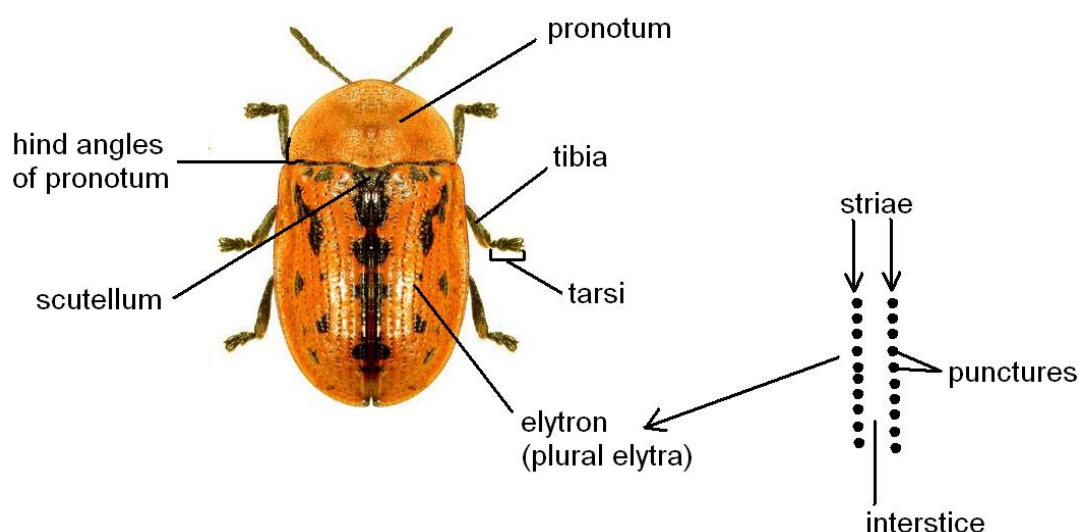


# Subfamily Cassidinae

## Key to British genera and species

Adapted and updated from Joy (1932) A Practical Handbook of British Beetles



### Checklist

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

Genus *Pilemostoma* Desbrochers, 1891  
*fastuosa* (Schaller, 1783)

Genus *Hypocassida* Weise, 1893  
*subferruginea* (Schrank, 1776)

Genus *Cassida* Linnaeus, 1758  
*denticollis* Suffrian, 1844  
*flaveola* Thunberg, 1794  
*hemisphaerica* Herbst, 1799

*murraea* Linnaeus, 1767  
*nebulosa* Linnaeus, 1758  
*nobilis* Linnaeus, 1758  
*prasina* Illiger, 1798  
*rubiginosa* Müller, O.F., 1776  
*sanguinosa* Suffrian, 1844  
*vibex* Linnaeus, 1767  
*viridis* Linnaeus, 1758  
*vittata* de Villers, 1789

### Image Credits

The illustrations in this key are reproduced from the Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae, with permission kindly granted by Lech Borowiec.

### Notes:

Members of Cassidinae vary in colour in life from green, through yellow to reddish-yellow. Their colours fade after death and so colours are not at all a reliable indicator of species. Darkened areas however remain darker as the colours fade. Care must be taken to view the pronotum directly from above the centre of it to judge the hind angles. The photographs are mostly of faded museum specimens.

Records of food plants are taken from the database of insects and their food plants maintained by the Biological Records Centre.



# Subfamily Cassidinae

## Key to British genera and species

- 1 Under surface quite flat, not visible from side. Head completely hidden by pronotum. **Subfamily Cassidinae**. .....[2](#)  
Some authors have called this subfamily Hispinae, but the current check list uses Cassidinae

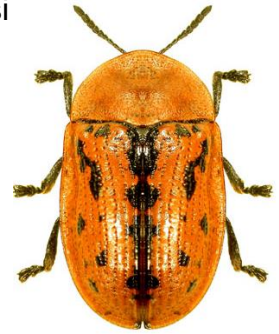
Under surface convex, visible from side. Head visible, at any rate from in front. ...  
..... **Other subfamilies of Chrysomelidae**

