

**Trachyploeini.** Small or medium weevils (2-5 mm) with erect **paddle scales** on the wing-cases. Compared to other broad-noses, these species are rather chunky, with **thick** antennae, especially the scape. [Compare](#) Some *Otiorhynchus* have paddle scales, but they are usually larger and they have longer and more slender antennae, and a relatively longer and narrower pronotum. *Brachysomus* and *Omiamima mollina* have more slender antennae, narrow oval or hair-like flat scales, and usually narrower pronotums and more rounded wing-cases. *Neliocarus* with paddle scales have beady eyes and a wedge-shape head.

These species live on or just under the ground. Many are active at night, but they can be found in the day by searching at the base of plants, by scraping around at the top of the soil or in moss, by sifting leaf litter, or by vacuum sampling. Look at the rostrum from slightly in front, especially if a specimen is set with its head bowed. Otherwise the antenna sockets and the true shape of the top may be hidden by the curvature of the rostrum. All species are often encrusted with soil, which can hide the structure and colour of the surface. This is especially true of *Trachyploeus spinimanus*, *digitalis*, and *alternans*, which may appear as though they are coated in a smooth layer of plaster. Romualdius, after Romuald Formánek, a Czech weevil expert; Trachyphlæus = rough bark; Cathormiocerus = beaded horn; Cænópsis = strange looking.

Guide to the groups 1. Look at the head from the side.



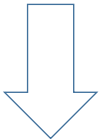
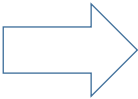
Caenopsis has shining, wrinkled cheeks, and eyes set further forward.







All the other genera have smooth or pitted cheeks, not so shining, and covered in part by scales. Their eyes are closer to the back of the head.



See Guide to groups 2 on next page

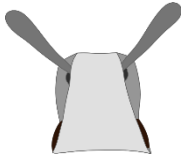

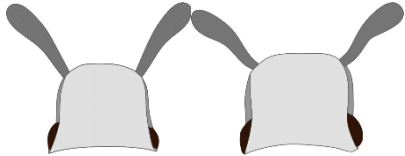
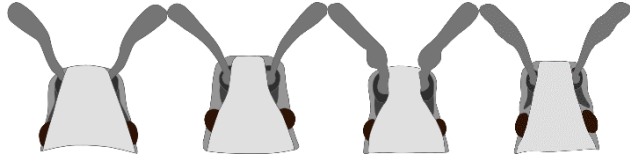




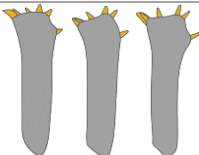
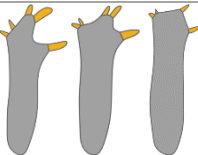






<b>Caenopsis.</b> Beady eyes and shining wrinkled cheeks distinguish these two species from those in the other genera. The eyes are <b>further forward</b> , close to the base of the antennae, <b>leaving long portion of head exposed behind</b> the eyes. The antennal scape is more slender than in other Trachyploeini. Rostrum shorter than in <i>Otiorhynchus</i> , and the eyes are smaller and beady. If in any doubt, check the side of the head for the wrinkles on the cheeks, which will identify your weevil as a <i>Caenopsis</i> .		
<b>Caenopsis waltoni</b>	<b>Caenopsis fissirostris</b>	Scarce
		
3.0-4.0 mm. Widespread in southern Britain, but very rare in northern England. Commonest in the south and west.		4.0-6.0 mm. Widespread but uncommon in England and Wales. 
<b>Humpty-dumpty</b> shape, tubbier than other Trachyploeini. <b>Smaller</b> and fatter than <i>fissirostris</i> , with a proportionally <b>wider and shorter</b> pronotum. It does not have the rhino horn or the keel on the pronotum, but size and shape alone will easily separate the two species.	<b>Larger</b> than <i>waltoni</i> . Pronotum proportionally <b>narrower and longer</b> , with a slight <b>keel</b> down the centre. Wing-cases longer and proportionally narrower. There is a slight bump across the centre of the rostrum at the base of the antennae, like a blunt rhino horn.	
<i>waltoni</i> , after John Walton, an British entomologist	<i>fissiróstris</i> = split rostrum	

All whole weevil images in main species accounts scale ×10.





