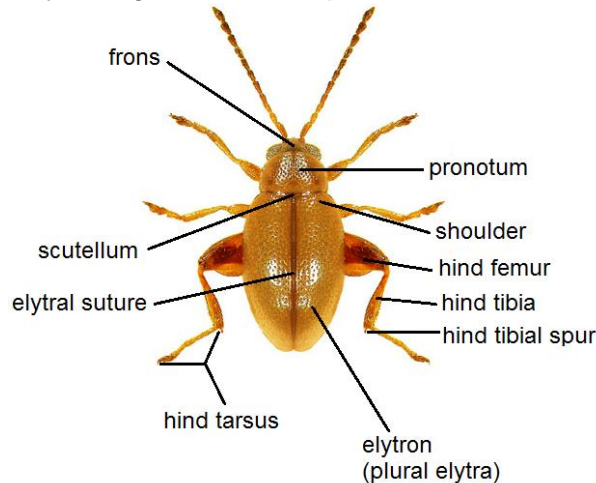


Genus *Longitarsus*

Translated by Mike Hackston from the German key by Arved Lompe (derived from the work of M. Döberl)

The members of this genus are easily identified as such by the first segment of the hind tarsus being about half the length of the hind tibia. They live on the leaves of various families of plant, commonly Boraginaceae, Scrophulariaceae and Lamiaceae.



Reference

The source of most of this key is from my translation of Arved Lompe's German key. The original can be found at <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/longitarsus.htm>. The translation is reproduced here with the kind permission of Dr Arved Lompe.

Checklist of species

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

<i>absynthii</i> Kutschera, 1862	<i>ganglbaueri</i> Heikertinger, 1912	<i>obliteratus</i> (Rosenhauer, 1847)
<i>aeneicollis</i> (Faldermann, 1837)	<i>gracilis</i> Kutschera, 1864	<i>ochroleucus</i> (Marsham, 1802)
<i>aeruginosus</i> (Foudras, 1860)	<i>holsaticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	<i>parvulus</i> (Paykull, 1799)
<i>agilis</i> (Rye, 1868)	<i>jacobaeae</i> (Waterhouse, 1858)	<i>pellucidus</i> (Foudras, 1860)
<i>anchusae</i> (Paykull, 1799)	<i>kutscherae</i> (Rye, 1872)	<i>plantagomaritimus</i> Dollman, 1912
<i>atricillus</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	<i>longiseta</i> Weise, 1889	<i>pratensis</i> (Panzer, 1794)
<i>ballotae</i> (Marsham, 1802)	<i>luridus</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	<i>quadriguttatus</i> (Pontoppidan, 1763)
<i>brunneus</i> (Duftschmid, 1825)	<i>lycoperi</i> (Foudras, 1860)	<i>reichei</i> (Allard, 1860)
<i>curtus</i> (Allard, 1860)	<i>melanocephalus</i> (De Geer, 1775)	<i>rubiginosus</i> (Foudras, 1860)
<i>dorsalis</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	<i>membranaceus</i> (Foudras, 1860)	<i>rutilus</i> (Illiger, 1807)
<i>exoletus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	<i>nasturtii</i> (Fabricius, 1792)	<i>succineus</i> (Foudras, 1860)
<i>ferrugineus</i> (Foudras, 1860)	<i>nigerrimus</i> (Gyllenhal, 1827)	<i>suturellus</i> (Duftschmid, 1825)
<i>flavicornis</i> (Stephens, 1831)	<i>nigrofasciatus</i> (Goeze, 1777)	<i>symphyti</i> Heikertinger, 1912
<i>fowleri</i> Allen, 1967	<i>obliteratoides</i> Gruev, 1973	<i>tabidus</i> (Fabricius, 1775)

Image Credits

Unless otherwise indicated the photographs of whole beetles in this key are reproduced from the Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae, with permission kindly granted by Lech Borowiec. The illustrations in this website include photographs of the male and often female genitalia so reference should be made there if you check identifications using dissection.



