

# SAWFLIES – A BEGINNER’S GUIDE



*Diprion pini* larvae



*Rhogogaster viridis*

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# **HYMENOPTERA: SUBORDER SYMPHYTA**

<b>FAMILIES</b>	<b>Number of British/Irish spp</b>
Cephalidae	11
Pamphiliidae	20
Siricidae	6
Argidae	19
Blasticotomidae	1
Cimbicidae	15
Diprionidae	9
Heptamelidae	2
Tenthredinidae	439
Xiphydriidae	3
Xyelidae	3
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<b>Total</b>	<b>528</b>

## Cephidae – stem sawflies



*Cephus pygmeus*



*Calameuta filiformis*



*Phylloecus linearis*

# Pamphiliidae



Larval leaf roll



*Pamphilius varius*

## Siricidae - woodwasps



*Sirex noctilio*



*Urocerus gigas*

## Argidae

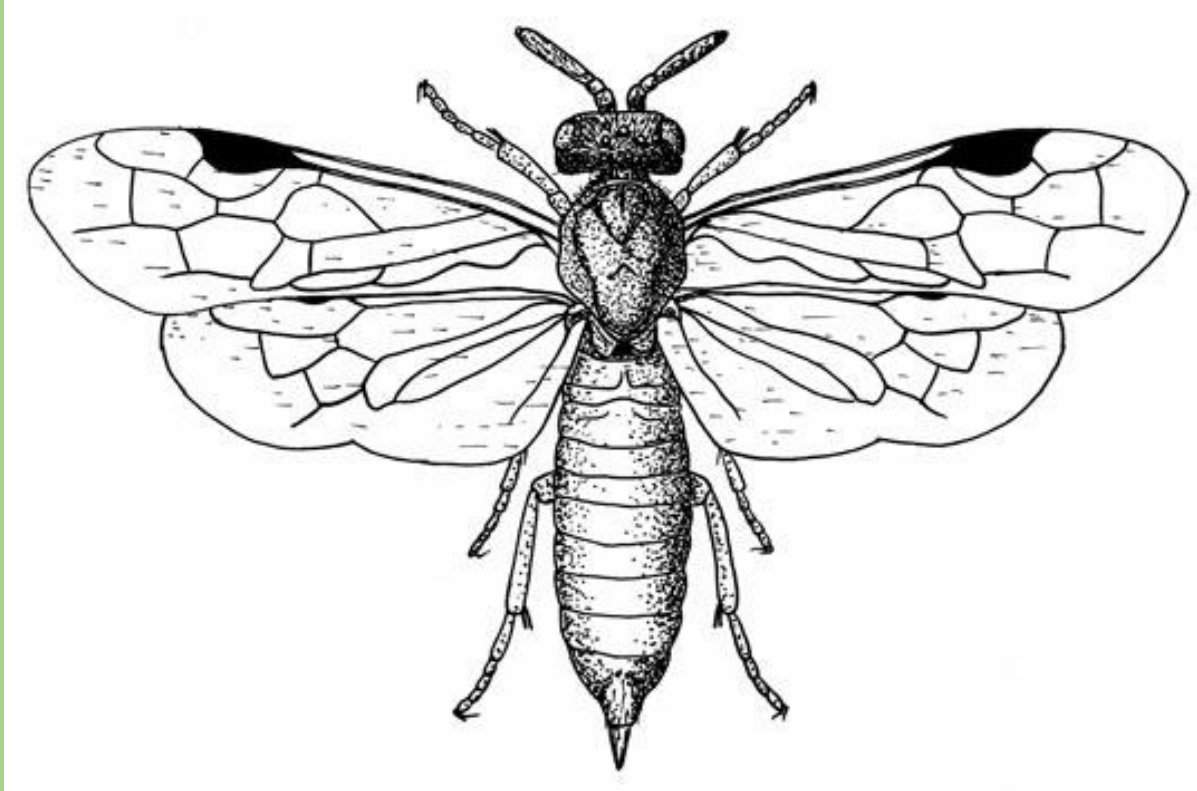


*Arge cyanocrocea*



*Arge ustulata*

## Blasticotomidae



*Blasticotoma filiceti*



Froth ball on *Dryopteris* fern stem caused by the stem-boring larva

## Cimbicidae



*Abia sericea*



*Trichiosoma lucorum*



*Cimbex femoratus*



## Diprionidae – conifer sawflies



*Diprion pini*  
Male top, female bottom



*Neodiprion sertifer*  
Female top, male bottom



*Gilpinia hercyniae*  
Female

# Tenthredinidae



*Dolerus niger*



*Athalia rosae*



*Strongylogaster multifasciata*



*Allantus cinctus*



*Eutomostethus ephippium*



*Pachyprotasis rapae*



*Rhogogaster viridis*



*Tenthredo arcuata*



*Macrophya annulata*



*Aglaostigma aucupariae*



*Hemichroa australis*



*Nematinus steini*



*Craesus septentrionalis*



*Nematus bergmanni*



*Amauronematus vittatus*

## Xiphydriidae



*Xiphydria camelus*

## Xyelidae



*Xyela julii*

# Sawfly larvae



*Craesus septentrionalis*



*Eriocampa ovata*



*Platycampus luridiventris*



*Caliroa annulipes*



*Periclista* sp.

