

# Family Chrysomelidae

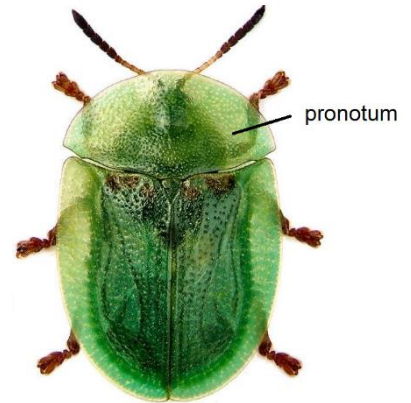
Key to subfamilies found in the British Isles, adapted from Joy (1932)

Source material Joy (1932) A Practical Handbook of British Beetles

## Image Credits

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

- 1 Lower surface quite flat, not visible from the side; head completely hidden by the pronotum. ....  
..... **Subfamily Cassidinae (tortoise beetles)**



Lower surface convex, visible from side; head visible, at any rate from in front. ....[2](#)



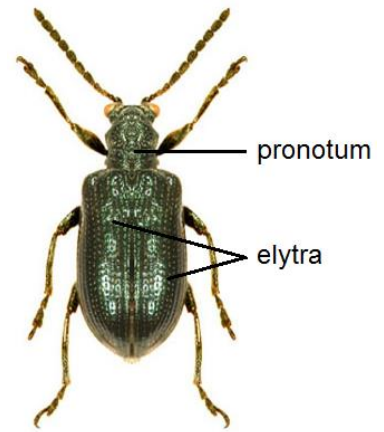
- 2 Eye notched in front, and last segment of the abdomen completely exposed - not covered by the elytra. ....  
..... **Subfamily Bruchinae (seed beetles)**



Eyes simple; last segment of the abdomen not, or only slightly, exposed. ....[3](#)  
A very few species have the end of the abdomen exposed, but these will not have the eyes notched or the antennae with at least the apex broader as shown above. Take care with specimens caught in water traps - the abdomen may expand and project conspicuously beyond the elytra.



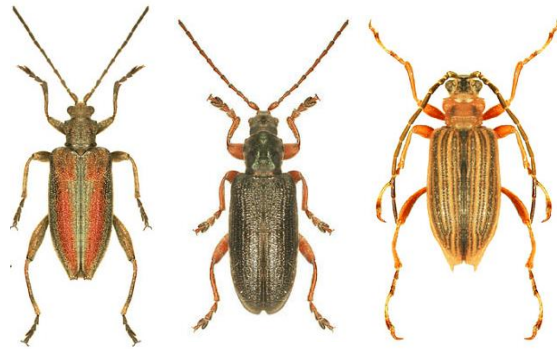
3 Head narrowed behind the eyes (check carefully) so the eyes are not touching the front of the pronotum (view from the top and the side). Pronotum much narrower than the elytra at the shoulders, not bordered at sides. ....4



Eyes touching pronotum or if not, then the head does not have a narrow neck. Pronotum generally as broad as, or slightly narrower than, the elytra at the shoulders, nearly always bordered at sides. ....7



- 4 Segments 7-10 of antennae more elongate, at least twice as long as broad. Three genera occur in Britain, illustrated below. Their larvae feed on the roots of plants in fresh (rarely rather salty) water and the adults are usually found close to or in water. ....  
..... **Subfamily Donaciinae**



Segments 7-10 of antennae less elongate, at most one and a half times as long as broad. ....5

5 Elytra randomly punctured. ....6



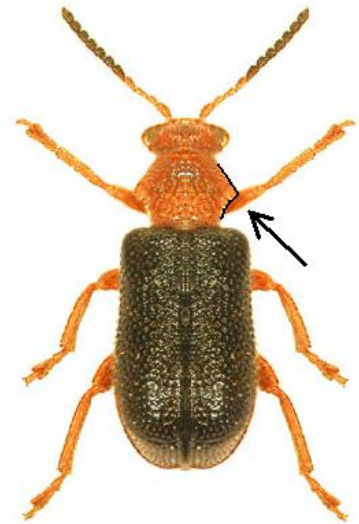
Elytra with punctures in rows (striae). .....  
..... **Subfamily Criocerinae**



6 Pronotum with a tooth at the sides; elytra less elongate. ...

..... **Family Megalopodidae**

One genus *Zeugophora* with three species.



