus broader than the distance between the antennae. Elytra without striae, dark with pale spots.
..... Genera ***Cicindela*** and ***Cylindera***



Clypeus narrower than the distance between the antennae.
.....28



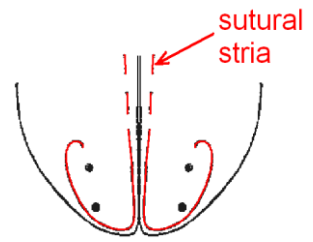
28²⁷ Maxillary palps with last segment tiny, much shorter and narrower than the second to last segment. Small species (not more than 7.5 mm.) ..[29](#)



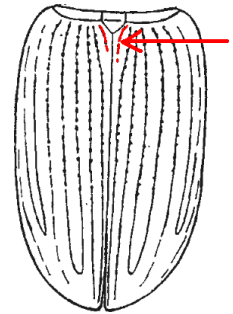
Maxillary palps with a well-developed terminal segment (at least as long as illustrated).[33](#)



29²⁸ Elytra without scutellar stria. Sutural stria curving at the tip and connected with one of the outer striae. Front tibia with oblique apex.30



Elytra with shortened scutellar stria. Sutural stria not curving round at the tip. Front tibia truncate at apex.31



Elytra with shortened scutellar stria AND with the sutural stria curving at the tip. Front tibia truncate at the apex. .
..... Genus **Ocys**



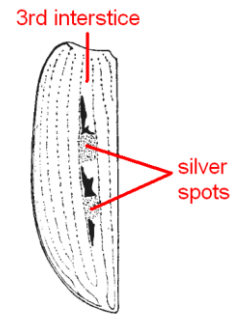
30²⁹ Posterior dorsal puncture of elytra situated well in front of the recurrent stria. Basal transverse impression of pronotum and at least the inner striae of the elytra with punctures. Convex species, strongly sclerotized (hardened). Upper surface shiny, microscopic sculpture absent or extremely fine (visible only at high magnification).
 Genus ***Elaphropus***



Posterior dorsal puncture enclosed within the hook of the recurrent stria. Pronotum with the basal impression smooth. Elytral striae shallow, without punctures or almost so. Flat species, with particularly the elytra weakly sclerotized. Upper surface dull, pronotum and elytra with dense transverse microscopic sculpture, more or less iridescent.
 Genus ***Tachys***

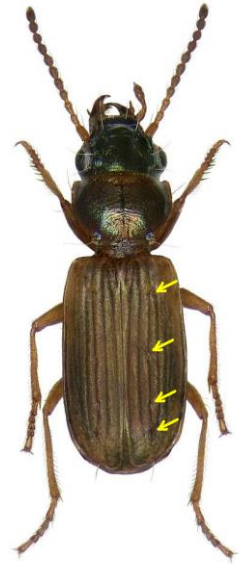


31²⁹ Third interstice of the elytra much broader than the second and fourth at middle and containing two distinct opaque patches (silvery spots).
..... Genus ***Bracteon***

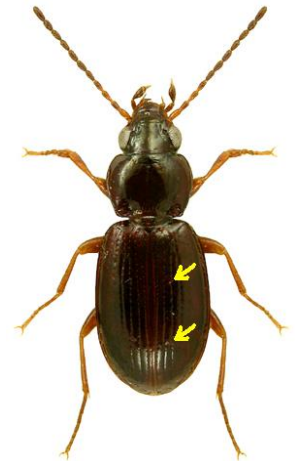


Third interstice of the elytra the same width as the adjacent ones.³²

32³¹ 4 dorsal punctures present on the third interstice of the elytra. Head very broad with the antennae short and stout. At least pronotum and head metallic.
..... ***Cillenus lateralis***



2 dorsal punctures present on the third interstice of the elytra.
..... Genus ***Bembidion***

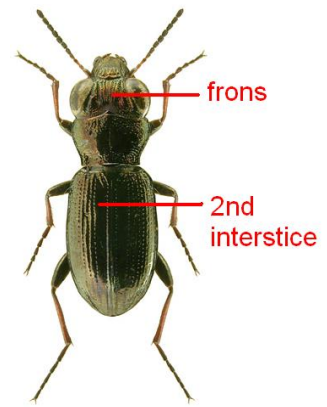


33²⁸ Elytra each with 3 rows of rounded to oval depressions but without or with strongly disturbed striae.
..... Genus ***Elaphrus***



