I still need to see specimens and get photos of some species before I can finish this. If you use this, please tell me how you get on: mgobc@yahoo.com.

Sitonas and Tanymecus. This group includes Sitona, Andrion, Charagmus, and Coelositona (the tribe of Sitonini) and Tanymecus palliatus. The combination of large eyes, rather straight sided and narrow elytra, and short antennae distinguishes Sitonas form other broad-nosed weevils. Tanymecus palliatus is similar in shape, but it has longer antennae, long bristly cheeks, and it is larger than most Sitonas.

All the Sitonas feed on legumes (Fabaceae). Some are found only on gorse Ulex and broom Cytisus; others have a preference for vetches Lathyrus and Vicia; for clovers Trifolium; or for bird’s foot trefoils Lotus. Although the different foodplants are often found together, it is worth remembering that any Sitona that falls out of a gorse or broom bush is likely to be Andrion regensteinense or Sitona striatellus until proved otherwise. Another useful guide is that Sitona lineatus is abundant and ubiquitous. Unless you are beating gorse or broom, it is a good starting point to assume that what you have found is lineatus and then either confirm this or eliminate it and move on to consider other species. This is not an easy group without a good set of reference specimens, but fresh, fully scaled weevils are not as hard to name once you are familiar with them. Often you will have a worn specimen, and then things get more troublesome. The shape of the eyes and the elytra are useful characters when scales have worn away, as is the underlying pattern of pits and the spaces between them, especially on the head and pronotum.

I have split the Sitonas into four groups. The difference between the extremes of bristliness in Group 3 and Group 4 is slight but there are other characters that distinguish the species, and lineatus is included in both. Insets next to the Sitonas show a 0.5mm square patch of the elytra at or near the tip.

### Sitonas

**Group 1.** The distinctive Charagmus griseus and gessorius; and the species with only hair-scales (no flat round scales). Coelositona cambricus, cinerascens, puberulus, Sitona gemellatus.

**Group 2.** Bristly species with erect hair-scales. Some of these are obviously bristly, even under a hand lens, but others have shorter bristles and need to be looked at more closely. Andrion regensteinense, Sitona hispidulus, macularius, striatellus, ambiguus, lineellus (plus lineatus for comparison).

**Group 3.** Species with almost flat hair-scales and broad flat round scales. Sitona lineatus, cyclindricollis, ononidis, suturalis, humeralis, sulcifrons.

**Group 4.** Species with almost flat hair-scales and narrow flat round scales. Sitona lepidus, puncticollis.

### Tanymecus palliatus

On a range of plants. Widespread but scarce in England, Wales, and southern Scotland. 7.5-10.0 Longer antennae than Sitonas. Has unique long bristles on the side of the pronotum, creating whiskers behind the cheeks.
**Group 1.** Large and distinctive species with blackish legs. Distinctive because they have **hair-scales only**, no flat oval or round scales; or **they are griseus**, which is strikingly white below, has a long tapering rostrum, raised alternate ridges down the elytra, and a pom-pom of scales on the scutellum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Densely covered with round scales</th>
<th>Hair-scales only, no round or oval scales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charaagmus griseus</strong></td>
<td><strong>Coelositona cambricus</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Legumes.** Mostly coastal or on inland sand.  
  4.5-8.5  
  A beautiful and distinctive species. The clear ridges on odd interstices are shared only with the very different **waterhousei**. **Charaagmus gressorius** has recently been found on lupins in Britain. It has an even longer, narrower rostrum, and it can be recognised by a clear white stripe down the centre of the pronotum.

- **Legumes in sandy places and undercliffs.** Very rare.  
  4.0-5.0  
  Pronotum slightly swollen near the front, sides much **less rounded** than in cambricus or puberulus. Pits on elytra shallower and blunter than cambricus or puberulus, surface duller. Pronotum microscopically **reticulate** and **dull** between pits (smooth and glossy in cambricus and puberulus).

- **Lotus pedunculatus.** Widespread.  
  4.0-5.5  
  Pronotum with sides very rounded and swollen, pinched in at the base. Hairs on pronotum recurved, hardly erect. Faint ridges along rostrum almost **converge** at the pit between the eyes. Rostrum more swollen at the tip than in puberulus, so it has a broader end. Antennae usually blackish, but occasionally brown.

- **Lotus.** Very rare.  
  4.0-5.5  
  Slightly less swollen pronotum than cambricus, hairs on pronotum more erect, forward pointing. Antennae brown with dark tip. Faint ridges along rostrum groove are **parallel** to it. Eyes more bulging and rounded than cambricus.

