

Subfamily Cryptocephalinae

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

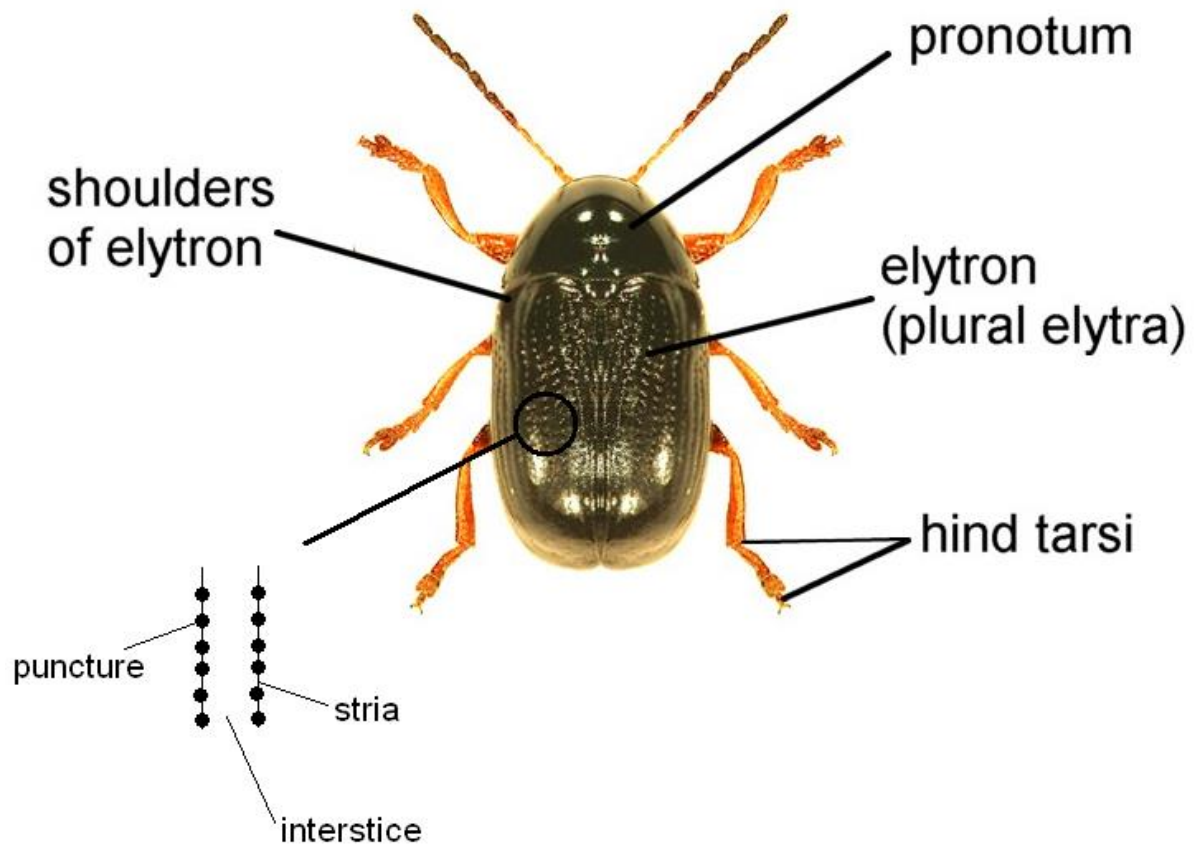


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Checklist from the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff. (available from www.coleopterist.org.uk/checklist.htm). Currently accepted names are written in bold italics, synonyms in italics.

Tribe CLYTRINI Kirby, 1837

Genus **LABIDOSTOMIS** Dejean, 1836
tridentata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Genus **CLYTRA** Laicharting, 1781
laeviuscula Ratzeburg, 1837
quadripunctata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Genus **SMARAGDINA**
affinis (Illiger, 1794)

Tribe CRYPTOCEPHALINI Gyllenhal, 1813

Genus **CRYPTOCEPHALUS** Geoffroy, 1762
aureolus Suffrian, 1847
biguttatus (Scopoli, 1763)
bilineatus (Linnaeus, 1767)
bipunctatus (Linnaeus, 1758)
coryli (Linnaeus, 1758)
decemmaculatus (Linnaeus, 1758)
exiguus Schneider, 1792
frontalis Marsham, 1802
fulvus (Goeze, 1777)
hypochaeridis (Linnaeus, 1758)
labiatus (Linnaeus, 1761)
moraei (Linnaeus, 1758)
nitidulus Fabricius, 1787
parvulus Müller, O.F., 1776
primarius Harold, 1872
punctiger Paykull, 1799
pusillus Fabricius, 1777
querceti Suffrian, 1848
sexpunctatus (Linnaeus, 1758)
violaceus Laicharting, 1781