Elytral sculpture otherwise.[34](#)

34³³ Frons with 6 sharp longitudinal ridges; eyes very large.
Second interstice of the elytra much broader than all the
others.
..... Genus ***Notiophilus***



Frons without a number of ridges. Second interstice of the elytra not distinctly
wider than the others.³⁵

35³⁴ Frons with a single puncture bearing a bristle on top of the head each side just by the eye.[36](#)

Frons with two punctures bearing bristles each side, the back one often located behind the eye.[51](#)



36³⁵ Length at least 13 mm. Elytral sculpture more or less irregular, consisting of ridges, rows of granules or depressions, or without any longitudinal arrangement. If striae are present, there are more than ten on each elytron.

.....[37](#)

Usually smaller. Elytra with regular striae and with no other distinct sculpturing (at most two depressions on each elytron).[38](#)



37³⁶ Head relatively narrow and extended forwards. Pronotum oval.
Elytra more rounded.

..... ***Cychrus caraboides***

Mainly in woodland, in shady, rather moist habitats, but in upland areas also in the open. Widely distributed but never common.



Head and pronotum not as above.

..... Genus ***Carabus***

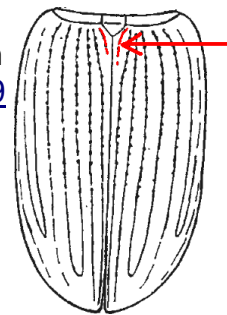
Head prolonged in one species only (*intricatus*) but this species has the pronotum almost square and the elytra flat.



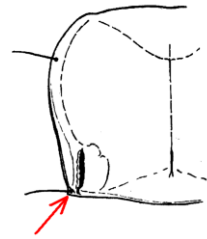
38³⁶ Elytra each with 10 striae (scutellar stria not shortened).
Fourth and sixth interstices with depressions.
..... ***Pelophila borealis***
Photograph by U.Schmidt.



Elytra with 9 striae (or fewer) and often with an additional
shortened scutellar stria; at most third interstice sometimes with
depressions.³⁹



39³⁸ Pronotum with a bristle at hind angle (if broken off the point of attachment is still visible, though sometimes difficult to see in *Trichocellus*, but this genus has hairy eyes).[40](#)



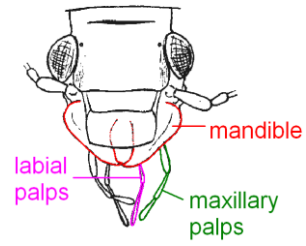
Pronotum without a bristle at the hind angle. Eyes without hairs.[43](#)

40³⁹ Less than 5 mm. Outer interstices of the elytra and all antennal segments finely hairy. Eyes hairy.
..... Genus ***Trichocellus***
Photograph by U. Schmidt

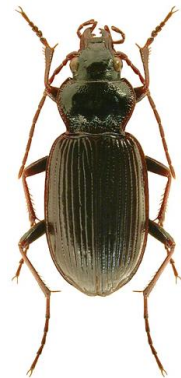


At least 6 mm. Elytra and eyes without hair. Four basal segments of antennae hairless except for apical bristles.⁴¹

41 ⁴⁰ Mandibles broadly flattened at the sides.
Palps very long and slender.
..... Genus ***Leistus***



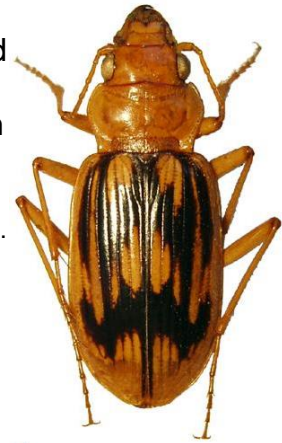
Mandibles not dilated in this way. Palps normal.⁴²



42⁴¹ Body very pale orange-brown. Elytra with long black spots which join together to form irregular transverse bands. Third interstice of the elytra without a dorsal puncture. Second to last segment of the labial palps with several bristles. Length 17-24 mm.

