Plain red or **orange** species. No pattern on wing-cases. An easily recognised group, but telling them apart from each other is not so easy. The large, cone-shaped *Apion frumentarium* is distinctive, but the rest are not. The three Sheep's Sorrel species are best separated by comparing specimens of the same sex, under a good microscope. Males have thicker rostrums that appear duller and rougher because they are more strongly pitted and sculptured (female rostrums often look smoother and more shiny).

	Apion frumentarium	*Apion cruentatum*	*Apion haematodes*	*Apion rubens*	*Apion rubiginosum*
Cheeks	Pitted.	Pitted.	Pitted and **wrinkled**.	Pitted and **wrinkled**.	Pitted and **wrinkled**.
Wing-cases	Broad and pear-shape, swollen behind the middle.	Broad, swollen behind the middle, pear-shape in female.	Broad, swollen behind the middle, pear-shape in female.	**Narrow**, widest at the middle, sides **straighter**.	Broad to narrow, swollen behind the middle, slightly pear-shape in female.
Male rostrum	Shorter than pronotum.	Shorter than pronotum.	Shorter than pronotum.	About as long as pronotum.	About as long as pronotum.
Female rostrum	About as long as pronotum.	About as long as pronotum.	**Shorter** than pronotum. Usually looks **bent**.	**Longer** than pronotum, **curved**.	**Longer** than pronotum, almost **straight**.

Apion frumentarium frumentārium = of cereals

3.5-4.5 mm. Common, but rare or absent from northern Scotland. On **docks** *Rumex*.

Larger than all the other species, with a **longer, cone-shaped head**: the part behind the eyes is longer and obviously narrowed towards the front. The eyes are more prominent than in *cruentatum*, and the pronotum is more rounded at the sides.

Known as *Apion miniatum* in older works.

Apion cruentatum cruentātum = bloodstained

2.5-3.5mm. Uncommon in England and Wales, rare in Scotland. On Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and probably on Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella* too.

Smaller than *frumentarium*, with less prominent eyes, a shorter and broader head, and pronotum narrower at the rear. The pronotum is often pinched in at the front, widest at the middle, and then tapered to the rear: in the other Sheep's Sorrel feeding species, the pronotum is usually less pinched in at the front and it is more rounded at the sides, but there is some overlap in shape, so always check the cheeks, which are only **pitted**, not wrinkled.

Apion haematodes haematōdes = bloody

2.0-3.0 mm. Common everywhere. On Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*.

The **commonest** species on Sheep's Sorrel: if you find a red *Apion* on Sheep's Sorrel, assume it is this species until you can prove otherwise. See *rubens* and *rubiginosum*.

Known, confusingly, as *Apion frumentarium* in some works; where this is so, the real *Apion frumentarium* is usually called *Apion miniatum*.

Apion rubens rúbens = red

2.0-2.5 mm. Uncommon in England and Wales, rare in Scotland. On Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*.

Can be recognised in the field by the shape of the wing-cases: they are **straighter** and **narrower** than in the other species. It also has a shorter head and is more densely hairy than the other species. The long, curved rostrum of the female is distinctive.

Apion rubiginosum rubiginōsum = rusty

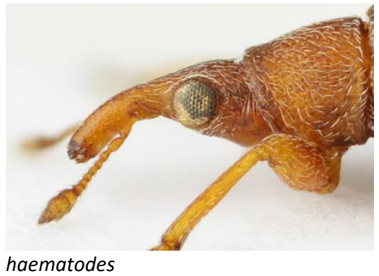
2.0-3.5 mm. Scarce England and Wales as far north as Cumbria. On Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*.

Not as broad as *haematodes*, but still broader and more rounded than *rubens*. Female distinctive, with longer, straighter rostrum than other species. The most difficulty is in distinguishing between *haematodes* and male *rubiginosum*. Female *haematodes* has more pear-shape wing-cases than male of either species, and it has a narrower, more slender, and more shining rostrum. To distinguish the males, note the longer rostrum and the straighter sides to the wing-cases of *rubiginosum*.

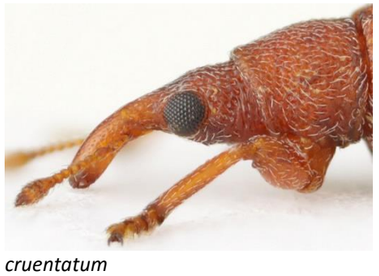
Known as *Apion sanguineum* in older works.

Females

haematodes

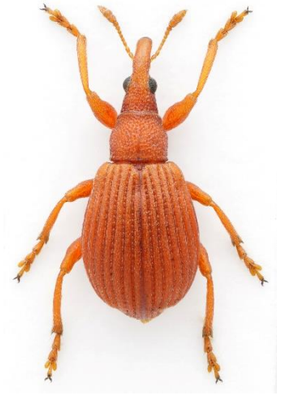


haematodes



cruentatum

In *cruentatum*, the pits continue behind the eye where there are wrinkles in *haematodes*, *rubens*, and *rubiginosum*.



Apion frumentarium

Apion cruentatum

Apion haematodes male

Apion haematodes female

Apion rubens male

Apion rubens female

Scale ×10.

Need photos of *Apion rubiginosum*.

All species vary from red to pale orange: shape is important, colour is not.

Among the three wrinkle-cheeked species:

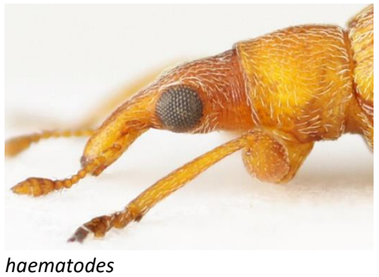
Female *rubens* has a long, curved rostrum and narrow, straighter-sided wing-cases.

Female *rubiginosum* has a long and almost straight rostrum.

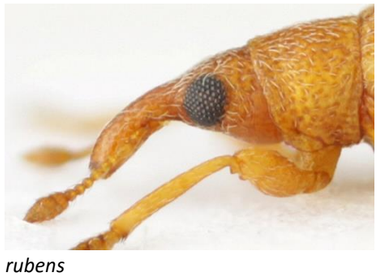
Male *rubens* has narrow, straighter-sided wing-cases

That leaves male *rubiginosum* and both sexes of *haematodes*, which are the most difficult to identify. Female *haematodes* has a narrower and more shining rostrum than the males: you should see in the photos that the rostrums of male *haematodes* and male *rubiginosum* look thicker and have denser and deeper pits. Then you can separate male *rubiginosum* from male *haematodes* by the longer rostrum and slightly straighter wing-cases of *rubiginosum*. Or give up and look for a female.

Males



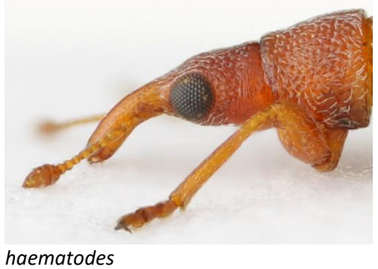
haematodes



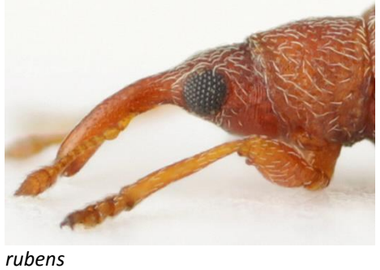
rubens

rubiginosum

Females



haematodes



rubens

rubiginosum