- 2 Elytra with all the interstices distinctly ridged.  
Elytra with small scattered well-defined black marks. Length 5.6-7.5 mm. ....  
..... ***Cassida nebulosa***  
England northwards to Lincolnshire; rare. Mostly associated with members of Amaranthaceae (genera *Chenopodium*, *Beta* and *Atriplex*. Also reported from *Polygonum*, (Polygonaceae; dock family) *Trifolium* (Fabaceae) and *Gnaphalium*. (Asteraceae)



Elytra without ridges, or with no more than 2 interstices slightly ridged. ....[3](#)

3 Elytra with well-defined scattered black marks, tibiae and tarsi black. Hind angles of pronotum right angles, or nearly so.  
.....4



Elytra without scattered black marks, although there may be darker patches near the scutellum and/or along the join between the elytra tibiae and tarsi not black.  
.....5

- 4 Pronotum with three or four black marks; the flattened sides of pronotum with punctures which are as strong as those along the striae. Length 5-6.5 mm. ....

..... ***Pilemostoma fastuosa***

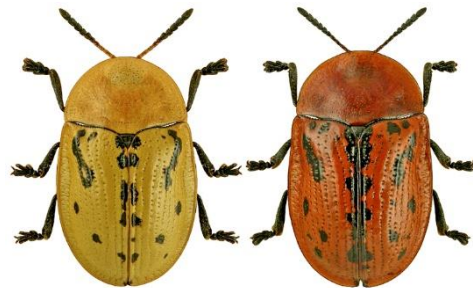
Rare; England northwards to Lancashire; recorded from *Inula conyza* and *Pulicaria dysenterica* and *Senecio jacobaea* (all Asteraceae).



Pronotum uniform in colour; sides of pronotum almost without punctures. Length 7-8.5 mm. ....

..... ***Cassida murrea***

SE England; most often recorded on *Pulicaria dysenterica* but also reported from *Inula* and *Cirsium palustre* (Asteraceae), *Verbascum* (Scrophulariaceae) and mint.



5 Elytra quite randomly punctured throughout, and without raised lines. ....6

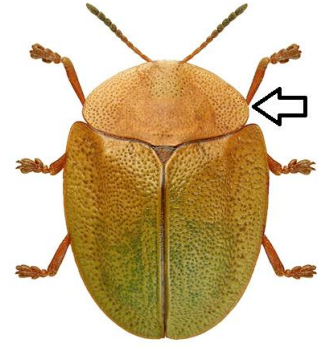


Elytra with the punctures in neat lines along the striae. If the punctures are somewhat irregular the two of the interstices are distinctly ridged. ....7

- 6 Hind angles of pronotum quite rounded. Length 7-9 mm.

..... ***Cassida viridis***

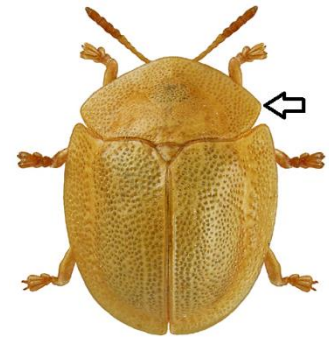
Local, mainly associated with labiates (*Mentha*, *Stachys*, *Lycopus*, *Monarda*, *Galeopsis*, *Nepeta* and *Melissa*). Occasional references to beet.



Hind angles of pronotum distinct. Length 3.5-5 mm. ....

..... ***Cassida hemisphaerica***

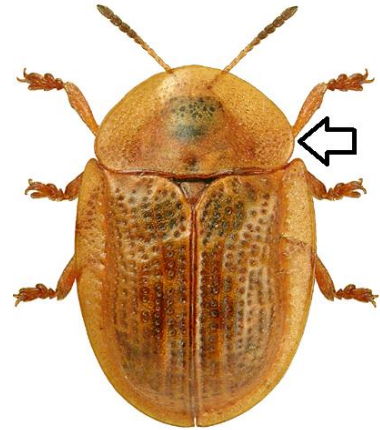
Rare in England and Ireland, on *Silene*, *Dianthus* and *Gypsophila* (Caryophyllaceae). One record each from oak and *Ballota* (Lamiaceae).



- 7 Hind angles of pronotum quite evenly rounded.  
Rarely with a darker mark on the pronotum. Length  
4.5-5 mm. ....

