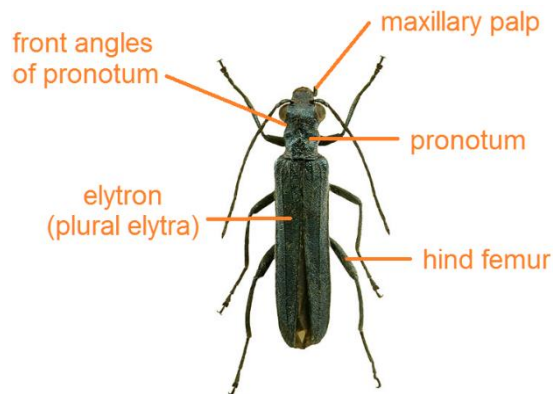


Family Oedemeridae

Source Material

Joy (1932) A Practical Handbook of British Beetles.

Lompe A (2013) Käfer Europas: Oedemeridae and linked pages, translated and adapted by Mike Hackston, reproduced here with permission. Original is available at <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/oedemeridae.htm>.



Checklist of species

From the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff. This lists 10 species in 4 genera.

Tribe NACERDINI

Genus **NACERDES** Dejean, 1834
melanura (Linnaeus, 1758)

Tribe DITYLINI

Genus **CHRYSANTHIA** Schmidt, W., 1846
nigricornis Westhoff, 1881

Tribe ASCLERINI Gistel, 1848

Genus **ISCHNOMERA** Stephens, 1832
caerulea (Linnaeus, 1758)
cinerascens (Pandellé, 1867)
cyanea (Fabricius, 1792)
sanguinicollis (Fabricius, 1787)

Tribe OEDEMERINI

Genus **OEDEMERA** Olivier, 1789
femorialis (Olivier, 1803)
lurida (Marsham, 1802)
nobilis (Scopoli, 1763)
virescens (Linnaeus, 1767)

Image Credits

Most of the photographs of whole beetles in this key are reproduced from the Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae, with permission kindly granted by Lech Borowiec. The photographs of parts of beetles of genus *Ischnomera* are from Arved Lompe's key.



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Family Oedemeridae

Key to British species

- 1 Beetle combining a green to greenish-yellow body and orange legs variegated with black. Ridges on the elytra weakly raised.

..... ***Chrysanthia nigricornis***

A rare species of Scottish forests. Larvae feed on fallen Scot's pine; adults found on nearby flowers.



Beetle otherwise coloured.2

Genus *Chrysanthia*

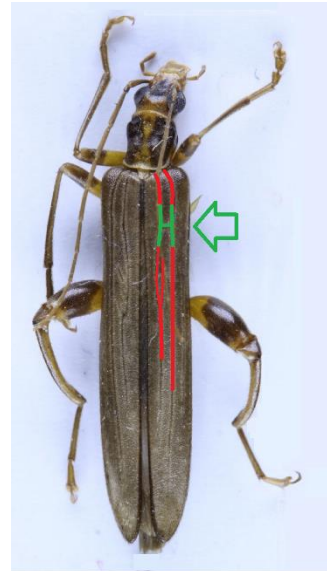
Body elongate, usually shining blue, green or coppery. Head elongated in front of the eyes. Eyes protruding, ovate when viewed from the side, not notched behind the antennae. Frons weakly convex, much broader between the eyes than between the bases of the antennae. Antennae long and filamentous, arising almost from the clypeal suture, well in front of the front margin of the eyes. Pronotum elongate-cordate. Elytra long and parallel-sided, slightly narrowing towards the tip, and here somewhat splayed from one other. Upper surface with longitudinal ribs which are not granular. Legs long and slender; front tibiae each with two terminal spurs. Second to last segment of all tarsi broadened.



2¹ Elytra at least three times as long as the head and pronotum combined, with a transverse raised line towards the base which connects two of the longitudinal raised lines, forming a letter H. Head, pronotum, legs and abdomen black, with paler brown markings; elytra uniformly brownish.

..... ***Oedemera femoralis***

Length 12-17 mm. England and Wales, northwards to Lancashire; local on ivy and willows at night; April to September. Subgenus *Oncomera*.

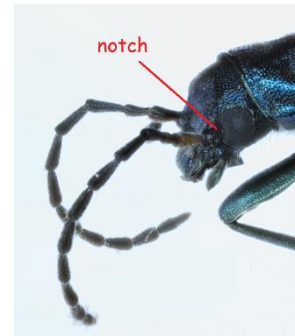


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Elytra less than three times as long as the head and pronotum combined and without a transverse raised line. Beetle otherwise coloured.[3](#)



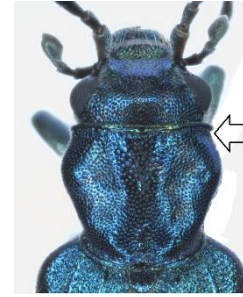
3² Head, measured across the eyes, as broad as, or slightly narrower than the pronotum. Innermost raised line on elytra extending to the apex or almost so. Margin of eye slightly notched around the base of the antennae.4



Head, measured across the eyes, somewhat broader than the pronotum. Innermost raised line on elytra extending only about one-third from base. Eyes not notched around the base of the antennae.
..... Genus *Oedemera*



4³ Sides of pronotum tapering towards the front and then curved outwards again at the front angles, due to the presence of a raised border along the front edge. Head and elytra green to bluish-green. Male antennae with 11 segments. Front tibiae with two terminal spurs.
 Genus *Ischnomera*



Mike Hackston

Sides of pronotum evenly rounded. Elytra orange-brown with a darker tip. Male antennae with 12 segments. Front tibiae almost always with a single terminal spur.