Genus *Longitarsus*

Key to British species

Translated by Mike Hackston from the German key by Arved Lompe (who derived his key from that of M. Döberl)

The members of this genus are easily identified as such by the first segment of the hind tarsus being about half the length of the hind tibia. They live on the leaves of various families of plant, commonly Boraginaceae, Scrophulariaceae and Lamiaceae.

- 1 Elytra black, metallic and shiny, dark brown or reddish brown, with or without dark markings, or black with a yellow margin.2
The photograph shows the palest brown to run with this lead. Any paler than this, go to 12.



Elytra *pale* brownish or yellowish, with or without markings.[12](#)

- 2 Upper surface shining metallic or uniformly black.[3](#)

Elytra black with reddish-brown or yellowish-brown markings or more or less uniformly dark brown to reddish brown.[8](#)



- 3 Body distinctly short and broadly domed; uniformly black (except for dark brown at the base of the antennae and the legs which are dark brown with reddish knees). Hind femora reaching to the tip of the elytra (when stretched out). Terminal spur of the hind tibiae strong. Length 1.5-2.3 mm.

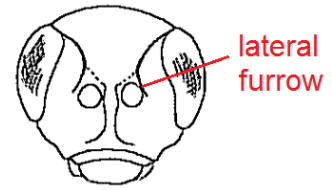
..... ***Longitarsus nigerrimus***

In wetlands on *Utricularia* sp. usually below the water surface



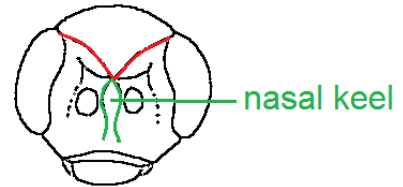
Body more or less elongate. Base of the antennae and most of the tibiae yellowish brown or reddish yellow-brown.4

- 4 Line on the frons linking to the nasal keel only very weakly, but curving to form a lateral furrow each side of the base of the antennae.5



Line on the frons running straight from the top of the eyes to the tip of the nasal keel that runs between the antennae, forming with them an x-shape. Lateral furrows indistinct. Upper surface black, often with a greenish sheen.6

Line drawings from M. Döberl



- 5 Upper surface densely punctured and wrinkled. Male anal sternite with a crescent-shaped impression. Underside of the aedeagus with a trough-like groove whose edges are parallel throughout the length of the structure. The duct of the spermathecae is removed towards the back in a characteristic manner. Length 1.2-1.8 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus obliteratus***

In warm habitats on thymes, *Salvia* and other labiates. Line drawings from M. Döberl



aedeagus



spermatheca

Upper surface much more finely punctured. Male anal sternite only weakly impressed. Underside of the aedeagus with a trough which is narrowed towards the base. The duct of the spermathecae open at the lower end of the capsule.

..... ***Longitarsus obliteratoides***

Found on *Thymus praecox*



female



spermatheca

- 6 Elytra compressed at the rear outer edge at the sides of the middle and back sections of the thorax, and almost sloping vertically.
..... ***Longitarsus anchusae***
A very common species on Boraginaceae



Elytra sloping at the sides in an even curve.7

- 7 Bulge on the shoulders of the elytra distinct.
 Length 1.0-1.8 mm.
 ***Longitarsus parvulus***
 On flax, the flax flea beetle.



- Bulge on the shoulders very weak or absent.
 Length 1.4-1.8 mm.....
 ***Longitarsus absynthii***
 On *Artemisia* species.



8 Elytra black with yellowish-red markings or a yellowish-red tip.[9](#)



Elytra either black with yellow margins or uniformly brown.[10](#)



- 9 Body short and broadly domed. Elytra intensely black, with a yellowish-red marking before the tip (which in rare cases may extend over a large part of the elytra). Length 1.5-2.0 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus holsaticus***

Mainly in swampy habitats on *Pedicularis palustris* and *Veronica beccabunga*



Body longer, ovate, only slightly domed. Larger species, 2.3 mm. Antennae distinctly darkening towards the tip. Elytra black, each with two bright markings which can sometimes coalesce (rarely partially or completely absent).

