

Family Cicadellidae

Key to British subfamilies and some genera

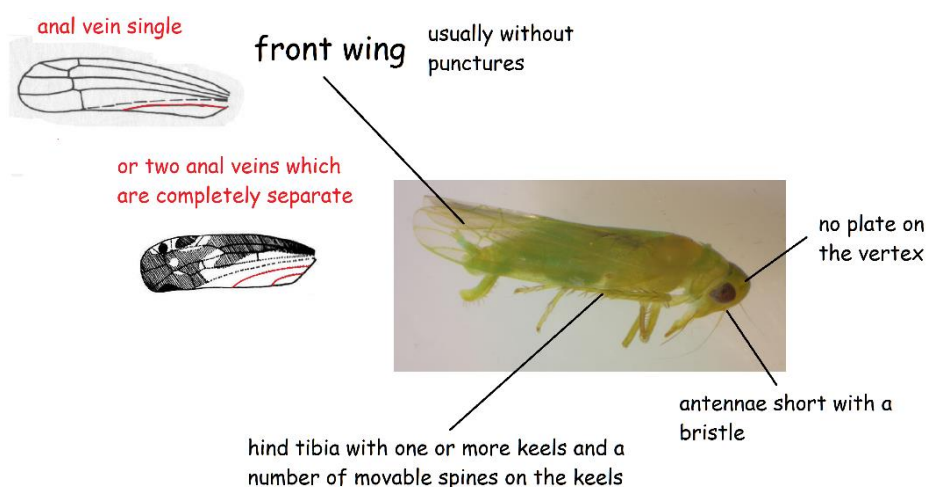
Source material

This key is derived from the work of W J Le Quesne (1965), Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Volume 2, part 2(a). This is published by the Royal Entomological Society of London online under a Creative Commons Licence. Line drawings are from this text.

The following taxa are keyed in this document:

<p>Subfamily Agalliinae Kirkaldy, 1901</p> <p>Genus <i>Agallia</i> Curtis 1833</p> <p><i>brachyptera</i> (Boheman 1847)</p> <p><i>consobrina</i> Curtis 1833</p> <p>Genus <i>Anaceratagallia</i> Zachvatkin 1946</p> <p>Genus <i>Austroagallia</i> Evans, 1935</p> <p><i>sinuata</i> (Mulsant & Rey 1855)</p> <p>Genus <i>Dryodurgades</i> Zachvatkin, 1946</p> <p><i>antoniae</i> (Melichar, 1907)</p> <p>Subfamily Aphrodinae Haupt, 1927</p> <p>Genus <i>Anoscopus</i> Kirschbaum, 1868</p> <p>Genus <i>Aphrodes</i> Curtis 1833</p> <p>Genus <i>Planaphrodes</i> Hamilton, 1975</p> <p>Genus <i>Stroggylocephalus</i> Flor, 1861</p> <p>Subfamily Cicadellinae Van Duzee, 1916</p> <p>Genus <i>Graphocephala</i> Van Duzee, 1916</p> <p><i>fennahi</i> Young 1977</p> <p>Genus <i>Cicadella</i> Latreille, 1817</p> <p><i>viridis</i> (Linnaeus 1758)</p> <p>Genus <i>Evacanthus</i> Le Peletier & Serville, 1825</p> <p><i>interruptus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)</p> <p><i>acuminatus</i> (Fabricius 1794)</p> <p>Subfamily Deltocephalinae Dallas, 1870</p>	<p>Subfamily Dorycephalinae Oman, 1943</p> <p>Genus <i>Eupelix</i> Germar, 1821</p> <p><i>cuspidata</i> (Fabricius 1775)</p> <p>Subfamily Iassininae Walker, 1870</p> <p>Genus <i>Batracomorphus</i> Lewis, 1834</p> <p>Genus <i>Iassus</i> Fabricius, 1803</p> <p>Subfamily Idiocerinae Baker, 1915</p> <p>Subfamily Ledrinae Kirschbaum, 1868</p> <p>Genus <i>Ledra</i> Fabricius, 1803</p> <p><i>aurita</i> (Linnaeus 1758)</p> <p>Subfamily Macropsinae Evans, 1935</p> <p>Genus <i>Hephathus</i> Ribaut, 1952</p> <p><i>nanus</i> (Herrich-Schaeffer 1836)</p> <p>Genus <i>Macropsis</i> Lewis, 1834</p> <p>Genus <i>Oncopsis</i> Burmeister, 1838</p> <p>Genus <i>Pediopsis</i> Burmeister, 1838</p> <p><i>tiliae</i> (Germar 1831)</p> <p>Subfamily Megophthalminae Kirkaldy, 1906</p> <p>Genus <i>Megophthalmus</i> Curtis, 1833</p> <p>Subfamily Typhlocybinae Kirschbaum, 1868</p> <p>Subfamily Ulopinae Le Peletier & Serville, 1825</p> <p>Genus <i>Ulopa</i> Fallen, 1814</p> <p><i>reticulata</i> (Fabricius 1794)</p> <p>Genus <i>Utecha</i> Emeljanov, 1996</p> <p><i>trivia</i> Germar 1821</p>
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Is my bug in family Cicadellidae?

