

This guide includes all the established British species of *Phyllobius*, *Polydrusus*, and *Pachyrhinus*. Two rare casuals that have each been found at only one locality are not included: *Pachyrhinus mustela* and *Polydrusus impar*. I do not have photographs of *Polydrusus mollis* or *Polydrusus marginatus*, so these are included in the text only. *Polydrusus marginatus* is very rare, but you have a good chance of finding *mollis*.

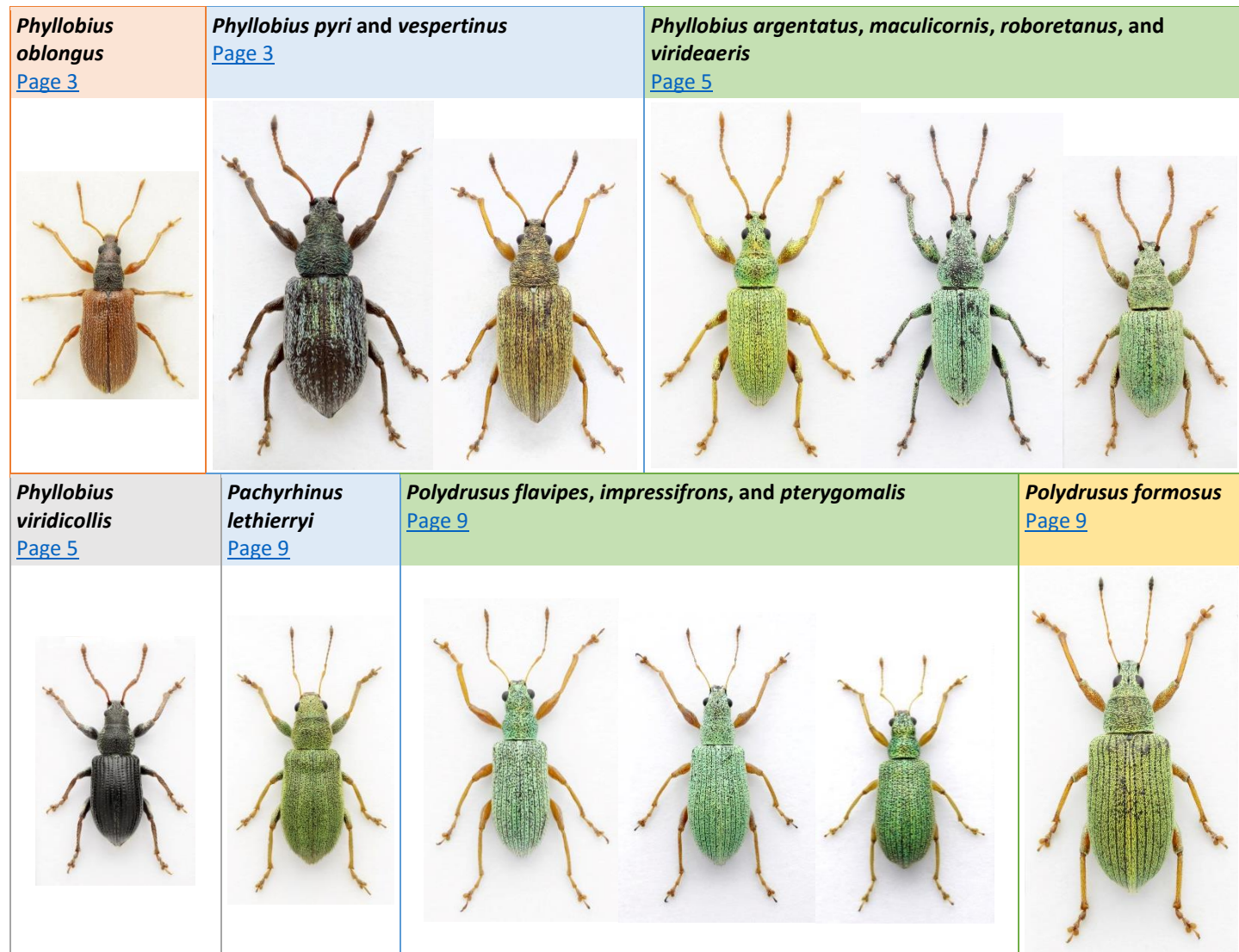
You will find a quick visual index to all the species. This alone might allow you to place your weevil, but you will find more help in the introduction to each species group. After the introduction to each group there is a table of three characters: the hairs on the wing-cases, the shape of the flat scales, and the scales and tooth on the front femurs. See [1 Introduction to the guides](#) for more about the types of scales and hairs. The characters in the tables will help you identify your weevil; I have not always mentioned these characters again in the text, so do check the tables.