..... ***Eurynebria complanata***

In or near the tidal zone, on bare sand or sandy clay; highly gregarious, local. S. W. England. S. Wales. Ireland.



Body mainly dark in colour. Head often with two small reddish spots on top. Elytra uniform in colour or with a broad pale margin. Third interstice with at least 3 dorsal punctures. Second to last segment of labial palps with 2 or 3 bristles.

..... Genus ***Nebria***

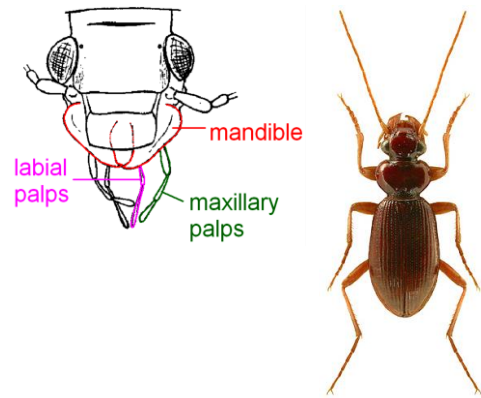


43³⁹ Antennae with at least 3 basal segments hairless (except for apical bristles). [.44](#)

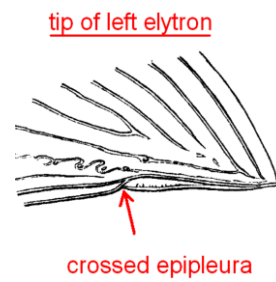
Antennae with at most two hairless basal segments.[46](#)



44⁴³ Mandibles broadly flattened laterally.
 Pronotum heart-shaped. Elytral epipleura not
 crossed.
 Genus ***Leistus***



Mandibles normal. Pronotum not constricted basally. Elytral
 epipleura "crossed".⁴⁵



45⁴⁴ Pronotum without a lateral bristle. Eighth stria of the elytra deepened apically and reaching suture. Front tibia not broadened.
..... ***Oodes helopioides***



Pronotum with a lateral bristle at middle each side. Eighth stria not deepened. Front tibia distinctly broadening towards the tip.
..... ***Zabrus tenebrioides***

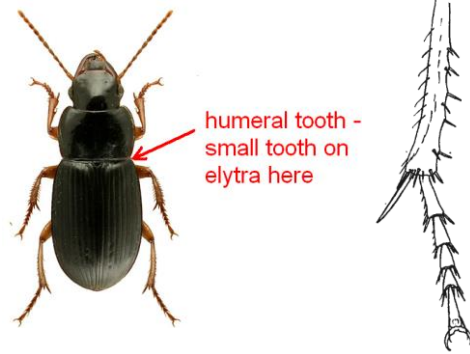


46⁴³ Base of pronotum with a raised bead (sometimes fading in the middle). Length 5.3 mm. or more. Elytra not iridescent.[47](#)

Pronotum with basal bead absent or developed laterally only. Species above 5.2 mm. with strongly iridescent elytra.[48](#)

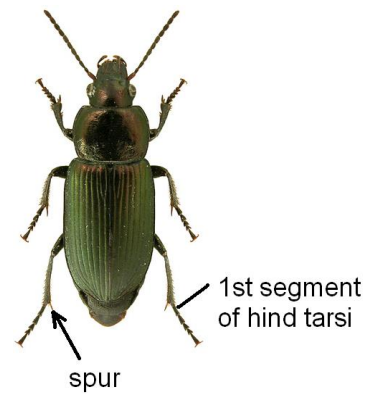


47⁴⁶ First segment of hind-tarsi not longer than terminal spur of tibia. Elytra usually with humeral tooth.
..... Genus **Harpalus**

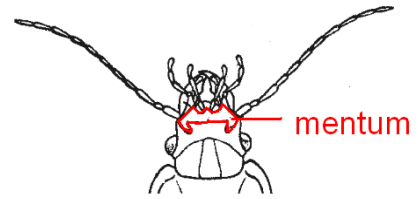


First segment of hind-tarsi longer than terminal spur.
Elytra without humeral tooth.
..... Genus **Anisodactylus**

