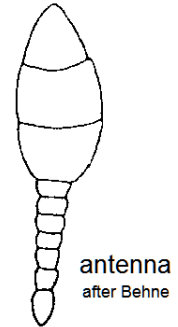


# Genus *Perapion*

## Reference

The source of this translation can be found at <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/perapion.htm>. These German keys are derived from earlier work by Behne. Translated by Mike Hackston and reproduced here with the kind permission of Dr Arved Lompe.

Antennae with a very clearly differentiated club which is twice the width of the last segment of the antennal funicle (which itself is always broader than long). The antennae are inserted closer to the middle of the rostrum than the base. Rostrum short, often appearing thick and almost straight, usually shorter than the head and pronotum combined (only equalling the length of the head and pronotum in female specimens of *marchicum*). Pronotum cylindrical, almost always with straight sides. Elytra usually broadest beyond the middle (rarely in the middle). Claws untoothed. Middle coxae touching. The species are associated with the dock family (Polygonaceae)



## Checklist

From the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff, (available from [www.coleopterist.org.uk/checklist.htm](http://www.coleopterist.org.uk/checklist.htm)).

Genus *PERAPION* Wagner, 1907

Subgenus *PERAPION* Wagner, 1907

*affine* (Kirby, 1808)

*curtirostre* (Germar, 1817)

*hydrolapathi* (Marsham, 1802)

*marchicum* (Herbst, 1797)

*violaceum* (Kirby, 1808)

Subgenus *EROOSAPION* Ehret, 1994

*lemoroi* (Brisout de Barneville, 1880)

## Image Credits

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# Genus *Perapion*

Key to British species

1 Upper surface uniformly black, sometimes with a weak leaden sheen. ....2

Body black with at least the elytra having a metallic blue, green, violet or dark brassy-green shine. Upper surface only weakly hairy, appearing bare unless scrutinised carefully. Elytral striae fine with the gaps between them broad and with more than one row of hairs. Punctures on the pronotum quite dense. ....3



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2 Elytra elongate, 1.7 times as long as broad (measured at the broadest point - at or behind the middle). Upper surface with quite long and dense pale hairs, becoming denser in the front half of the outermost elytral intervals and the outer parts of the meso- and metasternum. This gives the appearance of a distinct white longitudinal patch along the side of the body. Upper surface with a weak leaden sheen. Pronotum cylindrical, finely and moderately densely punctured. Rostrum rather shorter than the pronotum in males, and equal in length to the pronotum in females. Length 2.0-2.4 mm. ....



..... ***Perapion lemoroi***

Larvae feed in the stems of *Polygonum aviculare* (Knotgrass). Rare and very local in the south east of England.

Elytra more compact and more distinctly hairy, appearing grey; the intervals have numerous hairs which are arranged into about two irregular closely-spaced rows. Frons with a fine longitudinal groove. Vertex finely punctured. Pronotum not longitudinally convex and with more or less parallel sides, finely and densely punctured. Scutellum long rectangular, often finely grooved. Length 1.7-2.55 mm. ....

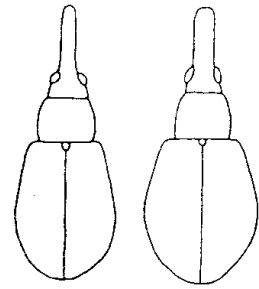


..... ***Perapion curtirostre***

Larvae feed in the stems of various *Rumex* species. Very common and widely distributed in Britain.

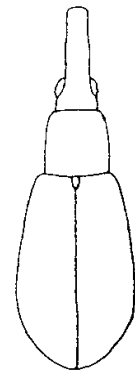


3 Pronotum clearly broader than long. Elytra comparatively shorter, more ovate. Scutellum small and rounded. Small species, 1.6-2.4 mm. ....4



after Behne

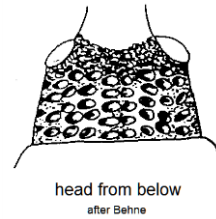
Pronotum at least as long as wide. Elytra comparatively longer. Larger species, 2.6-3.5 mm. ....5



after Behne

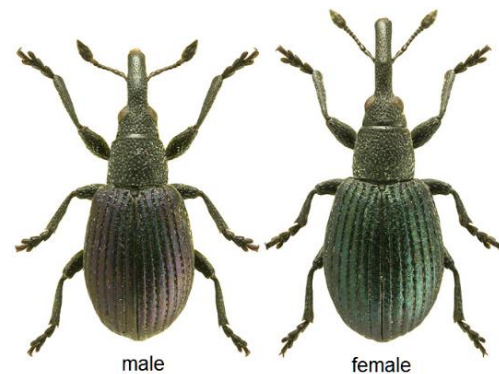


4 Underside of the head strongly and densely punctured all the way to the front margin of the prosternum. (This is the safest character separating this species from *marchicum* and is also visible from the side). Punctures on the pronotum stronger, oval; for the most part the punctures are separated from one another by less than their diameter. Elytra broader and more distinctly rounded at the sides. Rostrum shorter than the head and pronotum combined, in both sexes. Length 1.9-2.4 mm. ....

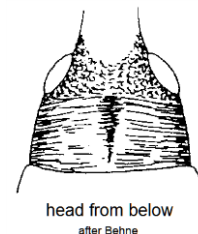


..... ***Perapion affine***  
 Larvae in *Rumex acetosa*. Local but widespread.

Underside of the head shining with fine transverse striations and without punctures. Punctures on the pronotum rounded with the gaps between them considerably greater than their diameter at least in part. Elytra less swollen. Rostrum as long as the pronotum in males and as long as the head and pronotum combined in females, and shining. Length 1.6-2.3 mm. ....



..... ***Perapion marchicum***  
 Larvae develop in the roots of *Rumex acetosella*. Locally common but widely distributed.



- 5 First two large sternites and the surface of the metasternum strongly and quite densely punctured. Rostrum cylindrical, as long as (males) or longer (females) than the pronotum. Pronotum cylindrical, quite strongly punctured; sides of the pronotum usually very weakly rounded and only slightly narrowing towards the rear. Elytra with a weak shine. Length 2.6-3.5 mm. ....

..... ***Perapion violaceum***

Larvae in the stems of various species of *Rumex*. Very common and distributed throughout the British Isles.



First two large sternites shining with very fine and sparse punctures. The surface of the metasternum is extremely finely and sparsely punctured. Rostrum sometimes slightly narrowing towards the tip, rather shorter than in *violaceum*. Pronotum with straight sides, often slightly narrowing towards the front and with rather finer punctures. Elytra somewhat broader and more shining. Often indistinguishable from *violaceum* by viewing from above. Length 2.8-3.4 mm. ....

..... ***Perapion hydrolapathi***

Larvae develop in the stems of broad-leaved species of *Rumex* (*R. hydrolapathum*, *R. crispus*, *R. obtusifolius*). Common in England and Wales, becoming more uncommon northwards.