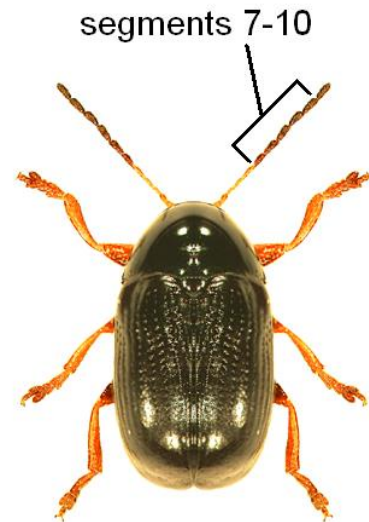


Subfamily Cryptocephalinae

Keys to genus and species adapted from Joy (1932) by Mike Hackston

- 1 Antennae with segments 7-10 at least one and a half times as long as broad; antennae not thickened towards apex. Head hidden by pronotum when viewed from above. Tribe Cryptocephalini.
..... Genus *Cryptocephalus*

20 species on the British list, many of them very rare and some are listed as Priority Species for Biodiversity Action Plans. Only one species is common.



Antennae with segments 7-10 very slightly elongate, to distinctly broader than long. Head hidden by the pronotum or not.2

- 2 Antennae somewhat thickened towards the tip with segments 7-10 very slightly elongate, to slightly broader than long. Predominantly dark coloured beetles, uniformly black, bluish or greenish or else dark coloured with yellowish-brown to orange longitudinal stripes.

..... Certain genera of **subfamily Chrysomelinae**

The genera *Phratora*, *Prasocuris* and *Hydrothassa* may key here from the subfamily key.



Antennae strongly serrate (thus appearing toothed) with segments 5-10 distinctly broader than long. This makes the antennae look much shorter than most of the members of the family. Tribe Clytrini.3



- 3 Elytra bluish black to greenish-black; length 2.5-4 mm. ...

..... ***Smaragdina affinis***

A very local species found on hazel in southern England. Joy has this as *Gynandrophthalma*.



Elytra yellowish brown to orange with or without spots;
larger beetles, length 6-11 mm.4



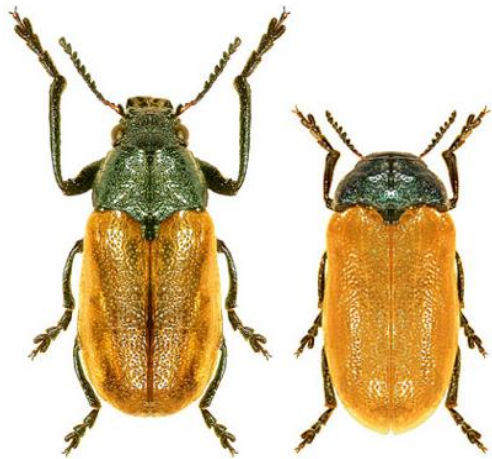
- 4 Elytra with two black marks on each; segment 1 of hind tarsus as wide as long or wider.
..... Genus *Clytra*
2 species



Elytra without black marks; segment 1 of hind tarsus elongate.

..... ***Labidostomis tridentata***

A rare species associated with birch; found in England as far north as Yorkshire.



Genus *Clytra*

- 1 Larger dark marks on the elytra more extensive and rather square the marks extending to the outside edge of the elytra and approaching one another at the suture. Pronotum less than twice as broad as long.

..... ***Clytra laeviuscula***

Not included by Joy.



Larger marks on the elytra small and irregular in outline, not closely approaching the margin or the suture. Pronotum twice as broad as long or more.

..... ***Clytra quadripunctata***

Local species, collected by beating bushes near the nests of the ant *Formica rufa* in which the larvae live; June to July.



Genus *Cryptocephalus*

- 1 Entirely metallic blue, green or coppery, or pronotum black.[2](#)
- Entirely or in part black or yellow, not metallic.[6](#)



2 Elytra with regularly punctured striae. Elytra bluish. ...[3](#)



Elytra randomly punctured.[4](#)

- 3 Legs more or less yellowish;
pronotum often black; length 2.5-3.5
mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus punctiger***

Rare in the south of England northwards to
Staffordshire and north Wales.