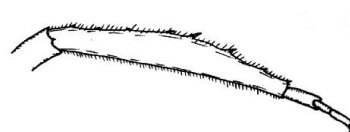


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Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Volume 2, Part 2(a)

Family Cicadellidae

Key to British subfamilies and some genera

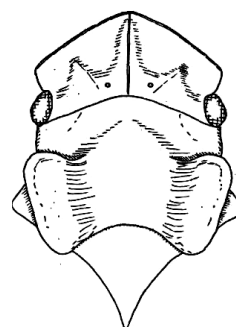
- 1 Posterior tibiae strongly flattened. Pronotum with ear-like projections. Overall length 13-18 mm.



..... Subfamily **Ledrinae**

One species, ***Ledra aurita***. Spines of posterior tibiae rather weak and few in number. Front wings with strong punctures in the basal two thirds, becoming rather weak and scattered towards the tip. In woodlands, especially amongst lichens on oak. S. & C. England, as far north as Herefordshire and Norfolk. The largest British species of the family.

See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Ledra_aurita.html

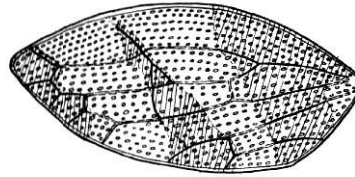


Posterior tibiae not or less distinctly flattened. Pronotum without projections. Overall length less than 13 mm. 2

- 2 Tip of hind femora without spines; hind tibiae with poorly developed spines. Front wings rather horny with distinct punctures throughout.

..... [Subfamily Ulopinae](#)

Two genera each with a single species.



Hind tibiae and tip of hind femora with strongly developed spines. Front wings without distinct punctures or with it only at base.[3](#)

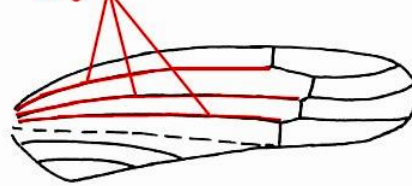


- 3 Wings fully formed, with the three veins of the corium of the front wing neither forked nor linked by cross-veins in basal two thirds.

..... **Subfamily Typhlocybinae**

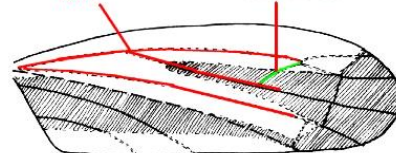
Overall length less than 5.5 mm. One of the two large British subfamilies.

These three veins are unbranched till well into the apical half of the wing



Wings fully formed or conspicuously shortened. If the front wings are longer than the abdomen, the veins of corium have at least one fork and one cross vein in the basal two thirds.4

fork cross vein



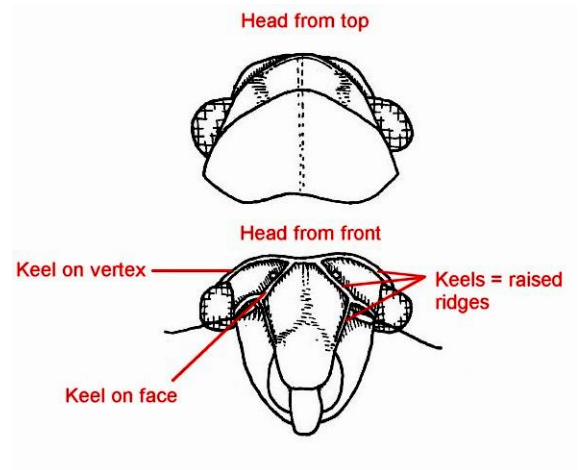
- 4 Two strongly developed keels on vertex forming X with keels of face; vertex without median keel.

..... Subfamily **Megophthalminae**

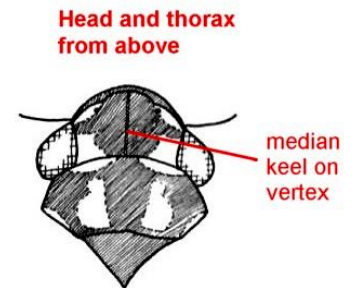
One genus, ***Megophthalmus*** with 2 species.