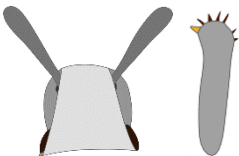
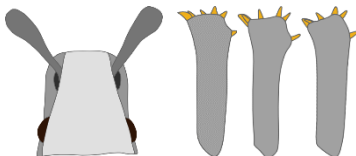
Guide to the groups 2

The remaining species have been placed in various genera in the past, depending on which characters were used to define each genus. The current arrangement works well, but *Trachyphloeus rectus* is in many ways as different from the other *Trachyphloeus* species as those species are from other genera, so I have placed it in a separate group.

	<i>Romualdius</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus rectus</i>	Other <i>Trachyphloeus</i>	<i>Cathormiocerus</i>
Head				
Scape	Almost straight, gradually widened.	Almost straight, swollen into a slight club.	Angled or bent, swollen into a slight or distinct club.	Angled or bent or slightly curved, gradually widened or with a distinct club. <b>Some with unusual shape.</b>
Antennal sockets	 <b>Partly visible</b> from above. <b>Scaled</b> and fading out before eyes.	<b>Partly visible</b> from above.	 <b>Hidden</b> from above. <b>Scaled</b> before eyes, disappearing just before the eyes.	 <b>Partly or mostly visible</b> from above. <b>Bare</b> and shining before eyes, extending to include the front of the eyes.
Rostrum	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed, <b>arching out</b> like a hippo nose.	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed.	Top <b>wide</b> , covering most of the sides.	Top <b>narrowing</b> or <b>constricted</b> from eyes to tip. Sides exposed.
Front tibia	 Rounded with a spur, fringe of <b>blackish</b> spines.	 Slightly <b>angled</b> or <b>slightly lobed</b> , with large yellow-brown spines.	 <b>Fingered</b> (female) or <b>angled</b> (male), with large yellow spines.	 <b>Rounded to a spur</b> , with a fringe of yellow-brown spines.
General features	Larger than most other species. Rather fat, with a <b>short but wide</b> pronotum, especially wide at the base. 	More <b>slender</b> than other <i>Trachyphloeus</i> . Pronotum and wing-cases more rounded at the sides, so the whole weevil looks more like a narrow figure of 8. Rostrum longer than other <i>Trachyphloeus</i> , and <b>narrower</b> on top, <b>exposing</b> part of the antenna sockets.	Top of rostrum <b>wide</b> , covering most of the sides. Plates behind rear legs on the underside of abdomen are covered in dull scales. 	Top of rostrum <b>narrower</b> than in <i>Trachyphloeus</i> , <b>exposing</b> more of the sides and the antenna sockets. Often mahogany brown wing-cases. Plates behind rear legs on the underside of abdomen are shining. 

Name changes

<i>Romualdius angustisetulus</i>	Included in <i>Trachyphloeus scaber</i> in Fowler (1891) Included in <i>Trachyphloeus bifoveolatus</i> in Joy (1932) <i>Trachyphloeus angustisetulus</i> in Morris (1997)	<i>Trachyphloeus rectus</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus laticollis</i> in Joy (1932) and Fowler (1891)	<i>Cathormiocerus aristatus</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus aristatus</i> in Morris (1997), Joy (1932), and Fowler (1891)
<i>Romualdius bifoveolatus</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus scaber</i> in Fowler (1891) <i>Trachyphloeus bifoveolatus</i> in Morris (1997)	<i>Cathormiocerus spinosus</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus olivieri</i> in Joy (1932) <i>Trachyphloeus squamulatus</i> in Fowler (1891) <i>Trachyphloeus asperatus</i> in Morris (1997)	<i>Cathormiocerus myrmecophilus</i>	Includes <i>Cathormiocerus britannicus</i>
				<i>Cathormiocerus socius</i>	Includes <i>Cathormiocerus maritimus</i>