After these there are the species accounts. Each account includes an illustration that is life size on an A4 page. Opposite the accounts, the main illustrations of specimens in are all to the same scale of 10x life size on an A4 page. I have had to reduce the resolution of these photos to keep the file size of this document down. If you want to zoom in to see scales and hairs, you can find the originals in my [Broad-noses album](#). The scale of other illustrations is indicated below the illustration, if appropriate.

The names used are those by Andrew Duff and Mike Morris in the [2012 checklist](#).

Phyllobius, Polydrusus, and Pachyrhinus. Many *Phyllobius*, *Polydrusus*, and the newly arrived *Pachyrhinus* are associated with trees and shrubs, but they can turn up anywhere. They include some of our most often encountered species on trees. The metallic green ones are particularly noticeable in spring and they are unlike any other broad-nosed weevils. Most of the species have rather straight-sided, narrow wing-cases, obvious square shoulders, and a short, straight or slightly tapering rostrum. *Polydrusus mollis* has broad wing-cases, but its narrow pronotum and obvious shoulders should distinguish it from other similar broad-noses. *Polydrusus confluens*, *pulchellus*, and *marginatus* lack obvious shoulders, but their long, narrow wing-cases should identify them. *Compare Liophloeus tessulatus* is a bulkier weevil with a longer rostrum, pinched in at the middle. *Sitona* and relatives have shorter antennae and larger eyes than most of the species here.

Visual guide to the species groups



Phyllobius pomaceus and *glaucus*

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Polydrusus cervinus and *pilosus*

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Polydrusus pulchellus and *confluens*

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Polydrusus tereticollis

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Polydrusus mollis and *marginatus*

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Need to get photos of these two.

Scale x5

Name changes

<i>Phyllobius glaucus</i>	<i>Phyllobius calcaratus</i> in Fowler (1891)	<i>Polydrusus formosus</i>	<i>Polydrusus splendidus</i> in Morris (1997) <i>Polydrusus sericeus</i> in Joy (1932) and Fowler (1891)
<i>Phyllobius pomaceus</i>	<i>Phyllobius urticae</i> in Joy (1932)	<i>Polydrusus marginatus</i>	<i>Metallites marginatus</i> in Fowler (1891)
<i>Phyllobius roboretanus</i>	<i>Phyllobius pomonae</i> in Fowler (1891)	<i>Polydrusus mollis</i>	<i>Polydrusus micans</i> in Fowler (1891)
		<i>Polydrusus pulchellus</i>	<i>Polydrusus chrysomela</i> in Joy (1932) and Fowler (1891)

Phyllobius have thicker antennae than *Polydrusus*. In all species apart from *glaucus* and *pomaceus*, the round antennal sockets look like a **pig-snout** from above; in *Polydrusus* the sockets are longer and they are partly hidden, so there is no pig-snout. The pig-snout is shared with *Otiorhynchus*, but they have more rounded sides, and the end of the rostrum is rather wide, creating flared nostrils.


Phyllöbius = leaf living.

	<i>Phyllobius oblongus</i>	<i>Phyllobius pyri</i>	<i>Phyllobius vespertinus</i>
Hairs on wing-cases	Pale, long, leaning. All over wing-cases.	Dark, short, flat or leaning. Not obvious.	Dark, short, flat or leaning. Not obvious.
Flat scales	None.	Narrow or very narrow oval.	Narrow or very narrow oval.
Front femur	With a tooth. Hair scales only.	With a tooth. Hair scales or very narrow scales only.	With a tooth. Hair scales or very narrow scales only.

A shiny brown species with **long hairs** but **no flat scales**.

Phyllobius oblongus oblongus = oblong


4.0-6.0 mm. On a variety of trees and shrubs. Common throughout, except in the far north.