See

http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Megophthalmus_scabripennis.html



Keels of the vertex, if present not forming an X-pattern with keels of face; vertex with a median keel.5

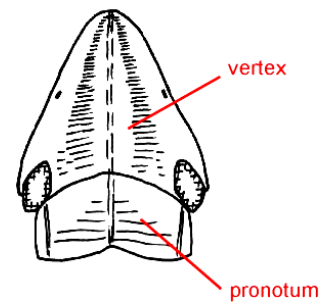


- 5 Vertex wrapped around the eyes at the front; viewed from above the vertex is more than twice as long as pronotum.

Subfamily **Dorycephalinae**

One species, ***Eupelix cuspidata***

http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Eupelix_cuspidata.html



Vertex not curved round in front of the eyes to encompass them; vertex less than twice as long as pronotum. 6

6 Ocelli on vertex or transition between vertex and face.7
Thus on the top of the head, either before or on the angle to the front of the head

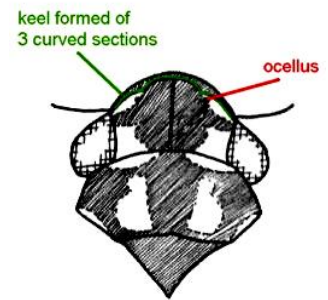
Ocelli definitely on the face. 10
Thus on the front of the head



- 7 Front of vertex with keel formed in three arcs just in front of ocelli.

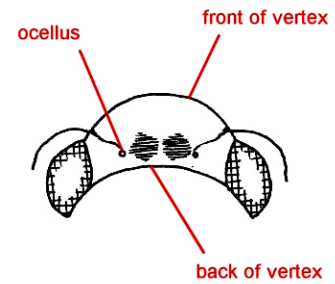
..... [Subfamily Cicadellinae](#)

One genus keys here which was formerly classified in a separate subfamily Evacanthinae. This is genus ***Evacanthus***, with 2 species. Ocelli on vertex, nearer the front margin.



Vertex without a keel made of three curved sections. [8](#)

- 8 Ocelli nearer the rear margin than to the front of the vertex, approximately level with the front margin of the eyes.
 [Subfamily Cicadellinae](#)
 2 genera, 2 species.

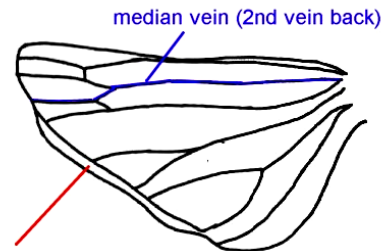
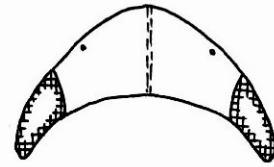


Ocelli on vertex, considerably in front of eyes or on passage between vertex and face.9

- 9 Ocelli clearly on vertex, just behind the front margin (the position of the ocellus can best be judged when the head is in side view, rather than from above). Vertex more or less sharply differentiated from face. In long-winged species, the peripheral vein of hind wings only extends to median vein. Genital plates of male narrow, curved upwards towards the tip.

..... Subfamily Aphrodinae

4 genera with 14 species

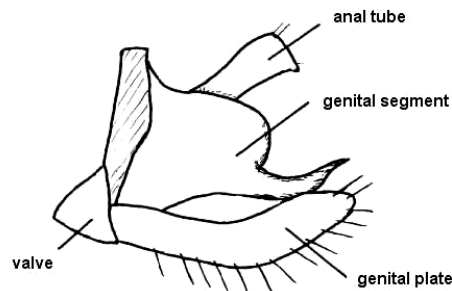
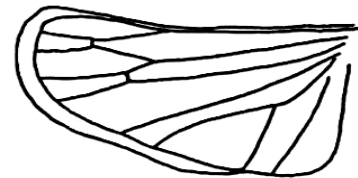


Appendix = a further piece of wing membrane beyond where the other veins stop

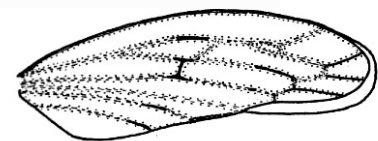
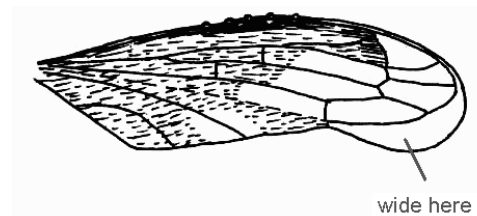
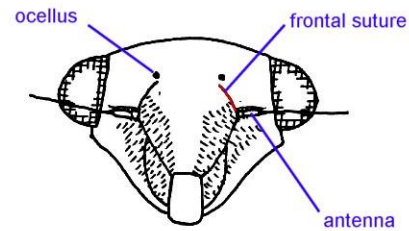
Ocelli on transition between vertex and face; vertex and face sometimes broadly rounded into each other. In long-winged species, the peripheral vein of the hind wings is complete. Genital plates of male flat, more or less triangular.