..... ***Longitarsus quadriguttatus***

On Boraginaceae, particularly on *Nonea pulla* on the continent



10 Elytra dark brown or reddish brown. [11](#)

Elytra black with a yellowish outer border.

..... ***Longitarsus dorsalis***

Pronotum pale, at most darkened at the centre of the disc; antennae and legs black, the first segments of the antennae and the tarsi reddish brown. On species of *Senecio* including *S inaequidens*.



- 11 Edge of the elytra at the tips long ciliate, the hairs nearest the suture noticeably long, about half as long as the first segment of the hind tarsus. Elytra variable - black with the suture yellow or suture sometimes darkened or rarely the entire upper surface is pitch black. More finely punctured and usually larger and broader than *luridus*. Length 1.8-2.5 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus brunneus***

On species of *Thalictrum*.



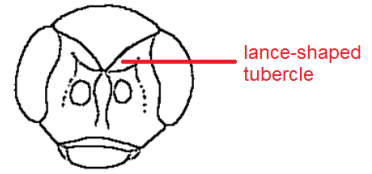
- Edge of the elytra at the tips only short hairy. Smaller species, 1.5-2.2 mm. Usually reddish brown (variety *nigricans* pitchy black). Elytra strongly punctured, the punctures in the front half usually in rows. In males the lower angle of the hind tibia is clearly curved.

..... ***Longitarsus luridus***

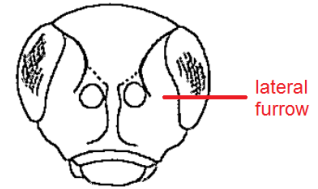
On various plants; larvae are leaf miners in species of *Plantago*.



12 Frons with almost horizontal lance-shaped tubercles which are bordered above by a sharp line; lateral furrows indistinct.[13](#)



Frons without distinct tubercles. In cases where tubercles are present, then they are not bordered by a sharp line. Lateral furrows distinct.[15](#)
Line drawings from M. Döberl.



13 Larger species, 1.8-2.4 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus ferrugineus***

Elytra yellow, rarely with a darkened suture. Abdomen black. Male anal sternite usually pale. Often found with *L lycopi* on *Mentha* species



Smaller species, usually under 1.8 mm.[14](#)

14 Hind femora uniformly dark.

..... ***Longitarsus membranaceus***

Reddish brown species, 1.6-1.8 mm., shortly ovate, strongly domed. Elytra deeply punctured, the tips broadly rounded and slightly separated. On species of *Teucrium*.

Hind femora becoming darker towards the tip.

Elytra with the punctures in rows.

..... ***Longitarsus lycopi***

Head distinctly darker than the elytra. Elytra somewhat darkened with or without a swelling on the shoulders.

Underside blackish brown. On *Mentha* species.



15 Hind tibia with a distinct ridge along the inner surface.[16](#)



Hind tibia without such a ridge.[18](#)



16 Hind tibiae with a short apical spur. Elytra pale yellow with an indistinctly darker suture. Antennae (except for the tip), head, pronotum and legs yellowish brown. Hind femora sometimes darkened on the upper surface. Thorax and abdomen reddish-yellow-brown to black. Length 2.6-3.0 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus agilis***

On *Scrophularia auriculata*. Punctures on the elytra fine. Elytra more rounded and domed than *tabidus*. Hind tibiae slightly bowed inwards.



Hind tibiae with a long apical spur. [17](#)

17 Punctures on the elytra fine and usually random. Underside, legs, antennae and front of the head usually very dark brown. Elytra with or without a darker suture.

..... ***Longitarsus tabidus***

On species of *Verbascum*.



