

Subfamily Hyperinae

Reference

The source of this translation is Lompe (2013) Käfer Europas Hylobiinae and linked pages. The original text can be found <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/hylobiinae.htm> and linked pages. These German keys are derived from earlier work by Kippenberg, Lohse and Reitter. Translated by Mike Hackston and reproduced here with the kind permission of Dr Arved Lompe.

Characterising the subfamily

front coxae touching one another at the base, attached at about the middle of the prosternum

underneath the **prosternum** is not grooved to accommodate the rostrum

eyes clearly higher than long

claws separate to the base and without a tooth at the base

rostrum close to equalling the pronotum

mesepimeron not visible from above in the corner between the pronotum and elytra

hook at tip of hind tibia less than half the length of the claw

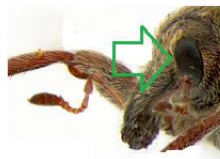


Image Credits:

The images of whole beetles are reproduced from the Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae, with permission kindly granted by Lech Borowiec.



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).

Genus **HYPERA** Germar, 1817

Subgenus **HYPERA** Germar, 1817

arator (Linnaeus, 1758)

fuscocinerea (Marsham, 1802)

nigrirostris (Fabricius, 1775)

ononidis Chevrolat, 1863

plantaginis (De Geer, 1775)

postica (Gyllenhal, 1813)

suspiciosa (Herbst, 1795)

venusta (Fabricius, 1781)

Subgenus **ANTIDONUS** Bedel, 1886

dauci (Olivier, 1807)

zoilus (Scopoli, 1763)

Subgenus **BOREOHYPERA** Korotyaev, 1999

diversipunctata (Schrank, 1798)

Subgenus **DAPALINUS** Capiomont, 1868

meles (Fabricius, 1792)

Subgenus **ERIRINOMORPHUS** Capiomont, 1868

arundinis (Paykull, 1792)

pollux (Fabricius, 1801)

rumicis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Subgenus **TIGRINELLUS** Capiomont, 1868

pastinaceae (Rossi, 1790)

Genus **LIMOBIUS** Schönherr, 1843

borealis (Paykull, 1792)

mixtus (Boheman, 1834)



Subfamily Hyperinae

Key to British species

- 1 Antennae formed of the long first segment, then seven segments then the three-segmented club. Genus *Hypera*.2

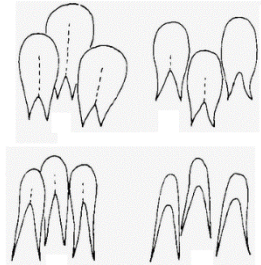
Antennae formed of the long first segment, then six segments, then the three-segmented club. Small species, at most 3.5 mm. in length, associated with Geraniaceae. Genus *Limobius*.18



2 Scales of the elytra flattened at the end or only very shortly notched.3



Scales of the elytra clearly notched.7



- 3 Some scales on the elytra elongate (check around the darker patches) and forming raised clusters (rarely weakly so, but then the rostrum is distinctly short and broad). Process of the first segment of the abdomen (viewed from below) extending between the hind coxae at least as wide as one of the hind coxae. Scales flattened at the ends, not at all notched. Usually compact, relatively large species (length 5-9 mm.). Subgenus *Antidonus*.4

Scales of the elytra all similar in size and lying flat on the surface, never forming raised clusters. Process of the first segment of the abdomen narrower than one of the hind coxae. Subgenus *Eirinomorphus*.5



- 4 Rostrum noticeably short and broad, at most twice as long as wide. Compact, plump species. Pronotum broadest before half-way. Elytra with brown to grey ground colour; first, third, fifth and seventh interval usually with paler scales and with darker areas of raised scales; outermost four intervals generally paler. Markings on pronotum indistinct. Length 6-9 mm.

..... ***Hypera zoilus***

Widely distributed in Britain. Associated with clovers, especially *Trifolium repens* and *T. pratense*.



Rostrum much longer than twice its breadth. Elytra reddish brown with blackish stripes; scales mostly brown; characterised by a paler, well-defined marking in the front half which extends obliquely to about the middle of the fifth interval. Intervals alongside the suture clearly marked with darker and paler areas of scales. Pronotum with paler areas up the middle and towards the sides. Length 5-7 mm.

..... ***Hypera dauci***

Rather uncommon in open sandy habitats, usually by the sea. Associated with *Erodium cicutarium*.



- 5 Intervals of the elytra with at most scattered hairs amongst the scales, occasionally partly in two rows. Shoulders broad, the elytra generally noticeably broader measured across the shoulders broader than the pronotum.6



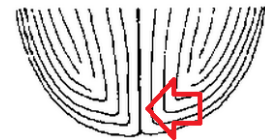
All intervals of the elytra with several rows of hairs between the scales (usually 3-4). Shoulders narrow, only slightly broader than the pronotum. Upper surface covered with almost uniformly grey-yellow to yellowish-red scales; middle and lateral areas of the pronotum and the sides of the elytra only indistinctly paler. Aedeagus with an asymmetrical tip. Length 5.5-7.5 mm.

