

Three species that feed on wetland speedwells *Veronica*. They have **round yellow scales** on the sides of the pronotum. Similar in size and shape to the plantain-feeding *Mecinus*, which lack the round scales.

Gymnetron beccabungae

2.0-2.5 mm. *beccabungae* = on *Veronica beccabunga* (Brooklime).



The neatest of the three, with a **dense covering of round yellow scales on the pronotum**, contrasting with the elytra, which are smoother and more shiny than in the other two, and have a sparse cover of **narrow, short scales**. Usually a red-brown weevil, but black forms are known

Widespread but local throughout Britain.



Gymnetron veronicae

2.0-2.5 mm. *veronicae* = on *Veronica* (speedwell).



Often black in Britain, but sometimes it is red-brown. The colour variation confused earlier coleopterists, so beware. The pronotum is **less densely covered in round scales** than in *beccabungae*, especially in the middle. The scales on the elytra are short, but **wider** than in *beccabungae*, and surface is more strongly **wrinkled**, so the elytra look less smooth and less polished. You would be unlucky to find an all-black *beccabungae* with the scales worn off the pronotum, but if you want to rule this out, check the texture of the elytra and the scales thereon.

Widespread in the southern half of Britain.



Gymnetron villosulum

2.0-2.8 mm. villōsus = shaggy.



This species appears **hairy** under a hand lens. It is easily recognised by the long hairs, on the pronotum and the elytra, which obscure the surface. *Gymnetron beccabungae* and *veronicae* have short hair scales, which do not obscure the surface. It is a red-brown weevil.

Widespread in the southern half of Britain.



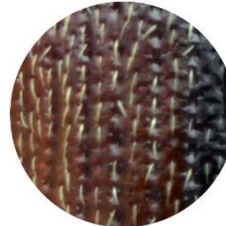
Elytral surface and scales: increasingly smoother surface and smaller scales from *villosulum* to *veronicae* to *beccabungae*. Each circle = 0.5mm diameter.



villosulum



veronicae



beccabungae