

Beginner's Guide :

Broad-nosed weevils (Curculionidae, Entiminae) commonly found on broad-leaved trees.

Richard Wright

There are 111 species of the subfamily Entiminae in the family Curculionidae on the British list. All species have a short broad rostrum and are commonly called broad-nosed weevils. With the exception of a few recent discoveries, these species are very well covered by Morris (1997). However, for the beginner this work may prove difficult to begin with as microscopic characters such as whether the tarsal claws are united at the base are used to define the tribes at the very beginning of the work.

The majority of the species are terrestrial and are very rarely met with above ground level. However, a small number of species are among the most abundant beetles on trees and shrubs, especially in May and June. This guide therefore introduces these species which are among the beetles which the beginner is most likely to meet with in numbers. It should only be used for species found on broad-leaved trees, not for those swept from low vegetation or from conifers.

Reference:

Morris, M.G. 1997. Broad-nosed weevils. Coleoptera: Curculionidae (Entiminae). *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* 5(17a),



Phyllobius argentatus

Common throughout, mainly woodland

- Anterior femora with large teeth
- Upperside with **round scales**, more or less covering the striae
- Antennae, about 2/3 length of weevil, yellowish, apex of scape not darkened
- Femora dark or light



Phyllobius maculicornis

Locally common, scarce in Scotland
Similar to *P. argentatus* but :

- **Striae of elytra clearly visible**, not covered by scales
- Antennae about 1/2 length of weevil, yellowish, but **apex of scape darkened**
- Femora always dark



Phyllobius glaucus

Local throughout, mainly woodland.

- Anterior femora with large teeth
- Upperside covered with **elongate scales**, colour rather variable, often in patches
- Antennae yellowish, darker apically
- Legs usually mainly yellowish-brown



Polydrusus pterygomalis

Common

- Anterior femora without teeth
- Upperside with round scales and with **pale semi-erect setae** (view from side)
- Head with a **bulge behind the eyes**
- Antennae slender, yellowish

P. flavipes is scarcer, very similar but :

- Head **without a bulge** behind the eyes
- Semi-erect setae of elytra are **dark**



Polydrusus formosus

Previously scarce, now spreading

- Anterior femora without, or with very small, teeth
- Upperside with round bright metallic green scales
- Antennae yellowish, with dark club
- Head with a short, deep longitudinal groove between the eyes



Phyllobius pyri
Very common

- Anterior femora with teeth
- Upperside with **scattered elongate scales**, usually brownish or coppery, sometimes greyish or greenish
- Antennae yellowish, darker apically
- All tibiae with a sharp, blade-like external edge



Phyllobius oblongus
Locally common

- Upperside **without scales**, only with fine, sparse, pale setae
- Pronotum dark, elytra reddish-brown
- Antennae yellowish
- Legs yellowish



Phyllobius viridicollis
Widespread, but generally scarce

- Upperside dark, **without covering of scales**, only with a few scattered fine greenish scales in parts
- Antennae yellowish, darker apically



Polydrusus cervinus
Very common

- Anterior femora with teeth
- Upperside with **elongate scales**, brownish or coppery, in patches
- Antennae yellowish, darker apically
- Legs generally dark

P. pilosus is a very similar species, much scarcer and mainly northern. It is beyond the scope of this account to cover the differences between the species.



Polydrusus tereticollis
Quite common throughout

- Anterior femora without teeth
- Upperside with a distinct pattern of lighter and darker brown and pale scales as shown



Polydrusus mollis
Widespread in England and Wales, but scattered and local

- Anterior femora without teeth
- Upperside with coppery scales, occasionally greenish
- Elytra very large and wide, much larger in proportion to pronotum than in any other species.



Polydrusus marginatus
Scarce, southern England

- Anterior femora with teeth
- Elytra with fine pubescence, denser along suture, without metallic scales
- Antennae yellowish, rather short



Strophosoma melanogrammum
Very common throughout

- Eyes strongly projecting, conical
- Upperside with brownish or coppery scales but with a longitudinal bare patch along the suture



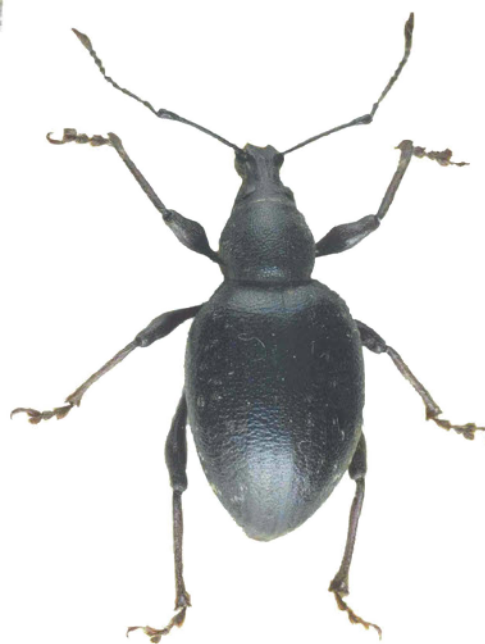
Strophosoma capitatum
Sometimes common but scarce in places

- Eyes strongly projecting, conical
- Similar to *S. melanogrammum* but **without** a longitudinal bare patch along the suture, sometimes with a small bare patch at the base



Otiorhynchus singularis
Very common throughout

- Anterior femora with teeth
- Upperside covered with various shades of brownish scales, giving a variegated appearance, and also with setae



Otiorhynchus clavipes
Local, mainly southern England

- Anterior femora without teeth
- Upperside largely smooth, with small patches of pubescence in fresh specimens
- Antennae very long and slender



Otiorhynchus sulcatus
Very common throughout
(usually terrestrial, occasional on trees)

- Anterior femora with teeth
- Elytra with small patches of elongate golden-yellow scales