Long, leaning hairs only. No flat scales. Wing cases **smooth** and shining. **Compare** The only other *Phyllobius* with smooth wing-cases is *viridicollis*, which is clearly different: a smaller but chunkier weevil, with a scattering of flat oval scales, a wider pronotum, and no tooth on the front femora. 

Variably coloured metallic species with narrow scales, a **wide** pronotum, and a **small** tooth on the front femur. **Compare** *Phyllobius argentatus* and *maculicornis* have a stronger tooth on the femur, less beady eyes, and they are covered in longer, more erect hairs (they look bristly or furry). *Phyllobius glaucus* and *pomaceus* are larger, they have a longer rostrum, no pig-snout antenna sockets, and a stronger tooth on the front femur.


Phyllobius pyri pyri = of pear

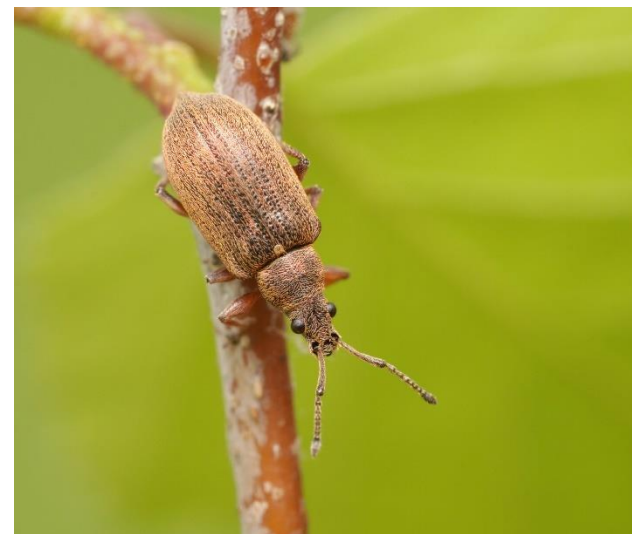
5.0-7.5 mm. On a variety of trees and shrubs. Common throughout, except in the far north. One of the commonest arboreal weevils in spring and early summer.

May be green, copper, brown, or bronze, sometimes with stripes down the wing cases. The tooth on the front femur can be quite hard to see, so check from all angles. **Compare** *Polydrusus cervinus* is usually more mottled, not striped or plain, it has a narrower pronotum, its eyes are less rounded, it does not have pig-snout antenna sockets, and its legs and antennae are more slender. 

Phyllobius vespertinus vespertinus = of the evening

4.5-6.5 mm. Usually in grasses or low shrubs on the coast. Mostly along the east coast of England, but also known from a few places in the west.

Very like *Phyllobius pyri*, and distinguished from other species by the same features. *Phyllobius vespertinus* is a **coastal** weevil, and **not** associated with shrubs or trees. If you find something like *pyri* on the coast in long **grass** or in low shrubby plants, it is worth checking. The head and pronotum are slightly **wider**, eyes slightly **smaller** but more beady, pronotum slightly wider but more curved in at the **base**, and the tooth on front femur is **smaller**. Location and the smaller tooth on the femur might be the best clues, but the differences are slight: some people do not recognise *vespertinus* as a separate species, but it does appear to have a distinct habitat in Britain. The difference in the shape of the aedeagus is even more subtle; I do not find it useful. 



Phyllobius pyri. The round pig-snout antenna sockets and thick antennae help distinguish most *Phyllobius* from *Polydrusus*.



Phyllobius oblongus



Phyllobius pyri female



Phyllobius pyri male
Scale ×10.



Phyllobius vespertinus

	<i>Phyllobius argentatus</i>	<i>Phyllobius maculicornis</i>	<i>Phyllobius roboretanus</i>	<i>Phyllobius viridaeris</i>	<i>Phyllobius viridicollis</i>
Hairs on wing-cases	Pale, medium, leaning . All over wing-cases.	Pale, medium, leaning . All over wing-cases.	Pale, short, almost flat .	Pale, short, almost flat .	Pale, short, almost flat .
Flat scales	Round.	Round.	Round.	Round.	Oval. Very few .
Front femur	With a tooth. Flat oval scales and hair scales.	With a tooth. Flat oval scales and hair scales.	No tooth. Flat oval scales and hair scales.	No tooth. Flat oval scales and hair scales.	No tooth. Flat oval scales and hair scales.