..... ***Nacertes melanura***

Length 7-12 mm.; widely distributed from the south coast of England to just north of the Solway Firth, but local on old timber on the coast; more rarely inland, July to September.



Genus *Nacertes*

Body elongate, weakly hardened and thus relatively delicate. Head ovate with the eyes large, convex and protruding. Antennae long and slender. Head without an antennal swelling. Clypeus and mandibles yellow, apart from the tip. Pronotum cordate, compressed in the middle. Elytra broad and parallel-sided towards the base, individually evenly rounded at the tip and slightly diverging from the middle line. Elytra each with four ribs with the third arising behind the shoulder-swelling, shortened towards the front and the back, sometimes absent altogether. Front tibiae with a single terminal spur. Male antennae with twelve segments.



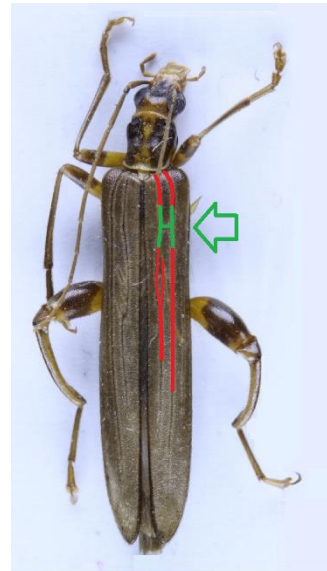
Genus *Oedemera*

Body elongate and delicate. Elytra tapering from the shoulders with narrow tips, sometimes sinuous at the sides, very clearly diverging from each other in the rear half. Two of the ribs on the elytra arise from an impression towards the inner margin of the shoulders and the outer of these two extends almost to the tip - the inner one extends about a third of the length of the elytra; there is then a gap as the third rib is absent; the fourth rib is distinct and runs alongside the margin, sometimes merging with it. Head elongate with large oval eyes without an indentation behind the antennae. Clypeus long and rather narrow. Antennae filamentous. Pronotum cordate with a rather rounded impression each side on the upper surface. Legs slender in females but with the hind femora usually very distinctly club-shaped in males. Adults are usually found in the sunny margins of woodland, on flowering shrubs, flower-rich meadows and grassland. The larvae live in the dry stems and root bases of various herbs.

- 1 Frons as broad between the eyes as it is between the bases of the antennae. Eyes comparatively larger and slightly concave at the front. Elytra with a transverse raised line near the base which connects the two longitudinal raised lines forming a letter H. Head, pronotum, legs and abdomen black marked with yellow-brown; elytra brown.

..... ***Oedemera femoralis***

Length 12-17 mm. England and Wales, northwards to Lancashire; **local** on ivy and willows at night and **often recorded from moth traps**; April to September. Yellowish-brown with the frons, the sides of the pronotum, the underside of the mesosternum and sides of the metasternum darkened. Middle of the hind femora and the end of the front femora with a dark patch. Head finely punctured. Pronotum with sparse coarse punctures towards the sides. Elytra coarsely punctured. Hind tibiae in males inwardly curved with the hind femora correspondingly swollen and thickened.



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Frons broader between the eyes than between the base of the antennae. Eyes smaller not concave at the front or only very slightly so. Elytra each with three ridges of which the first is shortened, reaching at most to the middle.[2](#)



- 2 Elytra very clearly narrowing towards the tip, particularly in males, leaving an increasingly broad gap between them, exposing the wings. Hind femora in males very strongly thickened, club-shaped. Shining bright green, bluish or coppery species.

..... ***Oedemera nobilis***

Length 8-10 mm. England and Wales, **common**.



Elytra not narrowing towards the tip or only slightly and evenly so with elytra touching one another almost to the tip. Hind femora in males at most only slightly thickened. Dull sage-green in colour.[3](#)

Oedemera nobilis

Head extending in a rostrum. Upper surface of head with a granular texture, with the granules running into one another in places forming short ridges. Antennae inserted on the side of the head on the top surface, level with the front edge of the eye. Scape and pedicel with ten other segments, long and thin, unclubbed. Maxillary palps inserted half way between the antennae and the tip of the rostrum, formed of four segments, the first very short and the last darker in colour and obliquely flat tipped. Labial palps inserted at the tip of the rostrum.