..... Subfamily Deltocephalinae

One of the two large subfamilies in Britain.



- 10 Face with a well-defined frontal suture
each side running from the base of the
antenna almost to the ocelli.
Membrane of the front wings wide
(except in *Rhytidodus decimusquartus*)
..... Subfamily **Idiocerinae**
8 genera, formerly combined within genus,
Idiocerus with 21 species



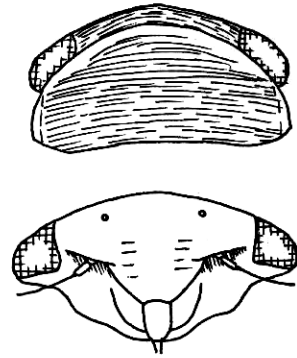
Rhytidodus decimusquartus

Frontal suture above antennal ridge of face either indistinct or not
reaching more than half way from the base of the antenna to the ocelli.
Membrane of the front wings narrow. 11

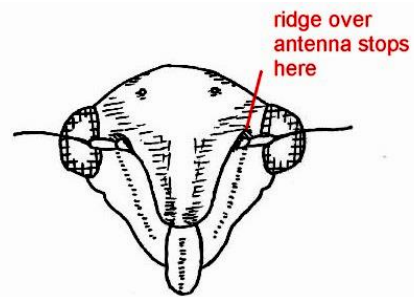
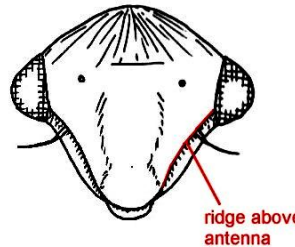
- 11 Face with a well-developed ridge over the base of the antennae, extending from close to the eye to the frontoclypeus, at a slight angle to the horizontal. Sides of pronotum with a strong keel and about as long as or longer than the rear margin of eye. Tip of the front and middle femora with two spines.

..... [Subfamily Iassinae](#)

Two genera each with two species.



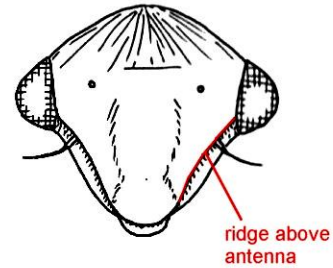
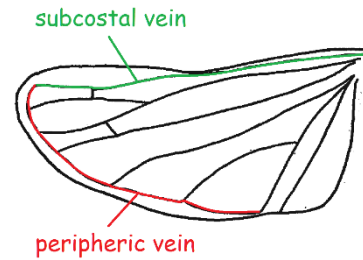
Ridge above the antennae either at considerable angle from horizontal or weak and not reaching the eye. Sides of the pronotum without a keel and much shorter than the rear margin of eye. Tip of the front and middle femora without spines.[12](#)



- 12 Ridge above antennae well-defined and prominent, reaching eye without considerable change in direction. Wings always fully formed with the peripheric vein of the hind wing ending at the subcostal vein.

..... [Subfamily Macropsinae](#)

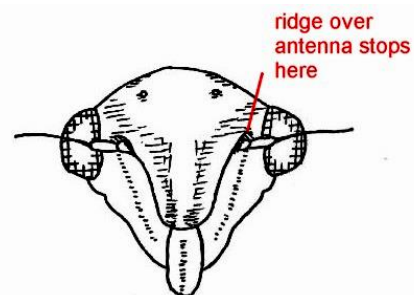
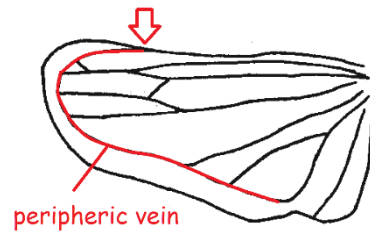
4 genera, 23 species



Ridge above antennae weakly defined, not reaching the eye; Wings either conspicuously shortened or with the peripheric vein of the hind wing ending on the front margin of the wing.