There is some confusion here as in the generic description of *Anisodactylus* Lindroth states "elytra with a humeral tooth"



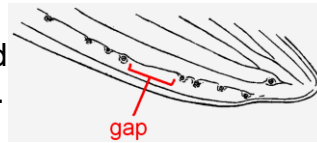
48⁴⁶ Antennae entirely pale. Mouth-parts viewed from below with mentum with a central tooth. Elytra without a coherent microscopic sculpture and not iridescent. Body convex.
..... Genus ***Bradycellus***



Antennae dark with the base pale. Mentum without a tooth. Elytra more or less iridescent due to transverse microscopic sculpture (except in *Acupalpus meridianus*, which has the base of the elytra abruptly pale). Body flatter.⁴⁹



49⁴⁸ Length 5 mm. or more. The row of marginal elytral punctures with pronounced gap posteriorly.
..... Genus ***Stenolophus***



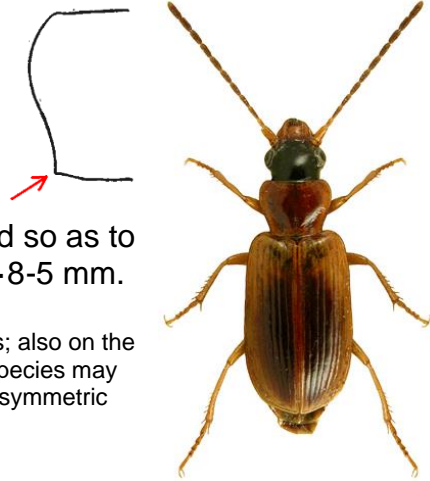
Length 4-5 mm. or less. Marginal row of punctures on the elytra more or less continuous near the tip.⁵⁰



50⁴⁹ Pronotum with the sides curving outwards towards the base; hind angles sharp to right angled. Antennae long and slender. Abdomen conspicuously hairy. Head black. Pronotum often paler, reddish, or with pale margins. Elytra orange-brown, elongate, parallel-sided, each with oblong dark patches which may expand so as to leave only shoulders and margins pale. Length 3.8-5 mm.

..... ***Anthracus consputus***

Among grass and leaves in shaded places at the margin of ponds; also on the coast. England northwards to Yorkshire. Locally abundant. This species may possibly be confused with *Badister sodalis* but that species has asymmetric mandibles.

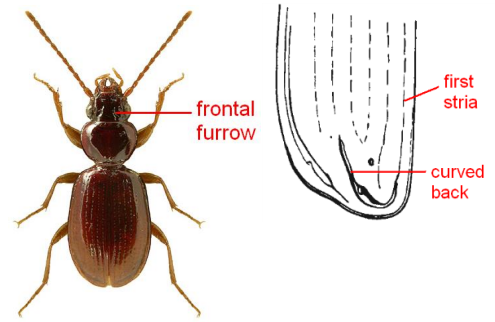


Pronotum shorter with the sides curving more or less evenly from the front to the hind angles; hind-angles rounded. Abdomen only with short, sparse hair.

..... Genus ***Acupalpus***



51³⁵ First stria of elytra curved back near the tip. Frontal furrows prolonged and diverging as semicircles behind the eyes. Not over 6.5 mm.[52](#)



First stria not curved back. Frontal furrows not or less prolonged.[54](#)

52⁵¹ Eyes very small, their diameter not exceeding one-third of the temple. 2·2-2·5 mm. (Inhabitant of the tidal zone).

..... ***Aepus robini***

Photograph from the nature22.com site.



Diameter of eye at least half length of temple. Not below 3·5 mm.[53](#)



53⁵² Base of elytra margined just inside shoulder only.
..... Genus **Trechus**



Base of elytra completely margined.
..... **Thalassophilus longicornis**

Photograph by U Schmidt (2008). A very flat beetle. Very rare on river banks in NW England from Shropshire to Cumbria, North Wales and the western lowlands of Scotland. 3.5-4 mm.