## Larval feeding habits



*Nematus ribesii*



*Endelomyia aethiops*



*Pontania proxima* galls



*Scolioneura betuleti*

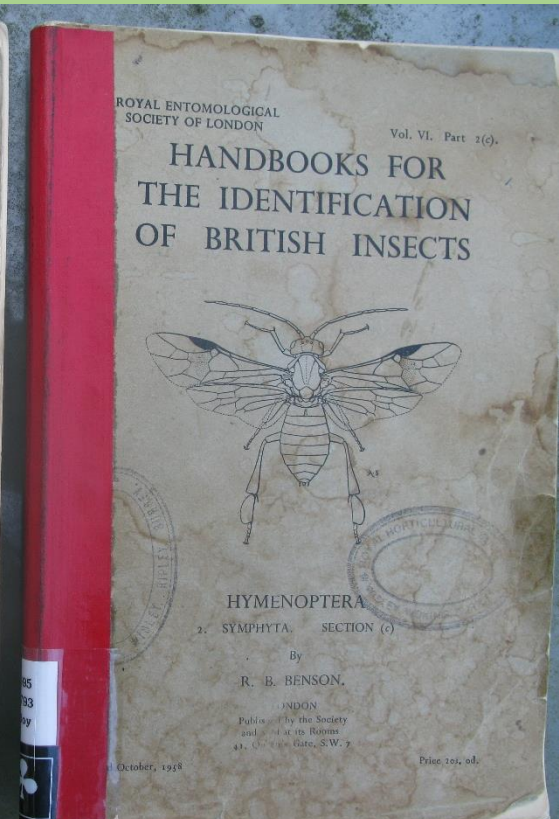
