

# UK Beetles

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## Key to the British Silphidae

For more information on this family click [HERE](#).

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|----|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Basal segment of the antennae as long as, or longer than, segments 2-6 combined, segments 8-11 form an asymmetric club which is abruptly very much wider than the preceding segments. The antennae often appear 10-segmented as the second segment (the pedicel) is diminutive and fused to the basal segment (scape). Frontoclypeal suture distinct and usually well formed. Form characteristic. | Nicrophorinae<br>-15- |
|    | Basal segment proportionally much shorter. The pedicel is much more distinct and the terminal segments are gradually thickened or form a more weakly defined and loose club. The Frontoclypeal suture is either missing or very weakly impressed. Form variable; generally flat to some extent.  | Silphinae<br>-2-      |
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|----|---|----------------------------|
| 2. | Elytra truncate, exposing 3 or 4 abdominal segment. | <b>Necrodes littoralis</b> |
|    | Elytra entire, completely covering the abdomen.     | -3-                        |
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|----|---|----------------------------------|
| 3. | Elytra yellow or pale brown, with dark spots. | <b>Dendroxena quadrimaculata</b> |
|    | Black or black and red species.               | -4-                              |
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| 4. | Pronotum smoothly rounded anteriorly, head elongate. | -5- |
|    | Pronotum not smoothly rounded, head not elongate.    | -6- |
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|----|---|-------------------------|
| 5. | Elytra with distinct carinae. Antennal segments 6-8 quadrate. 10-15mm. Body varies from black to red. | <b>Silpha atrata</b>    |
|    | Elytra without distinct carinae. Antennal segments 6-8 transverse. 12-18mm.                           | <b>Silpha laevigata</b> |
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|----|---|------------------------------|
| 6. | Pronotum orange or red, elytra black.   | <b>Oiceoptoma thoracicum</b> |
|    | Pronotum and elytra black or nearly so. | -7-                          |
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|----|---|----------------------|
| 7. | Dorsal surface of the elytra pubescent. | <b>Aclypea opaca</b> |
|    | Dorsal surface glabrous or nearly so.   | -8-                  |
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8.	Pronotal front angles projecting.	-9-
	Anterior margin of the pronotum straight or nearly so.	-11-
9.	Interstices of elytra with shiny tubercles.	<b>Thanatophilus rugosus</b>
	Interstices of elytra without tubercles.	-10-
10.	Elytra with scattered golden pubescence throughout, shoulders smoothly rounded.	<b>Thanatophilus dispar</b>
	Elytra pubescent only at the base, shoulders with a small protruding tooth.	<b>Thanatophilus sinuatus</b>
11.	Second antennal segment twice as long as the third. (Elytral interstices very strongly punctured.)	<b>Aclypea undata</b>
	Second antennal segment at most only slightly longer than the third.	-12-
12.	Eighth segment of the antennae campanulate and much longer than the ninth.	<b>Silpha carinata</b>
	Eighth segment of the antennae at most as long as the ninth.	-13-
13.	Upper surface shiny, with a leaden reflection. Elytra with scattered large punctures, especially near the carinae.	<b>Silpha tyrolensis</b>
	Upper surface generally dull matt black. Elytral punctures uniform.	-14-
14.	Elytral punctures flat. Humeral carina more strongly raised than the others.	<b>Silpha obscura</b>
	Elytral punctures with a tiny raised granule on the anterior margin. Elytral carinae uniformly raised.	<b>Silpha tristis</b>
15.	Elytra black, without red markings.	-16-
	Elytra with transverse red markings.	-17-
16.	Antennal club black. Explanate sides of the pronotum distinctly punctured.	<b>Nicrophorus germanicus</b>
	Antennal club brown. Explanate sides of the pronotum smooth or very indistinctly punctured.	<b>Nicrophorus humator</b>
17.	Antennal club black.	<b>Nicrophorus vespilloides</b>
	Antennal club orange.	-18-

18. Pronotum glabrous, or nearly so.

-19-

Pronotal front and rear margins pubescent.

-20-

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19. Anterior red fasciae continuous across the elytra.

**Nicrophorus investigator**

Anterior red mark interrupted at the suture.

**Nicrophorus interruptus**

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20. Pubescence continuous around the pronotal margins. Hind tibiae straight.

**Nicrophorus vestigator**

Pubescence on the anterior margin of the pronotum only. Hind tibia curved inwards behind the apex.

**Nicrophorus vespillo**

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