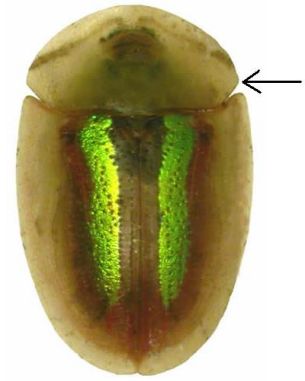
..... ***Cassida flaveola***

Local in England and Scotland. Almost all reported associations are with members of Caryophyllaceae (genera *Minuartia*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Myosoton aquaticum*, *Stellaria holostea* and *Honkenya peploides*. One record from genus *Serratula* (Asteraceae).



Hind angles of pronotum distinct. ....8

- 8 Hind angles of pronotum more obtuse. Yellowish species with interstice 3 of elytra broader than 2 and 4, generally lighter in colour than the rest, metallic-greenish in life. Length 3.5-5.2 mm. ....[9](#)  
On Caryophyllaceae and Amaranthaceae.

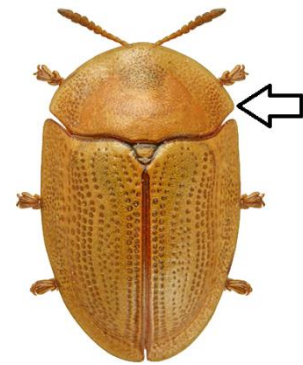


Hind angles of pronotum right-angled, or less obtuse. ....[10](#)



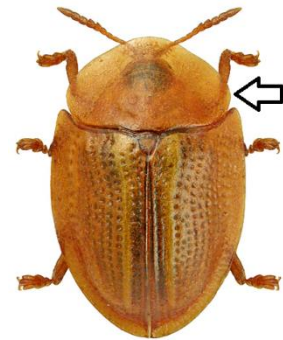
- 9 Pronotum wider compared to its length; hind angles of pronotum less obtuse. ....  
 ..... **Cassida vittata**

England northwards to Worcester and South Wales. Local on members of Caryophyllaceae (*Honkenya peploides*, *Spergula arvensis*, *Spergularia media*, and *S. marina*) and Amaranthaceae (*Chenopodium rubrum*, *C. album*, *Beta vulgaris*, *Atriplex halimus*, *A. prostrata*, *Spinacia oleracea*, *Salicornia europaea*, *Salsola*, and *Suaeda*) Single records from *Pulicaria dysenterica* (Asteraceae) and *Convolvulus arvensis* Convolvulaceae.

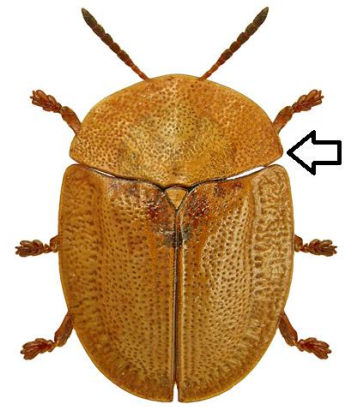


- Pronotum narrower compared to its length; hind angles more obtuse. ....  
 ..... **Cassida nobilis**

Local in England and Scotland. On members of Caryophyllaceae (*Honkenya peploides* and *Spergula arvensis*) and Amaranthaceae (*Chenopodium album*, *Beta vulgaris*, *Atriplex* and *Salicornia*).



10 Hind angles of pronotum quite or almost right angled.  
.....[11](#)



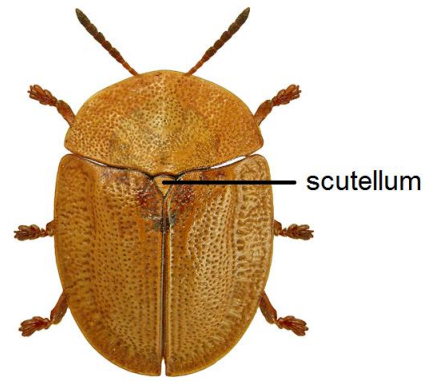
Hind angles of pronotum distinctly obtuse. ....[12](#)

- 11 Elytra uniform in colour, or only with obscure dark marks around scutellum. Femora mainly black. Length 6-7.5 mm. ....

