

Genus *Epuraea*

Family Nitidulidae

Source Material

Translation and adaptation by Mike Hackston of the German key by Arved Lompe (2013) Käfer Europas, *Epuraea*, published online at <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/epuraea.htm> (2014), published here with permission (his key was derived from those of K. Spornraft and K. Renner).

Checklist of species

From the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff (available from www.coleopterist.org.uk/checklist.htm). This lists 19 species. The number in brackets is the number of records on the NBN website (checked May 2020) which may give some indication of relative frequency.

Genus *Epuraea* Erichson, 1843

<i>aestiva</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	(822)
<i>angustula</i> Sturm, 1844	(46)
<i>biguttata</i> (Thunberg, 1784)	(433)
<i>binotata</i> Reitter, 1872	(0)
<i>distincta</i> (Grimmer, 1841)	(49)
<i>fuscollis</i> (Stephens, 1835)	(26)
<i>guttata</i> (Olivier, 1811)	(32)
<i>imperialis</i> (Reitter, 1877)	reported new to UK in 2020
<i>limbata</i> (Fabricius, 1787)	(57)
<i>longula</i> Erichson, 1845	(30)
<i>marseuli</i> Reitter, 1872	(152)
<i>melanocephala</i> (Marsham, 1802)	(557)
<i>melina</i> Erichson, 1843	(108)
<i>neglecta</i> (Heer, 1841)	(2)
<i>ocularis</i> Fairmaire, 1849	reported new to UK in 2015
<i>pallescens</i> (Stephens, 1835)	(125)
<i>rufomarginata</i> (Stephens, 1830)	(46)
<i>silacea</i> (Herbst, 1783)	(124)
<i>terminalis</i> (Mannerheim, 1843)	(24)
<i>thoracica</i> Tournier, 1872	(14)
<i>variegata</i> (Herbst, 1793)	(1)
<i>unicolor</i> (Olivier, 1790)	(0)

Image Credits:

Unless otherwise attributed, the images of whole beetles in this document are reproduced from the Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae, with permission kindly granted by Lech Borowiec.

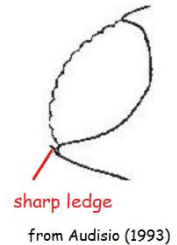


© Mike Hackston (2020), translated and edited from the keys of Arved Lompe (2014)

Genus *Epuraea* – key to British species

There are illustrations of the male aedeagus of all British species except for *marseuli* on the last page

- 1 Temples (the section of head behind the eyes) very short, narrowing rapidly to the neck with or without a tooth or sharp shelf immediately behind the eyes. Last segment of the labial palps short and truncate. Elytra with at least an indication of four darker patches which may be combined on each elytron.
..... [Subgenus *Haptoncus*](#)



Temples, labial palps and patterning on the elytra not as above.2



- 2 Claws with a weak tooth at the base; pronotum with a very narrow border; elytra appearing more sheared-off (truncate) (= subgenus *Micruria*). Body distinctly convex in section. Head and pronotum blackish-brown (elytra sometimes also blackish-brown) with conspicuous golden-yellow hairs. Length 2-3 mm.
 ***Epuraea melanocephala***
 The second most common species



Claws at most weakly broadened towards the base.3

- 3 Metasternum scarcely longer than the first segment of the abdomen (measured along the centre line). Hind coxae broadly divided from one another. Front and middle tibia curved more distinctly (males) or weakly (females). Body short and broad, ovate. Pronotum very broad, wider than long with conspicuously flattened borders. Pronotum broadest a bit before the base and with a transverse depression before the hind margin. Front angles of the pronotum projecting forwards. Elytra a little longer than their combined width. Upper surface rusty brown; elytra very variable, sometimes with a darker patch towards the tips, sometimes completely black. Length 2.0-2.8 mm. Subgenus *Epuraeanella*.
 ***Epuraea limbata***



Metasternum much longer than the first segment of the abdomen. Hind coxae less widely separated. Pronotum at most twice as broad as long, usually with a narrower flattened border. Other characters not in combination.4
 The metasternum is the section on the underside of the thorax between the base of the middle and hind legs.

