















NatureSpot

Recording the Wildlife of Leicestershire & Rutland

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ID Guide - Helophilus

The hoverfly *Helophilus pendulus* is a common find, particularly around water or damp habitats. The black stripes on the thorax give it the common name 'The Footballer'. However, there are other hoverflies in the genus all with a stripy thorax. This page should help you to distinguish the three *Helophilus* species found in Leicestershire and Rutland.

	<i>H. pendulus</i>	<i>H. trivittatus</i>	<i>H. hybridus</i>
	Most common	Larger species	Least common
Tergite pattern	 <p>Orange-yellow</p>	 <p>Lemon-yellow</p>	 <p>Merged yellow on tergites (male only)</p>
Face stripe (below the antennae)	 <p>Dark</p>	 <p>Pale / yellow</p>	 <p>Dark</p>
Hind tibia[?]	 <p>One third dark</p>	 <p>Two thirds dark</p>	 <p>Two thirds dark</p>
Male/Female	 <p>male female</p>	 <p>male female</p>	 <p>male female</p>