Punctures on the elytra in moderately dense rows. Hind legs long and strong, brownish yellow to rusty red. Head and pronotum usually darker. Elytra usually with a broad, dark suture. Length 2.5-3.2 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus nigrofasciatus***

On species of *Verbascum* and *Scrophularia*.



18 Apical spur of the hind tibia conspicuously long, much longer than the greatest width of the hind tibia before the tip.
..... ***Longitarsus ballotae***
On species of *Ballota* and *Marrubium*.



Apical spur of the hind tibia much shorter than this.[19](#)

19 Upper surface uniformly yellow; suture not darkened.20

Elytra with the suture darkened, even if this is restricted to the very edge.[32](#)

20 Thorax and abdomen reddish yellow-brown.[21](#)

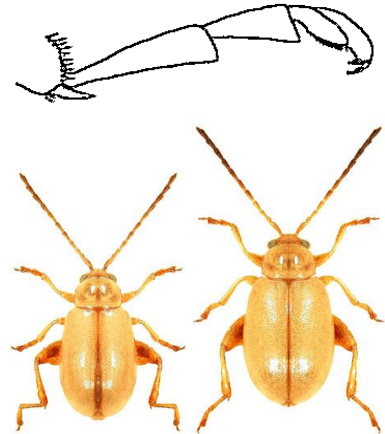
Thorax and/or abdomen pitchy-black, at least in large part.[28](#)



21 Reddish-yellow ochreous species. First segment of the hind tarsus shorter than half the length of the tibia; the two first segments of the hind tarsus (viewed from the side) distinctly broaden towards their tips. Tip of the antennae, the clypeus and the palps blackish. Length 2.5-3 mm.

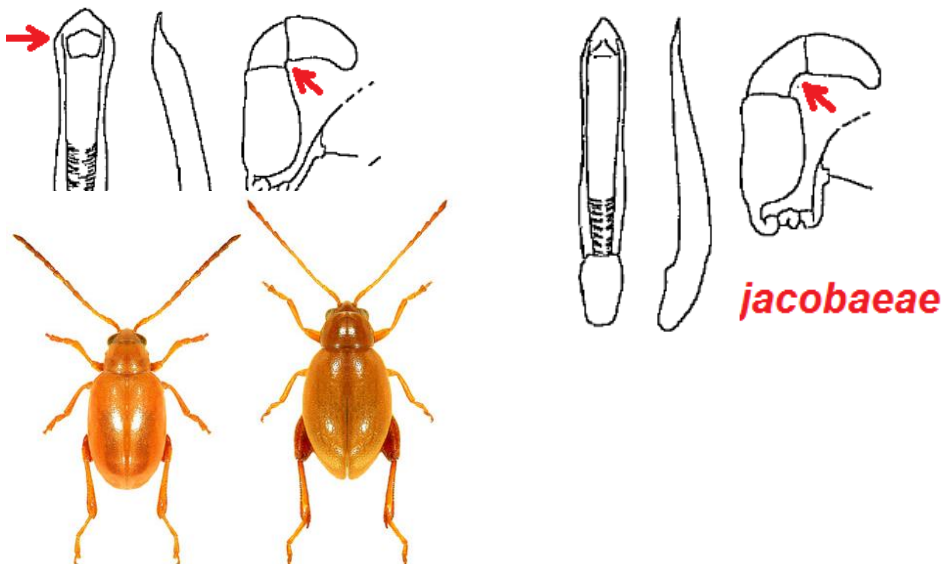
..... ***Longitarsus jacobaeae***

On species of *Senecio*. The clypeus is seen viewing the head from the front; it is just above the jaws. ***Longitarsus rutilus*** is very similar but is conspicuously bright red in life (fading to a similar colour to *jacobaeae* after a while). It is associated with the base and young shoots of *Scrophularia aquatica*. ***Longitarsus flavicornis*** is also very similar and is distinguished by details of the male genitalia (see below).



Colour not reddish-yellow ochreous. First segment of the hind tarsus about equal to half the length of the hind tibia. The first and second segments of the hind tarsus are more slender.[22](#)

Line drawings from M. Döberl.