..... [Subfamily Agalliinae](#)

4 genera, 7 species

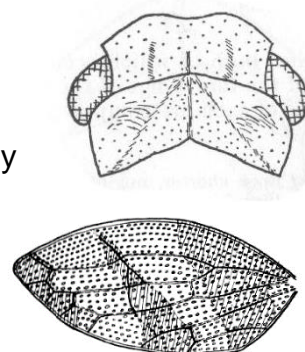


Subfamily Ulopinae

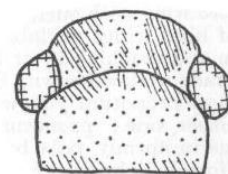
- 1 Front margin of the vertex with a rather variable depression or flattening. Front wings in both sexes grey-brown with two transverse whitish bands and sometimes also a third at extreme base; veins brown or black-brown, whitish in areas of transverse bands. Postclypeus strongly convex; face orange-brown, vertex with fine punctures, brownish with two darker patches medially; pale raised median line present posteriorly. Pronotum whitish, with coarse dark punctures, often with broad red-brown transverse streak, with two darker depressed areas towards lateral margins. Scutellum brownish, often darker at anterior angles, with strong transverse impression. Front wings with coarse punctures; hind wings absent. Overall length: 3.3-3.7 mm.

..... *Ulopa reticulata*

Common and widely distributed, under *Erica* and *Calluna*. Found almost all year.
See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Ulopa_reticulata.html



Front margin of vertex convex throughout. Front wings of male yellowish white with dark streak in clavus roughly parallel to inner margin and narrower dark streaks along radial and cubital veins; in female, the front wings are uniformly dull straw-coloured except for some darker mottling along some of the veins; in fully-winged females the veins are darker brown. In male, face yellow-brown with two triangular blackish patches above base of antennae; vertex yellowish, with two large blackish patches; pronotum yellowish, with blackish markings anteriorly and posteriorly; scutellum yellowish with anterior corners blackish. In female, face and fore body brownish with punctures rather darker except, (in short-winged forms), for the middle and rear of the pronotum, where the coarse punctures are the same colour as the rest of the pronotum. Front wings of short-winged forms with coarse punctures which are the same colour as adjacent areas; in fully-winged forms, the punctures are weaker or absent in median and cubital cells and in apical half of the front wing. Overall length: males, 2.5-2.9 mm.; short-winged females, 3.1-3.4 mm.; fully-winged females, 3.6 mm.



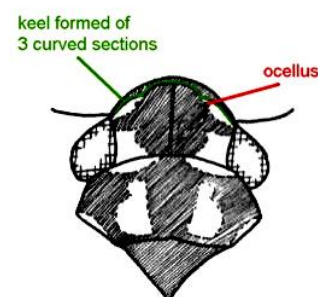
..... *Utecha trivialis*

Very local and classified as **Notable B**. On calcareous hillsides and in sandy coastal localities, probably associated with *Echium*. Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Dorset. April, June, August to October.
See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Ulopa_trivia.html



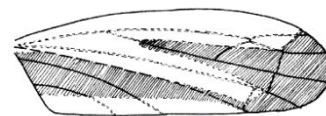
Subfamily **Cicadellinae**

- 1 Front of vertex with keel formed in three arcs just in front of ocelli. Genus *Evacanthus*.2



- Vertex without a keel made of three curved sections.3

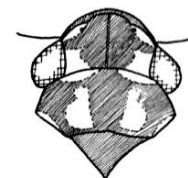
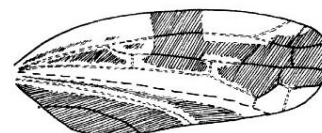
- 2 Front wings bright yellow and black (black markings rarely absent), inner margin with a more or less broad yellow band (note that the yellow fades after death). Pronotum black, often with a broad pale longitudinal median band, at least posteriorly. Scutellum pale, often darker in anterior corners. Face light yellowish, frontoclypeus often with thin dark transverse lines at sides. Vertex black with small yellowish patches anterior to ocelli and in posterior corners next to eyes; other pale markings variable, longitudinal median band sometimes present. In male, front wings usually longer than abdomen; in female, usually distinctly shorter than abdomen. Abdomen black above, often with dorsal longitudinal yellow band. Overall length: males, 5.3-5.8 mm.; females, 6.3-6.5 mm.



..... ***Evacanthus interruptus***

Common on grasses, also on bushes, common. England. Wales. Scotland. Ireland. June to October. See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Evacanthus_interruptus.html

Front wings greyish with dark brown or black patches, inner margin dark, except often narrowly on raised edge. Pronotum and scutellum blackish often with lighter patches on either side of black longitudinal band. Face light brownish, frontoclypeus with thin dark transverse bands at the sides, sometimes united to form large blackish area. Vertex black with variable light brownish markings. In male, front wings roughly as long as abdomen; in female, front wings shorter than abdomen. Overall length: males, 5.1-5.6 mm.; females, 5.5-6.8 mm.).