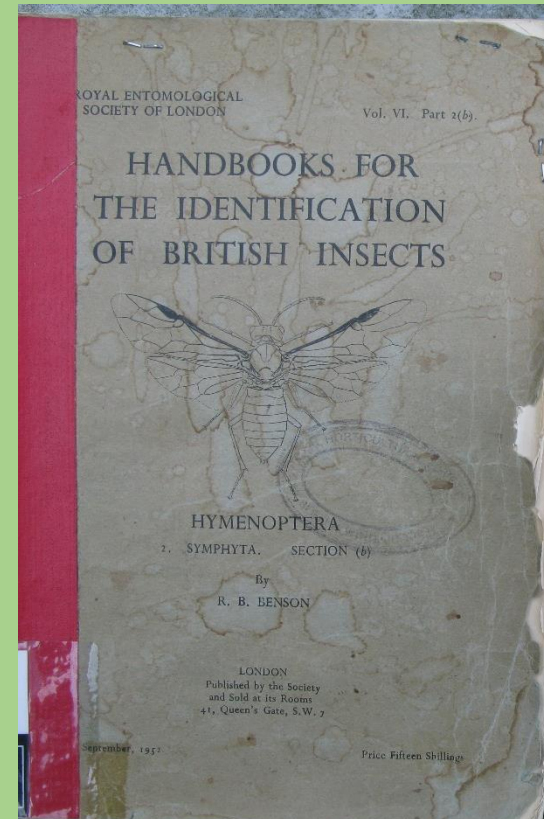
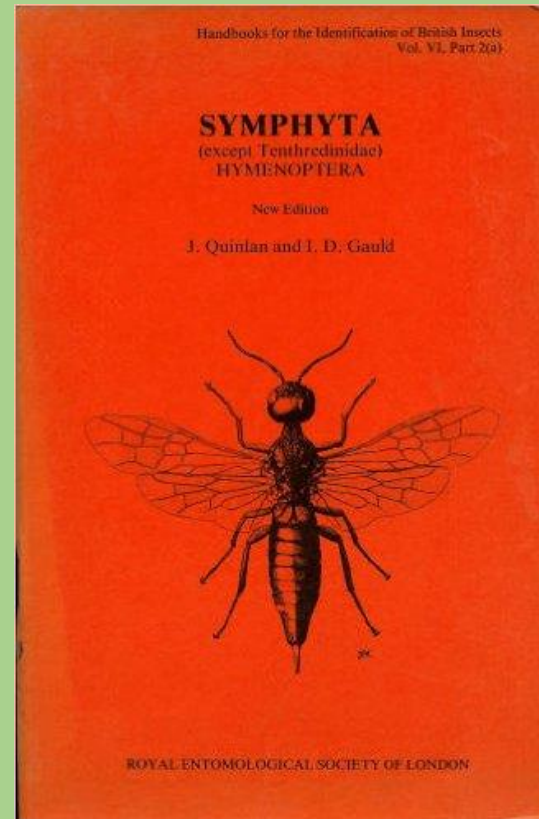
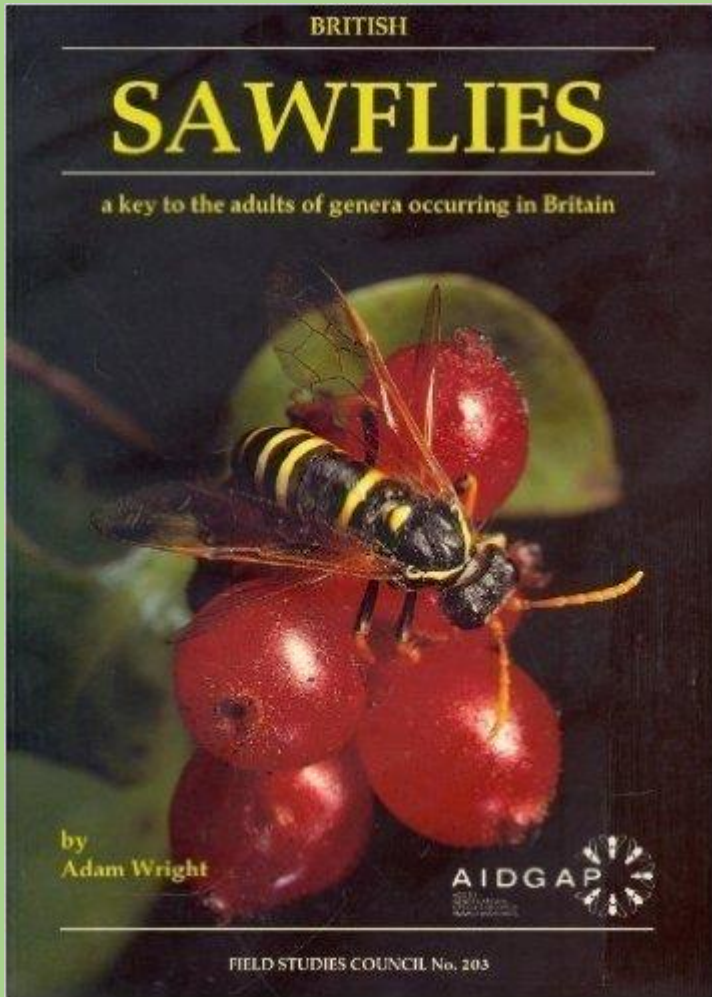


*Ardis* sp.