22 Elytra coarsely and deeply punctured.
Antennae very long, in the male almost
longer than the body. Winged or wingless.
Length 1.8-2.7 mm.
..... ***Longitarsus rubiginosus***
On *Calystegia sepium*.



Elytra more finely punctured.[23](#)

23 Segments 2 and 3 of the antennae clearly different.[24](#)

Segments 2 and 3 more or less the same length.[25](#)



- 24 Segment 3 of the antennae longer than segment 2. Tip of the elytra with long hairs on the edge, those closest to the suture conspicuously long. The four pores in the corners of the pronotum each bear a very long, straight, bristle-like hair. Elytra without significant swelling at the shoulders. Length 2.5-3.0 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus aeruginosus***

Associated with *Eupatorium cannabinum*.



Segment 2 of the antennae longer than segment 3. Elytra with a very distinct swelling on the shoulders, uniformly yellowish-brown, sometimes with a darkened suture. Head reddish with the frons darker. Antennae darkened towards the tip. Length 1.7-2.3 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus reichei***

On *Plantago maritima* and various labiates.



25 Pronotum short, at least 1.5 times as broad as long. Hind femora pale becoming black towards the tip; two last segments of the tarsi darker. Upper surface pale yellow. Antennae about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the body with the last six segments darkened. Elytra with the swellings on the shoulders prominent. Length 2.2-2.6 mm.



..... ***Longitarsus ochroleucus***

Associated with *Matricaria* and *Senecio*.

Pronotum longer, about 1.33 times as broad as long. If the hind femora are darkened towards their tip then the last segments of the tarsi are not also darkened. [26](#)



26 Male antennae not as long as the body.
 Elytra somewhat flattened on the back;
 swellings on the shoulders usually clear.
 Punctures in well-defined rows. Clypeus
 blackish. Length 2.0-2.5 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus pellucidus***

On *Convolvulus arvensis*.

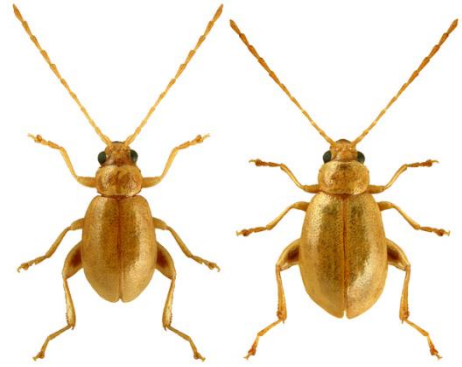


Male antennae as long as or longer than the body.[27](#)

27 Segments 4-11 of the antennae elongate, about 5-6 times as long as wide with the last segment scarcely broader than those in the middle, very pale and delicate, not darkened towards the tip. Usually a very pale-coloured, delicate-looking species, very rarely uniformly darkened. Thorax and abdomen sometimes rusty-red, even black. Elytra with or without swellings on the shoulders. Length 1.5-2.8 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus symphyti***

On *Symphytum officinale*.



Segments 4-11 of the antennae at most four times as long as wide, the last segment brownish and elongate-oval, wider than the middle segments. Upper surface whitish to reddish-yellow or ochreous. Thorax and abdomen may be darkened. Elytra without swellings on the shoulders. Length 1.8-2.7 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus succineus***

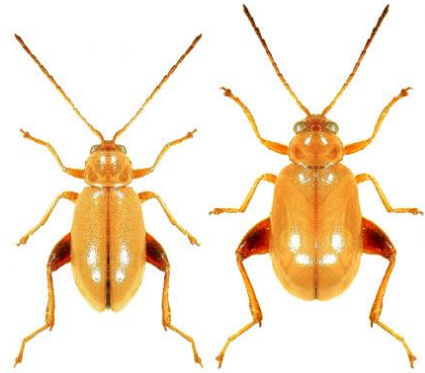
Associated with various composites. Elytra with the punctures almost imperceptible, matt, often somewhat translucent.