Metallic green *Phyllobius*. Four species covered in **round** metallic green scales. They form two pairs: the bristly hairy *argentatus* and *maculicornis* with a fierce tooth on the front femur; and the smooth and softer looking *roboretanus* and *viridaeris*, with no tooth on the front femur and short almost flat hairs. The other green-scaled *Phyllobius* have narrower, **oval** scales. Note that the metallic green species are sometimes dull **grey**. These individuals are otherwise identical to the more normally coloured ones, and can be identified by the usual features. Other slight differences in the shades of green between and within the species can be misleading, so use **shape** and scale **type** to identify them rather than colour.

Phyllobius argentatus argentatus = silvery
4.0-6.0 mm. On a variety of trees. Common throughout Britain.

Wing-cases look **bristly**. **Compare** The combination of a large **tooth** on the front femur and long, pale **leaning** hairs on the wing-cases distinguishes both *argentatus* and *maculicornis* from the other green-scaled broad-noses. *Phyllobius glaucus* has leaning hairs, but they are dark and not so obvious, and it has narrow scales and no pig-snout. Both *Phyllobius glaucus* and *pomaceus* have only very narrow hair-like scales on the front femur, whereas *argentatus* and *maculicornis* have wide oval scales on the femurs as well as hair-like scales. See *Phyllobius maculicornis* (below).



Phyllobius maculicornis maculicornis = with a spot on the antenna
4.0-6.0 mm. On a variety of trees. Common throughout Britain.

Wing-cases look **bristly**. Usually has dark legs and a dark tip to the scape, but sometimes the legs can be paler, and the antennae can be all pale. **Compare** *Phyllobius argentatus* has longer and less rounded eyes, shinier scales, slightly longer hairs, and longer antennae. The head of *argentatus* is not so markedly narrowed in front of the eyes (in *maculicornis* the wider back of the head contrasts more with the narrow rostrum, an effect that is accentuated by the beady eyes). *Phyllobius argentatus* has all pale antennae, and it usually has pale legs, but these differences are not constant because *maculicornis* can have pale legs and antennae, and *argentatus* can have dark legs. The difference in colour between the illustrated specimens of the two is not constant either: both can be bright green.



Phyllobius viridaeris viridaeris = green-bronze
3.5-5.0 mm. Usually on herbaceous plants. Common across most of Britain, but rare in the far north.

Phyllobius viridaeris and *roboretanus* are the only metallic-green *Phyllobius* without a tooth on the front femur. **Compare** *Polydrusus flavipes* and *pteryomalis* have leaning to erect hairs on the wing-cases. *Polydrusus formosus* lacks the pig-snout antennae sockets, and it has larger and less beady eyes. Apart from those three species, the other metallic *Polydrusus* or *Phyllobius* have a tooth on the front femur.



Phyllobius roboretanus roboretanus = of oak
3.0-4.5 mm. Usually on herbaceous plants. Common across most of Britain, but rare in the far north.

Similar to *viridaeris*; differs from other species by the same features. Most easily separated from *viridaeris* by looking at the underside: the rear part looks **black** because it has only sparse, very narrow scales; in *roboretanus* the underside is almost as densely scaled as the wing-cases. In *roboretanus*, the rear end of the wing-cases is blunter from above and steeper from the side. The end of the wing-cases almost forms a right angle in side-view, but this difference is best appreciated when comparing the two side by side and is less useful in the field or with an isolated specimen.



Shining black *Phyllobius viridicollis*. A distinctive, **shining black** *Phyllobius*, with very **few** oval metallic green scales

Phyllobius viridicollis viridicollis = green neck
3.0-4.5 mm. Usually on herbaceous plants. Widespread in England and Scotland, rare in Wales and the south-west.

Wing-cases **black** and **shining**, with only a few oval scales on the scutellum and along the suture, and short flat hairs. Only the sides of the pronotum and the femurs have a covering of metallic green scales. **Compare** *Phyllobius oblongus* is the only other *Phyllobius* without scales on the wing-cases, but it is brown and has bristly leaning to erect hairs. Other species might lose their scales, but most of them have a tooth on the front femur. Bald *roboretanus* or *viridaeris* have ripples or fine wrinkles on their wing-cases, which look less smooth and glossy.



Phyllobius argentatus



Phyllobius maculicornis



Phyllobius viridicollis



Phyllobius viridaeris
Scale x10.