- **Lotus glaber.** Rare.  
  4.3-5.9  
  Pronotum slightly more swollen near the front, sides much **less rounded** than in cambricus or puberulus. Pits on elytra shallower and blunter than cambricus or puberulus, surface duller. Pronotum microscopically **reticulate** and **dull** between pits (smooth and glossy in cambricus and puberulus).
**Group 2** Bristly species with **leaning or erect hair scales**. They are presented here in decreasing order of bristliness, and the first three are easily recognised as having long or very long bristles. They are distinct in other ways too: *regensteinense* has a spider-like shape and long legs; *hispidulus* has large but very flat eyes; and *waterhousei* has the most bulging eyes of any *Sitona*. *Sitona macularius* is obviously bristly, like *waterhousei*, but the difference between the last three (*striatellus*, *ambiguus*, and *lineellus*) and the remaining Sitonas is not so obvious because the hair-scales of *lineatus* and other species are recurved or slightly leaning towards the tip of the elytra, and they can look bristly. If you are unsure, note that *striatellus*, *ambiguus*, and *lineellus* have more rounded eyes than the species in group 3 (apart from *sulcifrons*, which is distinctive in its raised eyes), and their leaning to erect hair-scales are sparser (sometimes a single row on an interstice), whereas the recurved to leaning hair-scales in group 3 tend to be denser (in rows of two or more).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very long bristles</th>
<th>Long bristles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Andrian regensteinense</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Andrian regensteinense" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona hispidulus</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Sitona hispidulus" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona waterhousei</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Sitona waterhousei" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ulex and Cytisus.** Very common. 3.0-6.0
Pronotum and elytra are more rounded than in other species, creating a cleft where they meet, and making a spider-like profile: other species look more flat-backed (compare *lineatus* profile below). The long legs and bristles are also distinctive.

**Legumes.** Very common. 2.8-4.6
Easily recognised amongst the bristly species by the almost flat eyes. *Sitona humeralis* and *suturalis* have flat eyes too, but they do not have long bristles.

**Lotus.** Southern, mostly coastal. Uncommon inland. 3.5-4.8
Forehead and rostrum flat to **concave** with a pit between **very rounded, wide eyes** that almost look stalked. The head shape is unique.
**Group 2 continued.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long bristles</th>
<th>Short bristles</th>
<th>Very short, recurved bristles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Sitona macularius</em></td>
<td><em>Sitona striatellus</em></td>
<td><em>Sitona lineatus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Legumes. Uncommon.**
  - **Ulex and Cytisus. Common.**
  - **Vetches.** Widespread but uncommon.
  - **Clovers and other legumes.** Mostly west coast, but scattered elsewhere.

**3.0-4.9**

Differs from the species to the right by its longer hair scales, more concave rostrum, and mottled elytra.

**2.8-4.7**

Slightly more erect hairs on elytra than *lineatus*, more bulging eyes, shorter elytra, larger pits on pronotum. **Metallic** scales.

Compare with *lineellus* and *ambiguus*.

**Vetches.** Widespread but uncommon.

**2.6-3.8**

Shares the sequined appearance and **metallic** scales with *striatellus*, but on average smaller, with shorter hair-scales (especially on head and pronotum), and slightly more bulging and more oval eyes (longer than wide).

Differs from *lineatus* by the same characters as *striatellus*, but the hair-scales of *ambiguus* are not so long, so the difference in bristliness is less apparent.

**Clovers and other legumes.** Mostly west coast, but scattered elsewhere.

**2.6-3.7**

**Dense** scales carpeting the surface, and they are not metallic, so it does not have the sequined look often found in *striatellus* and *lineellus*. The scales are more rounded and **blunter** than in *striatellus*, especially on the pronotum and the hair-scales are shorter. End of scape more **swollen**, especially on the **outer** edge, than in *ambiguus* and *striatellus*. Spaces between pits on head wider and smoother than in *ambiguus*.

Slightly more bulging eyes than *lineatus*, and more erect hair-scales, elytra slightly more curved at sides and usually shorter, and larger pits on pronotum.

**Legumes. Very common.**

**3.4-5.3**

Hair-scales much **shorter** than those of the long-bristled species. Differs from the short-bristled species by its **less bulging** eyes, smaller pits on the pronotum, and straighter-sided, **longer elytra**. The scales are usually brown or slightly metallic.