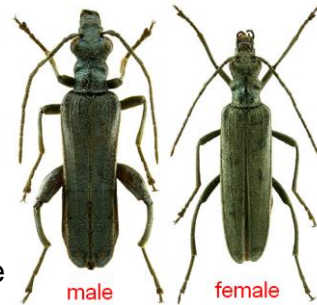
Pronotum with a variety of surface sculpture, some raised granules bearing hairs, some punctures bearing hairs and some rugose texture. Transverse groove about half way along with a central ridge separating it into two halves. Area behind this groove with the left and right sides separated by a longitudinal groove. Hind margin convex with a narrow beaded border, this border sinuous in side view and continuing to the front lower angle. Hypomera smooth, not separated from the pronotum except by difference in sculpture. Front coxae elongate and directed at right angles to the lower surface of the beetle. Front coxal cavities butt up to the beaded border on their outside and are separated by the prosternum. Prosternum with a mix of minute bristle-bearing punctures and oblique shallow grooves.

Elytra with four longitudinal ridges, the first along the suture, the second fading at before one-third of the way, the third reaching beyond three-quarters of the way to the tip and the outermost reaching the tip. Areas in between with a granular texture.



Males viewed from below have two pairs of narrow appendages at the tip of the abdomen, covered above by the triangular last tergite. **Females** have the last sternite almost matching the size of the last tergite.

3² Male with the hind femora distinctly enlarged. Length 7-9 mm. Pronotum as long as wide with a surface sculpture of tiny ridges. Elytra densely punctured, with a minutely ridged sculpture towards the tip, scarcely shining. Upper surface densely covered with fine grey hairs. Female with the end of the last segment of the abdomen (viewed from below) appearing sheared off with the middle section weakly notched or with a rounded point.



..... ***Oedemera virescens***

Rare, recorded from scattered localities from Bristol northwards to the Southern Uplands of Scotland.

Male with hind femora not significantly different from the other femora. Pronotum at least as long as wide, with a coarse wrinkled surface texture. Length 5-7 mm. Female with the last segment of the abdomen elongate with a narrow rounded tip. Elytra covered with dense grey hairs.



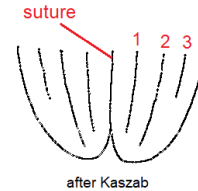
..... ***Oedemera lurida***

Common in England and Wales. Females may show an orange colour on the sides of the abdomen later in the season when swollen with eggs. In dried specimens the abdomen shrinks and the orange colour disappears.



Genus *Ischnomera*

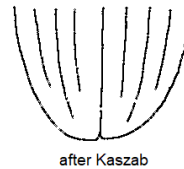
- 1 Pronotum and elytra both shining blue-black to green. Tips of the elytra more rounded leaving a clear notch up to the suture; third rib on the elytra ceasing well short of the first. On average smaller species, 6-10 mm.2



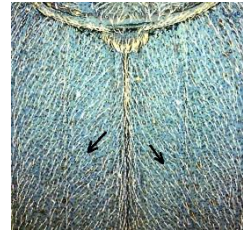
Pronotum brownish, contrasting with the darker head and elytra. Tips of the elytra more or less meeting and not leaving a notch between them; third rib on the elytra ending almost opposite the first. On average larger species, 8-11 mm.

..... ***Ischnomera sanguinicollis***

Locally frequent. England and Wales northwards to Yorkshire.



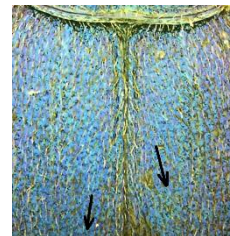
2¹ Hairs on the elytra longer and pale grey; in the first interstice (i.e. between the suture and the first ridge) directed obliquely back and outwards. Elytra very densely and finely punctured/ridged and with a dull, blue, silky sheen. Head and pronotum shining. The ridges on the elytra are more distinct. The first two segments of the antennae yellow. Maxillary palps with the second segment, most of the third segment and the last segment underneath yellow. Length 6-10 mm.



..... ***Ischnomera cinerascens***

Scattered records mostly in the southern Midlands.

Hairs on the elytra very fine and short and darker, those in the first interstice only slightly directed outwards; the hairs are sometimes very difficult to see due to their small size and the reflection of the light source from the elytra. The punctures on the elytra are dense and coarse and there is usually a transverse ridged surface sculpture (clearer towards the base of the elytra). Darker blue species, sometimes with a greenish sheen. Palps and the first segment of the antennae sometimes pale.[3](#)



3² Head and pronotum relatively less densely and more finely punctured. Pronotum comparatively broader, shining on top. Male: aedeagus narrowing just before the tip; parameres asymmetrical and bearing hairs.

..... ***Ischnomera caerulea***

Local. England and Wales northwards to the Mersey.



Head and pronotum more densely and coarsely punctured so that the pronotum appears duller. Pronotum comparatively narrower in males. Males with the aedeagus not tapering before the tip and the parameres more or less parallel-sided, hairless and appearing narrower.

..... ***Ischnomera cyanea***

The **commonest species** of the genus, widely distributed in England and Wales as far north as Yorkshire.