Legs dark blue; length 3.0-4.5 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus parvulus***

Local but widespread



- 4 Pronotum with few or no punctures; legs and segments 1-4 of antennae yellowish-brown to reddish brown; dark blue or bluish green species; length 3.5-5.0 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus nitidulus***

Southern England; very local.

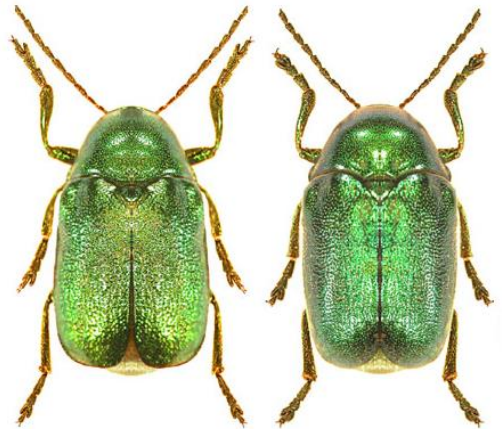


Pronotum distinctly punctured; legs green to black. Associated in particular with *Hieracium*.5

- 5 Lighter green species; pronotum with a reddish tinge in some lights; length 5.5-7.5 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus aureolus***

Local but widespread.



Darker bluish green species; length 4.0-5.5 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus hypochaeridis***

Local in England. Joy has this species as *cristula*.



Cryptocephalus violaceus will probably key to here. It is not included by Joy. As its specific name suggests it is a violet species, although it may be more blue-grey.



- 6 Elytra randomly punctured or with lines of punctures near the middle and close to the side margin; striae 6-8 with random punctures; length 4-7 mm.; antennae, except for parts of segments 2-4 black; legs black.[7](#)



Striae on the elytra marked by regular lines of punctures throughout.[11](#)

- 7 Elytra with the striae regularly punctured near the middle; pronotum black; length 4-6 mm.[8](#)



Elytra randomly punctured all over.[9](#)



- 8 Elytra orange-red with one to four black spots on each elytron (or one longitudinal black mark on each - variety *sanguinolentus* or rarely black with the apex reddish yellow - variety *thomsoni*); elytra not as distinctly punctured; length 4-6 mm.
..... ***Cryptocephalus bipunctatus***
Very local species in England.



Elytra black with a pale brown mark on each at the apex; elytra more strongly punctured. ..
..... ***Cryptocephalus biguttatus***
Very local species in England northwards to Lancashire; associated with *Erica tetralix*.



- 9 Sides of elytra black; pronotum may be anywhere from orange-brown with black marks to entirely black; elytra reddish orange with (usually) three black marks on each elytron which may merge across the suture; length 4.5-6.5 mm.
..... ***Cryptocephalus sexpunctatus***
Rare in England and Scotland; on hazel.



Sides of elytra the same colour as the rest of the elytra; elytra reddish-orange.

.....[10](#)

- 10 Elytra with five black marks on each elytron; pronotum black; length 4.5-7.0 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus primarius***

Very rare; associated with the roots of *Helianthemum* (rock rose).



Elytra uniform in colour, or with one small black mark near the shoulder or in addition with a darker patch just beyond the middle; pronotum black in males, reddish-orange in females; length 6-7 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus coryli***

Rare in southern England northwards to Nottinghamshire.



- 11 Pronotum distinctly punctured, some of the punctures
at sides half as strong as punctures on elytra.[12](#)

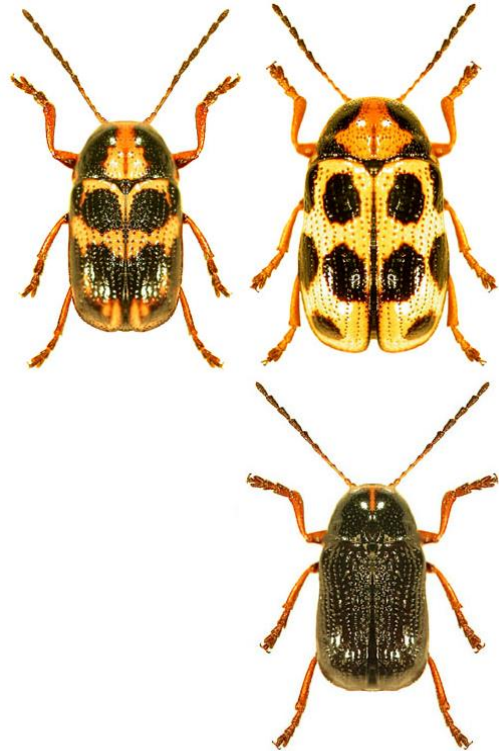


Pronotum not punctured, or only very finely so.[13](#)

- 12 Sides of elytra, and underside of beetle blue.
..... ***Cryptocephalus parvulus* v. *barbareae***
See couplet 3b.