..... ***Evacanthus acuminatus***

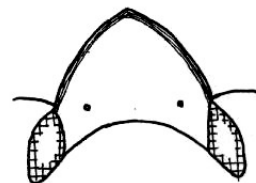
Common on grasses, also on bushes. England, as far north as Yorkshire. Wales. Ireland. Europe. Siberia. Caucasus. N. America. See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Evacanthus_acuminatus.html

- 3 Vertex acutely angled at the front. Front wings green, streaked with red. Abdomen red above.

..... Genus ***Graphocephala***

Graphocephala fennahi – associated with rhododendrons.

See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Graphocephala_fennahi.html

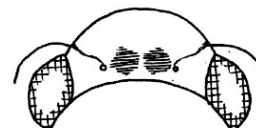


Vertex broadly rounded at the front. Front wings largely green or purplish-brown, not marked with red. Abdomen blackish.

..... Genus ***Cicadella***

Cicadella viridis – a common species on grasses in marshy places.

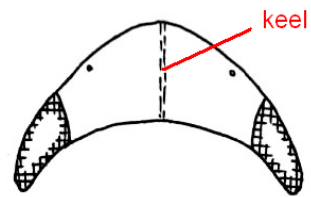
See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Cicadella_viridis.html



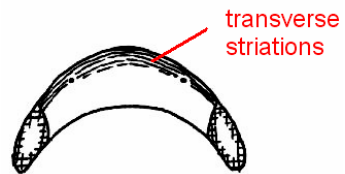
NOTE: A second species ***Cicadella lasiocarpae*** has been recently found in Britain, associated with the sedge *Carex lasiocarpa*. It appears to be widespread in Ireland and more common in northern and western Britain where the food-plant is commoner. According to Tishechkin (2000) the best characters for differentiating the species are in the male and female genitalia. It was first reported from Britain by Le Quesne (1987) Entomologist's Gazette, 38:87-89.

Subfamily Aphrodinae

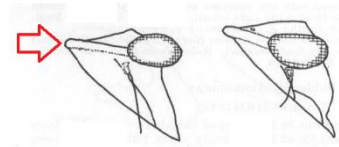
- 1 Vertex with a median keel, not transversely striated.2



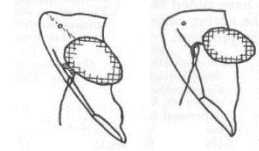
Vertex without median keel, transversely striated towards the front.
..... Genus ***Stroggylocephalus***
Two local species of marshy areas.



- 2 Front margin of the vertex sharply defined,
rounded at least narrowly as the front tibia.3

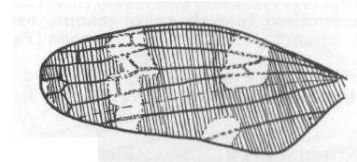


Front margin of the vertex broadly rounded, less
sharply so than the front tibia.
..... Genus **Anoscopus**



- 3 Cells of the front wings wrinkled, not distinctly tuberculate. Overall length: males 5.0-6.5 mm.; female 5.9-7.8 mm. Frontoclypeus vertically wrinkled, at least in the middle. In the male the front wing has no white transverse bands.
..... Genus ***Aphrodes***

Cells of front wings finely tuberculate. Overall length: males at most 5.0 mm; females usually less than 5.9 mm. Frontoclypeus smooth or finely punctured, without vertical wrinkles. In males the front wing is dark with whitish transverse bands.
..... Genus ***Planaphrodes***



Subfamily **lassinae**

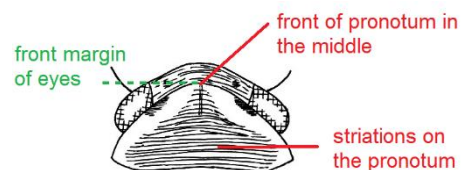
- 1 Tip of hind femora with five spines.
..... Genus ***Batracomorphus***

Tip of hind femora with three spines.
..... Genus ***lassus***



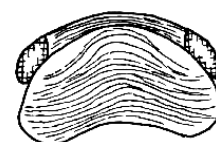
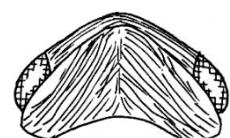
Subfamily **Macropsinae**

- 1 Striations of pronotum roughly parallel to its rear margin, at least towards the back. Front margin of the pronotum in the middle about level with the front margin of the eyes.
..... Genus ***Oncopsis***.



Striations of pronotum oblique compared to the rear margin, even towards the back. Front margin of the pronotum extending forwards considerably in front of the front margin of eyes.2

Note that in *Hephathus nanus* the striations are only weakly oblique and the front of the pronotum only slightly in front of the front of the eyes.