*Hoplocampa testudinea*

# Identification keys





# Antennae

KEY TO FAMILIES 3

Figs. 6-11.—Antenna of: 6, *Tenthredo*; 7, *Cimbex*; 8, *Xiphydria*; 9, *Cladius*, ♂; 10, *Diprion*, ♀; 11, *Monoctenus*, ♂.

KEY TO FAMILIES OF BRITISH SAWFLIES.

1 Antennae inserted well above the clypeus and lower margin of the eyes, and on the anterior aspect of the head. Fore wings with an anal cell present, though this may be constricted in the middle into 2 cells or petiolate; hind wing often with cross-vein r-m and/or m-cu present (fig. 16).....2

— Antennae on the ventral side of the head below the lower margin of the eyes and

# Pattern of veins in the wings

VI (2). HYMENOPTERA: SYMPHYTA

Figs. 365, 367-73, 375-7.—Right fore wing in Nematinae: 365, *Priophorus*; 367, *Hoplocampa*; 368, *Hemichroa*; 369, *Dineura*; 370, *Platycampus*; 371, *Anoplonyx*; 372, *Mesoneura*; 373, *Pseudodineura*; 375, *Euura*; 376, *Prietipora*; 377, *Nematus*.

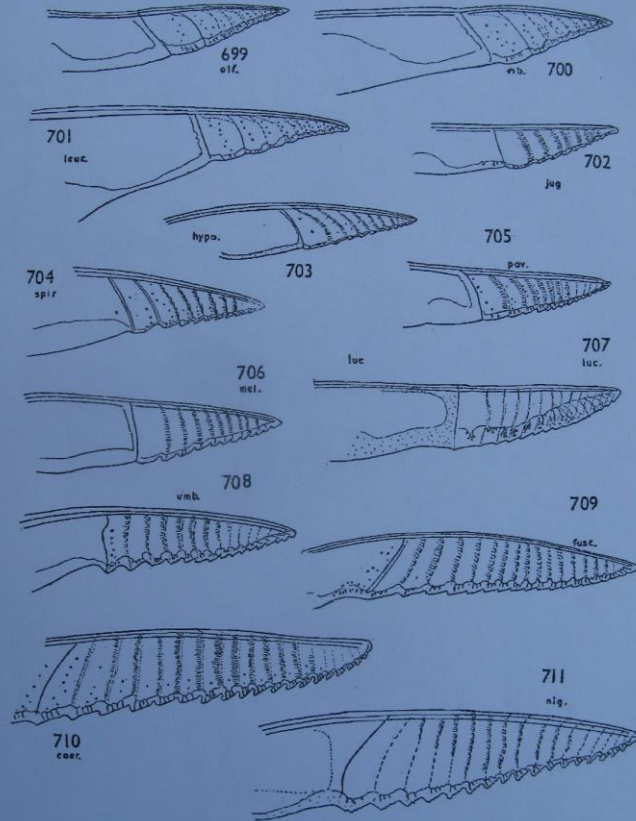
Figs. 366, 374, 378.—Right hind wing in Nematinae: 366, *Priophorus*; 374, *Pseudodineura*; 378, *Nematus*.

# Female saws

NEMATUS

219

Larva gregarious on Salix spp. or sometimes Populus. Throughout Britain and Ireland. V-VI and VII-VIII. All Europe to Asia Minor and to E. Siberia (croceus Fallén, Cameron, nec. miliaris Panzer, Cameron) ♀ millaris Panzer ✓