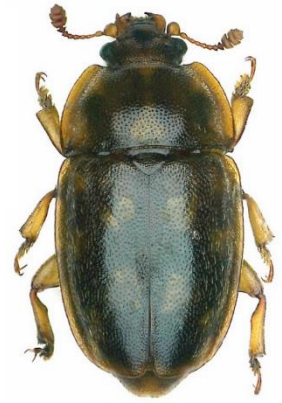


4 Pronotum with a paler patch on the centre line at the base, which may be extended along the mid-line to the front. Upper surface almost always with further pale patches. Middle and hind tibiae very strongly widening towards the tips.5

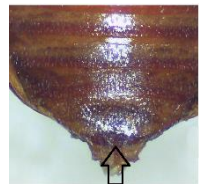
Pronotum without paler patches. Middle and hind tibiae normally slender.6



- 5 Hind tibia with an angle on the underside, more strongly in males than females. Pronotum about twice as wide as long. Pronotum and elytra reddish brown with clear yellowish markings. Ninth segment of the antennae in males narrower than the tenth; in females the ninth segment is as broad or scarcely broader than long. Length 3.0-4.4 mm. Front and middle tibia distinctly broadening towards the tips in males and with an obtuse tooth before the tip. Last segment of the female abdomen not notched at the tip. Males without and females with a leathery texture on the upper surface.
 ***Epuraea guttata***

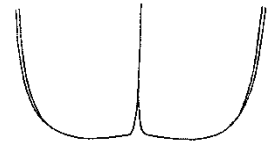


Hind tibia not angled. Pronotum relatively longer, only about 1.75 times as broad as long. The markings on the elytra each side of the suture usually run into one another. Ninth segment of the antennae weakly broader than the tenth in males and distinctly broader in females. Elytra with a distinct leathery texture; pronotum without. Length 2.3-3.7 mm. Male hind femur not thickened or toothed. Last segment of the female abdomen broadly notched.
 ***Epuraea fuscicollis***



female abdomen from below

6 Tips of the elytra, more or less straight, appearing snapped off.7



Tips of the individual elytra rounded.9



- 7 Club of the antennae with the last segment dark, contrasting with the other two segments. Elytra not as distinctly straight at the tip. More distinctly convex in section.
..... ***Epuraea melina***



All three segments of the antennae are the same colour. Less convex in section with the tips of the elytra more distinctly straight.8



- 8 Comparatively darker species – blackish-brown with paler margins. Front margin of the pronotum broadly concave between the front angles. Length 2-3 mm.
..... ***Epuraea neglecta***



Yellowish-brown to reddish-yellow species. Front margin of the pronotum more or less straight. Length 1.9-3.5 mm. Pronotum rarely twice as wide as long, usually narrower.
..... ***Epuraea pallescens***



9 Longer, narrower, more parallel-sided species, usually more than twice as long as wide. Elytra parallel-sided to beyond half-way. Pronotum broadest in the middle or only slightly behind the middle, narrowing only slightly more towards the front than to the rear.10

Shorter, broader, more rounded species, generally not twice as long as broad. Sides of the elytra always quite clearly rounded. Pronotum usually broadest two-thirds of the way back or even further towards the base and tapering more clearly towards the front than the rear.13



10 Upper surface with extremely fine punctures, which are scarcely detectable. Pronotum 1.75 times broader than long. Front margin gently concave between the front angles.
..... ***Epuraea thoracica***



Upper surface clearly punctured.11

11 Pronotum at most 1.5 times broader than long. Pronotum broadest at or just before the middle. Side margins of the pronotum regularly and narrowly bordered. Comparatively long and narrow, at least 2.5 times longer than broad. Upper surface colour variable but usually with the sides paler. Length 2.0-2.9 mm.
..... ***Epuraea angustula***



Pronotum always more than 1.5 times broader than long. Side border of the pronotum usually clearly broader towards the rear than at the front.12



12 Front margin of the pronotum weakly concave between the front angles.

..... ***Epuraea longula***

Upper surface yellowish red, rarely with the elytra darkened in the middle or before the tip.



Front margin of the pronotum more clearly concave.