..... ***Hypera arundinis***

Probably extinct in Britain. Associated with *Sium latifolium* and *Berula erecta*.



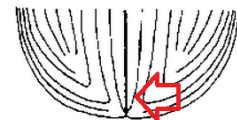
- 6 Sutural interval of the at most only slightly narrowing towards the tip of the elytra. Frons and the top of the pronotum with scales and hairs. Scales on the upper surface whitish grey to brownish or greenish; alternate intervals on the elytra with similar scales; the elytra are usually paler towards the base around the shoulders and along the outermost interval and have a paler indistinctly-edged transverse patch behind the middle (sometimes separated into two paler markings); alternate dark and paler areas of scales usually indistinct and often irregular. Length 4-6 mm.



..... ***Hypera rumicis***

Common and widely distributed in Britain, associated with various species of dock.

Sutural interval narrowing towards the tip of the elytra. Frons with pale hairs only. Pronotum with a narrow line of hairs mixed with narrow scales along the middle with a broad clearly-marked zone either side which is more or less bare. Pale scales on the upper surface whitish-grey, brownish or greenish; alternate intervals of the elytra at least partly paler, normally with alternate patches of dark and pale, very variable in their size and spacing. Length 4-6.5 mm.



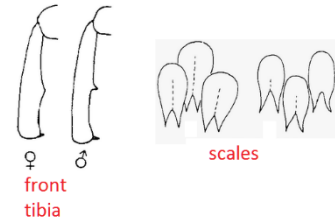
..... ***Hypera pollux***

Usually in damp habitats; widely distributed in England and Wales northwards to southern Scotland. Associated with various members of Apiaceae, such as *Apium* and *Oenanthe*.

7 Inner edge of the front tibiae twice concave with a small tooth near the middle. Scales of the elytra incised up to half way. Elytra with pale and dark longitudinal stripes and without regular dark and pale patches along the intervals except for the sutural interval and the end of the ninth interval. Intervals generally clearly convex along their whole length. Length 4.5-6 mm.

..... ***Hypera arator***

Generally common and widely distributed. On various species of Caryophyllaceae, often near the coast, but by no means exclusively.



Inner edge of the front tibiae without distinctive features, straight or evenly once concave.8



8 Middle line of the pronotum without incised scales (occasionally a few are present).9

Middle line of the pronotum mainly with incised scales (sometimes the scales may be rubbed off, so check both leads).13



9 Pronotum broader than long, distinctly curved at the sides. Rostrum long, often as long as the pronotum, without a furrow or a keel along the upper surface, only finely punctured, usually only sparsely hairy and shining. Upper surface grey to coppery-brown; alternating patches of light and dark particularly around the suture and the back half of the elytra, which often merge. Odd numbered intervals with a row of short, erect pale hairs on the rear half of the elytra. Scales almost forked to the base. Legs reddish brown to dark.



..... ***Hypera meles***

Associated with clovers, especially *Trifolium pratense* and *T. repens*.
England northwards to Yorkshire, fairly common in some places. Subgenus *Dapalinus*.

Pronotum not broader than long or only slightly so with the sides not as clearly curved. Rostrum usually shorter, densely punctured or keeled or furrowed and more or less densely hairy. [10](#)



10 Length at most 3.8 mm. Scales on the elytra almost forked to the base.[11](#)

Length at least 4.4 mm.[12](#)



11 Scales whitish grey, greenish or brownish. Base of the elytra with a short spot over the scutellum; third interval showing as a darker stripe at the base; suture blotchily darkened to beyond half way; fourth to sixth intervals with patches of darker scales in the back half, fading towards the front. Length 2.9-3.7 mm.

..... ***Hypera venusta***

Common and widely distributed in England and Wales. Associated with *Anthyllis vulneraria* and species of gorse.



Scales bright green or brownish. Elytra without darker patches along the intervals.

..... ***Hypera nigrirostris***

Very common and widely distributed in Britain. Associated with clovers and known as the clover-leaf weevil.



12 Scales on the elytra at most cleft to the middle. Elytra in males elongate-oval, in females short-oval. Tips of the tibiae with a single small tooth in males only. Scales whitish, grey-green or brownish. Patterning of the elytra very variable, sometimes practically uniform or only with small darker spots on the intervals, sometimes with every other interval paler and sometimes with a distinct darker marking over the scutellum and with longitudinal dark markings along the sides and tip. Length 4.4-6 mm.



..... ***Hypera suspiciosa***

Widely distributed but infrequently recorded northwards to central Scotland. On various Fabaceae, such as *Lathyrus*, *Melilotus*, *Vicia* and possibly *Trifolium*.

Scales of the elytra almost forked to the base. Elytra very elongate in males, almost twice as long as their combined breadth. Elytra broadly oval in females. Tibiae in males with a strong tooth on the inner surface at the tip, with several points at the tip of the hind tibia, and curved backwards. Scales on the elytra uniformly coloured or every other interval is indistinctly paler with a few small darker patches. Length 5.7-7 mm.



