Key to female Sphecodes

1. Punctures present behind rear ocelli (fig 2). **2**
- Area behind rear ocelli roughly sculptured, but without distinct punctures. **3**

2. Hind tibiae has black spines set amongst dirty-looking hairs (fig 3). [Wings usually darkened.]. – *Sphecodes gibbus*
- Hind tibiae has red spines set amongst white hairs (fig 4). – *Sphecodes monilicornis*

3. Sparse puntures on shiny mesonotum (fig 5). [Small species]. **4**
- Dense, large punctures on mesonotum (fig 6) (mesonotum may or may not be shiny). **5**

4. Hind femur very bulbous (fig 8). – *Sphecodes crassus*
- Hind femur more evenly oval in shape, not extremely swollen in its basal half. (fig 9) – *Sphecodes geoffrellus*

5. Side of pronotum has characteristic pointed and protruding angle (fig 9). – *Sphecodes pellucidus*
- Side of pronotum lacks this feature, is more rounded (fig 10). **6**

6. Sides of propodeum smoother than top of propodeum – i.e. wrinkles far less pronounced (fig 11). – *Sphecodes hyalinatus*
- Sides of propodeum approximately as coarse as top of propodeum (fig 12). **7**

7. Declivity of tergite 1 (i.e. the surface facing the propodeum) with very sparse, short hairs (fig 2). – *Sphecodes ephippius*
- Declivity of tergite 1 with denser, longer hairs, pretty much the same length as those sticking out of the propodeum. **8**

8. Mandibles without a lateral 'tooth'. – *Sphecodes punticeps*
- Mandibles with a lateral 'tooth'. – *Sphecodes ferruginatus*

Note: Neither S. ephippius nor S. punticeps have been recorded in Scotland. So if one reaches couplet 7. In the key, it is perhaps not likely that one's specimen is S. ferruginatus, particularly if the specimen was caught away from the extreme south of Scotland, where S. ephippius and S. Punticeps might be present.

Fig.1 S. ephippius

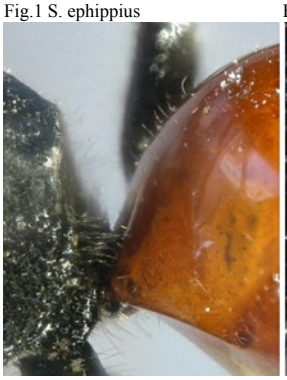


Fig. 2 S. monilicornis

Fig. 3 S. gibbus

Fig. 4 S. monilicornis

Fig. 5 S. geofrellus

Fig. 6

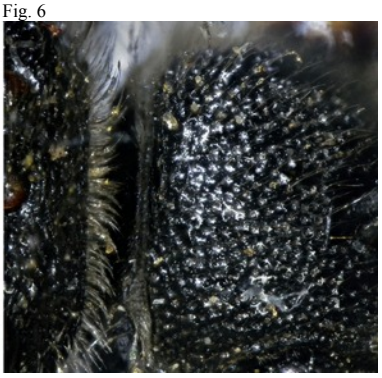


Fig. 7 S. geofrellus

Fig. 8 S. crassus

Fig. 9 S. pellucidus

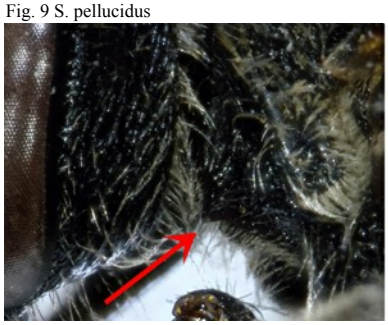


Fig. 10

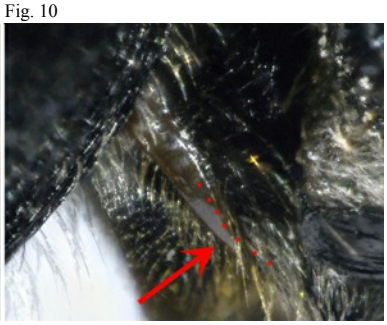


Fig. 11 S. hyalinatus

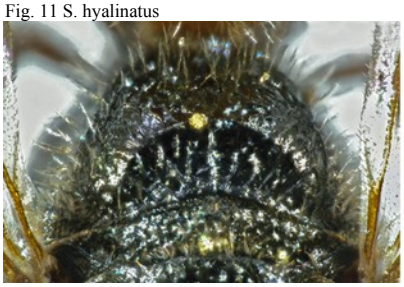
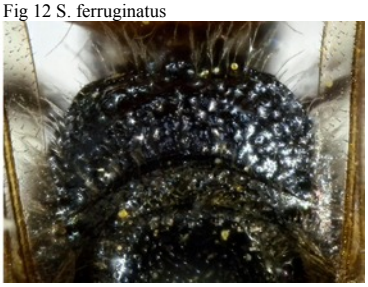


Fig 12 S. ferruginatus



Key to male Sphecodes

1. Vast majority of each of the apical antennal segments (i.e. the segments near the tip) covered in felt-like pubescence. [Small species usually with with a complete black stripe across tergite 2.] – *Sphecodes geoffrellus*
- Approx 50% or less (sometimes much less) of each of the apical antennal segments with felt-like pubescence. **2**

2. Around half (40-60%) of each apical antennal segment covered in pubescence. **3**
- No more than 1/3 of each apical antennal segment covered in pubescence (sometimes much less). **4**

3. Hind metatarsus yellowish. – *Sphecodes hyalinatus*
- Hind metatarsus black. – *Sphecodes pellucidus*

4. Area behind rear ocelli punctured. [Very knobbly antennae.] *Sphecodes gibbus*
- Area behind rear ocelli unpunctured and rough. **5**

5 Mix of big and small punctures on tergite 1. *Sphecodes punticeps*
- Punctures on tergite 1 all the same size. **6**

6. Silvery felt covers 1/3 of all segments near tip of antennae. [Tergite 2 has a complete horizontal black stripe.] - *Sphecodes crassus*
- Silver felt covers much less that 1/3 of segments. [There may be at most an incomplete, black band covering the central half of tergite 2.] **7**

7. Very tiny, very scattered punctures on tergite 1. [Often with central black band – usually diffuse – covering half of tergite 2.] – *Sphecodes ephippius*
- Punctures on tergite 1 denser. – **8**

8. Tergite 1 all red or almost all red. – *Sphecodes ferruginatus*
- Tergite 1 with extensive black area. – *Sphecodes monilicornis*

Note: Neither S. ephippius nor S. punticeps have been recorded in Scotland. So if one reaches couplet 7. In the key, it is perhaps not likely that one's specimen is S. ferruginatus, particularly if the specimen was caught away from the extreme south of Scotland, where S. ephippius and S. Punticeps might be present.

Fig.1 S. geofrellus

Fig. 2 S. pellucidus

Fig. 3 S. hyalinatus

Fig. 4 S. gibbus

Fig. 5 S. monilicornis

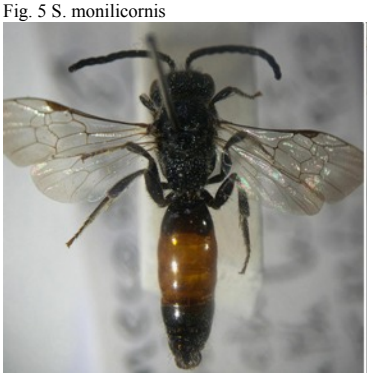


Fig. 6 S. ephippius