







## How to find *Trachyphloeus heymesii*

*Trachyphloeus heymesii* is not included in any of the British weevil guides, but it is in Roman Brovec's key to *Trachyphloeus* in Faune de France. This is available to download at [http://faunedefrance.org/bibliotheque/docs/TEMPERE&PERICART\(FdeFr74\)Col.Curculionidae\\_suppl.pdf](http://faunedefrance.org/bibliotheque/docs/TEMPERE&PERICART(FdeFr74)Col.Curculionidae_suppl.pdf). It is possible that it has been confused with *Trachyphloeus scabrical* or *Trachyphloeus spinimanus* in Britain. A specimen of *heymesii* could key out as either of these, depending on how you interpret the keys. However, when compared with specimens, *heymesii* is clearly distinct from either of those species. Here is a guide to identifying it.




See also the guide to *Trachyphleini* at [tinyurl.com/weevilguides](http://tinyurl.com/weevilguides).

Full size images of the photos here are in the Broad-noses album on my flickr pages: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/84259756@N05/albums/72157663297400205>.

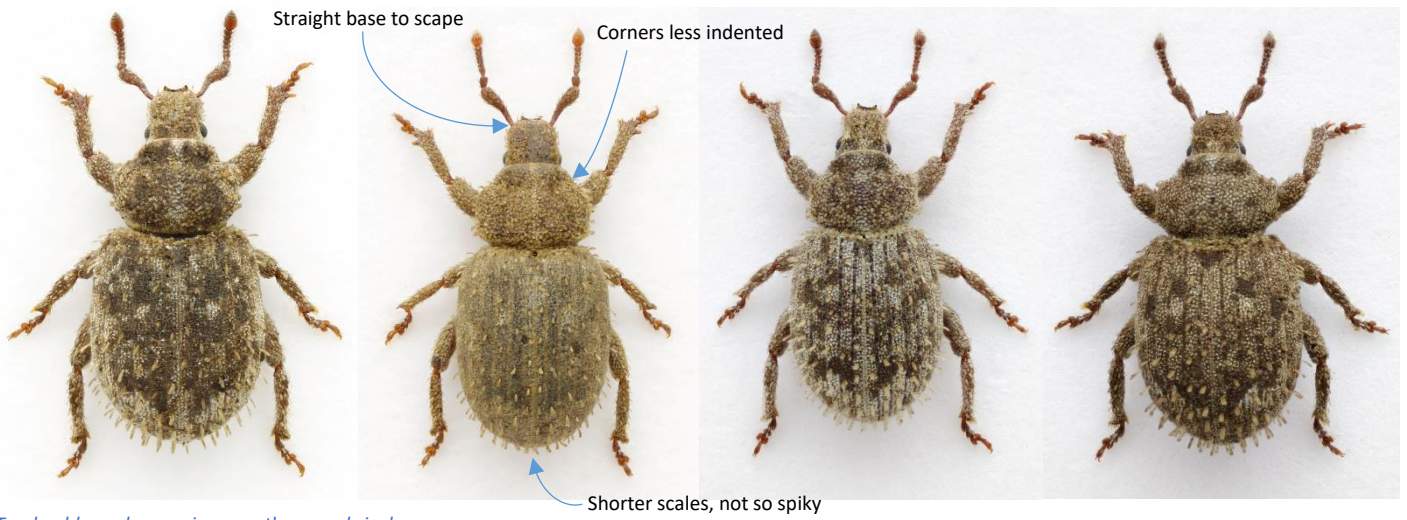
First, you need to make sure you are looking at a *Trachyphloeus*. There are species in two other genera that might be confused with *Trachyphloeus heymesii*:

<i>Romualdius</i>	<i>Cathormiocerus</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus heymesii</i>
		
