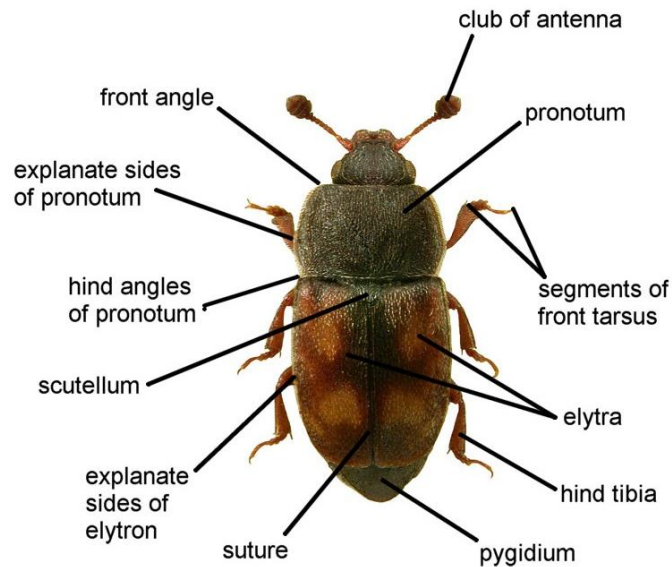


Family Nitidulidae

Key to genus adapted and updated from Joy (1932) A Practical Handbook of British Beetles.



Checklist

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

Subfamily Carpophilinae

Urophorus Murray, 1864
Carpophilus Stephens, 1829
Epuraea Erichson, 1843

Subfamily Meligethinae

Pria Stephens, 1829
Meligethes Stephens, 1829

Subfamily Nitidulinae

Nitidula Fabricius 1775
Omosita Erichson, 1843
Soronia Erichson, 1843
Amphotis Erichson, 1843
Cychrmaus Kugelann, 1794
Pocadius Erichson, 1843
Thalycra Erichson, 1843

Subfamily Cryptarchinae

Cryptarcha Stuckard, 1839
Glischrochilus Reitter 1873
Pityophagus Stuckard, 1839

Subfamily Cybocephalinae

Cybocephalus Erichson, 1844

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Family Nitidulidae

Key to genus

- 1 Elytra truncate leaving more than just the pygidium exposed.[2](#)



Only the pygidium is exposed beyond the elytra.[3](#)



- 2 Antennae with the club much more distinct; pronotum with the hind margin simply and gently curved and the sides less rounded; hind angles of pronotum more distinct.
..... Genera ***Carpophilus*** and ***Urophorus***



- Club of the antennae not abruptly widening compared to the rest of the antennae.
..... **Family Kateretidae**



3 Elytra more distinctly rounded (in cross section) and more elongate (best viewed from the side).[4](#)

Elytra more flattened and less elongate.[9](#)



- 4 Black species; elytra with a patch of white hair in the middle; pronotum with short bent bristly hairs at the sides; length 3.0-3.5 mm.

..... ***Biphyllus lunatus***

Now placed in family Biphyllidae. Local in southern England northwards to Yorkshire in black fungi on dead ash trees



Not coloured like this; sides of pronotum without short bent bristly hairs. [.5](#)



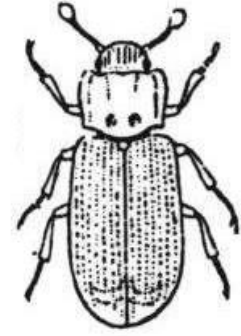
- 5 Dull species with small scales; antennae with a circular club, without gaps between the segments. ...[6](#)



Very shining species without hair or scales; club of the antennae more elongate.[7](#)



- 6 Pronotum with rounded impressions towards the base;
front angles more distinct; elytra less elongate.
..... Genus **Cicones**
Now placed in family Colydiidae



- Pronotum without impressions towards the base;
front angles not so much produced; elytra more
elongate.
..... Genus **Synchita**
Now placed in family Colydiidae



- 7 Very rounded uniformly black species, 1.5 times as long as wide; head (viewed from above) broad and triangular, almost as broad as the pronotum; legs pale.
..... ***Cybocephalus fodori***



Usually much more elongated species; if this shape and shiny then with reddish marks on the elytra and the femora and tibiae black.[8](#)



- 8 Elytra less pointed at the apex, with two reddish or yellowish marks on each, the back ones occasionally absent; tarsi with 5 segments.
..... Genus ***Glischrochilus***
In family Nitidulidae



Elytra more pointed at the apex, uniformly coloured or with markings different from the above.
..... **Family Erotylidae**



- 9 Basal segments of front tarsi as broad as long and about as broad as the last segment; elytra *either* with erect hair and lines marked by fine punctures *or* with raised lines. [10](#)

Basal segments of front tarsi distinctly broader than long, much broader than the last segment; elytra without lines marked by punctures, raised lines or distinct erect hair. [12](#)



- 10 Front margin of pronotum not notched; elytra with lines marked by fine punctures and with distinct erect hair.
..... Genus ***Pocadius***



Front margin of pronotum very distinctly notched; elytra with raised longitudinal lines, either hairless or with very short hair.[11](#)



- 11 Pronotum with impressions on the top and with the sides and hind angles blunt; elytra with lines sometimes very slightly raised, explanate sides dull with a fine leathery texture.
 Genus ***Soronia***



Pronotum without impressions on top, hind angles sharp, right angled; elytra with distinct raised lines, explanate sides of elytra shining and smooth.