<b>Romualdius.</b> Two <b>large</b> species with <b>wider</b> , but relatively <b>shorter</b> pronotums, almost <b>straight</b> scapes, and rostrum sides strongly arching out, like a <b>hippo-nose</b> . The tips of the front tibiae have a fringe of small <b>blackish</b> spines (yellow or brown spines in <i>Trachyphloeus</i> and <i>Cathormiocerus</i> ). The abdomen of both <i>Romualdius</i> spp looks larger and more <b>swollen</b> than in the other genera.			<b>Trachyphloeus rectus.</b> Although included in <i>Trachyphloeus</i> , this species differs by the longer rostrum, with a <b>narrower</b> top exposing more of the sides and some of the antenna sockets. It also has a <b>straighter</b> scape. The tip of front tibia is <b>not</b> strongly lobed in either sex.
<b>Romualdius angustisetulus</b>	<b>Romualdius bifoveolatus</b>	Scarce	<b>Trachyphloeus rectus</b> Very scarce
			
3.0-4.0 mm. Widespread as far north as southern Scotland. 			3.0-4.0 mm. Widespread as far north as southern Scotland. 
Head and right front tibia.			
Front tibiae	Rounded with a spur, fringe of <b>blackish</b> spines.	Rounded with a spur, fringe of <b>blackish</b> spines.	Slightly <b>angled</b> or slightly lobed, with large yellow-brown spines.
Scape	Almost straight, gradually widening.	Almost straight, gradually widening.	Almost straight, with a slightly swollen club.
Rostrum	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed, <b>arching out</b> .	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed, <b>arching out</b> .	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed.
Antenna sockets	Partly visible from above.	Partly visible from above.	Partly visible from above.
Pronotum	Much wider than long. Shallow groove down the middle. Indented front corners.	Much wider than long. Shallow groove down the middle. Indented front corners.	<b>No</b> groove, or a very faint one. Slightly indented front corners, rounded rear corners.
	Both <i>Romualdius</i> appear less spiky than <i>Trachyphloeus scabricul</i> or the <i>Cathormiocerus</i> spp. The <b>straighter antennae</b> , <b>fat</b> abdomen, <b>hippo-like</b> rostrum, and relatively <b>short</b> but very <b>wide</b> pronotum will distinguish them from other species. Unlike all the other species, they have a <b>slight groove</b> across the rostrum in front of the eyes, but this is often hidden by encrusted dirt.	Wing-cases less rounded at the sides than in <i>angustisetulus</i> , straighter and narrower at the front, so <b>shoulders</b> are <b>weaker</b> and <b>less rounded</b> . Eyes slightly <b>flatter</b> and longer, and paddle scales slightly larger and wider (more paddle shape than balloon shape).  Less commonly recorded than <i>angustisetulus</i> , but the two were much confused in the past. References to <i>bifoveolatus</i> in Britain before 1993 could refer to either species.	Top of rostrum more like that of <i>Romualdius</i> than other <i>Trachyphloeus</i> , but the sides do not arch out so much in front of the eyes. Front tibiae angled or only slightly lobed, <b>not</b> fingered, so they are unlikely to be confused with other female <i>Trachyphloeus</i> . Compared with both sexes of <i>Trachyphloeus scabricul</i> , the front corners of the pronotum are <b>not so indented</b> , the paddle scales are <b>smaller</b> , and the spines on the front tibiae are <b>weaker</b> . Pronotum and wing-cases more <b>slender</b> (longer in proportion to width) than other <i>Trachyphloeus</i> .  Differs from <i>Cathormiocerus spinosus</i> and <i>aristatus</i> by the more angled front tip of the tibiae, with <b>stouter</b> spines; the longer rostrum, more hidden antenna sockets, <b>scaled</b> in front of the eyes; and its more <b>slender</b> appearance.
	angustisētulus = slender bristles	bifoveolātus = two dimples	rectus = straight