28 Pronotum almost square, only slightly broader than long. Meso- and metathorax, abdomen and a patch on the top of the hind femora black. Elytra finely punctured with or without swellings on the shoulders. Length 2.0-3.2 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus exoletus***

On Boraginaceae.



Pronotum distinctly broader than long. Head generally darkened. [29](#)

29 Apical spur of the hind tibia longer than the maximum diameter of the tibia near the tip. Winged or not. Brownish yellow species with the head and the tip of the hind femora usually darkened; the suture of the elytra may also be darker. Length 1.6-2.3 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus ballotae***

On *Ballota* and *Marrubium*



Apical spur of the hind tibia shorter.[30](#)

30 Antennae long, almost as long as the body.31

Antennae shorter, reaching only a little more than half way along the body.

..... ***Longitarsus pratensis***

On *Plantago* species, especially *P. lanceolata*. Small, common species, 1.4-1.8 mm. Elytra somewhat flattened on top, more or less parallel, with distinct swellings at the shoulder, very finely punctured. Legs uniformly yellow; head blackish-brown. Pronotum brighter, but darker than the yellowish-brown elytra (in form *collaris* the pronotum may be completely blackish-brown). Anal sternite with a distinct impression.



Longitarsus fowleri is very similar and is associated with *Dipsacus fullonum* and *Thymus serpyllum*. It is narrow oval in shape, lighter or darker chestnut-brown with the head and pronotum often a little redder. Hind femora largely black or pitchy. Head not darker on the vertex.

31 Elytra very coarsely punctured. Head very dark brown head, pronotum reddish-brown, elytral suture darkened elytral suture and underside blackish. Length 1.8-2.7 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus rubiginosus*** form ***fumigatus***

On *Calystegia sepium*. Typical examples illustrated in [couplet 22](#)

Elytra weakly punctured. Swellings absent from the shoulders.

..... ***Longitarsus succineus***

Associated with various composites. Elytra with the punctures almost imperceptible, matt, often somewhat translucent. Typical examples illustrated in [couplet 27](#)

Elytra very weakly punctured, matt. Swellings present on the shoulders.

..... ***Longitarsus gracilis***

Typical examples illustrated in [couplet 40](#)



32 As well as the darkened suture, the side margin of the elytra or the margin at the tips are black (view from the sides).[33](#)

Elytra with only the suture blackened.[34](#)



- 33 The black, shining suture ends before the tip.
The margin of the epipleura and a vague border are blackish up to the middle. Head and pronotum with a greenish metallic sheen (rarely pitchy black or brown). Hind femora pitchy black on the outer surface, brown on the inner side. Length 1.8-2.2 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus aeneicollis***

Associated with *Lithospermum officinale*. One form of *L. atricillus* (form *similis*) occurs with brown side margins to the elytra. Check at [couplet 33](#)



The black along the suture extends right to the tip of the elytra and continues around the tips of the elytra as a blurred dark edging. Head and pronotum black and may show a metallic sheen. Elytra with or without a swelling on the shoulders. Length 1.5-2.0 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus nasturtii***

On Boraginaceae species. If the size is 2.4-3 mm. and the beetle is broadly elliptical with the tips of each elytron rounded, check *L. quadriguttatus* var. *vittatus* (couplet 9) which also occurs on Boraginaceae.



34 Head and pronotum darkened with a bronzy shine. Normally only the suture is blackish (occasionally the sides of the elytra are also brown - form *similis*). Pronotum shining. Length 2-3 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus atricillus***

Associated with *Medicago*, *Onobrychis* and *Achillea*. *L. suturellus* is very similar, but differs in having a matt pronotum with a silky sheen and very finely punctured elytra.