54⁵¹ Tip of the elytra rounded or wavy, in normal position covering the entire abdomen or leaving only a small part of the last segment uncovered (notably in females just before egg laying).[55](#)

Apex of elytra appearing transversely or obliquely sheared off, leaving at least most of the last abdominal segment uncovered.83
Doubtful cases treated under both couplets.



55⁵⁴ Claws toothed or comb-like on the inner surface, at least at the base.[56](#)

Claws smooth.[58](#)



56⁵⁵ All tarsi hairy on their upper surface. Upper surface of body with a metallic lustre. Length 13 mm. or more.
..... Genus ***Laemostenus***
Formerly *Pristonychus*



Tarsi without hair above. Body not metallic. Usually smaller.[57](#)

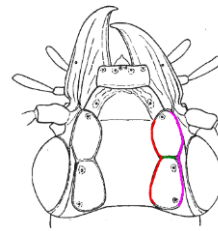
57⁵⁶ Labial palps with a pear-shaped terminal segment. Basal margin of elytra only slightly curved.
..... ***Synuchus vivalis***



Labial palps with an almost cylindrical terminal segment. Basal margin of elytra strongly curving.
..... Genus ***Calathus***



58⁵⁵ Frons each side with two furrows (shown pink and red) joined by a transverse line (shown green). Third and fifth interstices of the elytra with small depressions.
..... ***Blethisa multipunctata***



Frons different. Only third interstice sometimes with small depressions.[59](#)

59⁵⁸ Mandibles highly asymmetric, either the left or the right with tubercle on the top and notched at the end.[60](#)



Mandibles not as above.[61](#)

60⁵⁹ Not more than 9.1 mm. Elytra iridescent, interstices without small punctures.
..... Genus ***Badister***



Not less than 9.5 mm. Elytra not iridescent, interstices with dense small punctures in single rows or denser.
..... Genus ***Licinus***



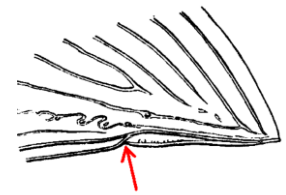
61 [59](#) Striae of the elytra more or less absent, except the eighth stria which becomes deeper towards the apex; lateral parts of elytra finely hairy. Length 2.0-2.5 mm.
..... ***Perigona nigriceps***



Eighth stria not becoming deeper apically; lateral parts of elytra not hairy. [62](#)

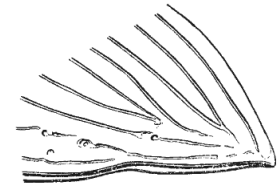
62⁶¹ Elytra with epipleura "crossed" before apex.63

tip of left elytron



crossed epipleura

Elytral epipleura not crossed.67

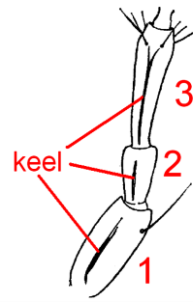


63⁶² Elytra with at least one dorsal puncture on the third interstice from which a bristle arises (small and situated near the tip in *longicollis*).[64](#)



Elytra without dorsal punctures.[65](#)

64⁶³ The 3 basal segments of antennae have a dorsal longitudinal keel. Entire body almost uniformly with a brilliant metallic shine.
..... Genus *Poecilus*



First segments of the antennae without a keel. Body usually black to dark brown (occasionally reddish-brown or green), sometimes with faint metallic tinge.
..... Genus *Pterostichus*



65⁶³ Mandibles and first antennal segment prolonged.
..... ***Stomis pumicatus***



Mandibles and first antennal segment not as above.[66](#)

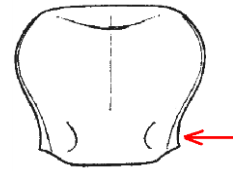
66⁶⁵ Elytra with two extra striae apically outside eighth stria.
Pronotum with distinct longitudinal furrows.....
..... *Abax parallelipedus*



Elytra without extra striae outside the eighth apically.
Pronotum with at most short and weak furrows.
..... Genera *Amara* and *Curtonotus*



67⁶² Length less than 6 mm. Pronotum with the twice curved or sharply notched at the side.[68](#)



Usually larger. Base of pronotum not like this at the side.[70](#)

68⁶⁷ Hind-angles of pronotum removed from base.