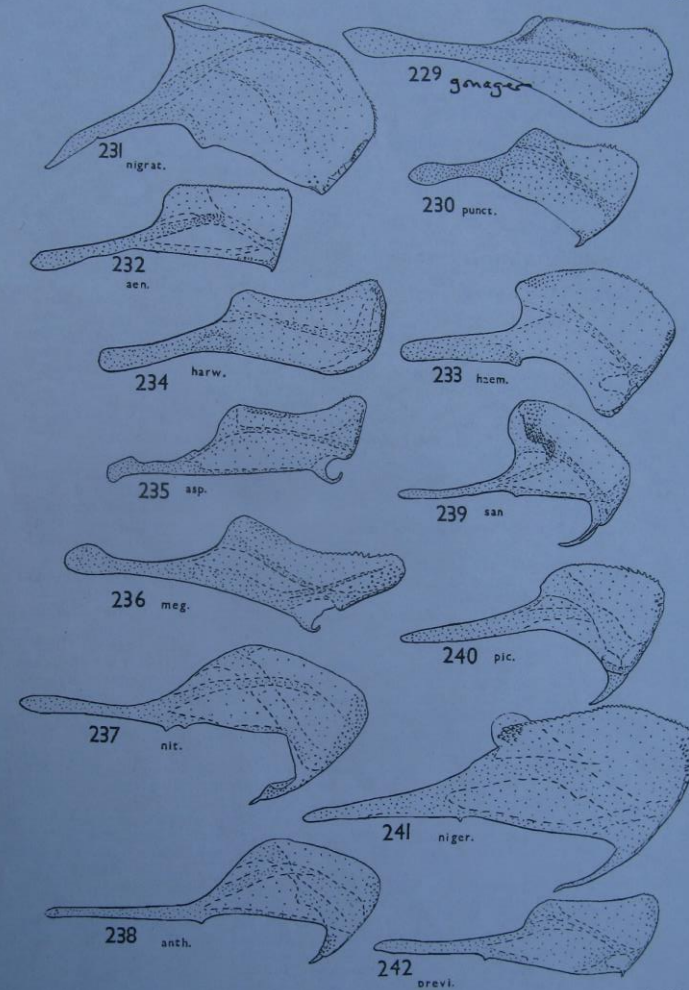


Figs. 699-711.—Saw of *Nematus*: 699, *olfaciens*; 700, *ribesii*; 701, *leucotrochus*; 702, *jugicola*; 703, *hypoxanthus*; 704, *spiraeae*; 705, *pavidus*; 706, *melanaspis*; 707, *lucidus*; 708, *umbratus*; 709, *fuscomaculatus*; 710, *coeruleocarpus*; 711, *nigricornis*.

# Male penis valves

DOLERUS

75



Figs. 229-242.—Penis valve of ♂ "black" *Dolerus*: 229, *gonager*; 230, *puncticollis*; 231, *nigratus*; 232, *aeneus*; 233, *haematodes*; 234, *harwoodi*; 235, *asper*; 236, *megapterus*; 237, *nitens*; 238, *anthracinus*; 239, *sanguinicollis*; 240, *picipes*; 241, *niger*; 242, *brevitarsis*.

# Apple sawfly (*Hoplocampa testudinea*)



**Adult female**



**Damaged apple fruitlets**



**Ribbon scar on mature fruit**

**Plum sawfly (*Hoplocampa flava*)**



**Damaged fruitlets**



**Adult female**

## Pear and cherry slugworm (*Caliroa cerasi*)



**Slugworm larvae and feeding damage**

Larvae on hawthorn, pear, cherry, plum, *Chaenomeles*, *Cotoneaster*, *Pyracantha*



**Adult sawfly**

# Social pear sawfly (*Neurotoma saltuum*)



**Social pear sawfly larvae**

Larvae on hawthorn, pear, cherry



**Adult**

# Rose leaf-rolling sawfly (*Blennocampa phyllocolpa*)



Rose leaflets affected by rose leaf-rolling sawfly



Female adult

## Berberis sawfly (*Arge berberidis*)



**Berberis sawfly larva**

New to Britain circa 2000. Larvae on some deciduous *Berberis*, especially *Berberis thunbergii*, also sometimes on *Mahonia*