..... ***Hypera diversipunctata***

An uncommon flightless species in central and northern England, Wales and southern Scotland. Associated with various species of Caryophyllaceae including *Cerastium arvense*, *Stellaria media*, *S. alsine* and *Myosoton aquaticum*. Subgenus *Boreohypera*.

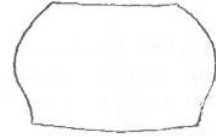


13 Rostrum (measured from the front margin of the eyes to the tip) shorter than or equal to the length of the pronotum.14

Rostrum clearly longer than the pronotum. Pronotum much broader than long and concave before the hind angles.

..... ***Hypera pastinaceae***

Very local, uncommon. Recorded recently from eastern Kent; coastal on *Daucus carota*. Subgenus *Tigrinellus*



14 First segment of the antennae after the long first segment about as long as the next segment or shorter. Scales on the elytra forked at least to the middle but not nearly to the base.[15](#)

First segment of the antennae after the long first segment clearly longer than the next segment.[17](#)



15 Pronotum distinctly rounded, broadest at or behind the middle. Elytra without distinct darkened markings at the side.16

Pronotum narrowly heart-shaped, broadest shortly before the middle, often with the sides clearly convex and the pronotum broader than long. Markings on the elytra characteristic: fourth to sixth intervals with clear darker longitudinal markings from the middle backwards, ending just before the tip, becoming weaker towards the front and partly reaching the shoulders. Background scales of the elytra pale brownish, commonly with whitish or bluish-white areas; small irregular areas of darker brown are present along with a usually small marking next to the scutellum. Scutellar interval generally pale. Darker longitudinal stripes on the pronotum abruptly edged. Length 3.8-5 mm.



..... ***Hypera plantaginis***

Common and widely distributed in Britain. Associated with species of *Lotus* especially *Lotus corniculatus*.



16 Smaller species, 4.0-5.3 mm. Pronotum almost as long as broad, widest about in the middle. Elytra usually with a distinct darkened marking along the suture which reaches well beyond the middle; second interval with darker scales to about half way and third interval with darker scales to about a quarter of its length. Every other interval often with large darker patches which are very variable in their number and density. Middle stripe of the pronotum usually indistinctly edged or absent.



..... ***Hypera postica***

Very common and widely distributed throughout the British Isles. Associated with *Medicago lupulina* but also recorded from other members of the pea family such as *Trifolium*, *Medicago* and *Melilotus*.

Larger species, 5.0-6.3 mm. Pronotum clearly broader than long, widest a little behind the middle, upside-down heart-shaped. Markings very similar to *postica* but with the hairs in the rear half of the elytra longer and more upright.

..... ***Hypera fuscocinerea***

Widely distributed but rarely recorded, in grasslands. Associated with species of *Medicago*.



17 Smaller species, 3.0-3.8 mm. Scales on the upper surface bright green or brownish. All intervals of the elytra with a semi-erect row of darker inconspicuous hairs (about 2.5 times the length of the scales) which are intermixed with more noticeable white hairs on every other interval. White hairs on the second and third intervals start about half way back and on the fifth interval from a third back. Elytra more or less uniform in colour without darker markings of clusters of darker scales, at most with a few spots along the suture in the rear half. Pronotum with a narrow middle band, usually bordered by two lines of darker hairs and scales.



..... ***Hypera nigrirostris***

A very common and widely distributed species in grasslands and waste places. Associated with clovers, mainly *Trifolium pratense*.

Larger species, 3.7-4.5 mm. Very similar to brown forms of *nigrirostris* differing as follows: scales of the upper surface always pale beige to brownish; upright hairs of the upper surface longer (about three times the length of the scales) and more erect, thus more noticeable, particularly in the rear half of the elytra and the sides of the pronotum (often worn off here). Intermixed white hairs are present in the first and third intervals from before half way. Elytra usually with weakly marked patches of darker and lighter scales, especially in the rear half. Middle stripe of the pronotum usually clearer towards the front and the rear, fading in the middle.



..... ***Hypera ononidis***

Usually coastal on species of *Ononis*, especially *Ononis repens*. Distributed along the south coast of England and around to the coast of south Wales. Scarce, though often found in numbers. May yet prove to be a variety of *nigrirostris*.



18 Scales of the pronotum and elytra with a notch at one end. Intervals on the elytra all evenly flat; every other interval with alternate patches of paler and darker scales. Length 2.5-3.0 mm.

..... ***Limobius borealis***

Grassland, woodland edges and scrub. Local but widely distributed in England and Wales. Associated with various *Geranium* species.



Scales of the pronotum and elytra rounded at both ends, without notches. Intervals on the elytra not evenly flat, but every other one rather more convex. Elytra just beyond the middle with a black, indistinctly triangular transverse marking, darker streaks over the second and fourth interval and irregular small dark patches on every other interval. Length 2.7-3.8 mm.

..... ***Limobius mixtus***

Associated with *Erodium cicutarium* on sand and shingle near the sea in southern England. Photograph from Enzo Colonnelli's website of weevils of Libya.