..... ***Epuraea marseuli***

Antennae uniformly reddish-yellow; fourth and fifth segments of the antennae clearly longer than wide. Pronotum very evenly and weakly rounded, broadest in the middle. Elytra clearly angled at the end of the suture.



13 Sides of the pronotum notched just before the hind angles evenly tapering in front of this notch to the front angles in more or less a straight line. Length 2.2-3.4 mm.
..... ***Epuraea distincta***



Sides of the pronotum narrowing more strongly towards the front than towards the rear and lacking a notch before the hind angles.14



14 Front margin of the pronotum weakly concave.15

Front margin of the pronotum much more deeply concave.17



15 More elongate species, only slightly rounded at the sides.
Upper surface yellowish-red, rarely with the middle or just
before the tips of the elytra darkened. Length 2.3-3 mm.
..... *Epuraea longula*



male middle tibia

More strongly rounded species with the elytra more or less ovate.16



16 Pronotum usually significantly narrower than the elytra.
Side border of the elytra very narrow, at most as wide as
the width of the middle section of the antennae. Upper
surface without a leathery texture, shining. Length 2.0-2.5
mm.
..... ***Epuraea binotata***



Pronotum scarcely narrower than the elytra. Side border of
the elytra broader. Upper surface with a leathery texture.
Length 2.5-3.5 mm.
..... ***Epuraea terminalis***



17 Side border of the pronotum broadly flattened, with the front part always broader than the width of the club of the antennae.18

Side border of the pronotum towards the front at most as wide as the width of the club of the antennae.19



18 Hairs unusually short, such that if laid flat they would not reach the base of the next hair along. Upper surface usually reddish-brown, the elytra often with a black patch. Club of the antennae usually the same colour as the central part of the antennae.

..... ***Epuraea variegata***



Hairs longer, so that they would reach the base of the adjacent hair if laid flat. Upper surface reddish brown or dark brown with the sides paler.

..... ***Epuraea rufomarginata***

Image from <http://www.boldsystems.org/>



19 Club of the antennae usually darker than the narrow central part of the antennae. Pronotum and centre of the elytra often darkened. Sides of the pronotum quite regularly rounded, broadest just behind the middle. Length 2.8-3.5 mm.
..... ***Epuraea biguttata***



Club of the antennae usually the same colour as the central part or with only the last segment of the antennae blackish.20



20 More distinctly convex species with the last segment of the antennae dark or distinctly enlarged.21

Less domed species. Last segment of antennae not as above. Length 2.5-4.6 mm.
..... ***Eपुरaea silacea***



21 Last segment of the antennae darkened and clearly narrower than the second to last. Upper surface less densely punctured. Length 2.7-4.0 mm.
..... ***Epuraea melina***



Last segment of the antennae enlarged, particularly in females. Upper surface more densely punctured. Length 2.5-3.8 mm.
..... ***Epuraea aestiva***

The commonest species. Associated with bumblebee nests and in winter often found in moles' nests.

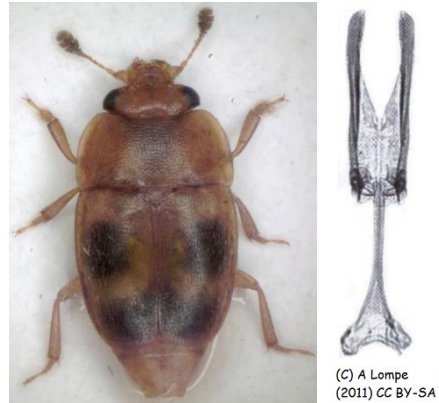
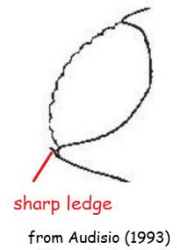


Subgenus *Haptoncus*

- 1 Hind margin of the eye with a tiny tooth. Tips of the elytra truncate and with two darker patches on each, appearing more elongate. Middle tibia not distinctly curved in either sex. Length 1.7-3.1 mm.