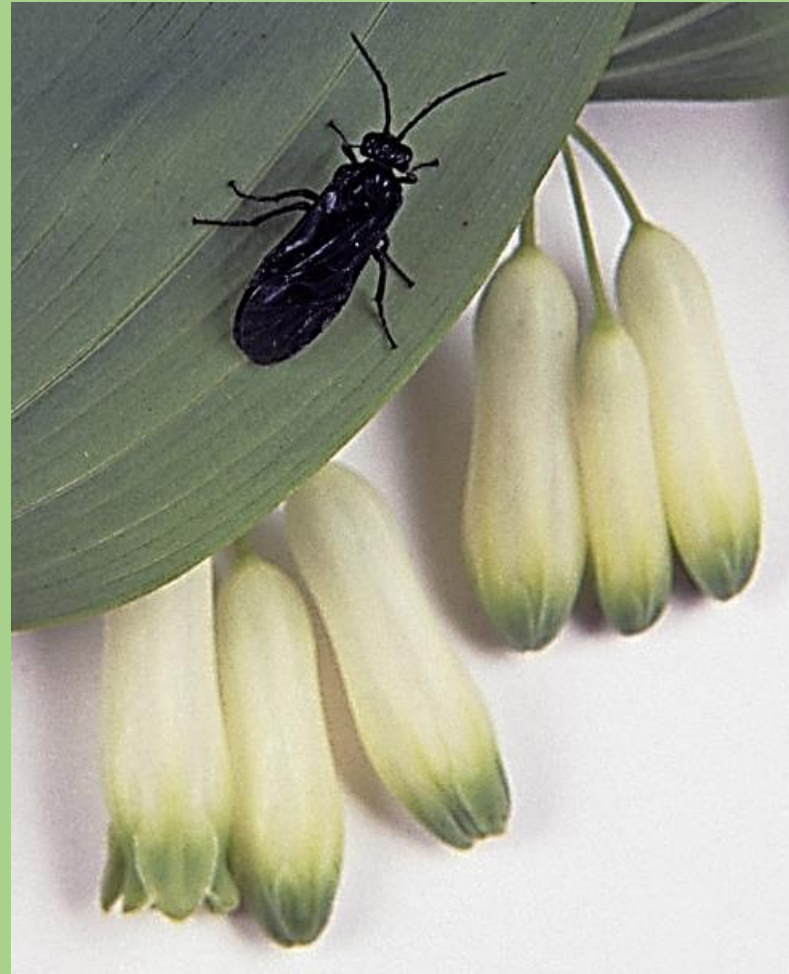
**Berberis sawfly female**



# Solomon's seal sawfly (*Phymatocera aterrima*)



Solomon's seal sawfly larvae



Adult sawfly

## Iris sawfly (*Rhadinoceraea micans*)



Larvae



Adult

Larvae on waterside irises, eg *Iris pseudacorus*, *I. ensata*, *I. versicolor*, *I. laevigata*, *I. spuria*

# Sycamore leaf-mining sawfly (*Heterarthrus aceris*)



**Mines in sycamore leaf**



**Larva inside its mine**



**Vacated mine with distinctive pupal cocoon area**

## Other *Heterarthrus* species



***H. nemoralis* on birch**



***H. vagans* on alder**

***H. ochropoda* on aspen**

***H. microcephalus* on willows**

***H. wuestneii* on field maple**

## Geranium sawfly (*Ametastegia carpini*)



Larvae on wild and cultivated *Geranium* spp, not on *Pelargonium*

## Palisade sawfly (*Stauronematus platycerus*)



The solitary larvae surround their feeding area with a “palisade” of white secretions.  
Feeds on the leaves of aspen and poplars

## Robinia sawfly (*Nematus tibialis*)



The solitary larvae eat rounded holes in the foliage of False Acacia, *Robinia pseudoacacia*

## Aruncus sawfly (*Nematus spiraeae*)



The gregarious larvae can completely defoliate Goat's Beard, *Aruncus dioicus*





# British Sawflies Recording Scheme website <http://www.britishsawflies.org.uk>

The National Sawfly Recorder is Guy Knight, Liverpool Museum  
[britishsawflies@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:britishsawflies@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

The web site is a work in progress and some of the links do not work

Useful information on the site includes –

- A garden sawfly recording scheme – concentrates on some easy-to-identify species
- An alphabetical list of British and Irish sawflies

For a checklist (2014), see <http://bdj.pensoft.net/articles.php?id=1168>