Pronotum pale or darkened, but never with a metallic sheen.[35](#)

- 35 At the tip of the elytra, the first two hairs adjacent to the suture are noticeably long. Head and the tip of the hind femora blackish. Pronotum and elytra straw-yellow and very strongly punctured.. The black on the suture begins after the first third of the elytra, widening and then narrowing again before the tip. Underside black. Length 1.5-1.8 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus longiseta***

On *Plantago* species, mainly *P. lanceolata*



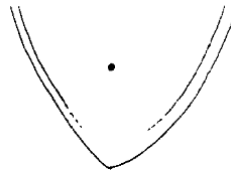
Tips of the elytra with only short hairs.[36](#)

36 Elytra with the punctures on the slope at the tips as strong as those at the base.
.....[37](#)

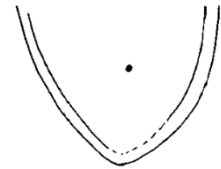
Elytra with the punctures on the slope at the tips much weaker than those at the
base of the elytra.[39](#)



37 Elytra narrowing more than normal towards the tips (the black dot on the diagram marks the point of greatest curvature. Elytra relatively strongly punctured, these forming slight ribbed. The inner side of the hind femora is usually pitchy black. Segment 1 of the front and middle tarsi in males distinctly broadening. There is variation in the overall colour of this species from the normal brownish-yellow to very dark (form *nigrinus*). Length 2.3-3 mm.
 ***Longitarsus melanocephalus***
 On *Plantago* species.



Elytra not narrowing before the tip, but more or less evenly rounded.[38](#)
 Line drawings from M. Döberl.



38 Inland species. Swellings on the shoulders of the elytra usually distinct. Elytra straw-yellow, usually with a stripe along the suture. Segment 1 of the front and middle tarsi in males clearly broadening, and much longer than broad. Length 1.7-2.3 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus kutscherae***

Associated with *Galeobdolon luteum* and *Galeopsis tetrahit*. One report from *Melampyrum nemorosum*. Line drawing from M. Döberl.



A darker species of coastal habitats. Elytra coarsely punctured. Segments 1-5 of the antennae reddish, the first much darker and segments 4-5 darker towards their tips; remaining segments almost black. First segment of the front and middle tarsi in the male distinctly expanded. Length 2.3-2.8 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus plantagomaritimus***

Halophytic species associated with *Plantago maritimus*.



39 Pronotum and elytra very finely and indistinctly punctured.[40](#)

Pronotum and elytra distinctly and more or less strongly punctured.[41](#)



40 Elytra more elongate, only moderately domed, with prominent swellings on the shoulders of the elytra. Legs uniformly yellowish-brown, at most the hind femora are slightly darkened. Upper surface straw-yellow. Head and scutellum darker (form *nigrithorax* has a darkened pronotum). Sutural stripe fades well before the tip of the elytra. Antennae about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the body. Length 1.8-2.5 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus gracilis***

In late autumn on *Tussilago farfara* and *Senecio jacobaea*.



If the antennae are only half the length of the body, the upper surface is fully uniformly coloured and the elytra are distinctly randomly punctured, check *L. reichei* ([couplet 24](#))

Elytra rather convex with the swellings on the shoulders indistinct. Pronotum reddish brown, usually with several paler spots in front of the scutellum. Sutural stripe with an unclear boundary. Pronotum with a matt silky sheen, the central part very finely and weakly punctured (in contrast to *atricillus*, the other species with a shining pronotum). Length 1.8-2.5 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus suturellus***

..... ***Longitarsus suturellus***

On *Senecio* and *Tussilago*.



- 41 Elytra with at most a darker sutural area.
Elytra short, broad and strongly domed, the
head and pronotum appearing small and
narrow. Elytra with the punctures in clear
rows. Length 1.5-2.0 mm.

..... ***Longitarsus curtus***

On *Symphytum* and *Pulmonaria*.



Elytra with a pitch black sutural area, of varying
width. Head black. Elytra elongate and
moderately domed. Larger species, 1.8-2.5
mm.

..... ***Longitarsus ganglbaueri***

On *Senecio* species.