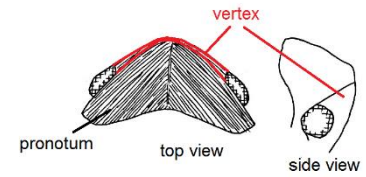
Hephathus nanus

- 2 Viewed from above the vertex is hardly visible in the middle. Viewed from the side the vertex is on a lower level than the front of the pronotum.

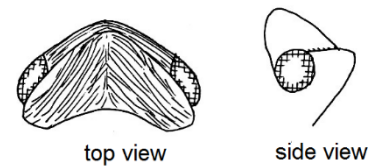
..... ***Pediopsis tiliae***

On limes (*Tilia*); classified as a Notable B species. Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire, Dorset. June to September. See

http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Pediopsis_tiliae.html



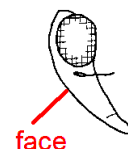
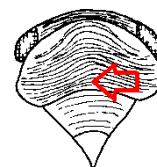
Vertex narrow, but distinct in centre, at a higher level than the front of the pronotum.3



- 3 Front wing 2.2-2.8 mm. long, with the cells milky transparent and veins brown, at least in the apical part. Striations of the pronotum rather weakly oblique in relation to its posterior margin (direction rather variable from one specimen to mother). Face in side view uniformly curved throughout. Male genital segment without appendage emanating from ventral margin.

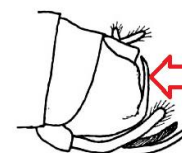
..... ***Hephathus nanus***

Face with oblique striations in upper part, black or black-brown with variable yellowish brown areas, particularly an oval patch towards lower margin of frontoclypeus and often a roughly square area between ocelli and upper margin of face. Vertex yellowish-brown posteriorly, anteriorly more or less extensively black-brown, at least at sides. Pronotum yellowish-brown, usually with two narrow black-brown patches along anterior margin, often with extensive dark area medially. Scutellum yellowish-brown with two black triangles basally, often with other dark markings medially, sometimes filling whole area between them. Legs pale, anterior femora dark basally, a black dot at base of each tibia. Overall length: males, 2.8-3.2 mm.; females 3.0-3.5 mm. In short grass in dry places. Classified as a Notable B species. Records from Surrey, Sussex, Kent and the Isle of Wight. July to August.



Front wings at least 2.9 mm. long, with the cells not milky transparent, but more or less tinged green or brown, at least near the veins. Striations of pronotum more strongly oblique in relation to its posterior margin. Face in side view somewhat flattened in middle, sharply curved towards upper margin. Male genital segment with an appendage arising from the ventral margin, bent upwards and ending in a point.

..... Genus ***Macropsis***



Subfamily **Agalliinae**

- 1 Clavus dark. Pronotum with broad dark stripes. Face with dark lateral stripes adjacent to the eyes.

..... ***Dryodurgades antoniae***

A very recent arrival in England, associated with broom. It was found at two sites in Essex during 2008 and 2009. Length 4.5-5.0 mm. See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Dryodurgades_antoniae.html.

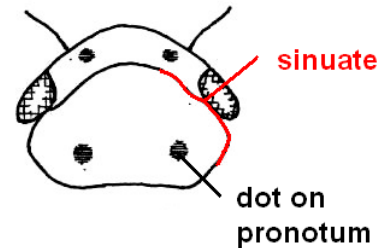
Not as above.2



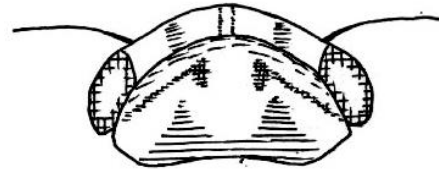
- 2 Posterior margin of vertex strongly sinuate behind eyes. Pronotum pale with two round black spots towards posterior margin, otherwise without distinct markings.

..... ***Austroagallia sinuata***

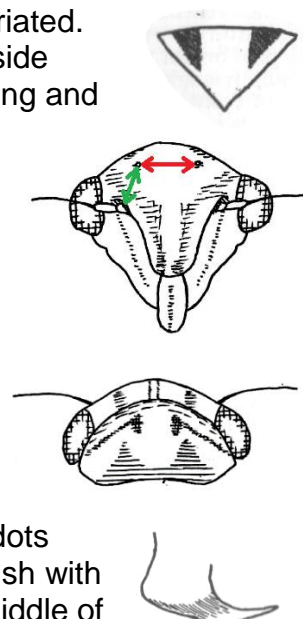
Face yellowish, with six brown lines, sometimes indistinct, two parallel median ones in upper part, two directed from their lower margin towards antennae and two curved lines parallel to sides in lower part of frontoclypeus; distance between ocelli about equal to that between ocellus and base of corresponding antenna. Vertex yellowish with two large round black spots and two parallel median brown lines, latter sometimes indistinct. Pronotum yellowish, with two round black spots, sometimes suffused brownish anteriorly. Scutellum yellowish, often with pair of black points along base. Fore wings pale yellow-brown with veins of corium darker; clavus with veins pale, and darker brown streaks between them. Hind wings rather milky. Abdomen black, sometimes yellowish between apical terga. Overall length: male, 2.6-3.1 mm.; female, 2.9-3.8 mm. **Very few records** from SW England and the Channel Isles from *Parietaria*; in Channel Isles on sand-dunes.