Phyllobius roboretanus



Phyllobius viridaeris. Note the dense green scales on the underside, even on the segments behind the rear legs.



Phyllobius viridaeris (left) has round scales across the whole underside, which looks all metallic green. *Phyllobius roboretanus* (right) has round scales only on the sides of the front part of the abdomen; the rear part has only sparse very narrow scales and looks black from the underlying surface, so it contrasts with the metallic green wing-cases and sides. This difference can be easily seen in the field.

	<i>Phyllobius pomaceus</i>	<i>Phyllobius glaucus</i>
Hairs on wing-cases	Dark. Flat, with a few leaning along suture only.	Dark. Leaning , all over the wing-cases.
Flat scales	Very narrow oval.	Narrow oval.
Front femur	With a tooth. Hair scales or very narrow scales only.	With a tooth. Hair scales or very narrow scales only.

***Phyllobius pomaceus* and *Phyllobius glaucus*.** Two large species with narrow scales, long rostrum and legs, and bulging femurs, like swollen biceps. They do **not** have the pig-snout round sockets of the other *Phyllobius* species, but the socket is still wider and more oval than in *Polydrusus*. **Compare** Other green-scaled *Phyllobius* have a shorter rostrum and legs, and round pig-snout antenna sockets. *Phyllobius pyri* has a wider pronotum, a smaller tooth on the front femur, and less bulging biceps. *Phyllobius maculicornis* and *argentatus* have round (not narrow oval) flat scales. *Polydrusus* have more slender antennae and narrower antenna sockets. *Polydrusus formosus* has quite a long rostrum, but it has round flat scales, bigger eyes, a weak tooth on the front femur, and weaker legs and antennae.

Phyllobius pomaceus pomáceus = like fruit

7.5-10.0 mm. On nettles. Common in England and Wales, rarer in Scotland.

Flat hair-like to narrow oval scales, a few leaning hair scales along the suture only. Adults most often found on **nettles**, but they can appear on other plants. Both species can have blackish or red-brown legs: the usual colour in *pomaceus* is blackish; the usual colour in *glaucus* is red-brown, but because of the variability, you cannot use this to separate the two. However, the other differences are not obvious unless you have specimens side by side, so if you are having trouble, try to find a black-legged, blue-green weevil on nettles, and a brown-legged, yellow-green weevil on a tree. You are then likely to have both species and hopefully the differences will become clear.



Phyllobius glaucus glāucus = blue-green

7.5-10.0 mm. On a variety of trees and shrubs. Common throughout, except in the far north.

Flat hair-like to narrow oval scales, black, leaning hair scales across **all** of the wing-cases. **Compare** *Phyllobius pomaceus* has shorter antennae, and its hairs are flat, not leaning. The difference in scale shape is difficult to appreciate unless you have specimens to compare side by side.



Phyllobius pomaceus. The scales are often blue-green, but they can be brighter and yellower. Scale ×5.



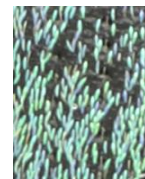
Phyllobius glaucus is usually on trees, whereas *pomaceus* is most often found on nettles.



Phyllobius pomaceus in life, showing the variation in colour.



Phyllobius pomaceus
Scale ×10



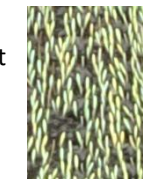
Scales wider and less pointed



Antennae shorter, the segments of the filament shorter and wider, especially segment 3.



Phyllobius glaucus



Scales narrower and sharper.



Antennae longer, the segments of the filament longer and narrower, especially segment 3.



A few leaning black hairs along the suture, hardly apparent.



Many leaning black hairs on the wing-cases.

Pachyrhinus and Polydrusus. These weevils are similar in shape to Phyllobius, but they have narrower and longer antenna sockets, **not** forming a pig-snout when seen from above, and their antennae are more **slender**.

Pachyrhinus = flat snout. Polydrusus = a lot of rope (make of that what you will).