..... ***Lionychus quadrillum***

A rare species through England from Cornwall to Yorkshire. On sand or gravel, sometimes dry, but often near water or near the shoreline. Length 3-4 mm.



Hind-angles in normal position or almost indistinct.⁶⁹

69⁶⁸ Pronotum almost as broad as elytra. Tibiae (particularly the middle pair) spiny. Length over 4.5 mm.
..... ***Masoreus wetterhallii***



Pronotum much narrower than the elytra. Tibiae not spiny. Less than 4 mm.
..... Genus ***Syntomus***



70⁶⁷ Head slightly but distinctly constricted behind the eyes.
Elytra not margined inside the shoulder.
..... Genus ***Patrobis***



Head much less constricted behind the eyes. Base of the elytra margined
almost to scutellum.⁷¹

71⁷⁰ Length more than 20 mm. Elytra without any dorsal punctures.
..... ***Sphodrus leucophthalmus***



Smaller species. Elytra with at least one dorsal puncture on third interstice.⁷²



72⁷¹ Length at least 14 mm. Elytra strongly iridescent.
..... ***Pterostichus cristatus***



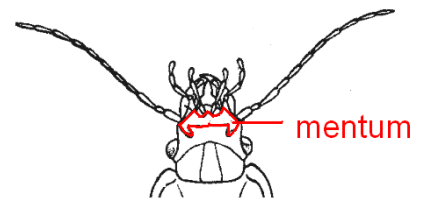
Not more than 12.3 mm. Elytra not iridescent.⁷³



73⁷² Frons with deep, parallel furrows. Mouth-parts viewed from below have the mentum with doubled central tooth. Coastal species.
..... Genus ***Pogonus***



Frontal furrows less developed or absent.
Mentum with a single tooth or tooth absent. ..74



74⁷³ Pronotum with the front margin extended forwards at the middle in a gentle curve. From below the posterior process of the prosternum (extending back between the base of the front legs) is margined.
..... ***Platyderus depressus***

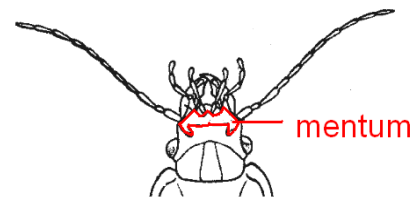


Front margin of pronotum not or barely produced. Prosternal process without a margin.⁷⁵

75⁷⁴ Viewed from below the mentum at the base of the mouth-parts does not have a tooth. Pronotum as broad as elytra at the shoulders. Second antennal segment more than half the length of third.
..... *Olisthopus rotundatus*



Viewed from below the mentum at the base of the mouth has a tooth. Pronotum narrower. Second antennal segment shorter.⁷⁶



76⁷⁵ Elytra bright orange-brown with a large dark, metallic patch across the suture. Head and pronotum with a vivid green reflection. Base of antennae and legs orange-brown. Length 6.0-8.2 mm.

..... ***Anchomenus dorsalis***

In open meadows and grassland, usually on gravelly, clay or chalky soils. Somewhat local but often abundant, often large groups have been recorded under stones in the spring.

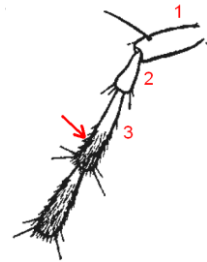


Elytra uniform in colour or with pale margins. [77](#)

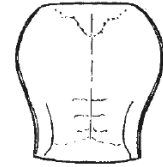
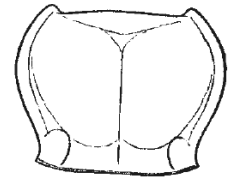
77⁷⁶ Third segment of the antennae with the normal apical bristles only.
.....⁷⁸



Third segment of the antennae hairy at least in apical half.
..... Genus **Agonum**, subgenus **Europhilus**



78^{ZZ} Hind angles of pronotum sharp, acutely angled to about right angled. Body without a metallic shine.79

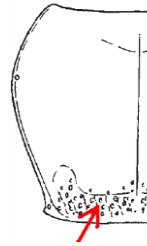


Hind angles of pronotum distinctively obtusely angled or entirely rounded. Body often with a metallic shine.81

79⁷⁸ Tarsi with a furrow along the middle. Third interstice of the elytra with 2 dorsal punctures. Dark brown with the sides and suture of the elytra usually slightly paler; antennae and legs pale brown. Immature individuals long retain a reddish colour. Base of pronotum strongly punctured. Striae of the elytra fine, without punctures, waviness of the sides near the apex absent. Length 6·8-9 mm.