Posterior margin of vertex not sinuate or very gently sinuate behind the eyes. Pronotum not marked with round black spots only, sometimes with two black patches along anterior margin.3



- 3 Pronotum with a leathery texture but not minutely striated. Scutellum with black triangles at base remote from side margins. Face yellowish, with some brownish mottling and two parallel lines medially in upper part of frontoclypeus; distance between ocelli nearly twice that between ocellus and base of corresponding antenna (doesn't fit the illustration). Vertex with two large black spots and two more or less distinct brown median lines. Pronotum yellowish, sometimes with two small black dots anteriorly and with brownish markings tending to form a narrow median triangle and two broader triangles at sides, their bases approaching each other towards posterior margin. Scutellum yellow, sometimes mottled brownish; median transverse scar and two dots anterior to it sometimes blackish. Fore wings yellowish with veins of corium black-brown in apical half; cells in middle of corium often broadly dark-edged; veins of clavus and those of basal part of corium whitish, with more or less developed brownish streaks between. Abdomen blackish, often paler posteriorly in female. In male, anal tube with large hook-like appendages on lower margin. Overall length: male, 3.4-3.7 mm.; female, 3.4-4.0 mm.



..... ***Agallia consobrina***

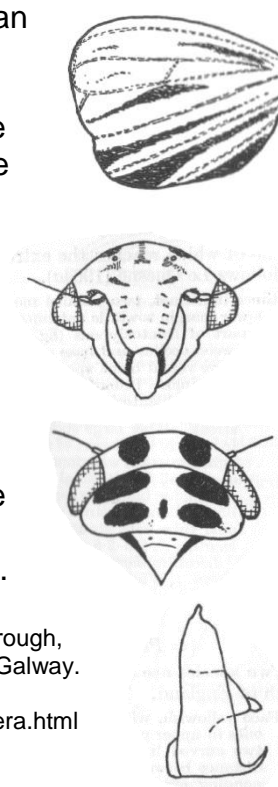
Common among low plants. England. Wales. Scotland. February, April to May, July to November.
See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Agallia_consobrina.html

Pronotum with minute transverse striations, without a leathery texture.
Scutellum with black markings at base against side margins.4

- 4 Brachypterous (short-winged) with front wings less than half as long as abdomen; front wings with veins and corio-claval suture pale throughout, dark streaks present between veins. Head yellow-brown with large blackish spots across junction of vertex with face; face with median streak, rather large spots between ocelli and antennae and curved lines parallel to sides in lower part of frontoclypeus black or black-brown. Pronotum light brownish with four large blackish spots transversely in two pairs, sometimes also small longitudinal median dash. Scutellum brownish, unmarked except for black corners basally. Abdomen light brownish with a narrow dark brown band towards apex of each tergum. In male, anal tube with a stout spine-like projection on lower margin. Overall length: male, 2.3-2.8 mm.; female 2.6-3.4 mm.

..... ***Agallia brachyptera***

Local, in marshy places, also on cliffs. England: Bridlington and Scarborough, Yorkshire; Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire. Ireland: County Cork, County Galway. June to August. Long-winged form once reported from Germany. See http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/homoptera/Cicadellidae/Agallia_brachyptera.html



Front wings reaching the apex of abdomen or beyond, with the first anal vein and the corio-claval suture brown towards the base. In females and lightly marked males, face pale brown with two round black spots at transition with vertex and occasionally triangular black spots between these and eyes, some black dots on lower part of frontoclypeus and some brownish streaks; in darker males, face with extensive more or less confluent black markings, especially on lower part. Vertex with black or brown, sometimes double, median streak. Pronotum brownish, with two black spots or patches anteriorly, often black median line and spots posteriorly, these sometimes joined to form extensive patches. Scutellum with black triangles in each corner at base, sometimes with other black markings, occasionally almost wholly black. Veins of front wings largely brownish or black-brown and often with dark streaks along inner margin. Anal tube terminating in two appendages).

..... Genus ***Anaceratagallia***