	<i>Pachyrhinus lethierryi</i>	<i>Polydrusus flavipes</i>	<i>Polydrusus impressifrons</i>	<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i>	<i>Polydrusus formosus</i>
Hairs on wing-cases	Dark, medium, leaning. All over wing-cases.	Dark, medium, leaning. All over wing-cases	Dark, short, leaning. All over wing-cases	Pale, medium, leaning. All over wing-cases	Pale, short, flat. All over wing-cases.
Flat scales	Oval.	Round.	Round.	Round.	Round.
Front femur	With a small tooth. Oval scales and hair scales.	No tooth. Hair scales (sometimes a few narrow oval scales.)	No tooth. Hair scales (sometimes a few narrow oval scales.)	No tooth. Hair scales (sometimes a few narrow oval scales.)	With a weak tooth or no tooth. Narrow oval scales and hair scales.

Pachyrhinus lethierryi and metallic green Polydrusus. Covered in metallic green scales. Compare Other *Polydrusus* can have green scales, but they are usually in weak stripes or they form a mottled pattern on the wing-cases. *Polydrusus cervinus* and *pilosus* have mottled wing-cases, and dark legs. *Polydrusus confluens* and *pulchellus* have less prominent shoulders, and their green scales usually form a mottled pattern or weak stripes on the wing-cases.

<i>Pachyrhinus lethierryi</i>	lethierryi after Monsieur Lethierry, a French naturalist
5.0-6.5 mm. On cypresses and other conifers. A recent arrival, probably imported with trees. Now scattered across southern Britain.	
A round , wide head, gives this species a unique teddy-bear look. Femurs have oval or narrow scales as well as hair scales. Compare <i>Polydrusus flavipes</i> and <i>pterygomalis</i> have only hair scales on the femurs, narrower and less rounded heads. <i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i> has dark hairs. <i>Polydrusus formosus</i> has flat hairs and larger eyes.	
<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i> , <i>impressifrons</i> , and <i>flavipes</i> have small beady eyes, slender, pale legs, and leaning hairs on the wing-cases. Compare <i>Phyllobius roboretanus</i> and <i>virideaeris</i> have stout antennae, pig-snout antenna sockets, flat hairs, and many oval scales on the front femur. <i>Polydrusus formosus</i> has large, flatter eyes, flat hairs, and a cone-shape head.	
<i>Polydrusus flavipes</i>	flāvipes = yellow foot
4.5-5.5 mm. On a variety of trees. Not common, but widespread in England. Rare in Wales, not known from Scotland. Scales shining, but less so than in <i>pterygomalis</i> . Rear of the head slightly raised, but not forming an angled bump on each side. Medium, rather unkempt, erect hairs on head and pronotum. Hairs dark .	
<i>Polydrusus impressifrons</i>	impréssifrons = impressed forehead
4.0-5.5 mm. On a variety of trees. Recently discovered in Britain. So far known from a few places in southern England, but easily overlooked as <i>flavipes</i> . Scales dull . Rear of the head flat, front of the head usually slightly depressed between the eyes. Short , erect hairs on head and pronotum. Hairs dark . Compare <i>Polydrusus flavipes</i> has shining scales, longer hairs on the head, pronotum, and wing-cases, a shorter rostrum, larger, fewer scales on wing-cases, and eyes slightly more bulging. The rear of the head is more raised, and the sides of the neck are often more angled than they are in <i>impressifrons</i> .	
<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i>	pterygomālis = from the pterygium, a ridge on the rostrum
4.0 -5.5 mm. On a variety of trees. Common throughout Britain. Scales shining, the shiniest of the three species. Has a unique angled bump on the rear at each side of the head, like the antler stumps of a deer. Medium, erect hairs on head and pronotum. Hairs pale . Compare <i>Polydrusus flavipes</i> and <i>impressifrons</i> have dark hairs on the wing-cases, less shining scales, and no bumps on the back of the head.	
<i>Polydrusus formosus</i>	formōsus = beautiful
5.0 -7.0 mm. On a variety of trees. Formerly scarce, but now widespread in southern Britain and recorded from a few places in the north. The large rather flat eyes and cone-shape head (wide at the rear, tapering to the eyes) separate this species from all other <i>Phyllobius</i> and <i>Polydrusus</i> . Seems particularly prone to losing its scales and looking worn, but when. Compare <i>Polydrusus flavipes</i> and <i>pterygomalis</i> have small beady eyes and leaning hairs. <i>Phyllobius glaucus</i> and <i>pomaceus</i> have beady eyes, narrower scales, and a stronger tooth on the front femur.	