The difference in bristliness is apparent when compared carefully: the hair-scales of *lineatus* are less erect, more curved, and denser.
Group 3. Species with almost flat hair-scales and round or wide oval flat scales (5-6 scales across the wider interstices; if there are 7-10 scales across an interstice see group 4). The hair-scales are often recurved or leaning at the tip of the elytra, so check the eyes if you are unsure whether you have a bristly species (group 2) or not. *Sitona humeralis* and *sulcifrons* have eyes slightly raised above the level of the head, and the head and rostrum are depressed between the eyes, giving the head a crocodile-like shape different from the flat or slightly domed head of the other four.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eyes not raised above the level of the head</th>
<th>Eyes rounded</th>
<th>Eyes less rounded</th>
<th>Eyes almost flat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona lineatus</strong></td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona cylindricollis</strong></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona ononidis</strong></td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona suturalis</strong></td>
<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image12.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legumes.** Very common.

3.4-5.3

**Elytra striped** (alternate interstices with either white or dark hair-scales) or **plain**. Differs from *suturalis* and *ononidis*, by its more rounded eyes and narrower, longer elytra; from *cylindricollis* by its clear stripes without mottingling, and its more rounded eyes; from *humeralis* by its much rounder eyes; from *sulcifrons* by its straighter and longer elytra and denser covering of scales; and from both *sulcifrons* and *humeralis* by its flatter forehead.

**Elytra mottled** or with mottled stripes. Eyes flatter than *lineatus*, more rounded than *suturalis*. Elytra less rounded at sides than *suturalis*, and head less bull-necked. White scales on shoulders often forming pale patches more obvious than in *lineatus*. Grove reaches further back than in *lineatus*, but this is hard to see unless the scales have worn off.

**Melilotus.** Widespread in southern Britain.

3.6-5.0

**Elytra mottled** or with mottled stripes. Eyes flatter than *lineatus*, more rounded than *suturalis*. Elytra less rounded at sides than *suturalis*, and head less bull-necked. White scales on shoulders often forming pale patches more obvious than in *lineatus*. Grove reaches further back than in *lineatus*, but this is hard to see unless the scales have worn off.

**Ononis.** Scarce and scattered in England and Wales.

3.2-4.5

Differs from other species, by the same characters as *suturalis*. Very like *suturalis*, but the scales are not metallic, and it has no pale central stripe on the pronotum or a very faint one, much fainter than the side stripes.

**Vetches.** Widespread and common.

3.3-4.5

**Eyes flatter** than *lineatus* or *cylindricollis*, head wider and more **bull-necked**. Hair-scales very short and narrow, flat (not slightly recurved at tip of elytra like in *lineatus*). Has **metallic** scales (never metallic in *cylindricollis* or *humeralis*, rarely or only slightly metallic in *lineatus*). Shorter than *humeralis*, and the flat or slightly raised forehead between the eyes is clearly different from the depressed forehead of *humeralis* and *suturalis*. 


**Group 3 continued.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eyes raised above the level of the head; crocodile shape outline</th>
<th>Eyes almost flat</th>
<th>Eyes rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona humeralis</strong></td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitona sulcifrons</strong></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legumes.** Widespread in southern Britain, rare in the north.

**3.4-5.1**

Shares *crocodile head shape* with *sulcifrons*: the top of the eye is raised slightly above the head, which is depressed between the eyes and along the rostrum. **Eyes flatter** than *cylindricollis* and *lineatus*, and head more **swollen behind the eyes** (like bulging hamster cheeks). Longer elytra than *suturalis*, which has a flat or slightly domed forehead. Usual pattern is distinct: dark, plain area on centre of elytra and pale stripes on shoulders continuing as mottled pale bands down sides of elytra.

**Clovers.** Widespread and common.

**2.6-3.9**

Has *crocodile head shape* like humeralis. Otherwise it is unlike humeralis, and is easily distinguished by its rounded eyes, shorter elytra, and **sparse covering of scales**. **Eyes more rounded** than *suturalis*, which has a flat or slightly domed forehead. **Elytra shorter** than *lineatus* and *cylindricollis*.
Group 4. A pair of species with a dense covering of very narrow scales (7-10 across the wider interstices).

### Sitona lepidus

Clovers. Widespread and common.

4.3-5.7

Usually a rich cinnamon brown, warmer in tone than other Sitona species. Besides having narrower scales, it also differs from group 3 species by having only tiny pin-pricks on the head rather than real pits, and in having a broader, chunkier head and pronotum, and thicker antennae.

Third interstice widened at the tip, but the striae are weak at the tip, so this is hard to see (compare puncticollis, which has deep, parallel striae at the tip of the elytra).

### Sitona puncticollis

Clovers. Widespread but not common.

4.7-6.0

Differs from all other group 3 and 4 species by the very narrow, faint groove on the forehead ending in a tiny round pit like a large pin prick surrounded by a bare area free from scales, between the eyes (the groove of lepidus continues at least to the back of the eyes). The striae are deep and parallel to the tip of the elytra (third interstice weak and widened at the tip in lepidus).