

**Smicronyx.** Small weevils with **small claws, long, arched, narrow rostrums**, antennae with a **long scape**, inserted near the **tip** of the rostrum, **no tooth** on the femora, a **black** surface, a prominent **waist**, and wing-cases rather **rounded** to a narrower rear. *Cosmobaris scolopacea* is similarly patterned, but it has a wider and less rounded pronotum, so it lacks an obvious waist. Some *Tychius* or *Mecinus* may look similar, but they have larger pronotums.

Smicronyx = small claw.

Fresh specimens of *reichi* and *coecus* are more densely scaled than the ones shown here, so do not assume that your weevil is *jungermanniae* just because it is more scaled than the illustrations of the other two species: check the other characters.

<b>Smicronyx reichi</b>	reichi after Herr Reich
2.0-2.5 mm. Southern England only, uncommon and scattered. <b>Scarce.</b>	
Pronotum with low raised <b>warts</b> , appearing <b>granulated</b> .	
The specific name presumably commemorates Godofredo Christiano Reich, who described the other two species here.	
Feeds on Common Centaury <i>Centaureum erythraea</i> , and perhaps Yellow-wort <i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i> .	
<b>Smicronyx jungermanniae</b>	jungermanniae after the liverwort <i>Jungermannia</i>
2.0-2.5 mm. Southern England only. <b>Scarce.</b>	
Pronotum with shallow <b>pits</b> . When fresh, the whole weevil is more densely scaled than <i>coecus</i> , and the scales are broader, especially on the pronotum.	
The most frequently recorded member of the genus. Feeds in the stems of dodders <i>Cuscuta</i> . Often found on heathland, where Heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> is the host of Common Dodder <i>Cuscuta epithymum</i> . This weevil does not have any particular fondness for liverworts, but Reich described it from a specimen found under <i>Jungermannia</i> in winter	
<b>Smicronyx coecus</b>	cœcus = blind
2.0-2.5 mm. Southern England only. <b>Rare.</b>	
Pronotum with shallow <b>pits</b> . The pronotum scales are little more than short hairs, much smaller and narrower than the broad scales of <i>coecus</i> and <i>reichi</i> , and the pronotum appears smoother and more shiny. Always check the identification by looking at the claws: the front one on each foot is only <b>two thirds</b> as long as the rear one. The claws of the other two are all the same length.	
In similar places to <i>jungermanniae</i> , but much rarer. It too feeds on dodders <i>Cuscuta</i> . The specific name comes from Reich, who described the eyes as barely visible, but they are no less obvious than in other species.	

**Tanysphyrus.** Not closely related to *Smicronyx*, but it is slightly similar in shape and pattern. It is easily recognised by its **broader** rostrum and its unique feet: the claw-bearing segment is more or less contained between the lobes of the previous segment, so the **feet** look **blunt** and stubby. Compare with *Anoplus*, which lacks the claw-bearing segment altogether, and has a still wider and more rounded rostrum, and is less waisted.

Tanysphyrus = long ankle, perhaps referring to the heart-shape segment of the tarsus, which is longer than the claw-bearing segment.

<b>Tanysphyrus lemnae</b>	lémnae after duckweed <i>Lemna</i>
1.5-2.0 mm. Common in England and Wales.	
See the introduction to the genus. The size, shape, and blunt feet are distinctive. The white scales form patches on the wing-cases and pronotum, but these wear off, leaving some weevils with a plain black surface. Conversely, the whole insect can sometimes be covered in fine dirt and appear brownish.	
This tiny weevil feeds on duckweeds <i>Lemna</i> . In summer, it can be found crawling on the surface of the plants as they float in the water, but most duckweeds die back and sink in the winter, and the weevils take to the	

land. The red-brown tibiae separate *lemnae* from *Tanysphyrus ater*, which is similar but has black legs. It feeds on the liverwort *Ricciocarpos natans*, and it has recently been found in Norfolk.



*Smicronyx reichi*



*Smicronyx jungermanniae*



*Smicronyx coecus*



*Tanysphyrus lemnae*

Main images × 20



*Smicronyx jungermanniae*. Common Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum*, one of the foodplants, is a parasite of various other plants, including Heather *Calluna vulgaris*.



*Tanysphyrus lemnae*. This tiny beetle feeds on duckweeds *Lemna*, themselves so small that you can scarcely believe they could host a larva. If you find any small weevil on these plants, suspect that it is this species.