Pachyrhinus lethierryi



Polydrusus flavipes



Polydrusus impressifrons



Polydrusus pterygomalis
Scale ×10.



Polydrusus formosus



Polydrusus formosus



Polydrusus flavipes
Densely covered in erect, dark hairs. Rear of the head slightly raised, more rounded than the flat head and straight neck of *impressifrons*.



Polydrusus impressifrons
Hairs sparser and shorter than in *flavipes*, more like stubble. Looks less shaggy. Rear of head rather flat, with a straighter neck behind the eyes and the pronotum. Scales smaller than in the other two, and not shiny. Compare the size and number of scales in each interstice with those of *flavipes*.



Polydrusus pterygomalis
Angled bump on the back of the head. Hairs shaggy, like *flavipes*, but they are pale.



Polydrusus formosus. The large eyes are a good field character.



Polydrusus formosus varies from verdigris to golden green.



Polydrusus impressifrons. The beady eyes of *impressifrons*, *flavipes*, and *pterygomalis* are set further forward, leaving a longer neck behind them than in *formosus*.



Phyllobius argentatus has pale leaning hairs. It looks furry or bristly through a lens.



Polydrusus formosus is often abraded. Its large eyes and slender antennae still separate it from *Phyllobius viridicollis*.



Phyllobius viridicollis is black and shining. Its shape helps separate it from other species that have lost their scales through wear.



Polydrusus tereticollis is immediately recognised by its pattern..



Pachyrhinus lethierryi on cypress.

	<i>Polydrusus cervinus</i>	<i>Polydrusus pilosus</i>	<i>Polydrusus pulchellus</i>	<i>Polydrusus confluens</i>
Hairs on wing-cases	Dark, short, almost flat. All over wing-cases.	Dark, short, almost flat. All over wing-cases.	Brown, short, flat to leaning.	Dark, short, almost flat.
Flat scales	Oval.	Oval.	Oval.	Oval to narrow.
Front femur	With a tooth. Oval scales and hair scales.	With a tooth. Hair scales only.	With a tooth. Hair scales only.	With a tooth. Narrow oval scales and hair scales

Mottled or weakly striped metallic *Polydrusus*. These four species are **variably** coloured: the scales may be green, pallid pink or yellow, bronze, or golden brown.

The mottled appearance, **dark** legs, tooth on the front femur, and broad, prominent shoulders separate *Polydrusus cervinus* and *pilosus* from other *Polydrusus* with oval scales. **Compare** *Phyllobius mollis* and *marginatus* have hairs-scales only. *Phyllobius pyri* and *vespertinus* have a wider pronotum, stouter antenna with pig-snout sockets, narrower scales, and smaller, more bulging eyes.

Polydrusus cervinus cervinus = like a deer
4.0-5.5 mm. On a variety of trees and shrubs. Widespread throughout Britain. Very common in the England and Wales, scarcer in Scotland.



Oval scales and hair-scales on front femur. Joint of femur and tibia red-brown. One of the **commonest** broad-noses, easily found by beating trees and shrubs in the early summer.

Polydrusus pilosus pilosus = hairy
5.0-6.5 mm. On a variety of trees and shrubs. Widespread in Scotland, north Wales, and northern England. Very rare in southern England.



Usually larger than *cervinus*, but there is some overlap in size. Smaller but more **rounded** eyes. Hair-scales **longer**, oval scales larger, but there are **no** oval scales on the front femur. Joint of tibia and femur **dark**. There is perhaps a stronger ridge along the rostrum at the base of the antenna in *pilosus*, but I find this difficult to see: it needs high magnification and good lighting, but even then it is often hidden by scales.

These two species often have faint **stripes** down the body. They have wider pronotums and **less prominent** shoulders than other *Polydrusus* and *Phyllobius*. **Compare** *Sitona* and relatives have shorter antennae, larger eyes, and no tooth on the front femur. *Pachyrhinus lethierryi* has rounded head, and leaning hairs on the wing-cases. *Polydrusus formosus* has larger, flatter eyes, and a cone-shape head. *Polydrusus marginatus* has a longer pronotum, and very narrow scales.

Polydrusus pulchellus pulchellus = beautiful
5.0-5.5 mm. On a variety of plants in **saltmarshes**. Around the coast of England and Wales, and on the Solway in Scotland.