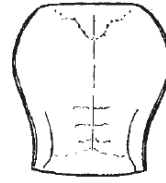
..... ***Paranchus albipes***

On open, damp, often barren, usually clay soils, near water; often on the seashore. Locally abundant and widespread.



Tarsi not furrowed. Elytra with 3 dorsal punctures.[80](#)

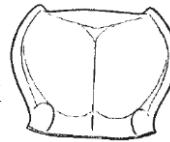
80⁷⁹ Pronotum narrow, only slightly wider than head with the lateral bead very narrow. Striae of the elytra strongly punctured; elytra yellowish brown, palest at shoulder. Head and pronotum dark brown or sometimes reddish. Legs chestnut brown. Wings usually quite reduced. Length 5-6-6 mm.



..... ***Oxypselaphus obscurus***

In damp deciduous woodland and in densely vegetated marshes, among leaves and mosses. Somewhat local but widespread; common in the south.

Pronotum much wider than head, sides broadly flattened. Striae of the elytra with tiny punctures. Body black; legs and antennae dark brown. Elytra very broad, widening behind middle; striae deep, interstices convex. Length 8-7-12-3 mm.



..... ***Platynus assimilis***

In shady places, usually deciduous woodland, often under bark. Local but widespread.

81 ⁷⁸ Head constricted behind eyes, with transverse impression visible also dorsally. Dark brown; head almost always with two reddish spots. Antennae and legs dark reddish but apex of each antennal segment darkened as well as part of the legs. Striae of the elytra fine. Length 7.8-10.5 mm.
..... ***Batenus livens***

Very moisture demanding; in marshy deciduous woodland, often alder, among leaves and *Sphagnum* mosses. Local and usually rare; Hampshire to Nottinghamshire.



Head not so constricted. ⁸²

82⁸¹ Elytra with the dorsal punctures wider, more like distinct depressions, occupying more than the width of the third interstice. Dull black with bronze hue; tibiae more or less dark brown. Pronotum short with obtuse hind angles, but distinct. Elytra with 3-5 dorsal punctures. Length 4.5-5.8 mm.



..... ***Sericoda quadripunctata***

Attracted by forest fires, notably of conifers, often collected under bark. Scattered records; a recent colonist.

Dorsal punctures of the third interstice small. Larger species.

..... Genus ***Agonum*** subgenus ***Agonum***

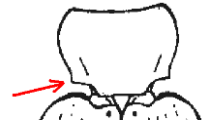


83⁵⁴ Tibiae (notably the middle pair) distinctly spiny. Pronotum almost as wide as elytra.
..... ***Masoreus wetterhallii***



Tibiae with short bristles only. Pronotum narrower.[84](#)

84⁸³ Base of pronotum with a sharp incision at the side.85



Base of pronotum straight or slightly wavy towards the side.86

85⁸⁴ Claws with comb-like teeth towards the base. Base of the pronotum lobed in the middle; pronotum tapering more or less equally from half way to the front and the back and with the back corners curving to a point and then curving again.
..... Genus ***Lebia***

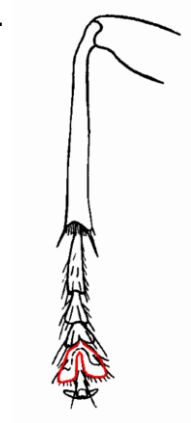


Claws smooth. Pronotum not lobed, tapering much more distinctly to the back.
..... ***Lionychus quadrillum***

A rare species through England from Cornwall to Yorkshire. On sand or gravel, sometimes dry, but often near water or near the shoreline. Length 3-4 mm.