Without any blue. Pronotum black with the middle yellow, to entirely black; elytra yellow with five black marks on each, to entirely black, legs reddish-orange to black; length 3.5-4.5 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus decemmaculatus***;
Rare, recorded from Staffordshire and Scotland; on birch.



13 Upper surface of beetle entirely black.[14](#)

Pronotum yellow, or black with at least a small amount of yellow.[16](#)



- 14 Pronotum sculptured with very fine ridges that run the length of the pronotum; legs in part, including tarsi, dark brownish-grey; length 2-2.8 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus exiguus***

Norfolk, Lincolnshire; very rare on *Carduus palustris*.



Pronotum without such fine ridges and consequently appearing more shiny.[15](#)

- 15 Legs in part, including tarsi, dark brownish-grey; elytra more strongly punctured. Length 2-2.7 mm.
..... ***Cryptocephalus labiatus***
Common species.



Legs entirely reddish-orange; elytra very finely punctured. Length 2.0-2.2 mm.
..... ***Cryptocephalus querceti***
Local, Berkshire, Nottinghamshire; associated with oak.



- 16 Pronotum very finely punctured; legs black, front tibiae sometimes paler; length 3-5 mm. Black species with small pale marks at the hind angles of the pronotum and at the sides of and apex of the elytra.

..... ***Cryptocephalus moraei***

Local but widespread on *Hypericum*..

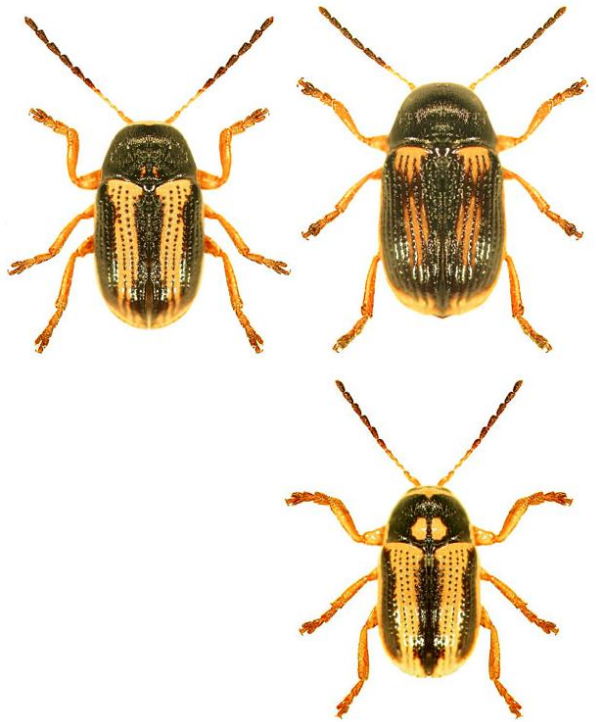


Pronotum not punctured; legs pale; length 2-3 mm.[17](#)

- 17 Pronotum appearing dull due to a fine surface sculpture of ridges; pronotum black, front margin narrowly, hind angles, sometimes middle of base, yellow, elytra black, interstices 3 and 4, and 9 and 10, and apex, abruptly yellow.

..... ***Cryptocephalus bilineatus***

Local on *Anthyllis vulneraria* in southern and eastern England



Pronotum shining without a fine surface sculpture as above.[18](#)

- 18 Pronotum black, with the front margin narrowly and abruptly paler. Head black with forehead with two abrupt yellow marks; elytra entirely black.

..... ***Cryptocephalus frontalis***

Southern England northwards to Lincolnshire; rare species associated with hawthorn.



Pronotum entirely reddish-orange, or suffused with dark brown.[19](#)

- 19 Elytra entirely yellow, or shoulders obscurely darkened; striae more strongly punctured, as strongly at apex as at base; antennae with joints 6-10 less elongate; length 2.0-2.5 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus fulvus***

Local in England.



Elytra entirely yellow, to almost entirely dark; striae much less marked at apex; antennae with joints 6-10 more elongate; length 2.5-3.0 mm.

..... ***Cryptocephalus pusillus***

Local in England and Ireland.