Scape <b>straight</b> .	Scape <b>bent</b>	Scape <b>bent</b>
Paddle scales mostly on wing-cases, <b>few</b> on head and pronotum. <b>Smaller</b> than in <i>Trachyphloeus heymesii</i> .	Paddle scales numerous, sometimes shorter than in <i>Trachyphloeus heymesii</i> , but just as large in <i>Cathormiocerus aristatus</i> .	Paddle scales numerous, longer.
Altogether <b>Larger</b> and <b>fatter</b> than <i>Trachyphloeus heymesii</i> , with a proportionately shorter and <b>wider</b> pronotum, especially at the rear.	Pronotum narrower and smaller than in <i>Trachyphloeus heymesii</i> , corners not so indented.	Pronotum narrower and proportionately longer than in <i>Romualdius</i> . Pronotum wider than in most <i>Cathormiocerus</i> , and with front corners slightly <b>indented</b> .
Tip of front tibiae <b>rounded</b> but with a fringe of several large spines.	Tip of front tibiae <b>rounded</b> to a point, with a fringe of weak, small spines.	Tip of front tibiae <b>fingered</b> , and with several <b>large</b> spines.
Rostrum ridges strongly <b>convergent</b> , <b>exposing</b> much of the sides of the rostrum, which <b>arch out</b> in front of the eyes.	Rostrum ridges strongly <b>convergent</b> , <b>exposing</b> much of the sides of the rostrum, and much of the <b>antenna sockets</b> .	Rostrum ridges <b>wide</b> , bowed out ever so slightly after eyes, then curving back in, <b>hiding</b> the antenna sockets and most of the sides.
		

Among *Trachyphloeus*, *heymesii* most closely resembles *scabricul*, but it could also be mistaken for *spinimanus*.

	<i>Trachyphloeus scabricul</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus heymesii</i>	<i>Trachyphloeus spinimanus</i>
			
Pronotum	<b>Strongly indented</b> at front corners, slightly indented at rear corners. Shallow channel down the centre.	Slightly indented at front corners, very weakly indented at rear corners. Weak channel down centre, less distinct than in <i>scabricul</i> . Often narrower than in the other two (compared to wing-cases and its length), but there is some overlap.	Wider. Slightly indented at the front corners, rounded at rear corners. No channel down centre.
Rostrum	<b>Flaring out</b> and up after eyes, then curving inwards. <b>Depressed</b> down the middle.	Slightly wider after eyes, then curving inwards. <b>Weakly</b> depressed on top.	Almost <b>straight</b> or <b>convergent</b> from eyes to just in front of antenna sockets, where it curves in. More or less <b>flat</b> on top.
Antennae	Scape <b>S shape</b> : bent in middle and curving strongly in at base.	Scape slightly bent in <b>middle only</b> , not curved at base.	Scape lightly bent in <b>middle only</b> , not curved at base. Segments <b>wider</b> than in the other two.
Paddle scales	Many, <b>large</b> .	Many, <b>smaller</b> than in <i>scabricul</i> , but larger and more numerous than in <i>spinimanus</i> .	<b>Scattered</b> , often smaller and weaker than in <i>heymesii</i> .
Tip of front tibiae	Fingered in female (c), angular in male (d)	Female more or less as <i>scabricul</i> , but the thumb spines perhaps shorter and thicker (they are in my specimen, but I do not know whether this is constant). No males have been found	Fingered in female (left), the 'thumb' and middle finger more widely separated than in the other two species. Angular in male (right).

A *Trachyphloeus heymesii* hiding among specimens of *scabricul* can be picked out by its shorter scales (it less like a hedgehog), often narrower pronotum, and straight base to the antennal scape. If it is among *spinimanus*, it should stand out by its longer and more numerous paddle scales, its narrower antennae, and its less splayed fingers at the end of the front tibia.



*Trachyphloeus heymesii* among three *scabricul*.



Pronotums. *Trachyphloeus scabricul* (e) has strongly indented front corners that stick out further. *Trachyphloeus heymesii* (f) has the front edge angled almost straight back at the corners, and the pronotum is not so wide.

There are three other *Trachyphloeus* in Britain:

*Trachyphloeus rectus* is similar in general form to *heymesii*, but it is more slender, its antennal scape is almost straight, not bent, it does not have fingers at the end of the front tibiae, and it has a longer rostrum (see drawing, right) with straight, convergent ridges from the eyes to the antennal sockets (ridges wider and hiding the antenna sockets in *heymesii*).

*Trachyphloeus alternans* has erect paddle scales only on every other row of the wing-cases (on all rows in the other species).

*Trachyphloeus digitalis* is very like *spinimanus*, but it has fewer scales, and these are only in the rear half of the wing-cases.

Both *alternans* and *digitalis* differ from *heymesii* by most of features given for *spinimanus* in the table above, except that *alternans* has larger scales than *digitalis* or *spinimanus*.



Thanks to Roman Borovec for his help in confirming the identification of my specimen, and to Max Barclay and the Angela Marmont Centre at the Natural History Museum for arranging access to the museum's collections.

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