..... ***Cassida rubiginosa***

Green in life. Common on thistles and other composites (genera *Carduus*, *Arctium*, *Cynara*, *Saussurea*, *Cirsium*, *Silybum*, *Serratula*, *Centaurea*, *Tanacetum*, *Petasites*, *Sonchus* and *Onopordum*). Once recorded in association with *Convolvulus arvensis*.

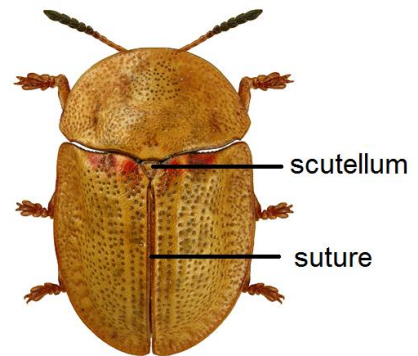
See note on last page.



- Elytra with a darkened mark around scutellum, and along suture between the elytra. Femora entirely yellowish. Length 5-6 mm. ....

..... ***Cassida denticollis***

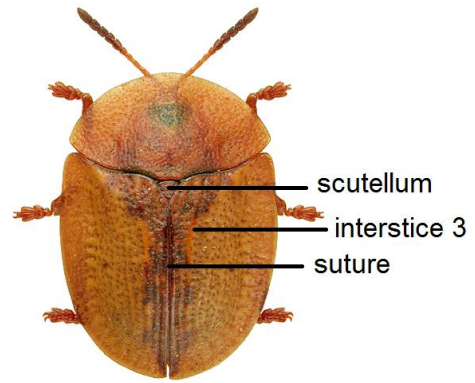
Very rare in Sussex, Hampshire and Scotland. Associated with *Achillea millefolium*, *Chrysanthemum vulgare* and *Artemisia campestris*.



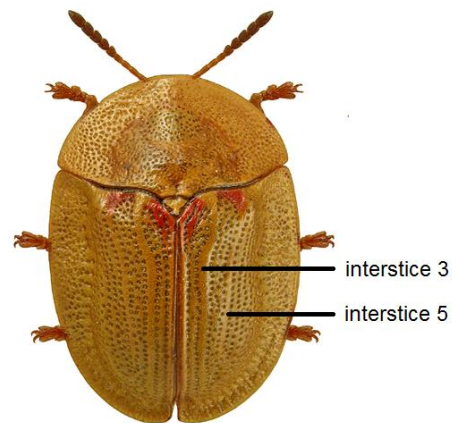
12 Elytra with well-defined definite dark brown marks around scutellum, and along suture between the elytra; interstice 3 of elytra only raised. Length 4.5-5.5 mm. ....

..... ***Cassida vibex***

England northwards to Yorkshire; a local species associated with various Asteraceae (genera *Carduus*, *Centaurea*, *Arctium*, *Cirsium*, *Serratula*, *Chrysanthemum* and *Achillea*). There is one report from mint.



Elytra with a well-defined red mark around scutellum; interstices 3 and 5 or 7 raised at base. ....[13](#)



13 Elytra more strongly punctured for its size, and more convex than other species. Length 4.5-5.5 mm.

..... ***Cassida prasina***

Listed here by Joy as *sanguinolenta* Muller and status given as local on *Achillea* in England, Scotland and Ireland. Associated with *Achillea millefolium*, *A. ptarmica*, *Carduus* and *Cirsium*.



Elytra less strongly punctured, and less convex. Length 6-7 mm. ....

..... ***Cassida sanguinosa***

Very local on *Achillea ptarmica* in Ireland. Also reported from *Chrysanthemum vulgare*, *Matricaria* and *Tanacetum vulgare*.



**Not included by Joy in the key:**

***Hypocassida subferruginea***, on Convolvulaceae: *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Calystegia sepium*. Hyman & Parsons (1992) state that this species is probably extinct in the UK. It has interstices 3 and 5 ridged, the interstice 3 ridge leading to an oval ridge beside the scutellum. It would probably key to couplet 11a.