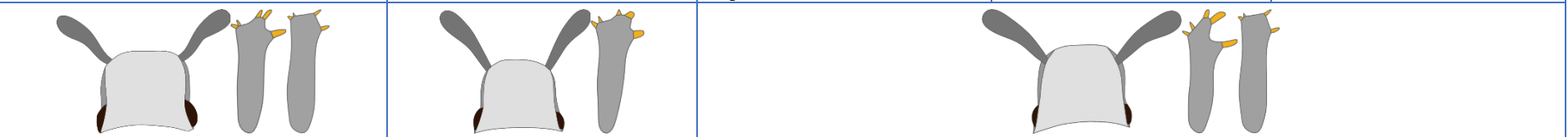
**Trachyploeus**. The top of the rostrum is **wide**, and it covers the antenna sockets and most of the sides from above. Scape slightly or strongly bent in the middle, with a club-like swollen tip. Females have lobed **fingers** at the end of the front tibia, males have an angled tip, with **wide** yellow or brown spines. So far only *Trachyploeus scabrical* males have been found in Britain: the other species can reproduce without males, and only females have been found. If you find a male (without fingers on the tibiae), you should rule out *scabrical* before considering any of the other species.

<i>Trachyploeus scabrical</i>	Scarce	<i>Trachyploeus heymesii</i>	Rare	<i>Trachyploeus spinimanus</i>	Rare	<i>Trachyploeus digitalis</i>	Rare	<i>Trachyploeus alternans</i>	Scarce
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2.5-3.0 mm. Widespread but uncommon in eastern England and south-east Scotland. Rare in the west and in Wales.	2.5-3.0 mm. So far known only from Anglesey.	2.0-3.0 mm. Scarce in southern and south-east England and East Anglia.	2.0-3.0 mm. Scattered but very rare in southern England.	2.0-3.0 mm. Widespread but uncommon in southern Britain. A few records further north.
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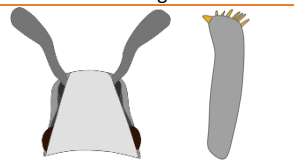
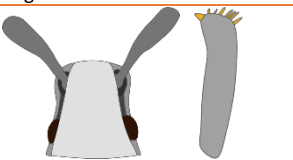
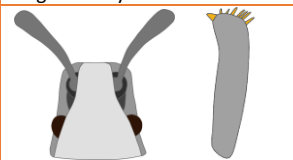
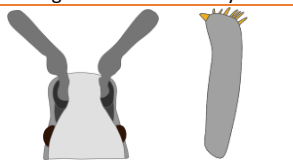
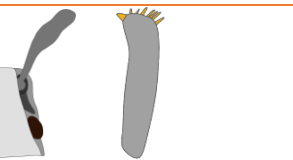
Head and right front tibia