Often abraded, with scales missing, but even then *Polydrusus pulchellus* can be identified by its **red-brown** legs with a tooth on the front femur, and the wide pronotum. The femurs are sometimes darker in the middle, but they are not as extensively blackish as those of *confluens*. **Compare** *Polydrusus confluens* has dark femurs, longer antennae, narrower scales, and narrow oval scales on the front femur.

Polydrusus confluens confluens = flowing together
4.5-5.5 mm. On gorse *Ulex* and broom *Cytisus*. Widespread on **heaths** in southern England and Wales. Rare in East Anglia and northern England.



Often appears **striped**. Best separated from *pulchellus* by the **dark** femurs and longer antennae, but habitat is likely to be your first clue.

	Joint of front femur and tibia	Front femur	Scales on wing-cases
<i>Polydrusus cervinus</i>			
	Extensive light brown	Ovals and hair scales.	Smaller ovals, shorter hairs.
<i>Polydrusus pilosus</i>			
	Mostly dark.	Hair scales only.	Larger ovals, longer hairs.



Polydrusus cervinus.



Polydrusus cervinus female.



Polydrusus cervinus male.



Polydrusus pilosus female.



Polydrusus pulchellus
Scale ×10.



Polydrusus confluens



Polydrusus confluens is typically found in heaths.



Polydrusus pulchellus is a saltmarsh weevil.

Distinguishing *Polydrusus cervinus* from *Polydrusus pilosus* is not easy. They are so similar that *pilosus* was overlooked in Britain until the 1930s. However, as long the scales have not worn off, it should be possible to identify. The red-brown joint and the oval scales on the femur of *cervinus* can be seen with a strong hand lens on a still and co-operative beetle in the field. Any individual that does not have these features is worth checking under a microscope, especially if it comes from northern Britain.

	<i>Polydrusus tereticollis</i>	<i>Polydrusus mollis</i>	<i>Polydrusus marginatus</i>
Hairs on wing-cases	Pale, short, flat. In pits only.	Metallic, flat.	Pale or metallic, short, flat.
Flat scales	Oval to oblong .	Very narrow to hair-like.	Very narrow to hair-like.
Front femur	No tooth. Narrow to oval scales only.	No tooth. Very narrow scales and hair-scales only.	With a tooth. Very narrow scales and hair-scales only.

A distinctively patterned species.	
<i>Polydrusus tereticollis</i>	tereticóllis = smooth neck
4.0-6.0 mm. On a variety of trees. Common throughout Britain.	
Scales brown and oblong, unlike any other <i>Polydrusus</i> . No other <i>Phyllobius</i> or <i>Polydrusus</i> has the pattern of light and dark bands and patches (some of the species are mottled, but this is caused by patches with and without scales, not by light and dark scales).	
Very narrow scales or hair-scales only, no round or oval scales. Compare Other <i>Phyllobius</i> and <i>Polydrusus</i> have some oval or round scales, apart from <i>Phyllobius oblongus</i> , which is shiny with long erect to leaning hairs.	
<i>Polydrusus mollis</i>	móllis = soft
6.0-8.5 mm. On a variety of trees. Widespread but local in England, Wales, and southern Scotland. Absent from northern Scotland and south-west England.	
Outsize abdomen gives this species a unique and comical appearance: the pronotum and head appear too small for the body. Antennae shorter than in most other <i>Polydrusus</i> .	
<i>Polydrusus marginatus</i>	marginātus = margined
3.5-5.0 mm. On a variety of trees. Rare , in the Home Counties, Hampshire, and Leicestershire only.	
Pronotum long, wide , and rounded. Lacks prominent shoulders. Compare <i>Polydrusus pulchellus</i> and <i>confluens</i> are a similar shape, but they have oval scales and longer antennae. Other <i>Phyllobius</i> and <i>Polydrusus</i> have more prominent shoulders and longer antennae.	

The meaning of the scientific names comes from Cristoph Benisch's translation tool on the kerbtier.de website, and latin-dictionary.net.




Polydrusus tereticollis
Scale x10.

Polydrusus mollis

Polydrusus pilosus marginatus

If you have used this guide please let me know how you got on: mgwildlife@gmail.com or @MarkGurn.

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