..... ***Epuraea ocularis***

A relatively recent colonist in the UK first reported from London in 2015 and now known from other southern counties; associated with fermenting fruit. The aedeagus is unlike any other British species



(C) A Lompe (2013) CC BY-SA 4.0

Hind margin of the eye without a tooth. Elytra more roundly narrowing towards the rear, appearing more rounded. Brownish yellow species with a dark marking in the middle of the pronotum which is sometimes divided in two or may be missing. Elytra also with a more or less distinct longitudinal darker patch. Male middle tibiae distinctly curved, to about 45 degrees; female middle tibiae more gently curved. Length 2.4-2.8 mm.

..... ***Epuraea imperialis***

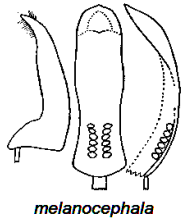
Reported as new to Britain from specimens in south Devon (Luff (2020), Coleopterist 29:3.



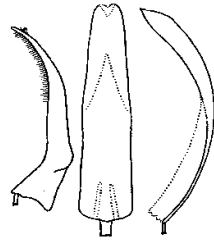
(C) A Lompe (2013) male



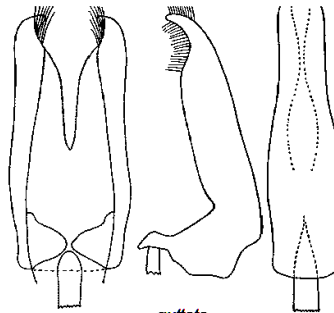
Male aedeagus (from Spornraft)



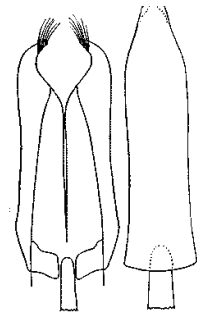
melanocephala



limbata



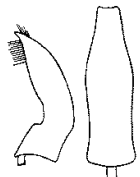
guttata



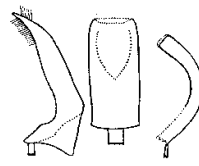
fuscicollis



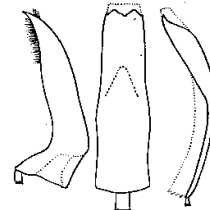
neglecta



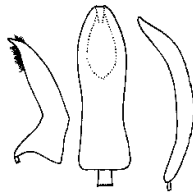
thoracica



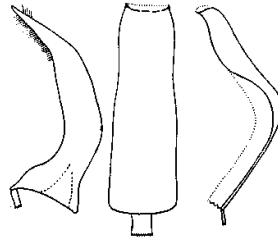
angustula



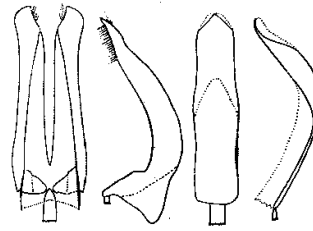
distincta



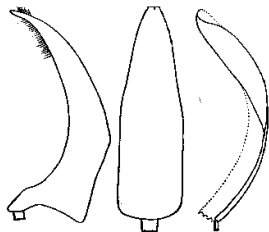
binotata



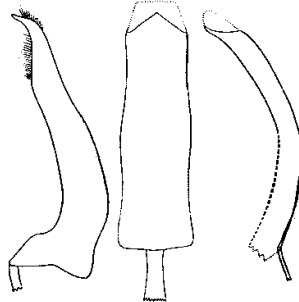
variegata



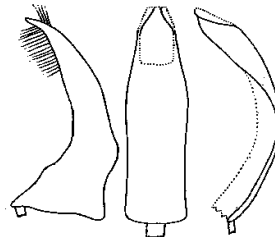
rufomarginata



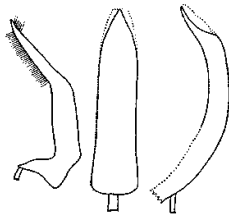
aestiva



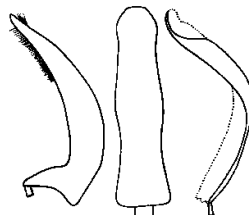
silacea



melina



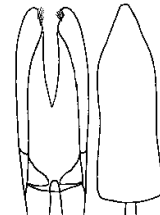
pallescens



longula



biguttata



terminalis