Front tibiae	Fingered (female) or angled (male), with large yellow spines.	Fingered (female), with large yellow spines.	Widely and <b>deeply</b> fingered (female) or angled (male), with large yellow spines.	Widely and <b>deeply</b> fingered (female) or angled (male), with large yellow spines.	Widely and <b>deeply</b> fingered (female) or angled (male), with large yellow spines.
Scape	S-shape ( <b>curved at base</b> and bent in middle), like bike handlebars.	Bent in middle, straight at base.	Bent in middle, straight at base.	Bent in middle, straight at base.	Bent in middle, straight at base.
Rostrum	Top <b>flaring up and out</b> after the eyes, <b>concave</b> . Most of sides hidden from above.	Top very slightly flaring out after eyes, very slightly concave. Most of sides hidden from above.	Top almost straight from eyes to near the tip, almost flat. Most of sides hidden from above.	Top almost straight from eyes to near the tip, almost flat. Most of sides hidden from above.	Top almost straight from eyes to near the tip, almost flat. Most of sides hidden from above.
Antenna sockets	Hidden from above.	Hidden from above.	Hidden from above.	Hidden from above.	Hidden from above.
Pronotum	Wide, with a <b>shallow groove</b> down the middle. Front <b>and rear</b> corners <b>strongly</b> indented.	Wide, with a very faint, shallow groove down the middle. Front corners indented, rear corners very slightly indented.	Wide, <b>no</b> groove down the middle. Indented front corners.	Wide, <b>no</b> groove down the middle. Indented front corners.	Wide, <b>no</b> groove down the middle. Indented front corners.
	The <b>spikiest</b> of the <i>Trachyploeus</i> . Denser, larger, and more erect paddle scales than the other species. Two unique features are the strongly <b>concave</b> rostrum top, flaring up and <b>out</b> in front of the eyes; and the strongly <b>indented front and rear</b> corners of the pronotum. The <b>curved base</b> to the scape separates it from all other species apart from <i>Cathormiocerus spinosus</i> , which has more rounded corners on the pronotum; a narrower rostrum top; and weaker spines on the tip of the front tibiae. Wing-cases often more strongly mottled than in other <i>Trachyploeus</i> .	Somewhat intermediate between <i>scabrical</i> and <i>spinimanus</i> . It differs from <i>scabrical</i> by its flatter rostrum, only <b>slightly</b> wider in front of the eyes; the <b>straight base</b> of the scape; the slightly <b>smaller</b> paddle scales; and the less indented corners of the pronotum. From <i>spinimanus</i> and <i>digitalis</i> , it differs by the less deeply lobed front tibiae, denser paddle scales; and more slender antennae.	Compared with <i>heymesii</i> and <i>scabrical</i> , female front tibiae have a <b>wider and deeper gap</b> between the middle lobe and the outer one. In both sexes, the paddle scales of <i>spinimanus</i> are sparser; the rear corners of the pronotum are rounded rather than indented; and the antennae are thicker. The straight base to the scape further distinguishes it from <i>scabrical</i> . Usually encrusted in clay.	Differs from other species, by the same features as <i>spinimanus</i> . Very like <i>spinimanus</i> , but the paddle scales are shorter, more recurved, and confined to the <b>rear</b> part of the wing-cases.	Paddle scales on the wing-cases are on <b>alternate</b> rows only. In all other species, they are on every row. The paddle scales are also <b>larger</b> than those of <i>spinimanus</i> or <i>digitalis</i> .
	scábricul = rough	heymesii, after Paul Heymes	spinimánus = spiny hand	digitālis = fingered	altérnans = alternate



**Cathormiocerus.** The top of the rostrum is **narrower** than in *Trachyploeus*, so more of the sides and the antenna sockets are exposed. The front tibia is **rounded** to a **spur**, and has a fringe of **slender**, yellow or brown spines. The pronotum is often narrower than in *Trachyploeus* (the exception is *Cathormiocerus aristatus*). These weevils often have mahogany brown wing-cases unlike *Trachyploeus*, but all *Trachyploeini* are often encrusted with clay or soil that obscures the colour of the body.

	<i>Cathormiocerus spinosus</i> Scarce	<i>Cathormiocerus aristatus</i> Scarce	<i>Cathormiocerus myrmecophilus</i> Rare	<i>Cathormiocerus socius</i> Rare	<i>Cathormiocerus attaphilus</i> Rare
					
