



# Beetle News



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## Beginners' Guide

### Common longhorn beetles of England

I have been unable to prepare a formal guide for this issue. However, with spring fast approaching, I felt it would be useful to provide a photographic guide to the commoner and more distinctive longhorn beetles which are among the beetles which beginners are often keen to identify. The species shown here are those most likely to be found in England (and Wales), away from coniferous trees. Other species may be found commonly among conifers, particularly in Scotland. Further species are more or less rare and much less likely to be found.

All of the British species were described by Andrew Duff and illustrated by Richard Lewington in "British Wildlife" 18:6 (August 2007) and 19:1 (October 2007). This is an excellent guide, but the number of species (60) may be confusing for the beginner for whom I have prepared this pictorial introduction to 21 commoner species.

I have included the English names given by Andrew Duff in British Wildlife, but it should be noted that most of these are not commonly used.

Richard Wright



Wasp Beetle *Clytus arietis*  
Very distinctive and common

Black-and-yellow Longhorn *Rutpela maculata*.  
Elytral pattern rather variable, but distinctive.  
Front and middle legs yellow. Very common.



Plum Longhorn *Tetrops praeustus*  
A very small species (3 - 6 mm).  
Found on many rosaceous trees  
and shrubs. Common.



The rare *T. starkii* has a larger and  
clearer dark tip to the elytra. It is  
associated with Ash.



Black-spotted Longhorn  
*Rhagium mordax*  
A robust species with rather short  
antennae. Distinctive.



Two-banded Longhorn *Rhagium bifasciatum*  
Rather variable, but always very distinctive.  
Most specimens resemble the one shown on the left.

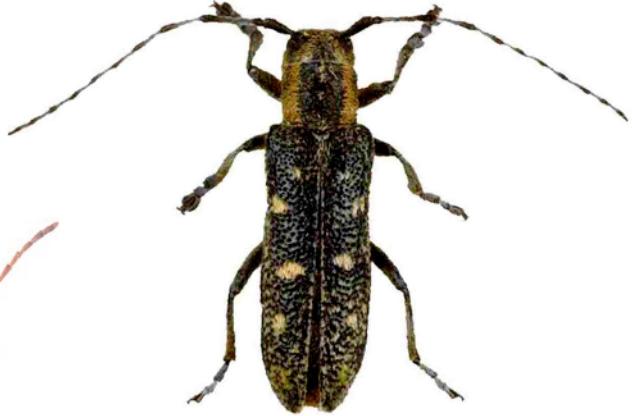




Rufous-shouldered Longhorn  
*Anaglyptus mysticus*  
Variable, but normally distinctive.  
Legs and antennae mainly dark.  
8 - 15 mm  
Commonly on hawthorn  
flowers.



White-banded Longhorn  
*Poecilium alni*  
Colour similar to *Anaglyptus mysticus* but much smaller  
(3 - 7 mm) with pale antennae  
and tibiae.



Small Poplar Borer  
*Saperda populnea*  
Mottled elytra with yellowish spots.  
Associated with Aspen and  
usually found near this tree.



Black-clouded Longhorn  
*Leiopus nebulosus*  
This species has recently been split into  
two, which are difficult to separate  
without dissection of the genitalia.



Tanbark Borer *Phymatodes testaceus*  
A very variable species in coloration.  
Rather flattened species.  
Pronotum with three raised shining areas.  
A nocturnal species, often attracted to light  
and more rarely found by day.





Common Grammoptera  
*Grammoptera ruficornis*

The commonest longhorn, often very abundant on hawthorn and umbels. A small (3 - 7 mm) species, only reliably separated from two much rarer *Grammoptera* by the elongate second antennal segment.



Lime Longhorn *Stenostola dubia*  
Black, with a bluish or greenish sheen and covered with short grey pubescence. Usually with lime *Tilia* in ancient woodlands.



Umbellifer Longhorn  
*Phytoecia cylindrica*  
Reddish front legs will separate it from any similar species. Southern but spreading northwards.



Tobacco-coloured Longhorn  
*Alosterna tabacicolor*.  
Largely reddish legs distinguish this common species from others with chestnut elytra.



male



female

Black-striped Longhorn *Stenurella melanura*  
Males have a narrow dark line along the elytral suture. This line is wider in the female.  
A common species. There are other scarcer species with chestnut elytra, but in these the suture is generally not darkened, though the apex of the elytra may be black.



Fairy-ring Longhorn *Pseudovadonia livida*  
Elytra entirely chestnut, with neither suture nor apex darkened. Entirely dark femora distinguish it from *Alosterna tabacicolor*.

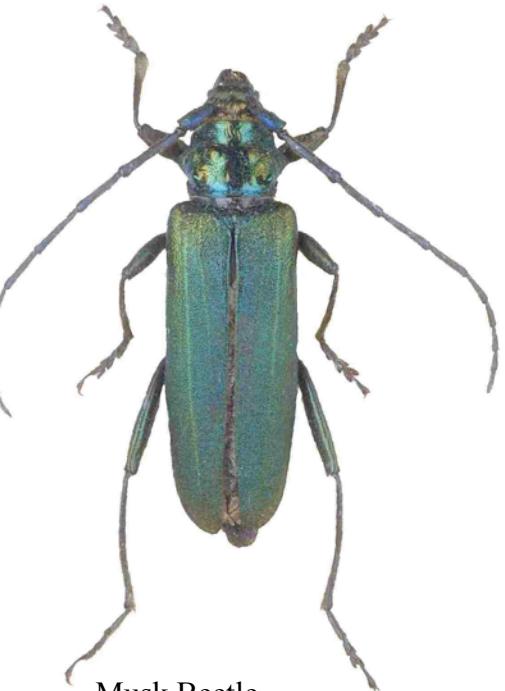
Mainly in southern and eastern England.



Four-banded Longhorn  
*Leptura quadrifasciata*  
 Distinctive pattern.  
*L. aurulenta* is a similar,  
 much rarer, species that has  
 golden pubescence on the  
 front and rear pronotal margins.



Speckled Longhorn  
*Pachytodes cerambyciformis*  
 Broad orange elytra with  
 dark spots. Common in some  
 areas, absent from central and  
 eastern England.



Musk Beetle  
*Aromia moschata*  
 A very large and distinctive  
 species. Quite common locally,  
 but very scarce in many areas.



Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn  
*Agapanthia villosoviridescens*  
 A distinctive species which develops  
 in the stems of herbaceous plants and  
 is rarely found on trees.



*P. hispidulus*



*P. hispidus*

Greater Thorn-tipped Longhorn *Pogonocherus hispidulus*  
 Lesser Thorn-tipped Longhorn *Pogonocherus hispidus*

Two small species which both have the **outer** margin of the elytra prolonged into a sharp spine. However, in *P. hispidulus* the **inner** margin also projects in a spine. This species additionally has a white mark on the scutellum.

In *P. hispidus* the inner elytral margin is not prolonged into an apical spine and the scutellum is entirely dark.



*P. hispidulus*

elytral apex



*P. hispidus*