..... ***Amphotis marginata***

Rare in southern England northwards to Derbyshire. Associated with the nests and forage trails of the ant *Lasius fuliginosa*



- 12 Elytra coming to more or a point at the apex and with the explanate sides broader towards the base.

..... ***Epuraea limbata***

The rest of the genus keys out in the last couplet. This is the only British member of subgenus *Epuraeanella*. A local species associated with fungi but often found in flood debris. Length 2.2-3



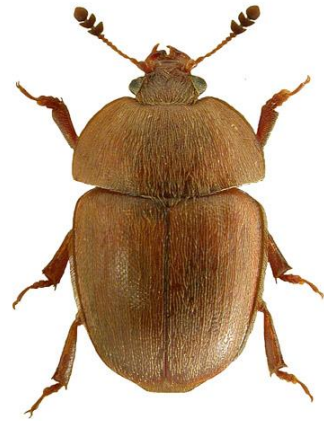
Elytra more rounded at the apex; explanate sides narrower.[13](#)



- 13 Front margin of pronotum less than half the length of the hind margin. Length 3.5-5.5 mm.

..... ***Cychramus luteus***

A common species on flowers and in decaying fungi



Front margin of pronotum at least half the length of the hind margin.[14](#)



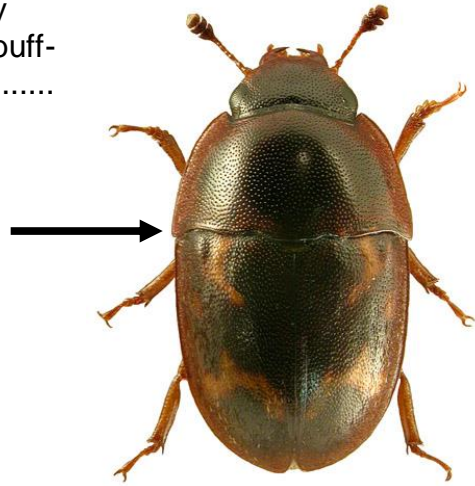
- 14 Pronotum with an impression on each side near the base; elytra with a distinct ridge along the suture; elytra with a reddish-brown and dark pattern.
 Genus ***Omosita***



Pronotum without an impression; elytra without, or with an indistinct, ridge along the suture near the apex (more distinct in *Pria*).[15](#)



- 15 Pronotum with the hind margin distinctly curving back at the sides; elytra with a buff-brown pattern.
..... Genus ***Cryptarcha***



Pronotum with hind margin not, or only slightly sinuate at the sides; elytra without a brownish pattern (except in *Nitidula* and some *Epuraea* species)
.....[16](#)



- 16 First segment of club of antennae more than twice as long as next; middle and hind tibiae with spines; entirely reddish to orange-brown species; side margin of pronotum with short thick-set hair. .

..... ***Thalycra fervida***

Rare but widespread; collected by using the sweep net in the evening



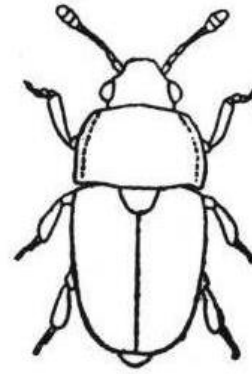
First segment of antennal club about as long as next; middle and hind tibiae simple, except in some *Meligethes* which are black.[17](#)



- 17 Head broader in proportion to the pronotum; segment 1 of antennae more or less symmetrical and club slightly elongate; middle and hind tibiae broader in proportion to the front tibia; yellowish to dark brownish-yellow; head and area around the scutellum region often darker. Very small beetle, length 1.5-2.0 mm.

..... ***Pria dulcamarae***

Associated with the flowers of *Solanum dulcamara*; very local



Head narrower in proportion to the pronotum; segment 1 of antennae much rounded on the inner side; middle and hind tibiae of about the same breadth as the front, except in some *Meligethes* species.[18](#)



- 18 Quite dull species; side margin of pronotum fringed with short thick-set hair, appearing with a lens as a shining white line on the side away from the light. Dark species with a reddish rounded mark, or a light and dark pattern on the elytra.
 Genus ***Nitidula***



More or less shining species; side margin of pronotum without a fringe.
 [19](#)



- 19 Black, metallic blue or green species; middle and hind tibiae broader.
..... Genus **Meligethes**



Entirely, or in some part, yellow (except sometimes in *Epuraea melanocephala*); middle and hind tibiae narrower.[20](#)



- 20 Explanate side of pronotum very narrow, almost absent; elytra less elongate and more abruptly truncate at the apex. Length 2.0-2.6 mm.

..... ***Epuraea melanocephala***

The only British representative of subgenus *Micruria*. An early species, collected in March and April on flowers and trees; local but widespread.



Explanate side of pronotum broader; elytra more elongate not as abruptly truncate at the apex.

..... Genus ***Epuraea***