	2.5-3.0 mm. Widespread but uncommon in England and Wales.	2.5-3.0 mm. Widespread but uncommon in England and Wales.	2.5-3.0 mm. South coast counties of England only.	3.0-3.5 mm. South coast counties of England and Wales only.	3.5-4.5 mm. South Cornwall and Devon only.
Head and right front tibia					
Front tibiae	Rounded to a spur, with a fringe of yellow-brown spines.	Rounded to a spur, with a fringe of yellow-brown spines.	Rounded to a spur, with a fringe of yellow-brown spines.	Rounded to a spur, with a fringe of yellow-brown spines.	Rounded to a spur, with a fringe of yellow-brown spines.
Scape	S-shape ( <b>curved at base</b> and bent in middle), like bike handlebars.	Slightly curved or bent in middle, straight at base.	Slightly curved, straight at base. More slender than in other species.	Straight at base. Swollen <b>bead</b> at the base.	Straight at base. <b>Long</b> club.
Rostrum	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed.	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed.	Top narrowing from eyes to tip, <b>constricted</b> in front of eyes. Sides exposed.	Top narrowing from eyes to tip, <b>constricted</b> in front of eyes. Sides exposed.	Top narrowing from eyes to tip. Sides exposed.
Antenna sockets	<b>Partly</b> visible. <b>Angled inwards</b> between the base of the antenna and the eye.	<b>Partly</b> visible. More or less straight from the antenna to the eye.	Mostly visible.	Mostly visible.	Mostly visible.
Pronotum	No groove down the middle.	Faint or no groove down the middle, wider than other <i>Cathormiocerus</i> .	No groove down the middle.	No groove down the middle.	No groove down the middle. <b>Almost as long as wide.</b>
	The <b>s-shape scape</b> , curved at the base, is shared only with <i>Trachyploeus scabricul</i> . See <i>aristatus</i> : these two are the only <i>Cathormiocerus</i> spp known away from the south coasts of England and Wales, and they should be eliminated before considering any of the rare species.	This species and <i>spinosus</i> are by far the most widespread <i>Cathormiocerus</i> spp. In both <i>spinosus</i> and <i>aristatus</i> , the top of the rostrum covers more of the antennal socket and the sides than in the rarer species. <i>Cathormiocerus aristatus</i> has <b>larger paddle scales</b> and a <b>wider pronotum</b> than <i>spinosus</i> , and the outer edge of the antenna sockets is not angled inwards between the eye and the antenna. The antennae are s-shape in <i>spinosus</i> , slightly angled with a <b>straight base</b> in <i>aristatus</i> .	This species has a more <b>slender</b> and <b>evenly curved</b> scape than any of the other <i>Cathormiocerus</i> . It has a narrower pronotum than <i>aristatus</i> , and the <b>eyes</b> are more <b>rounded</b> and bulging than in <i>aristatus</i> or <i>spinosus</i> .  Slightly paler specimens with relatively narrower wing-cases were separated as <i>Cathormiocerus britannicus</i> . However, the two entities seem to merge into each other, and <i>britannicus</i> is no longer considered a separate species.	Easily identified by the swollen <b>bead</b> at the base of the club on the scape.  Pale specimens with more rounded eyes, shorter antennae, and less obvious pits on the wing-cases were called <i>Cathormiocerus maritimus</i> . These are now considered part of the variation within <i>myrmecophilus</i> .	The <b>largest</b> <i>Cathormiocerus</i> . The unique antenna shape alone should identify it: it has a <b>long</b> and more <b>abruptly swollen</b> club with slightly wavy edges, like a lumpy sausage. The pronotum is longer and more <b>rounded</b> than in the other species. The top of the rostrum is not so constricted after the eyes as it is in <i>myrmecophilus</i> and <i>socius</i> .
	spinōsus = spiny	aristātus = having ears of corn  Image by Udo Schmidt	myrmecōphilus = ant-loving	sócius = friend	attaphilus = loving <i>Atta</i> . The first specimens were found around a nest of the ant <i>Atta barbara</i> .



*Romualdius angustisetulus*



*Romualdius bifoveolatus*



*Trachyploeus scabricul* (female)



*Trachyploeus scabricul* (male)



*Trachyploeus heymesii* (female)



*Trachyploeus spinimanus* (female)



*Cathormiocerus spinosus*



*Cathormiocerus aristatus*  
Image by Udo Schmidt.

Scale ×16.

Full size copies of these images are in the Broad-noses album at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/84259756@N05/albums>. Udo Schmidt's images are at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/coleoptera-us>.





*Romualdius angustisetulus* (left) and *Romualdius bifoveolatus* (right). *Romualdius bifoveolatus* is not so fat. Its narrower wing-cases are most obvious at the front, where it has less narrow shoulders and less inflated sides. Its eyes are slightly flatter.

The more expanded shoulders of *Romualdius angustisetulus* are often apparent in the field. This is one of the less obvious examples, but the shoulders are still more prominent and more rounded than they are in the *bifoveolatus* in the picture below.



*Romualdius bifoveolatus*. Telling the two *Romualdius* apart in the field requires some experience, but the genus can be readily told from the other species. The pronotum of both *Romualdius* species is short for its width, and it merges more seamlessly into the wing-cases: *Trachyphloeus* and *Cathormiocerus* have a more pronounced and constricted waist because the pronotum is more narrowed at the base. Note also the straight, gradually expanded (not clubbed) scape, and the swollen rostrum sides like a hippo nose.



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