86⁸⁴ Fourth tarsal segment strongly bilobed.
..... Genus ***Demetrius***



Fourth tarsal segment with sheared off or slightly notched apex[87](#)

87⁸⁶ Last segment of the labial palps dilated and truncate. All interstices of the elytra with tiny punctures.

..... ***Cymindis axillaris***

Photograph from U Schmidt



Last segment of the labial palps almost cylindrical. Not all interstices of the elytra are punctured.⁸⁸

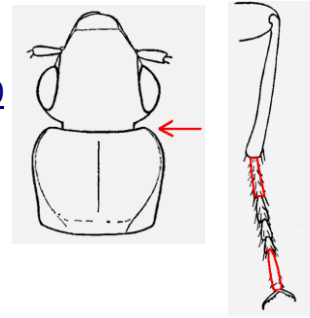
88⁸⁷ Pronotum narrower than the head, both metallic, elytra orange basally, darkened at the tip.
..... ***Odacantha melanura***

Moisture-loving, on reeds, bulrushes and other tall plants growing in or near water.
Southern and eastern England northwards to Norfolk, south Wales. Locally abundant.

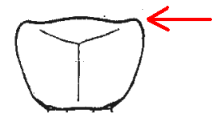


Pronotum at least as broad as head. Coloration different.⁸⁹

89⁸⁸ Front of pronotum straight or rounded. On the middle leg the last tarsal segment is equal in length to the first. Length 3.5-7.0 mm.90



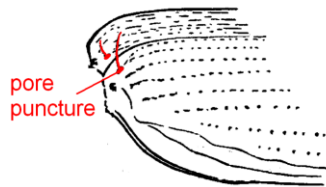
Front of pronotum slightly wavy towards the sides. Last tarsal segment of the middle leg shorter than first segment. Length 2.5-3.8 mm.93



90⁸⁹ Length more than 5 mm. (except small specimens of *P. linearis*). Striae of the elytra distinct; seventh interstice with two or more coarse punctures touching the sixth stria; base without a pore-puncture.[91](#)



Length less than 5 mm. Striae of the elytra more or less absent (i.e. lines of punctures only and not slight ridges); seventh interstice without a puncture; base, on the level of apex of scutellum, with a small pore-puncture.[92](#)

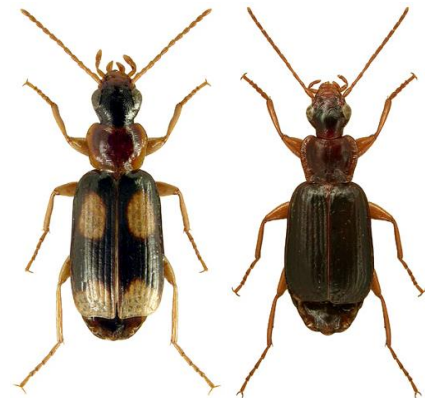


91⁹⁰ Base of elytra margined at the sides only (outside third entire stria). Head and pronotum narrower. Elytra pale, usually with a dark stripe along the suture.
..... Genus ***Paradromius***



Elytra with a complete raised basal bead. Head and pronotum relatively more compact. Elytra differently coloured.
..... Genus ***Dromius***

The species of this genus are found in trees, so the description of ground beetle doesn't fit them!



92⁹⁰ Pronotum with sharp, protruding, almost right-angled hind-angles. Elytra with the raised basal margin reaching the scutellum. Dark brown species with the head black and pronotum usually dark red-brown. Elytra each with two yellow-brown spots, the smaller rear pair often joined across the suture and with darker brown colour extending round them at the tip. Length 3.8-4.6 mm.



..... ***Calodromius spilotus***
 Usually on pine. England. Wales. Scotland. Ireland. Local.

Pronotum with blunt, obtuse hind-angles. Raised basal bead of elytra only developed at the sides. Apex of elytra almost always pale.

..... Genus ***Philorhizus***



93⁸⁹ Elytra with apex obliquely truncate and somewhat wavy.
Third antennal segment without hair and only with the
normal short bristles towards the tip.
..... Genus **Syntomus**



Apex of the elytra at right angles to the axis of the beetle.
Third antennal segment with sparse pubescence along with
the short bristles.
..... Genus **Microlestes**