Pronotum without a tooth at sides; elytra more elongate. ....

..... **Family Orsodacnidae**

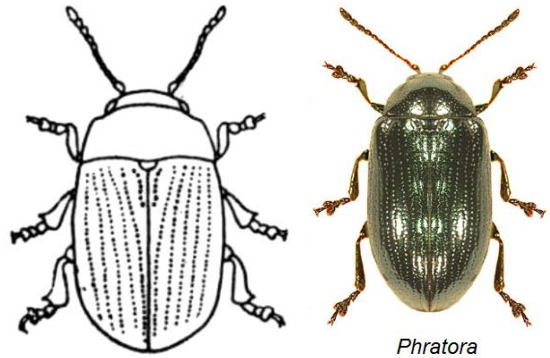
One genus *Orsodacne* with two species.



If the beetle is not of the general shape in these photographs it may be in family Chrysomelinae in which some species may have the eyes well forward from the pronotum but the head only tapers weakly behind the eyes.



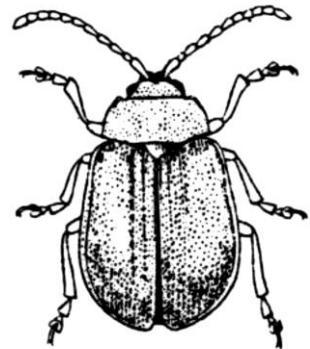
7 Antennae inserted underneath the side margin of the head, so far apart that the distance between them is about twice the length of segment 1 of the antennae. ....8  
 Genus *Phratora* (Chrysomelinae) differs here; its antennae are only as far apart as the length of the first segment of the antennae. They are dark-coloured species with the legs and antennae also dark and with the punctures on the elytra arranged in rows.



*Phratora*

Antennae inserted on forehead, so close together that the distance between them is the length, or less than the length, of segment 1 of the antennae. ....

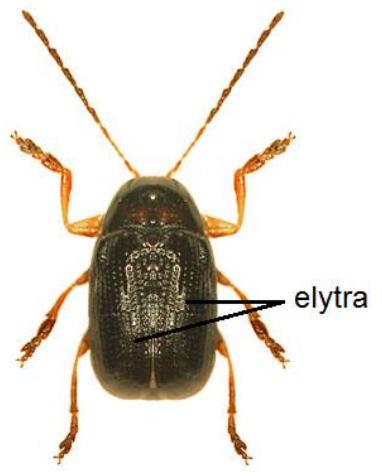
..... **Subfamily Galerucinae**



**Subfamily Eumolpinae** is not included in key and will key to here. One species, *Bromius obscurus* has only recently (1979) been recorded from the UK, from the Cheshire-Staffordshire border near Bosley and is associated with willow herbs, primarily rosebay. It appears to be an established colony.



8 Elytra parallel-sided. ....  
..... **Subfamily Cryptocephalinae**

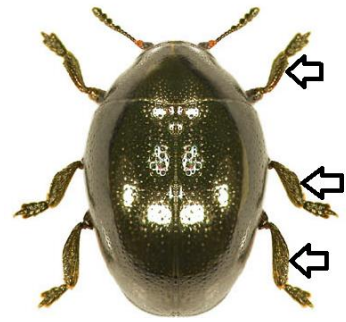


Elytra rounded at sides. ....9





9 Tibiae much dilated. ....  
..... **Subfamily Lamprosomatinae**  
One species *Oomorphus concolor*, a local species.



Tibiae not so dilated. ....  
..... **Subfamily Chrysomelinae**

